



# AGRODEP

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## NEWS

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### Impacts of COVID-19 in African Countries

Several months into the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing ongoing and far-reaching implications of the health crisis, particularly for developing countries in terms of resulting declines in economic growth, employment, and food security and nutrition. Three IFPRI working papers look specifically at how COVID-19 is impacting [Ghana](#), [Egypt](#), and [Ethiopia](#) through a variety of approaches.

The case study in [Ghana](#) focused on the economic costs related to COVID-19 by using a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) multiplier model. Under the three-week lockdown period, national GDP was estimated to fall by 27.9% with losses specific to the agri-food system estimated at 19.8%. The national poverty rate was estimated to spike and increase by 12.5% during the lockdown period, but with lockdown eased, the overall poverty level was estimated to be 1.7% higher at the end of the fourth quarter than at it was the start of the year.

Also based on a SAM multiplier model in [Egypt](#), it was estimated that the COVID-19 crisis and associated changes in policy during partial lockdowns had a negative effect on GDP, with as much as an 8.7% decline in the fourth quarter but overall a projected increase for the year (2019/20) of nearly 2%. The majority of the Q4 decline could be seen in the services and industry sectors while agriculture appeared to be the most resilient. It was found that with assistance from an emergency response package, GDP declines in the fourth quarter could be limited to just over 1%.

The [Ethiopia](#) study focused primarily on changes in food security and nutrition related to COVID-19 policies. A household survey was conducted by phone on a sample of households in Addis Ababa in April and June 2020. More than two-thirds of the respondents indicated that their incomes were lower than expected in May (up from 58% in April). Lower income households were more likely to report income losses and high stress levels during the June survey than those in wealthier households. Food security status had not yet dropped to alarming levels but as the pandemic progresses in Ethiopia, support programs might be needed to prevent further deterioration.

## FEATURED MEMBERS



**Dr. Hatem Jemmali** has been an AGRODEP member since September 2018. He is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Manouba (Tunisia). He has both a PhD and MA from the University El-Manar (Tunisia). His areas of focus include economics of natural resources, climate change, and inequality of opportunities in access to basic services including education and healthcare among children in developing countries.



**Dr. Christian Kamala Kaghoma** is a citizen of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He has been an AGRODEP member since September 2018. Christian is currently an Associate Professor at the Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB). He holds a BS in Economics from Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB), an MA in Economics from Université Omar Bongo (Gabon), and a PhD in Economics from University of Yaoundé II. He is specialized in Growth, Development, and Equity.



**Dr. Eleni Yitbarek** is a citizen of Ethiopia. She has been an AGRODEP member since September 2018. Currently, Eleni is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Pretoria. She holds an MSc in Public Policy from Maastricht University, and a PhD in Economics, also from Maastricht University. She specializes in applied econometrics and economic development with a particular interest in gender, education, and credit and enterprise performance.

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