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ASRIC WORKING GROUP ON FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

PRESENTERS:
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**ASRIC STI STRATEGIC INTERVENTION FOR
COVID -19**

MEMBERS

- **Cameroon Academy of Science**
- **University of Nairobi**
- **African Union – Inter-African Phytosanitary Council**
- **Zambia Academy of Science**
- **National Plant Protection Organization-Uganda**
- **Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture**
- **Nigerian Academy of Science**
- **University of Ibadan**
- **African Technology Policy Studies Network**
- **Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa**
- **University of Zambia**

WHY FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

Even before the pandemic, Africa continues to lag behind other regions of the World economically and in food and nutritional security. COVID-19 is projected to:

- Cost the African region between \$37 and \$79 billion in output losses for 2020 due to a combination of facts like trade and value chain disruptions

These economic turn-downs of COVID-19 will ignite a food and nutritional security crisis in Africa

- Agricultural production in the continent is projected to potentially contract between 2.6% in an optimistic scenario up to 7% if there are trade blockages
- Food imports would decline substantially reaching 13% to 25% due to higher transactional costs
- Other factors including fears of virus contaminated imports and exports might spike resistance by the populace against imports.
- This crisis thus threatens both food and state sovereignty. Hence, need for ACTION

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Develop a guided response that will minimize the impact of COVID-19 on Africa's Food and Nutrition Security in order to ensure the wellbeing of Africa's citizens

- This is being addressed through six working group mandates focusing on key interventions and outcomes

MANDATE-1

Develop a situational analysis on the food and nutritional security in Africa in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

Interventions:

1. Development of scenario map on the evolution of food and nutrition in Africa currently and Post COVID-19
2. Regulatory frameworks/guideline on resilience and managing foods and Agro-products in times of Covid-19 and/or any future pandemic
3. Capacity building and Regional Harmonization

Outcome:

A framework that offer AU members States a deeper understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security through a science-led process that presents evidence on critical components on nutrition while addressing coping measures and supporting mechanisms for the implementation of holistic interventions to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and/or any new pandemic on Africa's food and nutrition security.

MANDATE-2

Develop a guideline to assist Member States in developing their own regulation on transport/shipment of foods and agro-products i.e. (in country movement and transboundary movement) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic

Interventions:

1. Regulations on transport/ shipment of foods and Agro-products (AU regulation on transport/ shipment of foods and Agro-products)
2. Capacity Building to Member States

Outcome:

Development of such guideline “AU regulation on transport/ shipment of foods and Agro-products” will assist Member States in developing their own regulation, the successful implementation requires stakeholder’s engagement at all levels as such a comprehensive capacity building programme will be developed and conducted.

MANDATE-3

Examine the consequences of COVID-19 by critically examining crop yields, agro safety, nutrition, food security, plant improvement programmes, environmental pollution and impact on less fortunate vulnerable members of society and proffering solutions to overcome these impacts and estimated cost of the proffered interventions

Intervention:

Frame work on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on components of Africa's food Systems

Outcome:

A frame work on Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Components of Africa's food System that aims at strengthening AU members States' response to shocks and vulnerabilities created by the COVID-19 Pandemic particularly on agri-food system, crop yields, animal feed resource availability, agro-safety, nutrition, food security, plant and animal improvement programmes, environmental pollution and impact on less fortunate vulnerable.

MANDATE-4

Develop policy brief and policy guidelines to address the current and future (similar) challenges to food and nutrition security in Africa

Interventions:

1. Commission a policy and institutional landscape study on FNS during and post COVID-19 Pandemic to understand successes, failures and reasons;
2. Commission a policy and institutional landscape study on FNS during and post COVID-19 Pandemic to understand what works, what does not and reasons for the successes or failures; and,
3. Support the development of policy briefs and other documents

Outcome:

Understand the key gaps in policies and institutions responsible for food and nutritional security in Africa at the national, regional and continental levels, identify the key actors driving the FNS sector at the national, regional and continental levels with a view to understanding their roles, linkages, power and influence, and effectively mount appropriate intervention programmes to adequately address the societal challenges in the area of FNS in Africa.

MANDATE-5

Examine the possibilities and the way that COVID-19 may present any opportunity for our continent to domesticate the economy through promotion of local production, value addition and processing, regional trade thus reducing foreign domination and reliance on imports.

Interventions:

1. Development of African compendium on Africa's bet Agro-technologies;
2. Analyze "key drivers of Africa's food systems"; and,
3. Development of "R&D framework on Agro- business and product development "

Outcome:

Strengthen Africa's agricultural market system so as to trigger industrialization in the sector.

MANDATE-6

Identify research gaps/opportunities for strengthening the continent's capacity to respond to future threats to Food and Nutrition Security

Interventions:

1. Situational analysis report on Capacity Audit in Agriculture Food and Nutrition Security Education;
2. Situational analysis report on Africa's Research Capacity;
3. Capacity Action Plan and Agri-competencies in the realm of STI; and,
4. Agro- capacity building platform .

Outcome:

Develop specific region and country capacity action plans and contribute to the enhancement of eCapacities™ platform for training and research in Food Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture



CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

1. Stakeholders engagement in the development and implementation of these interventions to ensure participation in the outcomes development has been done
2. Surveys and data collection for the various interventions is underway
3. Each work package is focused on both short- and long-term achievements;
4. Quick wins will hopefully help to attract more financial and human resources to support the working group; and,
5. The Congress is being requested to support the mobilization of resources for achieving the short- and long-term plans of this working group and ultimately contribute to achieving Africa's food and nutrition security, and thus sovereignty.



Thank You

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