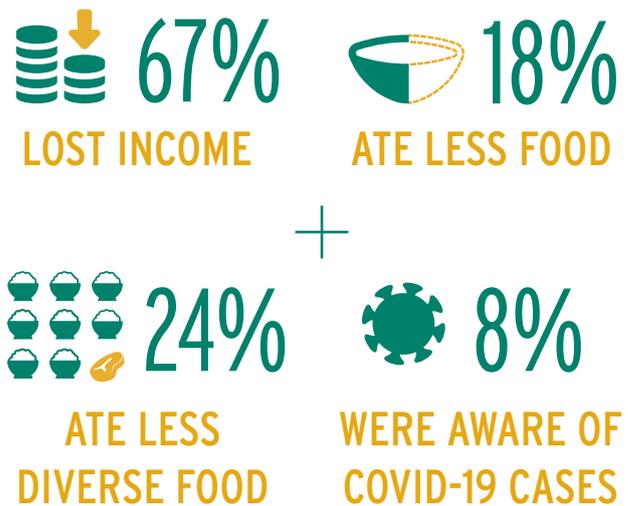


The impacts of COVID-19 on farmers in Uganda during 2020: Central, Eastern, and Western Regions

We interviewed 985 farmers in Central, Eastern, and Western Uganda about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their livelihoods and wellbeing. In the Eastern region, 171 subsistence-oriented farmers were interviewed in July to August 2020; in the Western region 126 large-scale cattle farmers were interviewed in September to October 2020; and in the Central region 688 small-scale commercial mixed farmers were interviewed in December 2020.

Over two-thirds of households reported reduced incomes, often reduced by half or more. Both farm sales and off-farm work were impacted. About a quarter of households had to reduce the amount or diversity of food eaten. Food security impacts were more severe for poorer households, particularly in the Eastern region.

As the pandemic continues, it is increasingly important to support the rural poor. Restrictions which better balance public health and economic impacts, the stabilisation of market prices for both sales of farm produce and purchase of foodstuffs, and direct aid are all recommended.



Outcomes

50% of households could not sell farm produce due to **lack of access to buyers and markets**, 34% could sell but at **low prices**, and 20% said there was **reduced demand**.

30% of households reported decreased off-farm incomes due to **mobility restrictions**; 22% **lacked work opportunities**.

28% of households had difficulty purchasing foods. This was mainly due to a **lack of transport options** (20%), a lack of **money** (17%), or **high sale prices** of foodstuffs (16%).

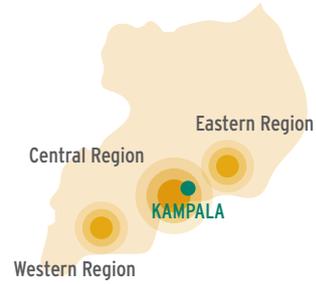
63% of households had to **deploy coping strategies**. Common strategies were: 38% depleted savings, 22% sold livestock, 16% incurred debts they were not confident they could pay back.

By December 2020, many households had not recovered*



* The data on recovery was collected only in Central Uganda

Comparison of impacts in the Central, Eastern and Western Regions

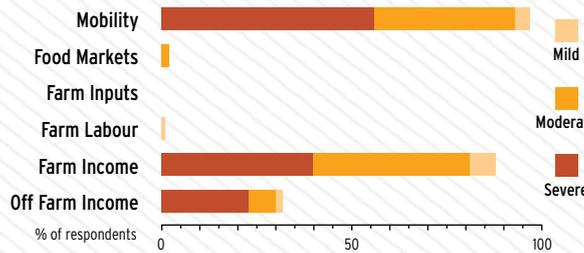


WESTERN REGION

% who lost income lost from:



Severity of COVID Impacts



90% lost income

1% reduced amount or diversity of foods eaten

Farming system:
commercial cattle ranching and dairy

73% of produce sold

8.5 \$ income per person per day

36.7 ha farm size

48.4 cattle equivalent per household (TLU)

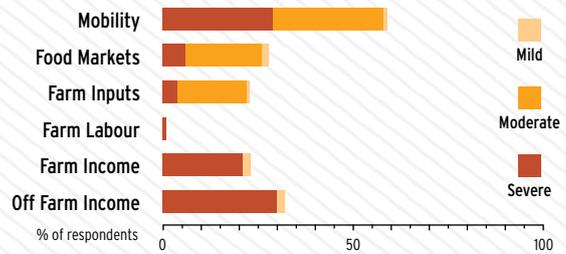


CENTRAL REGION

% who lost income lost from:



Severity of COVID Impacts



57% lost income

17% reduced amount or diversity of foods eaten

Farming system:
mixed commercial, staple crops, coffee, pigs, chicken

58% of produce sold

2.2 \$ income per person per day

1.1 ha farm size

0.6 cattle equivalent per household (TLU)

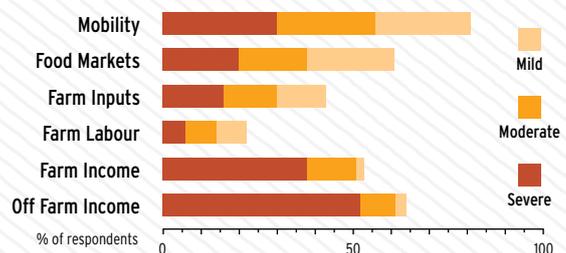


EASTERN REGION

% who lost income lost from:



Severity of COVID Impacts



92% lost income

81% reduced amount or diversity of foods eaten

Farming system:
subsistence oriented staple crops

22% of produce sold

no data income per person per day

1.0 ha farm size

0.8 cattle equivalent per household (TLU)