

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON FOOD SECURITY

L'IMPACT DE LA PANDEMIE COVID-19 SUR LA SECURITE ALIMENTAIRE

ملخص

تهدف هذه الورقة البحثية الى تحليل ومناقشة تأثير كوفيد 19 على الأمن الغذائي العالمي مع التركيز بشكل خاص على البلدان التي تعاني من انعدام الأمن الغذائي مثل الجزائر. ولإجراء هذا التحليل، تم استخدام البيانات الصادرة عن منظمة الأغذية والزراعة (FAO)، ومنظمة الصحة العالمية (WHO) والأوراق البحثية المنشورة في هذا المجال. أشارت النتائج إلى كوفيد 19 أثر بشكل كبير على السلع الغذائية سريعة التلف، كما أثر على نقص الغذاء في المناطق الفقيرة والمناطق التي تشهد الحروب. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، هدد كوفيد 19 الأمن الغذائي في بعض الدول المتقدمة وأغلب الدول النامية، وخاصة الدول التي تعاني من التبعية الغذائية. في الأخير، وبناء على النتائج المتوصل إليها قدمنا بعض التوصيات التي قد يؤدي العمل بها إلى تعزيز الأمن الغذائي المستدام.

كلمات المفتاحية: فلاحية؛ فيروس كورونا؛ أمن غذائي؛ نظام غذائي

. تصنيف جل: L66؛ Q18.

Résumé

The aim of the study is to analyze the impact of Covid-19 on food security. The scale of the analysis was of an international level, with special focus on countries suffering from food insecurity such as Algeria. Toward this end, data provided by the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been analyzed, as well as studies conducted and published on the subject. The findings indicate that Covid 19 has had a huge impact on perishable food and caused remarkable food shortages in poor countries, conflict zones and war-affected regions. Additionally, Covid 19 threatened food security in developed and developing countries alike. Finally, based on the findings, we have suggested some recommendations that would help boosting sustainable food security.

Key words: Agriculture; Corona Virus; Food Security; Food System.

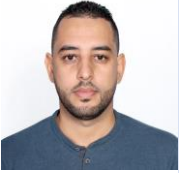
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1. INTRODUCTION

Corona virus pandemic is being propagating on accelerating pace since its appearance in December 2019. So far, according to World Health Organization by 4 July, 10 922 324 cases and over 523 011 deaths had occurred globally (WHO, 4 July 2020). In Algeria, according to the official website of the Algerian Ministry of Health, there were 15 500 confirmed cases and 946 deaths cases of Covid-19 of 4 July 2020 (Algerian Ministry of Health, 2020). Since its emergence in China in December 2019, the outbreak has spread to over 210 countries around the world in just 120 days (Willy et al., 2020). To curb the propagation of the pandemic, the whole world has been under lockdown.

Any observer of what happened and what is still happening clearly notices that people around the world are verily terrified from hunger that might ensue from the pandemic.

According to FAO (2020a), the Covid-19 pandemic is global crisis which is already hitting the food and agriculture sector. The disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic are now putting food security of billions of people on the line (Zurayk, 2020). Food security is hugely affected due to movement constraints, low purchasing power, affecting massively the most vulnerable population groups, as cases of infection increase; governments take more measures to curb the propagation of the virus, and thus influenced the global food system (Siche, 2020, p.6).

We try through our research paper to answer the following question: what is the impact of Covid19 on food security in the world?

From this issue we can extract the following questions: (1) What was the status of food security before Covid 19?; (2) What is the impact of Covid19 on agriculture sector?; (3) What is the impact of Covid19 on food prices?; and (4) What is the impact of Covid19 on hunger and malnutrition?. We seek through our study to reach the following objectives: (1) To identify the status of food security before

covid19; (2) To analyze the impact of Covid19 on agriculture sector; (3) To analyze the impact of Covid19 on food prices; (4) To identify the impact of Covid 19 on food demand; and (5) To suggest some recommendations that might help in boosting food security in countries suffering from food insecurity or food shortages during of diseases.

The rest of the paper is divided as follows. Section 1 presents food security before the Covid-19. Section 2 describes the impact of covid-19 on agricultural sector. Section 3 analyses the impact of covid-19 on food demand. Section 4 presents the main impact of covid-19 on world food prices. Section 5 discusses the impact of covid-19 on hunger and malnutrition. Finally, the last part presents the conclusion.

2. APPROCHEMETHODOLOGIQUE

An analytical study has been conducted to analyze and discuss the most recent studies and researches as well as data provided by the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) with regard of **The state of food security and nutrition in the World, Cereal import dependency**

3. DESCRIPTION DEL'ECHANTILLON

The scale of the analysis was of an international level, with special focus on countries suffering from food insecurity such as Algeria.

4. RESULTAT

First, the Covid19 pandemic severely affected countries in which agriculture contributes significantly to GDP, such as some African countries (Sierra Leone, Chad, Niger and Mali), and Southeast Asian countries, due suspension of agricultural activities, restriction of trade in agricultural commodities and agricultural labor.

Second, Covid 19 has primarily affected food imports dependent countries in general, and countries importing food from European countries in particular, due to the preemptive

measures undertaken by of some European countries that suspended all sorts of food exports to prepare for any scenario that might threatens their food security if the pandemic lasts longer, which would ultimately put food security of importer countries under a serious threat.

Third, the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted agricultural commodities sales, as the shut down measures involved major buyers of these commodities such as restaurants, hotels, schools, and major shopping centers. Perishable agricultural products (such as some types of vegetables and fruits) have also been damaged, due to movement restriction, which inflicted significant losses to the producers of these commodities. Fourth, the Covid 19 have affected food supply chains, as restricting the movement of people and transportation and closing some stores severely disrupted the supply chain (transportation, storage and distribution), resulting in food shortages in many remote areas. Fifth, the Covid19 pandemic has affected small and medium agricultural companies' incomes, as a result of suspending some agricultural activities, due to the quarantine measures and the imposed restrictions, and thus the purchasing power of millions of small farmers and farm workers shrunk. Sixth, the Covid 19 pandemic has affected international food aid capacities. Within a few weeks, the pandemic exposed the fragility of food system, even in developed countries, since most countries were committed to provide material and food aids exclusively to their citizens. Consequently, international food assistance was significantly insufficient to people around the world, particularly in Yemen, Syria and Palestine.

On the other hand, there was no significant impact of Covid 19 on agriculture and food security in most developed countries, especially developed

countries in the area of agriculture (such as Canada and the United States), except for the negative repercussions that affected all countries of the world, such as the turmoil in the supply chain and some slight rise in prices of some food commodities

5. CONCLUSION

The level of impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on food security varies from country to another, as it depends on agricultural production volume for each country, and the estimated time frame to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

Given the fact that Algeria enjoys a comfortable food reserve, and 44,2 billion dollar as money reserves, covid19' implications may not emerge in the short run, however if the pandemic survive for a long period of time simultaneously with the collapse of oil prices, Algeria may experience a severe food crisis as a result. If this pandemic keep on propagating up until the end of the year 2020, and if mankind fails to find an effective remedy, then logically the hunger ghost will strike more millions of people around the world. Nevertheless, the African continent seemingly will suffer far more than any other, since all African countries are unable to reach food security with excessive dependency on import, due to the rampant political corruption, abject poverty, high unemployment rates spread of diseases, frequent wars, and poor agricultural productivity.

6. RECOMMANDATION

we recommend countries suffering from food insecurity in general and Algeria in particular the following: (1) Conducting studies to identify the organizational, administrative, and financing hurdles facing farmers, livestock and poultry farmers, and then seek to find practical solutions, and eradicate all forms of corruption in agricultural sector, (2) Providing material and moral support, Accompaniment, and supervision to small farmers, especially with regard to marketing their products, (3) A gradual and calculated import reduction of food commodities, grains and meat, and dedicating the best possible efforts on bringing about effective strategies to reach self-sufficiency in those commodities to reduce dependency, (4) Encouraging local food industries (such as jam , tomatoes, juice, industries etc.), and taking effective steps to export to Arab and foreign countries, (5) The role of consumer protection associations should be actively

effective, and free from any political practices, to provide consumers with the necessary guidance and protection with regard of high prices, availability and quality of food commodities , especially in times of pandemic outbreaks, (6) Establish an effective policy for desert agriculture, and provide the necessary facilities such as electricity, water, road network, transportation, and propose tax and material incentives, in addition to providing moral support to attract local and foreign investor, and (7) Officials in the agriculture sector should steer clear from random decisions that bear less to the real existing reality of agricultural challenges.

REFERENCE

Pour plus de détails, veuillez consulter l'article: **The Impact Of Covid-19**

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