



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS


Food Security: Impacts and Innovations in the Time of Pandemic


Alberto C. Aduna


*National Emergency Coordinator
FAO Philippines*

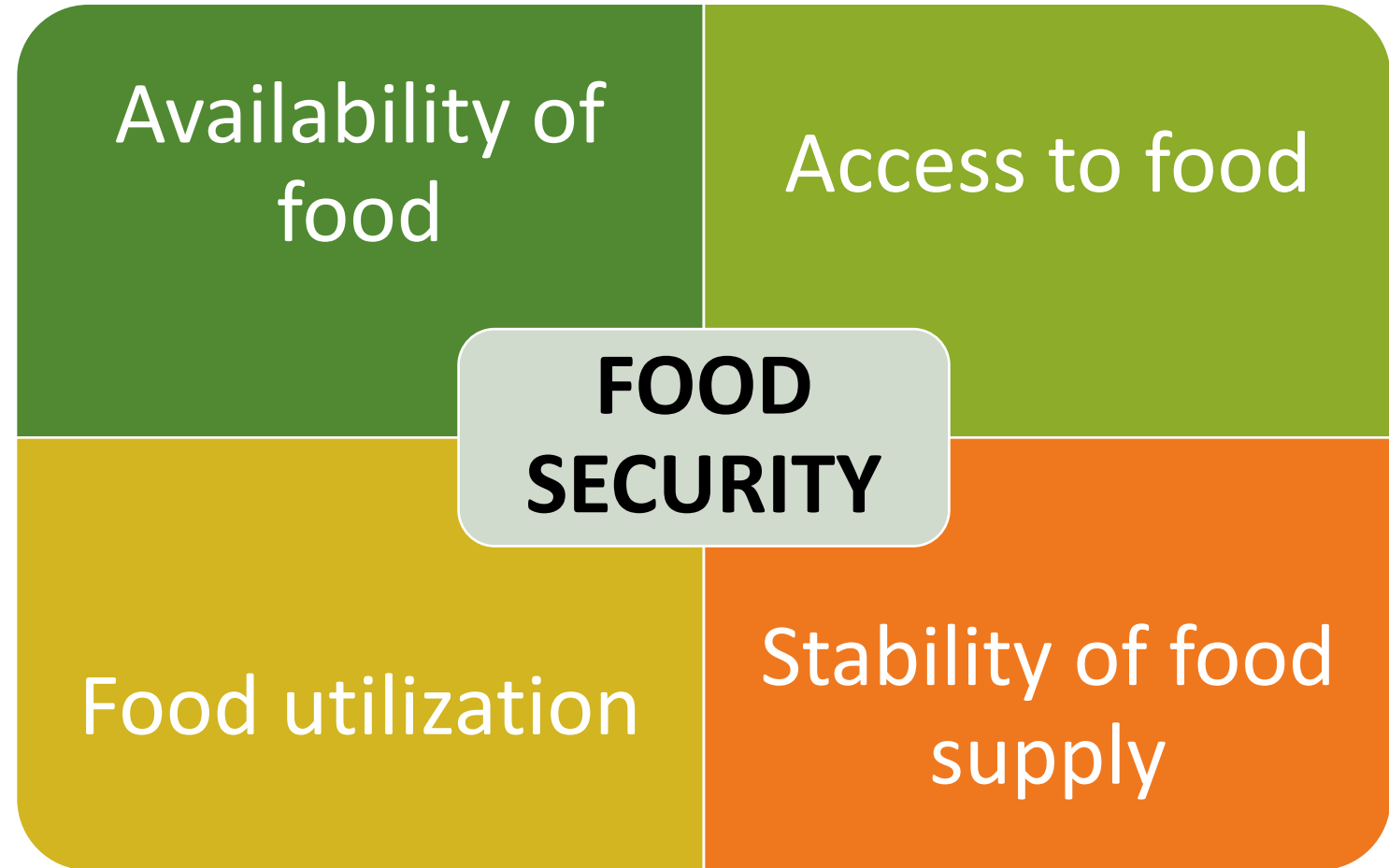


The #COVID19 pandemic is disrupting livelihoods, food supply chains, and people's access to food and basic services.



 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Working for #ZeroHunger 



- Food supply chain is a complex web of interactions and of actors.
- Crisis is straining food systems and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.
- Food is available. However, quarantine imposed challenges to moving food where they are most needed.





Supply side

- Food supply chains disrupted.
- Processors don't receive timely and adequate inputs.
- Less available quality perishables, especially for nutritious items like fresh fruits and vegetables, and dairy products.
- Transport restrictions and quarantine measures impeded farmers' access to input and output markets, curbing productive capacities and denying points of sale for produce.
- Product flow problems due to disconnect between national and local government policy (province, municipality, barangays).
- Shortages of labour disrupt production and processing of food.





Demand side

- Food demand is generally inelastic and effect on overall consumption likely limited, although dietary patterns may alter.
- Aversion behaviour (fear of contagion) exacerbate effect on food consumption through reduced visits to food markets; related to avoidance of some perishables.
- Shift in purchasing modalities: lower restaurant traffic, increased e-commerce deliveries, and rise in consumption at home.
- Challenges encountered in accessing nutritious food due to hampered livelihoods and incomes.





Long-term Challenges

- Weak growth, low income of producers
- Declining labor supply
- Lack of inputs and finance
- High logistics cost, poor logistics infrastructure
- Disconnect between smallholders/SFF from value chain
- High cost of nutritious food
- Deteriorating resource basis, vulnerability to environmental stress
- Dependence on concentrated distribution points (urban centers)



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Impact on agricultural livelihoods



- Reduced productive capacities especially of smallholders.
- Unemployment and underemployment for the sector.
- The livelihoods of especially the self-employed and wage workers are at risk.
- The reduction in wage employment opportunities risks limiting the ability of small-scale producers to diversify their incomes.





Rapid Assessment Results

- The COVID-19 pandemic hit an agri-food system already confronting serious short-term and long-term challenges.
- After an initial period of confusion, supply chain disruptions had been mostly addressed, partly due to resiliency measures already in place.
- The crisis has led to a limited market demand.
- Crisis response measures tend to meet the challenge of supply disruptions, but not those on the demand side.





- Disruption of Agricultural Activity: 14%
- Losses incurred during the ECQ: 35%
 - HVC farming: PHP 36.82 Million
 - Rice farming: PHP18.63 million
 - Corn farming: PHP18.63 million
 - Livestock and Poultry Raising: PHP24.48 million
 - Fisheries: PHP8.78 million





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Initiatives to ensure sustainability of food systems in light of COVID-19

Government

- Food relief initiatives (CSOs also have their own food relief drives).
- Guidelines on health and safety of farmers, fisherfolk and other frontliners in the food value chain.
- Food supply chain responses (some private agencies have also started initiatives connecting farmers to consumers).
- Initiatives in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).





FAO

- Rapid remote assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on food systems/markets.
- Emergency cash transfers.
- Technical support to DA to improve efficiency of service delivery.
- Inclusion of food security and agriculture lens in the humanitarian response plan.
- Information dissemination.





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Food systems in the Philippines under the "new normal"



- Food supply chain will change. Incorporating social distancing in the long term can be implemented
- More storage will be needed, especially for perishable goods.
- Food supply chain may also have fewer links in the future. It should be more flexible.
- Prioritize logistics to maintain and increase agricultural production and market access.
- Promote IT applications and social media as innovative ways to coordinate supplies of fresh produce from farm to consumers (dispersed distribution system).
- Strengthen efforts to improve food safety along agri-food chains.





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

How can we ensure sustainable food systems and increase the resilience of agricultural livelihoods?



Ensuring sustainable food systems and increasing resilience of agricultural livelihoods

- **Transformation towards dispersed food distribution:** Shift to e-commerce solutions for the marketing of food producers; ensure an enabling business climate for the e-commerce revolution.
- **Ensuring inclusion of SFF in the e-commerce revolution:** Apply policy actions to prevent the emergence of another digital divide and exacerbate already deep inequities; Engagement, capacity building, and empowerment of formal organizations of SFF
- **A strong partnership between public and private sector action:** with a larger role of the public sector in the initial phase. Public sector programs (e.g., input and credit support) must have a phase-out stage as recovery progresses.





- **Quality data planning:** the need for quality planning is highly dependent on updated, disaggregated, and reliable data. Planning should also be directed to anticipate possible unintended consequences of public sector action such as crowding out of counterpart initiatives in the private and SFF sector.
- **Preparations for the next crisis**
 - *Advance monitoring for disaster preparedness.*
 - *Feedback and information mechanism*
 - *Institutionalized linkages between national and local governments*
 - *Fast-track reforms of the extension system*
 - *Invest in nutrition-sensitive agriculture programs.*





Ensuring sustainable food systems and increasing resilience of agricultural livelihoods

- Have business continuity plans.
- Adopt evidence-based planning such as Early Warning Systems.
- Encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration and investments
- Keep international trade open and take measures that protect the food supply chain.
- Focus on the needs of the most vulnerable and scale up social protection programs.
- Keep domestic food supply value chains alive and functioning. Engage the private sector in the food supply value chains.
- Keep alive agricultural supply chains by any means compatible with health safety protocols.
- Maintain agricultural activities. Enhance local crop diversification and mechanized farming.
- Innovate to strengthen production, marketing, and other components of the supply chain.





- Recognize the food heroes – Buy local food to support their livelihoods in these difficult times.
- Share excess food or support the food banks, community groups or charities that provide free food to vulnerable people.
- Urban/Peri-Urban agriculture or backyard farming.
- Responsible food purchase behavior and reducing food waste.
- Do not deny nutrition to yourself or your families. It is important to keep healthy.





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Thank you.