

PRESS ROUNDTABLE:

The pandemic and implications for the world food supply

Monday, 14 December

11:00 am US Eastern Time

AGU FALL
MEETING

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PANELISTS

- **Iman Haqiqi**, Purdue University
- **Michael Puma**, Earth Institute, Columbia University
- **Cynthia Rosenzweig**, Earth Institute, Columbia University
- **John Valbo-Jorgenson**, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

INFORMATION FOR REPORTERS

- Reporters: Please ask your questions directly to the panelists
- Slides from this presentation are available in the Fall Meeting Media Center: <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting/Pages/Attend/Media-Center>
- This event will NOT be recorded
- Questions and technical issues: Email news@agu.org

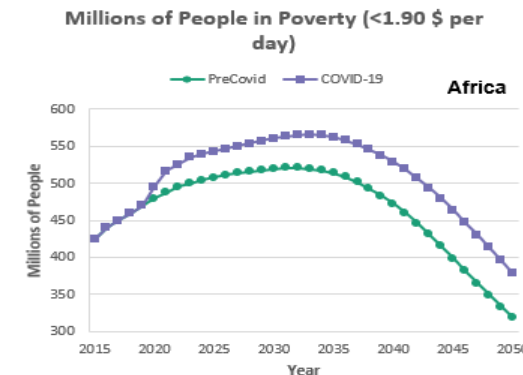
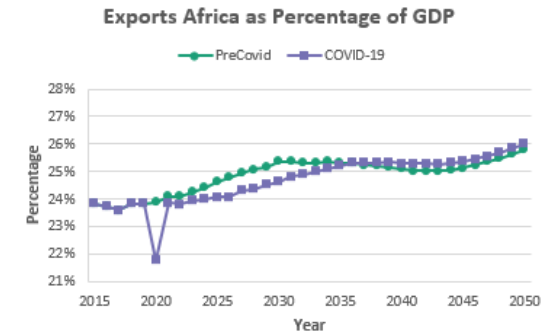
CYNTHIA ROSENZWEIG

Senior Research Scientist
NASA GISS
Columbia University



FOOD SYSTEM-COVID19 LINKAGES

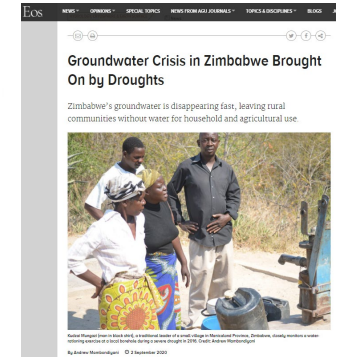
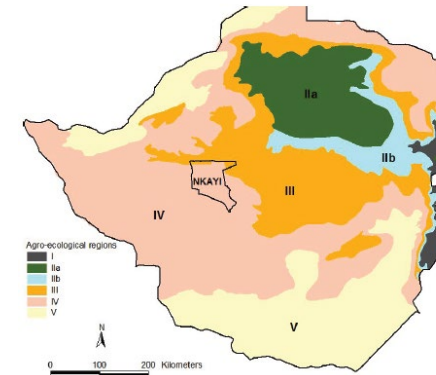
- **Causal links**
 - Habitat disruption; proximity, zoonotic disease
- **Immediate consequences**
 - Supply chain disruption in food industry
 - Depressed demand (loss in wages; restrictions on movement of people, goods and services; factory closures)
 - Loss of foot traffic in restaurants
- **Medium to longer-term consequences**
 - Disruption in agricultural input supply chains
 - Decline in GDP; depressed government resources; reduced safety nets



World Bank

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COVID19 CASES AND CLIMATE EXTREMES IN AFRICA



Johns Hopkins COVID19 Tracker (Nov 19, 2020)

Senegal
 Cases: **15,835**
 Deaths: **329**

Total Pop: 15.8M

Ghana
 Cases: **50,457**
 Deaths: **323**

Total Pop: 29.7M

Zimbabwe
 Cases: **8,981**
 Deaths: **261**

Total Pop: 14.4M

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AGMIP CLARE RESEARCH - EFFECTS OF COVID-19

Impacts on Food System

- Greatest reported effects are loss of incomes and erosion of livelihoods. Second, and related effect, is disruption of productivity.
- Effects on food availability are ~5 on scale of 1 (little effect) to 7 (large effects)
- Effects on affordability are almost 6 for Zimbabwe, around 4 in Senegal, around 3-4 in Ghana.

Impacts on Climate Adaptation Planning

- Overwhelming consensus that pandemic has made engagement with stakeholders on climate change difficult, particularly in Ghana and Zimbabwe.
- About half of survey respondents say that climate change planning work has slowed down in Ghana and Zimbabwe, and about 30% in Senegal.
- Around 40% of respondents in each country say that the pandemic is spurring innovative thinking about ways to improve resilience to risks.

THANK YOU

Contact me:
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UP NEXT

Roundtable: Life in the clouds of Venus? Lessons from studying life in Earth's atmosphere

Monday, 14 December
1:00 pm US Eastern Time

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