



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AREAS OF WESTERN BALKANS

Progress report

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Background



The **study objective** is to provide assessment of:

- the immediate effects;
 - response actions and measures taken by the authorities in charge
 - the pandemic's impact on the regional agriculture, food, rural economy and jobs
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- **The study's methodology** - the collection and analysis of information from secondary sources
 - Official statistics,
 - Governments' and ministries' data,
 - Literature review (studies, reports, scientific papers)



Outline



Introduction / Methodology

1. COVID-19 Country context

2. Policy Responses

2.1 Response actions and measures taken

2.2 Agriculture and food policy

3. Impact on agriculture and food sector

3.1 Input supply

3.2 Production

3.3 Food Supply Chain

3.3.1 Internal Trade

3.3.2 Prices

3.3.3 Foreign (international) trade

3.3.4 Food-self-sufficiency

4. Rural communities and COVID-19

5. Conclusions and recommendations for regional cooperation
on building resilience in the post COVID 19 period

6. References

Appendix



Timetable with distributed responsibilities



Activity	Who	Timeframe/Deadline
Mobilization of the REAWG	SWG Secretariat	23-Jun-20
Kick-off meeting	All	6-Jul-20
Finalized methodology for national reports and regional cross-country report (add as many more months as possible)	Regional Experts (REs)	15-Jul-20
Data collection on national level and first draft national reports	National Experts (NEs)	15-Sep-20
Presentation of preliminary findings at APF 2020	REs	14-Oct-20
Interim meeting (as part of APF 2020)	All	14 - 15 October 2020
Feedback on the first draft national reports	REs	15-Oct-20
Second draft national reports	NEs	15-Nov-20
Policy recommendations and proposed declaration/ protocol presented at Ministerial Meeting 2020	REs	15-Nov-20
First draft regional cross-country report	REs	25-Dec-20
Final report	REs	5-Feb-21
Final meeting	All	5-Feb-21
Editing and proofreading	SWG Secretariat	30-Apr-21



Comments (1)



Introduction – instructions were not followed in all country reports

1. COVID-19 Country context - different approaches;

The extent of the pandemic - key milestones, dates, events, figures on infections/deaths etc.,

The impact of COVID-19 on economy - key macroeconomic and other indicators that can give an idea of changes in GDP, labour market, (external) trade etc.

2. Policy Responses

2.1 Response actions and measures taken – a lot of repetitions; pay attention to quoting issues!

2.2 Agriculture and food policy - describe **ONLY** the government programs, regulations, stimulus packages etc. designed in response to COVID-19



Comments (2)



3. Impact on food and agricultur and food sector

- The unequal statistical and other monitoring of occurrences - inconsistent data from country to country.
- Uneven level of data update (agreed for the interim report - data with the end of June, and for the final report data with the end of September).
- Delay in the availability of data from secondary sources.
- Data citation without specifying the source.
- Sometimes too detailed elaborations, without essential messages, sometimes scanty, insufficiently clear observations.
- **However, there are very useful data!**



Comments (3)



3.1. Input supply

- Solid observations by countries.

3.2. Production level data

- There is no still data on sown/harvested areas and realized yields in general (temporary gap in ME, NM, XKS), or partly (AL, SRB, BiH).
- Difficulties to isolate the influence of COVID-19 on agriculture and food production.
- However, it seems that there is no reduction in the quantities of the produced food, even on the contrary (expected confirmation from official data sources).
- There are data on monthly indices of industrial production in all countries.



Comments (4)



3.3. Food Supply Chain

3.3.1. Internal trade

- Good coverage. There are data on monthly trends in retail sector.
- Not all countries have data on sales through green markets (gap).

3.3.2. Prices

- There are data on price indices – with different levels of detail (gap).

3.3.3. Foreign trade

- There are some data on foreign trade in accordance with HCT (mostly semi-annually or quarterly).
- Monthly data are needed for deeper analysis (gap)!

3.3.4. Food self-sufficiency

- Mostly no data (gap).



Comments (5)



4. Rural communities and COVID-19 – the information provided are too general and too simple;



Comments (6)



5.1. Conclusions

- Conclusions track the data and facts from each report.
- Some reports do not include conclusions at all!

5.2 Recommendations for regional cooperation on building resilience in the post COVID 19 period – **no any?**

