

NATIONAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS PROTOCOLS DURING THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Protocols and Guidelines for Farmers & Farmers Organizations

Introduction

The global outbreak of Corona virus (COVID 19) has raised concerns regarding the likely impact on regional and national food supply chains. In response, the country has set measures to limit factors that may exacerbate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To address the emerging food security concerns, there is need to manage the food supply chain by ensuring availability, accessibility and affordability of safe, adequate and nutritious food for all Citizens. The food supply chain in the country consists of players in input provision, production, trade, processing, transport, logistics, handling and consumption. Key institutions involved in management of the food supply chain are;

- Input suppliers (distributors and agro-vets)
- Farmers, Pastoralists & Fisher folk
- Farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk organizations
- Community food storage facilities
- Government food storage facilities (NCPB, KNTC)
- Food and feed processors
- Food transporters
- Food markets
- County Governments
- National Government ministries, departments & agencies
- Major food retailers and supermarkets
- Food supply chain service providers
- Development Partners & NGOs

To minimize interruptions within the food supply chain, the following protocols and guidelines have been developed to facilitate operations within the food supply chain. County Governments can domesticate the protocols and guidelines for implementation.

PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES FOR FARMERS & FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS

1. Farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk are required to adhere to Ministry of Health guidelines by practicing proper sanitation and social distancing.
2. Farmers are encouraged to prepare their land and take advantage of the current rains to plant and carry out other farm related operations. **Pastoralists and fisher folk are also encouraged to continue with their operations.**
3. Fishers, fish processors, fish traders and fish farmers are encouraged to continue with fishing, fish farming, fish processing, fish transportation and trading so that there is no disruption in fish supply.
4. Farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk should make sure that their workers are provided with water, sanitizers or soap and protective equipment where applicable.
5. Farmers expected to observe good agricultural practices and sanitary and phytosanitary measures in food production (e.g. safe use of chemicals, use of certified seeds, use of manure and proper and timely use of fertilizer). Pastoralists and fisher folk are also expected to exercise good animal husbandry and sustainable fishing.
6. Farmers and pastoralists should carry out continuous surveillance and reporting of locusts and other strategic pests (e.g. fall army worm, maize lethal necrosis disease) and animal diseases to the Government.
7. Horticulture farmers should adhere to guidelines in the Horticulture standard (KS 1758) to ensure quality and safety of produce.
8. Farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk should practice safe storage of food commodities to reduce post-harvest losses.
9. Farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk to consider using digital technologies and mobile money transactions to access inputs and markets so as to minimize their own exposure.
10. Farmers should sort and package produce ready for the market while observing the maximum weight per single package of 50 kilograms.
11. Farmers are encouraged to aggregate produce through collection centres while observing the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health on management of COVID-19

12. Fish handlers at landing sites, shops, markets, and during transportation should wear appropriate protective covering.
13. Fish business operators are required to clean and sanitize their premises before and after their operations.
14. Fresh fish should be preserved in adequate quantities of ice and should be hygienically handled to prevent post-harvest losses and contamination.
15. Fish traders are advised to commence their operations early to conform with the curfew requirements and as much as possible use mobile money transfers for business transactions.
16. The protocols and guidelines target members of associations such as CGA, KENAFF, Agricultural Council of Kenya, National Potato Council of Kenya, Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya, Avocado Society of Kenya, Kenya Flower Council, Fresh Produce Consortium, Avocado Exporters Association of Kenya, Kenya Livestock Marketing Council, Kenya Fish Processors & Exporters Association, Wavuvi Association of Kenya and Aquaculture Association of Kenya.
17. The protocols and guidelines also target individual food producers and farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk in Common Interest Groups, Self Help Groups and Cooperatives recognized by local administration and County Government departments.
18. All the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health on COVID 19 must be adhered to (*see Annex I and II*).

ANNEX I: MINISTRY OF HEALTH GUIDELINES ON COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

Considering that the COVID-19 disease has now been classified as a pandemic we are taking precautionary measures. All Kenyans should observe the following:

- i. Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ii. Maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (5 feet) between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- iii. Persons with a cough or sneezing should stay home or keep a social distance, but avoid mixing with others in a crowd.
- iv. Maintain good respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose while coughing and sneezing with a handkerchief, tissue, or into flexed elbow.
- v. Stay at home if you feel unwell with symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty in breathing.
- vi. Suspend all public gatherings, meetings, religious crusades games events etc. Normal church services can go on provided they provide sanitizing/and hand washing.
- vii. Suspend all inter - school events, but keep schools open.
- viii. Public transport providers are directed to provide hand sanitizers for their clients and regular cleaning of the vehicles. Matatus should carry the required passengers to maintain social distance, provide sanitizers and their vehicles should be disinfected regularly.
- ix. Temporary suspension of prison visits for the next 30 days.
- x. Kenyans must not abuse social media platforms or indulge in spreading misinformation that can cause fear and panic.
- xi. Travel restrictions outside the country unless absolutely necessary and no travel to disease epicenter countries.

xii. All persons visiting public places such as supermarkets, open air markets, public transport should at all times wear a face mask to reduce the chances of transmission of the virus.

xiii. Utilize the call line facility number 719 to report on any cases regarding the disease and *719# to receive the correct messages.

Annex II: East African Guidelines of Free Movement of Cargo

The Guidelines are to facilitate the movement of cargo across official border points as follows:

- 1.1. Fumigation of all containers and trucks at point of departure in line with Ministry of health existing directives.
- 1.2. Monitoring of Cargo Crew moving cargo across the border -
 - a) All trucks to have a maximum of two (2) cargo crew consisting of the Driver and the Loader.
 - b) Designating Government recommended hotels/ Lodges within designated trading centers along the transit route for the Cargo Crew.
 - c) Fumigation of Designated hotels/ Lodges and its environments.
 - d) Provision of sanitizers, disinfectant and clean water to enhance hygiene.
 - e) Screening of the Cargo crew from the point of departure, designated screening points along the transit route and point of exit by Port Health officials or such other designated officials.
 - f) To address the fourteen (14) day quarantine requirement and facilitate a quick turn-around of the Cargo crew, designate hotel destinations in other countries.
- 1.3. Designation of fuel collection points from Kenya to other countries destinations shall be limited to Kisumu and Eldoret fuel depots.
- 1.4. Ensure Twenty-Four (24) hours operations at all official border points and enhance resources of the Agencies at the borders for increased efficiency. Where possible, agencies are encouraged to undertake advance processing and clearance of cargo.
- 1.5. In collaboration with the private sector, ensure training of cargo crew on safety precautions to be taken to avoid any spread of Corona (COVID 19), self-monitoring of symptoms and reporting mechanisms.
- 1.6. Enhance information dissemination strategies on Corona (COVID 19) through various media platforms.

1.7. Ensure strict enforcement of relevant Health Declarations by Ministry of Health especially for COVID 19 at all official border points.