Livelihoods under COVID-19: #2 Agricultural Practices

Ugandan citizens' views and experiences



This data packet presents citizens' views and experiences on livelihoods and agriculture in the time of Coronavirus. What sources of income—agricultural and non-agricultural—do households have? What crops do citizens produce, and have they produced more or less this season than last? Do they store the produce? And what animals do they keep?

The data comes from *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens' experiences and were collected by the Food Rights Alliance and Twaweza. Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti. The Food Rights Alliance was generously supported in this work by Hivos.

Insight 1. Half of households generate income from cultivating and selling crops

Half of households (49%) generate some income from cultivating crops, fruit and/or vegetables, including four out of ten (38%) for which this is the main source of income. Three out of ten households (30%) earn some income from casual or occasional work, including two out of ten (23%) where this is the main source of income. Some households also earn income from keeping and selling animals or animal products (16%), running a non-agricultural service business (15%) or a retail / manufacturing business (15%).

Dependence on crop production is higher in rural areas than urban, but is still the main source of income for as many urban households as casual work. Income from businesses and formal employment is more common in urban areas.

Half of households (47%) are engaged in production of food crops and vegetable staples, including one out of three urban households (32%). Two out of ten households (18%) are engaged in livestock keeping, and one out of ten (13%) cultivate crops purely for commercial purposes. These activities are all more common in rural areas than urban, but a significant number (34%) of urban residents are engaged in some form of agriculture.

Insight 2. The main crops produced are maize, beans, cassava, groundnuts and sweet potatoes

Three out of ten households (31%) cultivate maize, and a similar number grow beans (28%). Cassava (16%), groundnuts (12%) and sweet potatoes are also cultivated by significant numbers of households.

Nevertheless, maize dominates in terms of both acreage under cultivation and the quantity produced. On average, among households that grow crops, 15 acres of maize are cultivated, well ahead of 1.1 acres of beans and 0.3 acres of groundnuts. And in terms of quantity, households that grow crops report an average of 255kg of maize produced in the previous season, followed 56kg of beans, 15kg of groundnuts and 12kg of tomatoes (not shown in charts). Which of the following generate income for your household?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020 Which of these agricultural and farming related activities is your household engaged in?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020





Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020

Insight 3. 4 out of 10 households say they planted less this season

Among households that grow crops, four out of ten (38%) report that they have planted less this season compared to the previous season. A quarter (24%) report having planted more this season.

The main reasons given for planting less this season are bad weather (9%), lack of capital (8%) and lack of land (8%) (not shown in charts).





Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020

Insight 4. 3 out of 10 households store crops after the end of the harvest

Half of households (52%) do not grow crops and two out of ten (16%) grow crops but do not store any of the produce after the harvest, leaving three out of ten households (32%) that store crops beyond the end of the harvest.

Two out of ten households (19%) report that they expect their stores to last until the next harvest, while one out of ten (12%) report that their stores will not last that long.

Among those who produce but do not store crops, the main reasons for not storing produce are that everything is consumed or sold (44%), that they lack storage facilities (27%), or financial constraints (15%) (not shown in charts).

Did you store your crops after harvest? If so, do they last until the next harvest?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020

Insight 5. The most commonly reared animals are chickens, goats and cattle

The most commonly reared animals are goats (7%), indigenous chickens (6%), indigenous cattle (5%) and pigs (4%).

Nine out of ten urban households (91%) keep no animals, compared to eight out of ten (82%) in rural areas.

Among those who keep animals, the average numbers kept are 6.3 indigenous chickens, 4.1 broilers and 3.7 layers; 3.4 goats; 1.8 indigenous cattle and 0.8 dairy cattle; 1.6 goats.

Very few households have fish ponds or beehives.



What animals did you rear in 2020?