



THE 9TH KENYA NATIONAL
M & E WEEK

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

THEME:
**M&E IN THE CONTEXT OF
COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
PERSPECTIVES, PRACTICES
& EVIDENCE**

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Lessons for
improving
agricultural data
quality during the
COVID-19 pandemic

9th Kenya M&E
Conference

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Data is essential to contextualizing agricultural transformation in SSA

- Why is Ag transformation important?
 - Economies in developing countries largely agricultural-based
 - Linkages with other sectors i.e., manufacturing, trade, health
- Agriculture data is vital decisions made in these sectors
- Track progress in Ag transformation
 - Changes in key transformation indicators
- Track progress
 - SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, country development strategies

Status of Ag data in developing countries

- No one single source of comprehensive data
- Publicly available data largely irregular and long processing time
- Numerous data generators
 - Act independently
 - Multiple sources
 - Varies in objectives, methodologies, type and formats
- Scarcity of reliable and good quality data
 - Limited in scope and content
- Lack of comparability and harmonization
 - Within and across countries

Huge investments in improving quality & availability of data in recent years

- Massive public sector investments in agriculture data in recent years
 - Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)
 - CGIAR Big Data
 - AfDB
- Significant advances in use of data & evidence in decision making
 - This must be supported through increase in availability & utilization of high quality, timely & credible data & evidence

Effects of COVID-19

- Collection of data is constrained
 - food production, consumption, prices, trade, market access, nutrition
- Wrong, imprecise, incredible, unreliable data can undo the gains to have evidence-based policymaking
 - How then can we ensure the quality of the available data that is coming in?
 - How can we evaluate the quality of analysis and subsequent inference to ensure that we influence the correct policy prescriptions?
 - How can we promote collaboration and lesson sharing during these times?

Emerging innovations

- Use of remote data collection methods
 - Satellite data
- Use of phone surveys with CATI
- Use of SMS surveys



Experiences on data collection during pandemic

- **Building on existing datasets**
 - Methodologies used in collecting data
 - Improving precision preciseness of collected data
- **Rapid assessment surveys**
 - High frequency data
- **Enhance focus on quality and external validity**

Effects of security issues & COVID on data generation

- COVID-19 was first reported in Kenya in March 2020
 - Restrictions kicked in by mid-March
 - Social distancing & working from home
 - Nation wide curfew and partial lockdowns from early April
 - Second wave in October & November 2020, 3rd wave in March/April 2021
- Usual field surveys not possible during lockdowns/travel restrictions
 - Respondents nervous about 'visitors'
 - Security & health concerns for respondents and enumerators
- Most institutions postponed all fieldwork from March 2020
 - Some have resumed data collection after easing of restrictions
 - Innovations (CAPI & CATI) combinations to overcome challenges

How did we cope & what did we learn?

- Rapid assessment surveys
 - Can help respond to some questions,
 - Challenges in undertaking virtual calls
- Use of phone surveys
 - Building on existing datasets
 - Existing pool of trained enumerators retrained virtually
 - Phone survey must be as short as possible (20~30 minutes)
- All data quality assurance protocols maintained
- Demand for accurate, timely, credible data still high
- Must encourage patience as we navigate through the pandemic