



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Turkey

3RP-Turkey Food Security and Agriculture Sector WG Meeting Minutes Thursday May 21, 2020 at 14:00hrs

Chair: Lubna Siddique (FAO)

Minutes taker Haya Androon (FAO)

Participants: Figen Kelemer (Concern WW), Besim Can (ILO), Ceren Ababay (ILO), Khaled Kabash(Shafak), Safwan Alhaiek(ATAA Relief), Arij Shaaban(Al Resala), Alev Yıldırım(GIZ), Ece Hazal Uluç(GOAL), Mohamad ALobaidy (MASRRAT), Faruk Acar(WFP), Kemal Kirişçi (Brookings Ins.), Burak Güreşinli (MoAF), Evren Aydoğan(IDEMA), Aziz Erden (WFP) Mulham Hammadeh(White Hands), Figen Çeliktürk(GCoC), Yasser Dalal(Hayat Sur), Hazal Erman(PEP-IBETH), Mohanad Ameen (IOM), Görkem Göker(TRC), Filiz Hösükoğlu(CIPE), Yasser Talgeh (Syria Relief),Mohammad Zin (WHH), Mohannad Alghabra (CARE), Arzum Karasu (WFP), Raed ElRafei (TRD), Mohammad Kaheel (QRCS) Maan Alsheikh (WATAN) Ahmad Baccora (SSC) Chris Bender (UNHCR) Duru Neccar (welthungerhilfe) Alaa Baa (WATAN) Kingsly Atem (DRC) Ayman Alhalb (TRC) Ezgi Emre (ECHO), Irmene Arsanoglu (UNHCR) Pelin Turkalp (IOM).

FAO Participants: Sheikh Ahaduzzaman (FAO), Ayşegül Selışık(FAO), Orhan Afşin(FAO), Shaila Tarannum(FAO), Neşe Çakır(FAO), Nuri Dilekci (FAO)

Agenda	Discussion	Action Points
Review of the minutes and action point of the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates on the 3RP appeal and other parallel processes by sector lead; The COVID-19 appeal has been submitted under the 3RP regional COVID-19 appeal simultaneously with global humanitarian appeal by OCHA. - The partners under the 3RP will be requested to review the original 3RP appeal and to incorporate the COVID-19 appeal under the original 3RP appeal. 	<p>3RP Review process tentatively to start during next month (3RP team will inform the sectors).</p>
Update by MoAF on agriculture sector activities in COVID-19 context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update by MoAF on the COVID-19 measures and its impact on Agriculture sector; The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry took measures to ensure that agriculture sectors' activities are unhindered during COVID-19 pandemic by dividing the Agriculture sector activities in Turkey under 3 categories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Production. • Food Processing. • Food Distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoAF to update the sector members on the living conditions of the seasonal agriculture workers during next FSAWG. - MoAF will share with sector members the data of agriculture products' prices.

- Under the Agriculture Production framework, the prospects of the harvest for 2019 are positive for Turkey and the number of the stocks is enough to meet the needs of producers, feeders, processors and consumer.
- MoAF has planned additional spring plantation for cereals and pulses.
- The agriculture-related state economy after crises is playing an effective role in this period.
- MoAF in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning started to provide farmers free lands (without any rent) in order to increase food production to meet the needs of the population.
- MoAF issued a circular with the provincial directorates to regulate and facilitate the movement of farmers and seasonal agriculture workers.
- MoAF, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, introduced measures towards transportation and living conditions of seasonal agriculture workers (SAW) during COVID-19 pandemic to ensure unhindered movement of SAW.
- The Ministry took supportive measures like postponing the tax payments on food and fertilizers between April to June. Agriculture support payments have commenced to support investment and agricultural production.
- Under the Food Processing framework, the Ministry constituted a board and a marketing committee with the agriculture sector partners and other experts to discuss and monitor the impact of the current pandemic on the agriculture sector. Data collected by the Ministry in this regard is yielding some promising outcomes.
- Under the Food Distribution framework, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has been distributing and coordinating the distribution process of the food products and agricultural logistics. Vendors continue to seal fresh vegetables and fruits to reduce hand contact by customers. Pazars remain open by following the safe distancing measure by having a 3-meter space between stalls. The price changes on stockpiling are strictly monitored by MoAF and the Ministry of Customs and Trade.
- Tea and Nuts SAW are now permitted to travel to the black sea region. Tea producers started to apply to the Ministry of Interior to obtain their travel permit documents. Tea producers will have to dwell in the harvesting province for 14 days and shall comply with safety and protection rules while working.
- Approved travel documents will be transferred and kept at the harvest provinces to provide necessary controls and coordination during field activities. Provincial pandemic health teams at the Entry of the cities will provide the health check procedure to the travelers. Travelers will stay for a week in quarantine before going to the fields. The social support teams will provide the basic needs and the markets and grocery stores will provide the food supply services to the villages. Provincial health directorate teams will make around 1700 Daily Coronavirus tests for the seasonal agriculture workers (SAW) producers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry's water institute conducted the wastewater study to enable for early warning. Istanbul was chosen as a pilot province. The initial findings show that traces of coronavirus were detected in the wastewater, however no cases have been reported so far. - Among the safety measures taken in the wastewater treatment plan are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disinfection treatment of wastewater used in the irrigation of green areas, activities such as water sports and agriculture greenwashing are banned especially in the river areas where the wastewater is discharged (effluent), and Governorship has been instructed on the healthy treatment plan. The wastewater studies will continue in 8 provinces and the Ministry will gather and analyze the results to control the outbreak. 	
<p>Presentation on the "Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and their Children and on Crop Farming" by Development Workshop Cooperative (in collaboration with ILO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This rapid assessment started in March-April 2020 with an aim to understand possible effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on the situation of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers (SMAW). - The research based on 3 methodological orientation, the Desk Review, Interviews and WhatsApp Group2 groups of people were interviewed, the first group was 70 agricultural intermediaries administering nearly 10,000 agricultural workers, the second group was about 34 key actors (such as farmers and agricultural chambers) from provinces of Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Düzce, Eskişehir, Hatay, İzmir, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Mersin, Ordu, Giresun, İstanbul and Şanlıurfa. - The Travel Permit is one of the biggest problems faced by the SMAW as the seasonal worker has to be registered to be able to travel. - According to the research 70% interviewed agriculture intermediaries hadn't started the preparations for the season at the time of interview. - WhatsApp groups, TV, Public Institutions and other intermediaries are the main sources of information about the COVID-19 pandemic for the seasonal workers. - The study makes Policy Recommendations for SuTP working in Seasonal Agricultural Production and it maps the location/routes of Foreign Migrant Workers in Seasonal Agricultural Production. The study is available on link - Unfortunately not much information could be gathered around child labour issue due to travel restrictions during pandemic and use of remote assessment tools (such as mobile phone) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation to be shared with the FSA partners along with the minutes
<p>Presentation on the "Impact of COVID-19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70 Key Informants interviews (KIIs) were conducted by Concern Worldwide with the Small Business Enterprises (SEBs) and Seasonal Agriculture Workers (SAWs) (between 20th to 27th April). 44 of those 70 are in 3 provinces (Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and Kilis). 28 companies and 16 Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) were interviewed, from various sectors such as textile and construction companies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To know more about the findings, please refer back to the shared assessment.

<p>on Employment and SMEs” with focus on food security and agriculture sector, by Concern WW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Majority of those businesses suspended their activities (partially or fully) due to COVID-19 outbreak. 21% of interviewed companies with 30+ staff, terminated staff contracts due to the suspension of the workplace. The assessment shows that 54% of SBEs have sent their staff on leave (over 50% on unpaid leave and remaining on paid leave). SBEs who continued to work have enforced different working hours varied between 8 to 16 hours per day. - 20% of the SBEs who reported that their businesses are closed, are using savings and ESSN Card as an alternative income sources. All SBEs have reported that their businesses are negatively affected by COVID-19 outbreak and it will take them a long time to recover, even in some cases they would not be able to recover their businesses without subsidies by government or INGOs. Although some of SBEs are optimistic to continue but the majority reckons that they will not be able to continue to work for more than 4 months (in average) without external support. - Concern conducted a key informant interview with farmers, Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Development Atelier Organisation (Kalkınma Atölyesi) to understand the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and seasonal workers. - The farmers in Şanlıurfa started the plantation of the cotton on 20th of April and they were planning to complete it by 20th of May 2020. Some of those farmers declared that they will be harvesting the lentil and barley by the end of May and they will start planting the corn as second product, and the wheat will be harvested in June 2020. - The assessments shows that the agriculture sector is the least impacted sector from COVID-19, since the GOT did not apply restrictions or curfew and though there was a reported increase on the seeds and fertilizers prices (last year 1 sack of corn for 5 donums was 350 TRY and it is between 480 -600 TRY). No price changes monitored on liquid and synthetic fertilizer. The SAWs did not receive a financial support from the GOT, however their credit debts payment dates from Agricultural Credit Cooperative is postponed and diesel price is decreased to 4,70-80 TRY/liter. - Highlighted Points and Recommendations from the Seasonal Agricultural workers and Key Informants. 	<p>Presentation will be shared with the minutes.</p>
<p>AoB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3RP roll out event has been replaced by 3RP review process that would most probably start during next month, the purpose is to incorporate and endorse the COVID-19 appeal in the 3RP original appeal, hence the sectors will be requested to engage the sector partners in this process. 3RP coordination team will inform about the date for the review process. - Information about any planned, ongoing or completed surveys and assessment to be shared with the FSA sector lead in order to share with the partners. - The partners were requested to update the Activityinfo on regular basis i.e. before 11th of each month. 	

Next Meeting: FSA Sector Working Group: 3rd Thursday of June i.e. 18th June