

*Online Seminar Series:
The Impact of COVID-19 on
Global Food Security*

International guest speakers from five continents

Brazil, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany, India, Lebanon, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and Zambia

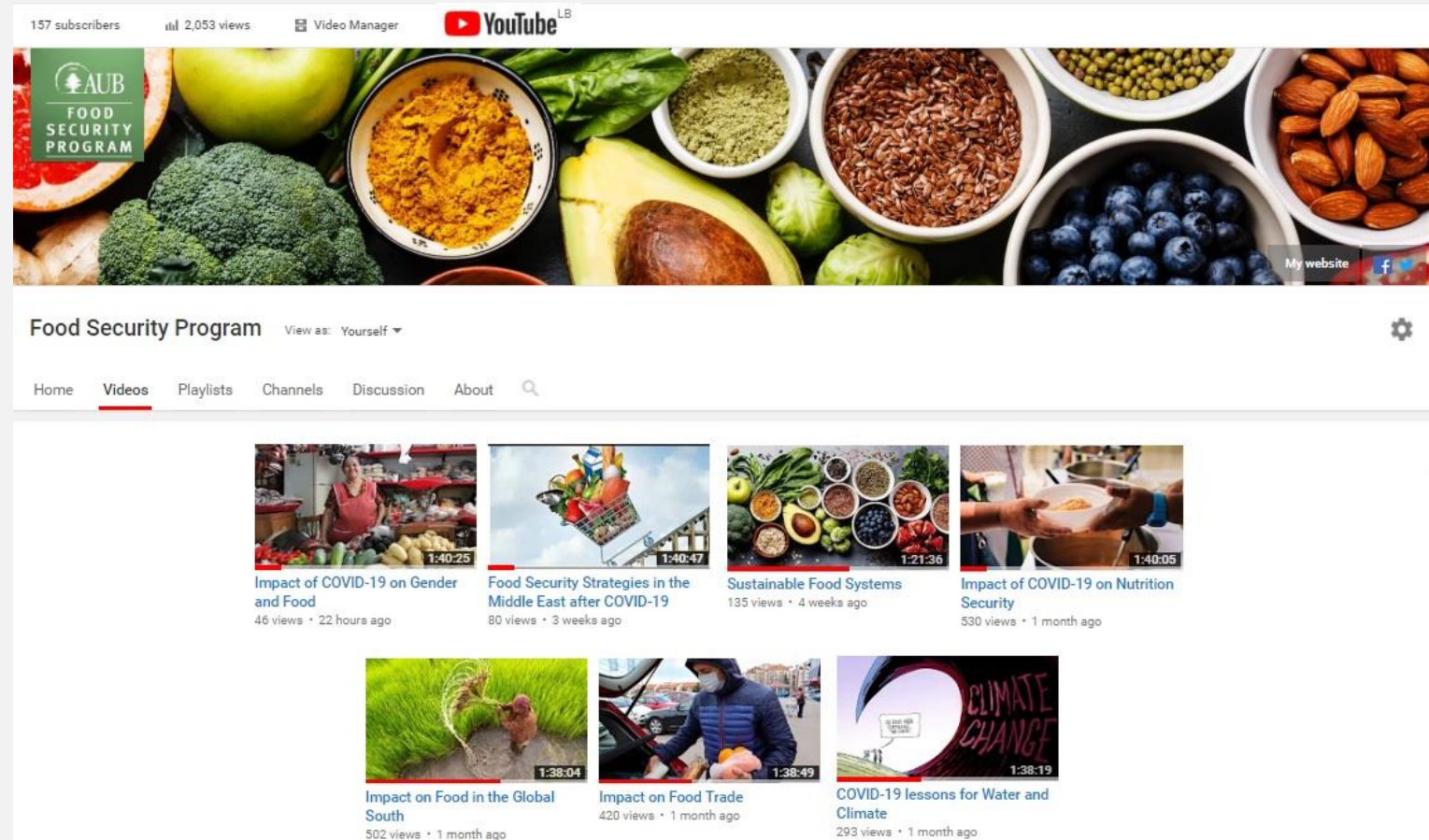


Food Security Program Online Seminar Series: *Impact of COVID-19 on Global Food Security*

Seven sessions are uploaded on YouTube and watched by +2000 viewers

Sessions are the following –

- 1) Food Trade
- 2) Food in the Global South
- 3) Water and Climate
- 4) Nutrition Security
- 5) Sustainable Food Systems
- 6) Food Security Strategies in the Middle East after COVID-19
- 7) Gender and Food



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES

APRIL 23rd, 2020
4pm - 5:30pm (Beirut Time)

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▶ YOUTUBE: <https://bitly/3akZ0nm>
 ▶ FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/aub.fafs.fsp>



SESSION I: IMPACT ON FOOD TRADE

CARL HAUSMANN
Former Vice President
Bunge—Agribusiness and
Food Company

ECKART WOERTZ
Director- GIGA Institute of
Middle East Studies
Hamburg

JOSEPH GLAUBER
Senior Research Fellow—
IFPRI and Former Chief
Economist at USDA

PHIL RIDDELL
Chief Advisor of
Ministry of Water in Egypt

ULLA KASK
Counsellor at the Agricul-
ture and Trade Division
World Trade Organization

MODERATORS
MARTIN KEULERTZ
RACHEL BAHN
Food Security program



- Early impacts of COVID-19 on food security via availability dimension.
- Disruption of COVID-19 greater for labor-intensive, fresh, perishable foods: FFV, dairy
- Trade is critical for food systems and food security, especially during crisis. Keeping trade open takes cooperation, transparent market data.
- COVID-19 is an opportunity to challenge orthodoxies in food system(s).
- Ongoing debate: Will COVID-19 ultimately be pro-globalization or anti-globalization?
 - Diversification of suppliers
 - Shortening of supply chains

- Impacts in Global South disproportionately affect the poor, vulnerable:
 - Small farmers lost markets (e.g., Brazil)
 - Migrant workers stopped from working
 - Larger retailers gained over small, traditional
 - Households with insufficient housing, less access to water & sanitation, poorer nutritional health are also more susceptible to disrupted employment, education, & disease
- COVID amplified existing FNS challenges
- COVID + other crises: natural, economic
- Governments in Global South lack tools to respond: price controls, social safety nets.
- Rising calls for local, circular economies rooted in agroecology post-COVID and changes in rural-urban structures.



ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES
The impact of COVID-19 on Global Food Security

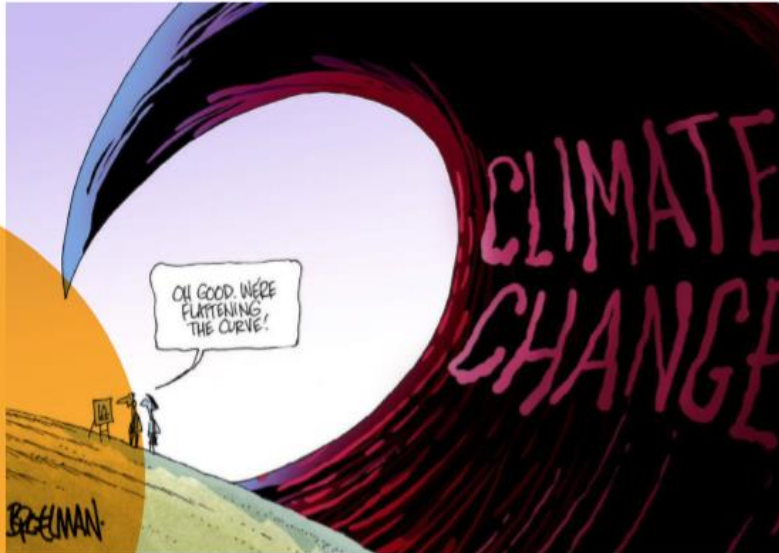
Thursday, April 30, 2020
3:00 pm (Beirut Time)

Live on:
<https://bit.ly/3ekZ0nm>
<https://www.facebook.com/aub.fafs.fsp>



Webinar Session 2:
Impact on Food in the Global South

Moderated by
Vandana Shiva International Forum on Globalization (IFG)
Rami Zurayk American University of Beirut (AUB)
Vanessa Empinotti Federal University of ABC - in Brazil
Ibrahim Bahati American University of Beirut (AUB)
Mustaf Abdirahman American University of Beirut (AUB)



ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES
The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Food Security

Thursday, May 7, 2020
11:00 am (Beirut Time)

Live on:

<https://bit.ly/3akZQnm>
<https://www.facebook.com/aub.fafs>



HEALTHY EARTH HEALTHY FOOD HEALTHY PEOPLE

Webinar Session 3:
COVID-19 Lessons for Water and Climate

Our Speakers

Rachael McDonnell
International Water Management Institute

Rabi Mohtar *American University of Beirut (AUB)*

Mark Mulligan *King's College London*

Alain Nicol *International Water Management Institute*

Cecilia Tortajada *National University of Singapore*

Jeroen Warner *Wageningen University & Research*

- COVID-19 adds to existing challenges to agriculture and food security: sustainability, climate change (co-disasters)
- Complex crises may challenge top-down systems where operation, innovation are locally controlled (like agricultural water use).
- Attention is needed to understand, address impacts on most marginalized, vulnerable.
- Resilience co-benefits: Efforts to improve water resilience help communities weather COVID
- Big shifts are possible, but only happen when “no other choice” is possible.
- Water must be added to the global climate change agenda.



ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES

The impact of COVID-19 on Global Food Security

Thursday, May 14, 2020
5:00 pm (Beirut Time)

Live on:

<https://www.facebook.com/aub.fafs.fsp>
<https://bit.ly/3ak2Onm>



HEALTHY EARTH HEALTHY FOOD HEALTHY PEOPLE

Webinar Session 4: Impact of COVID-19 on Nutrition Security

Our Speakers

Patrick Webb
Tufts University

Lawrence Haddad
Global Alliance for Improved
Nutrition (GAIN)

Lauren Landis
UN World Food Programme
(WFP)

Nahla Hwalla
American University of Beirut
Lamis Jomaa
American University of Beirut

- Projected impacts of COVID:
 - Poverty rising
 - Acute hunger rising, to double by end-2020
 - Wasting in children up 20% (5-10 million)
- Impacts worst in areas already hard-hit, among the most vulnerable
- Malnourishment increases vulnerability to disease. Healthy diets can support prevention & treatment of disease.
- Interventions: protections for food system workers, maintain market access (safely), income support, social protections, nutrition-specific interventions
- Real-time data collection & program monitoring are essential to guide, adjust interventions in short- & long-term.
 - Lebanon: Existing program for refugee & host community support via food retail system allows for quick study of price changes, changes in purchasing habits.



ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES

The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Food Security

Thursday, May 21, 2020
4:00 pm (Beirut Time)

Live on:

<https://www.facebook.com/aub.fafs>
<https://bit.ly/3akZQnm>



HEALTHY EARTH HEALTHY FOOD HEALTHY PEOPLE

Webinar Session 5: Sustainable Food Systems

Featuring

Tony Allan
SOAS University of London & King's College London

Thomas Hertel
Purdue University

Robert Paarlberg
Harvard University

Chris Perry
Former-World Bank

Martin Keulertz
American University of Beirut

Moderated by

Rachel Bahn
Abed Al Kareem Yehya

- COVID is an opportunity for radical new thinking around food systems – but little evidence so far.
- Sustainability concerns/lessons emerging:
 - Production, sale of animal protein
 - Increasing food waste (short term?)
 - Insufficient agri water productivity, pricing
- To change unsustainable aspects of food systems, we need political will, goodwill, coordination, and internalization of environmental/health externalities.



Webinar Session 6:
**Food Security
Strategies in the Middle
East after Covid-19**

Speakers

Ghada Ahmed
Duke University

Rachel Bahn
American University of Beirut

Turki Faisal Al Rasheed
American University of Beirut

Charles Kleinermann
*International Center for
Agricultural Research in
the Dry Areas (ICARDA)*

Musa Mckee
*International Water
Management Institute (IWMI)*

Mahmoud El Solh
*International Center for
Agricultural Research in the Dry
Areas (ICARDA)*

Moderated by
Martin Keulertz
Abed Al Kareem Yehya

**ONLINE
SEMINAR SERIES**

**The Impact of COVID-19
on Global Food Security**

Thursday, May 28, 2020
4:00 pm (Beirut Time)

Live on:

<https://www.facebook.com/aub.fafs.fsp>
<https://bit.ly/3ekZQnm>



- MENA progress toward FNS:
 - Already limited in recent years
 - Slowed in 2019 due to conflict, weather, econ
 - COVID worsened, will raise acute hunger
- Strategic responses must:
 - Build on strong political will and support
 - Address long-term challenges + COVID impacts
 - Emphasize local, shorter supply chains when possible
 - Address needs of small farmers (education, technology)
 - Address FNS beyond agriculture alone!



**ONLINE
SEMINAR SERIES**
**The Impact of COVID-19
on Global Food Security**

Thursday, June 18, 2020
4:00 pm (Beirut Time)

Live on:

<https://www.facebook.com/eub.fafa.fsp>
<https://bit.ly/3akZQnm>



Webinar Session 7:
**Impact of COVID-19
on Gender and Food**

Speakers

Juliet Colman
Security Women

Francesca Greco
Independent Researcher

Hala Ghattas
American University of Beirut

Jody Harris
World Vegetable Center

Meredith Jackson-
deGraffenried
Helen Keller International

Moderated by
Martin Keulertz
Rachel Bahn

- Even before COVID, unhealthy diets were a leading cause of disease and mortality.
- Vulnerable communities are disproportionately impacted by COVID due to underlying power, resource imbalances.
 - Illness
 - Burden of care (children, elders)
 - Dietary impacts
 - Economic disruption, employment loss
 - Inter-generational cycles of poverty
- Equality vs. equity
 - Issues of inequality (inequity) stretch through entire food chain, beyond the farm
- Political will is needed for serious change in response to combined crises, as in Lebanon: “Something has to give for things to change.”
- Amid economic crisis + COVID-19, must learn from the humanitarian crisis and advances in social safety nets in particular.

Where to Watch

- YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0M2VQvKNHObMHrRnLCKj8g>

- FSP Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/aub.fafs.fsp/posts/>

International Commentary



Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development
ISSN: 2152-0801 online
<https://www.foodsystemsjournal.org>

COMMENTARY ON COVID-19 AND THE FOOD SYSTEM

**Pandemic and food security:
A view from the Global South**

Rami Zurayk*
American University of Beirut

Submitted April 14, 2020 / Revised April 16, 2020 / Published online April 17, 2020

Citation: Zurayk, R. (2020). Pandemic and food security. A view from the Global South. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2020.093.014>

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“The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born: now is the time of monsters.”
—Antonio Gramsci

Like many modern day viral epidemics (e.g., MERS, SARS), SARS-CoV-2 emerged from the folds of the food system. The dominant narrative puts its earliest appearance in the wet market of the Chinese city of Wuhan, where wild animals are also traded. However, there are indications that SARS-CoV-2, which is responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, may have developed in intensive livestock farming systems, possibly pig farming (GRAIN, 2020).

Not only did the virus originate from the food system, but it also penetrated it and exposed its systemic weaknesses. The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are now threatening the food security of billions of people. Indeed, after initial reassurances that COVID-19 posed no concerns to global food security, as the world’s silos were well stocked (Vos, Martin, & Laborde, 2020), the tone has now changed radically. We are now being warned that global hunger could double due to food supply disruptions caused by the pandemic, especially in poor nations and in Africa (De Sousa, 2020).


Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Twitter account @foodpandemic, which I co-manage with Nour El Houda Amhez and Abed Al Kareem Yehya, has been tracking the impact of the pandemic on food security. While our focus is mostly on the Middle East (as the largest food importers in the world, and home to the largest number of refugees and internally displaced people on the planet) and on East Africa (where food insecurity is chronic), we also cover other countries of the South. Tracking the pandemic’s pressures on the food




JAFSCD
Responds to
the COVID-19
Pandemic

* Rami Zurayk is professor at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. His research addresses issues at the nexus of food, landscapes, and livelihoods. He was a member of the steering committee of the High Level Panel of Experts of the World Committee on Food Security and a commissioner for the Food in the Anthropocene: EAT-Lancet Commission. He is a founding member of the Arab Food Sovereignty Network. He co-manages the Twitter account @foodpandemic and can be contacted at rzurayk@aub.edu.lb

WATER INTERNATIONAL
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02508060.2020.1779515>



COMMENTARY



The impact of COVID-19 on water and food systems: flattening the much bigger curve ahead

Martin Keulertz^a, Mark Mulligan^b and John Anthony Allan^c

^aFood Security Programme, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; ^bDepartment of Geography, King’s College London, UK; ^cSchool of Oriental and African Studies, and King’s College London, UK


Background: COVID-19 and water security: a similar curve

The year 2020 will go down in history as a year of major change. For the first time in almost 75 years, all peoples across the world have been affected by major disruption or destruction. The cause was invisible, but deadly. The world is changed by a virus. At first, governments reacted with low concern. COVID-19 was regarded as a problem for China. When Iran became infected, COVID-19 was still not taken seriously. If governments around the world had taken earlier steps to contain and mitigate the impact of the infection, many people’s lives and livelihoods might have been spared. Management of the coronavirus pandemic around the world provides examples of effective and also of flawed policy responses to a crisis.

In the world of water science and policy, this narrative is very familiar. Although few belittle the ongoing water crisis, serious policy steps to mitigate the crisis are still largely absent. Water scarcity is mostly perceived as an issue for countries in the Global South. The Global North has only felt the first impacts of the crisis in the form of longer droughts in England, France, California or Germany. Yet, this is a misconception similar to initial responses to the coronavirus. The actual destructive force of the water crisis is still not felt because the water ecosystems, especially the groundwater systems, are still able to take the strain, and where that is not possible huge technological investments are being made to provide alternative sources of water.

When in March 2020 COVID-19 began to be taken more seriously, ‘flattening the curve’ became the new mantra of decision makers across Europe. The now famous Imperial College model by Professor Neil Ferguson predicted millions of deaths around the world in case of inaction. Fortunately, these predictions have not been realized to date. Still, more than 400,000 people have died worldwide, with no immediate end of the pandemic in sight. Beyond COVID-19, much greater environmental challenges that also endanger health and well-being have been building up for decades. This situation also requires the urgent attention of decision makers.

There will probably be a vaccine for COVID. There is no vaccine for sustainability. Solving climate change and protecting water resources will require sustained effort for as long as human beings dominate the Earth. Any period in which our attention is diverted from that will see a ‘second wave/peak’ in climate, environment and water risk that may

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