



MANAGING BROKEN SUPPLY CHAIN DURING COVID-19 CRISIS IN KUWAIT

Webinar Report
19 May 2020
16 July 2020

BACKGROUND, AGENDA AND SPEAKERS

MAIN FLYERS

The flyer features logos for the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development of Kuwait, NEWKUWAIT, UN TALK 3 Webinar, Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations State of Kuwait. The title is "Managing broken supply chain during COVID-19 crisis in Kuwait" with a date of 19 May 2020 // 14:00 - 16:10. The moderator is Dr. Seung Jin Baek. The registration link is <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1206817772537583885>. The speakers are listed in two rows under "Opening Remarks" and "Speakers".

Moderator


Dr. Seung Jin Baek
 Economist, Acting Head of RCO Kuwait

Registration <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1206817772537583885>

Opening Remarks


Dr. Khaled Mahdi
 Secretary General Supreme Council for Planning and Development


Dr. Tarek Elsheikh
 Representative of UNSG Resident Coordinator

Speakers


Dr. Dalal Rajab
 Deputy Director Public Authority for Agriculture & Fisheries


Dr. Saleh AlOqaili
 Asst. Undersecretary Ministry of Commerce and Industry


Dr. Entesar Alshami
 Director, Food Security Dept. Public Authority for Food & Nutrition


Dr. Yarob Badr,
 Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, ESCWA


Ms. Sylvia Aguilar
 Senior Consultant Procurement Advisory Services, UNOPS


Dr. Markos Tibbo
 Senior Livestock Development Officer FAO


Ms. Siobhan Kelly
 Programme Advisor FAO


Dr. Lionel Dabbadie
 Senior Aquaculture & Fishery Officer FAO



BACKGROUND

Given exponential dynamics of COVID-19, the supply chain is critical to getting goods and services quickly, safely and securely. Business leaders must make rapid decisions and take immediate actions to sustain business operations to serve their customers, clients and communities, as well as protect and support their workers. **The supply chain sustainability is a particularly essential for Kuwait as its economy is highly vulnerable to the global and regional value chain**, with more than 80% of goods exported to and imported from outside the region and in fact as a net importer when oil related exports are excluded.

Supply Chain Resilience Strategy

In this context, there is a pressing need for the government and businesses to build long-term resilience in their value chains for managing future challenges with effective supply chain strategy for planning, execution and monitoring. This requires holistic approaches to manage the broken supply chain by building in enough flexibility to protect against future disruptions. **The Supply-Chain Response Plan in COVID-19 setting is a "must" in this regard.** The planning priorities should include: (1) developing a Resilience Plan and Supply Chain Strategy; (2) sensitizing risks to supply chain; and (3) analyzing various "what-if" scenarios.

Planning Logistics and Transport

In this context, there is a pressing need for the government and businesses to build long-term resilience in their value chains for managing future challenges with effective supply chain strategy for planning, execution and monitoring. This requires holistic approaches to manage the broken supply chain by building in enough flexibility to protect against future disruptions. **The Supply-Chain Response Plan in COVID-19 setting is a "must" in this regard.** The planning priorities should include: (1) developing a Resilience Plan and Supply Chain Strategy; (2) sensitizing risks to supply chain; and (3) analyzing various "what-if" scenarios.

Corporate Financial Resilience

Corporate-level financial resiliency consideration should also be placed at the centre of the Plan. The pandemic is seriously compromising agri-enterprises' ability to continue business-as-usual and, in some cases, is threatening the survival of some firms beyond the crisis, especially small businesses comprised of farm enterprises, traders, food manufacturers, distributors and retailers across food chains. The government authorities should understand the critical role that these companies can play in maintaining functioning food systems during the crisis.

Business Model

In a more holistic approach on supply chain response planning, **rethinking Business models will play a vital role in the Plan.** These models will strengthen capabilities in not only anticipating risk, achieving greater visibility and coordination across the supply chain, and but also in managing various supply chain challenges (via early warning models). Models for managing supply chain (farm enterprises, traders, food manufacturers, distributors and retailers) are key in functioning national food systems during the crisis, focusing on recommendations that target a mix of ministries, public institutions, food industry associations, local business service providers and chambers of commerce.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 1 Effectively share expertise and potential solutions between the Government, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders concerning broken supply chains;**
- 2 Facilitate continuation of a series of Webinar on the supply chain challenge to produce a joint policy report**
- 3 Explore a joint technical cooperation possibility on Supply Chain Response Plan to COVID-19 in Kuwait.**

AGENDA

- 14:00 - 14:10 Opening Remarks**
- Introductory notes: Moderator Economist, Acting Head of RCO **Dr. Seung Jin Baek**
 - **Dr. Tarek Elsheikh**, UNSG Representative and UN Resident Coordinator
 - **Dr. Khaled Mahdi**, Secretary-General of the GSSCPD
- 14:10 - 14:25 Remarks on Supply Chain Challenges & Efforts in Kuwait**
- **Dr. Salah Al-Oqaili**, Assistant Under-Secretary for Companies Affairs and licensing, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - **Ms. Dalal Rajab** – Deputy Director Plantation Affairs, PAAF
- 14:25 - 14:50 Session 1. Building Supply Chain Resilience Planning & Strategy**
- **Ms. Sylvia Aguilar**, Senior Consultant Procurement Advisory Services, UNOPS
 - Discussion
- 14:50 - 15:15 Session 2. Integrating Regional Transport & Logistics Connectivity**
- **Dr. Yarob Badr**, Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, ESCWA
 - Discussion
- 15:15 - 16:00 Session 3. Managing broken food supply chain**
- **The Challenge of Food Security in Kuwait,**
Dr. Entesar A. Al-Shami, Director of Food Security Department, Public Authority for Food Security and Nutrition
 - **Rethinking Business Models to Sustain Agri-Food Enterprises**
Ms. Siobhan Kelly, Programme Advisor, FAO
 - **Managing broken fish and livestock supply chains during COVID-19**
Dr. Lionel Dabbadie, Senior Aquaculture and Fishery Officer, FAO
Dr. Markos Tibbo, Senior Livestock Development Officer, FAO
 - **Moderated discussion with key Kuwaiti stakeholders authority and participants**
- 16:00 - 16:10 Concluding Remarks. Way forward**
- **Dr. Khaled Mahdi**, Secretary-General of the GSSCPD
 - **Dr. Tarek Elsheikh**, UNSG Representative and UN Resident Coordinator

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Supply chain during COVID-19 crisis in Kuwait webinar series #3: Controlled environment agriculture, food cold chain logistics and digital technologies.

Speakers:

Dr. Tarek El Sheikh
Representative of the UN Secretary General & Resident Coordinator to State of Kuwait

H.E. Yousef Juhail
Permanent Representative of Kuwait to FAO

Mr. Dino Francescuffi
Coordinator of FAO's Sub-regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council and Yemen

Dr. Saleh Al-ogaili
Asst. Undersecretary Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Thaeer Yaseen
Regional Plant Protection Officer (FAO-IPM) (Near East and North Africa Region)

Mr. Josef Schmidhuber
Deputy Director in the Trade and Markets Division of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

Bassam Alfeil
Director of Innovation and Enterprise Structures at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS)

Mr. Mischa Tripoli
Economics, Trade and Markets Division of FAO.

Webinar Programme

Ms. Regina Orvañanos
Acting Head of Resident Coordinator Office
Webinar Moderator

- Opening remarks: 15 mins
- Controlled environmental agriculture: 30 mins
- Innovative, sustainable food cold chain management: 30 mins
- E-commerce platforms and digitalisation in food systems: 30 mins
- Conclusion and closing remarks: 15 mins

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR WEBINAR](https://global.getwebinar.com/join/78328c04048125811020777937940204101132)

Webinar – 16 July 2020
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

UN75 SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
2020 AND BEYOND

HAVE YOUR SAY, TAKE THE SURVEY!



Webinar – 16 July 2020
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

Introduction:

Covid-19 has caused disruptions to the food supply chains around the world and raised concerns about food security. In Kuwait, supply chains of goods and services have been negatively affected. To avoid food shortages, the Government of Kuwait has made every effort to keep the food supply chains alive. This has allowed to manage the unprecedented challenges.

The Covid-19 revealed the fragility of food systems, and the importance for Kuwait to be even more attentive to food and nutrition security. Issues of domestic production, food loss and waste, overweight and obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is receiving a much greater attention. Kuwait, likewise other GCC countries, with the dominating dry climate, land and freshwater scarcity, face limitations in expanding agricultural capacity. Challenges are many; innovative agricultural technologies and solutions are required to enlarge production, distribution and marketing. There is an increasing interest to produce more food locally to avoid exposure to food supply shortages and become less dependent of international import markets. Improved technologies in sustainable agriculture and food systems are expedient for Kuwait. The lower water requirements of Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) make it possible to increase domestic production of high value and nutrient-rich crops like fruit and vegetable. There is a comparative advantage in adopting CEA in the context of energy abundance, water shortage and high degree of urbanization. The interest of producing more domestic fruit and vegetable availability is also driven by nutritional challenges, with a high prevalence of overweight and obesity, a high prevalence of related NCDs, notably type-2 diabetes and coronary heart disease.

While production of staple crops is not economically feasible, the poultry, egg and vegetable production is increasing as the country is promoting import substitution. However, access to markets by local producers remains the most crucial challenge, as demand for local products is slim. E-commerce platforms, connecting farmers and producers to markets, as well as the digitalisation in supply chains are among the emerging areas that Kuwait should benefit from. Improving traceability in food processing and distribution, usage of blockchain technologies, tokenisation, allowing consumers to trace local produce, and can contribute to adoption of innovations in food systems. Another challenge is to develop shorter food supply chains and extend the shelf life of high-value products to cope with contingent Covid-19 pandemic and promoting sustainable food logistics chain from production to markets. To this end, the Passive refrigeration system (PRS), offers practical applications across the food supply chain for energy saving and weight losses of products in storage, extending the shelf life of produces and improving the quality of preservation.

Objective:

Discuss the potential of technology examples to effectively tackle challenges in food supply chains. The webinar also aims to contribute to the collaboration between the Government of Kuwait, UN and FAO in support for developing a national strategy for food security and nutrition.

Expected Outcomes:

- Exchange of knowledge between the Government, UN and FAO on experiences and best practices related to the topics discussed.
- Contribute to the production of a joint policy report on "Managing broken supply chain in the context of COVID-19 in Kuwait."
- Contribute to policy dialogue in the area of sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

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سلسلة الإمداد خلال أزمة كوفيد-19 في دولة الكويت - حلقة نقاشية رقم 3

الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة ولوجستيات سلسلة التبريد للأغذية والتكنولوجيات الرقمية

المتحدثون:

الدكتور طارق الشيخ
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة
المستشار العام لدولة الكويت

صاحب السعادة يوسف جهيل
FAO ممثل دولة الكويت الدائم لدى منظمة

الدكتور دينا فراوانجي
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة
مديرة الأبحاث والدراسات الاستراتيجية

الدكتور صالح المقبلي
مستشار وزير الزراعة والسمانة

السيد ناصر ياسين
المستشار العام لدولة الكويت
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة

السيد جوزيف شيميه
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة

السيد بشام الفيلبي
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة

السيد مريشا تريولي
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة
مستشار الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة

برنامج الحلقة:

1. الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة

2. إدارة المبتكرة والمستدامة لسلسلة التبريد للأغذية

3. منصات التجارة الإلكترونية والرقمنة في إطار النظم الغذائية

4. الختام والكلمات الختامية

اضغط هنا للدخول

تاريخ الحلقة - 16 يوليو 2020
13:00 - 11:00 بتوقيت الكويت

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تاريخ الحلقة - 16 يوليو 2020
13:00 - 11:00 بتوقيت الكويت

المقدمة:

تسببت جائحة كوفيد-19 في اضطرابات عديدة لسلسلة الإمداد الغذائي حول العالم وأثار المخاوف بشأن الأمن الغذائي. تأثرت سلباً سلسلة الإمداد للسلع والخدمات في الكويت. ومن أجل تجنب نقص الأغذية، بذلت الحكومة الكويتية كل الجهود الممكنة للحفاظ على سلاسل الإمداد الغذائي على قيد الحياة. ولقد سمح ذلك بالتعامل مع التحديات غير المسبوقة.

كشف مرض كوفيد-19 عن هشاشة النظم الغذائية ومدى أهمية إعطاء المزيد من الاهتمام للأمن الغذائي والتغذوي بالنسبة للكويت. تحظى المسائل المتعلقة بالإنتاج المحلي وفقد الغذاء، وزيادة الوزن والسمنة والأمراض غير المعدية المتعلقة بالنمط الغذائي بقدر أكبر من الاهتمام. الكويت، مثل غيرها من دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي للدول العربية، حيث يسود المناخ الجاف وأندرة الأراضي والمياه العذبة، تعترضها القيود التي تحد من التوسع في نطاق قدراتها الزراعية. وتتعدد التحديات: التكنولوجيات والحلول الزراعية المبتكرة ضرورية للتوسع في الإنتاج والتوزيع والتسويق.

يتزايد الاهتمام بإنتاج المزيد من الأغذية محلياً من أجل تجنب التعرض لنقص الإمدادات الغذائية والتحول إلى تقليل الاعتماد على أسواق الاستيراد الدولية. إن التكنولوجيات المحسنة للزراعة والنظم الغذائية المستدامة ملائمة للكويت. انخفاض الاحتياجات المائية للزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة تتيح زيادة الإنتاج المحلي من المحاصيل العالية القيمة والغنية بالمغذيات، مثل الفواكه والخضروات. توجد ميزة نسبية في اعتماد الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة في ظل وفرة الطاقة ونقص المياه وارتفاع مستوى التحضر. الاهتمام بإنتاج المزيد من الفواكه والخضروات وتوافرها محلياً مدفوع بتحديات التغذية، والانتشار الواسع لزيادة الوزن والسمنة، والانتشار الواسع للأمراض غير المعدية ذات الصلة، لاسيما السكري من النمط 2 ومرض القلب التاجي.

في حين أن إنتاج المحاصيل الأساسية غير مجد اقتصادياً، يزداد إنتاج الدواجن والبيض والخضروات، حيث تشجع الدولة على استبدال الاستيراد. ولكن يظل وصول المنتجين المحليين للأسواق تحدياً كبيراً نظراً لضعف الطلب على المنتجات المحلية. إن منصات التجارة الإلكترونية التي تربط المزارعين والمنتجين بالأسواق، وكذلك رقمنة سلاسل الإمداد، ضمن المجالات الناشئة التي يتعين على الكويت الاستفادة منها. إن تحسين تتبع تجهيز الأغذية وتوزيعها، واستخدام تكنولوجيات الكتلة المتسلسلة والترميز لتأمين البيانات، مما يتيح للمستهلك تتبع المنتج المحلي، بإمكانها الإسهام في اعتماد الابتكارات في النظم الغذائية.

كما يوجد تحدي آخر يكمن في تطوير سلاسل أقصر للإمداد الغذائي، وزيادة العمر التخزيني للمنتجات عالية القيمة حتى تتأقلم مع جائحة كوفيد-19 الطارئة وتعزيز سلسلة اللوجستيات الغذائية المستدامة، بدءاً من الإنتاج وحتى الأسواق. ولهذا الغرض، يقدم نظام التبريد السليبي التطبيقات العملية على امتداد سلسلة الإمداد الغذائي لتوفير الطاقة وترجيح خسائر المنتجات أثناء التخزين وإطالة العمر التخزيني للمنتجات والارتقاء بجودة الحفظ.

الهدف:

الهدف من الحلقة الدراسية على الانترنت (الويبينار) مناقشة إمكانيات الأمثلة التكنولوجية من أجل التعامل بكفاءة مع التحديات التي تعترض سلسلة الإمداد الغذائي. كما يسعى الويبيبنار إلى الإسهام في التعاون بين حكومة دولة الكويت ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة (الفاو) لتقديم الدعم اللازم من أجل وضع استراتيجية وطنية للأمن الغذائي والتغذية.

النتائج المتوقعة:

- تبادل المعرفة بين الحكومة والأمم المتحدة والفاو بشأن التجارب وأفضل الممارسات المتعلقة بالمسائل المطروحة للنقاش.
- الإسهام في إصدار تقرير مشترك بشأن السياسة العامة حول موضوع "التعامل مع انقطاع سلسلة الإمداد في ظل مرض كوفيد-19 في الكويت".
- الإسهام في الحوار بشأن السياسة العامة في مجال الزراعة المستدامة والأمن الغذائي والتغذية.

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SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Supply chain during COVID-19 crisis in Kuwait webinar series #3: Controlled environment agriculture, food cold chain logistics and digital technologies.

Speakers:

- Dr. Zaki El Sheikh
- M.A. Yousef Jumah
- Mr. Dina Fomassari
- Ms. Sarah Al-Jogali
- Mr. Thour Yaseen
- Mr. Jassal Schmidtke
- Bassam Alhebi
- Ms. Manha Inqab

Webinar – 16 July 2020
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

Introduction:
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The Covid-19 revealed the fragility of food systems, and the importance for Kuwait to be even more attentive to food and nutrition security. Issues of domestic production, food loss and waste, overweight and obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is receiving a much greater attention. Kuwait, likewise other GCC countries, with the dominating dry climate, land and freshwater scarcity, face limitations in expanding agricultural capacity. Challenges are many: innovative agricultural technologies and solutions are required to enlarge production, distribution and marketing. There is an increasing interest to produce more food locally to avoid exposure to food supply shortages and become less dependent of international import markets. Improved technologies in sustainable agriculture and food systems are expedient for Kuwait. The lower water requirements of Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) make it possible to increase domestic production of high value and nutrient-rich crops like fruit and vegetable. There is a comparative advantage in adopting CEA in the context of energy abundance, water shortage and high degree of urbanization. The interest of producing more domestic fruit and vegetable availability is also driven by nutritional challenges, with a high prevalence of overweight and obesity, a high prevalence of related NCDs, notably type-2 diabetes and coronary heart disease.

While production of staple crops is not economically feasible, the poultry, egg and vegetable production is increasing as the country is promoting import substitution. However, access to markets by local producers remains the most crucial challenge, as demand for local products is slim. E-commerce platforms, connecting farmers and producers to markets, as well as the digitalisation in supply chains are among the emerging areas that Kuwait should benefit from. Improving traceability in food processing and distribution, usage of blockchain technologies, tokenisation, allowing consumers to trace local produce, and can contribute to adoption of innovations in food systems.

Another challenge is to develop shorter food supply chains and extend the shelf life of high-value products to cope with contingent Covid-19 pandemic and promoting sustainable food logistics chain from production to markets. To this end, the Passive refrigeration system (PRS), offers practical applications across the food supply chain for energy saving and weight losses of products in storage, extending the shelf life of producers and improving the quality of preservation.

إدارة انقطاع سلسلة الإمداد خلال أزمة كوفيد-19 في الكويت - حلقة دراسية عبر الإنترنت (وبينار) رقم 3 الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة ولوجستيات سلسلة التبريد للأغذية والتكنولوجيات الرقمية

المحدثون:

- الدكتور طارق الشيب
- م.س.ياسف جومح
- الدكتور دينا فوماساري
- الدكتور سارة الجوالي
- الدكتور محمد بن عبد الله العبد
- الدكتور دينا فوماساري
- الدكتور محمد بن عبد الله العبد
- الدكتور محمد بن عبد الله العبد

Webinar – 16 July 2020
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

المقدمة:
تسبب مرض كوفيد-19 في اضطرابات عديدة لسلسلة الإمداد العالمي حول العالم وأثار المخاوف بشأن الأمن الغذائي. أثرت سبباً شديداً على سلسلة الإمداد لتسبب اضطرابات في الكويت، ومن أجل تجنب نقص الأغذية، بذلت الحكومة الكويتية كل الجهود الممكنة للحفاظ على سلامة الإمداد الغذائي على قيد الحياة. ولقد سمح ذلك بالتعامل مع التحديات عبر المسوق.

كشفت مرض كوفيد-19 عن هشاشة أنظمة الإمداد العالمي ومدى أهمية إيجاد المزيد من الاهتمام للأمن الغذائي والتغذوي بالنسبة للكويت. تعاني الكويت من تحديات مختلفة أبرزها نقص المياه والبنية التحتية والرياح والشمس والارتفاع في أسعار الأغذية المتكيفة بالبيئة العالمي. ولقد أثر من انخفاض الكويت، مثل غيرها من دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي، لتلجول للعودة، حيث تسود المناخ الجاف وندرة الأراضي، والحدود المغلقة، تعرضها للقيود التي تحد من التوسع في نطاق قدراتها الزراعية. وتهدد التحديات التكنولوجيات والحلول الزراعية المتكيفة ضرورية للتوسع في الإنتاج والتوزيع والتسويق.

يزيد الاهتمام بإنتاج المزيد من الأغذية محلياً من أجل تجنب التعرض لنقص الإمدادات العالمية والتحول إلى تقليل الاعتماد على سواها. الإهتمام العالمي في التكنولوجيات الحديثة الزراعة والنظم الغذائية المستدامة من شأنه تعزيز الأمن الغذائي. إن اعتماد التكنولوجيا الزراعية في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة يتيح زيادة الإنتاج المحلي من المنتجات الغذائية وأغذية خاضعة للرقابة مثل الفواكه والخضروات. توجد ميزة مهمة في اعتماد الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة هي نقل عبء الطاقة ونقص المياه وارتفاع مستوى التضخم. الاهتمام بإنتاج المزيد من الفواكه والخضروات وإنتاجها محلياً يساهم بتحديات الطاقة، والتشغيل الواسع لزيادة الوزن والسمك، والتشغيل الواسع لتقنيات الزراعة المستدامة ذات الصلة، اعتماداً على التكنولوجيا المتكيفة مع المناخ.

في حين أن إنتاج المنتجات الأساسية عبر مزارع إنتاج الماشية والطيور والمضيق والخضروات، حيث تشجع الدولة على اعتماد المنتجات، ولكن بطرق وصول المنتجين للأسواق تحتاج تحسيناً نظراً لعدم القابلية على المنتجات المحلية. إن اعتماد التكنولوجيا الزراعية التي تربط المزارعين والمستهلكين، وكذلك رقمنة سلسلة الإمداد، ضمن المحطات الناشئة التي ينعن على الكويت الاستفادة منها، إن تحسين إنتاج تربية الأغذية وتوزيعها، واستخدام التكنولوجيات الحديثة المتكاملة والتوزيع لتأمين المنتجات، مما يتيح للمستهلك تتبع المنتج المحلي، إنتاجها الإسهام في اعتماد المنتجات في النظام الغذائي.

كما يوجد تحدي آخر يكمن في تطوير سلاسل الإمداد الغذائي، وإدارة العمق التخزيني للمنتجات العالية القيمة التي يتعامل مع سلسلة كوفيد-19. الحلقة الدراسية سلسلة الإمدادات العالمية المستدامة بما في الإنتاج والتسويق، وإدارة العمق التخزيني، وإدارة العمق التخزيني العملية على إمداد سلسلة الإمداد العالمي لتوفير الطاقة وترويج خصائص المنتجات أثناء التخزين وإزالة العمق التخزيني للمنتجات وإزالة جودة حفظ.

Objective:
Discuss the potential of technology examples to effectively tackle challenges in food supply chains. The webinar also aims to contribute to the collaboration between the Government of Kuwait, UN and FAO in support for developing a national strategy for food security and nutrition.

Expected Outcomes:

- Exchange of knowledge between the Government, UN and FAO on experiences and best practices related to the topics discussed.
- Contribute to the production of a joint policy report on "Managing broken supply chain in the context of COVID-19 in Kuwait."
- Contribute to policy dialogue in the area of sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Webinar Programme

- Opening remarks: 13 mins
- Controlled environmental agriculture: 30 mins
- Innovative sustainable food cold chain management: 16 mins
- E-commerce platforms and digitalisation in food systems: 16 mins
- Conclusion and closing remarks: 15 mins

Webinar – 16 July 2020
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

الهدف:
الهدف من الحلقة الدراسية على الإنترنت (وبينار) مناقشة إمكانيات الأمثلة التكنولوجية من أجل التعامل بكفاءة مع التحديات التي تعرض لسلسلة الإمداد العالمي. كما يسعى الإصدار إلى الإسهام في التعاون بين الحكومة، دولة الكويت ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة (الفاو) لتقديم الدعم الفني من أجل وضع استراتيجية وطنية للأمن الغذائي والتغذية.

النتائج المتوقعة:

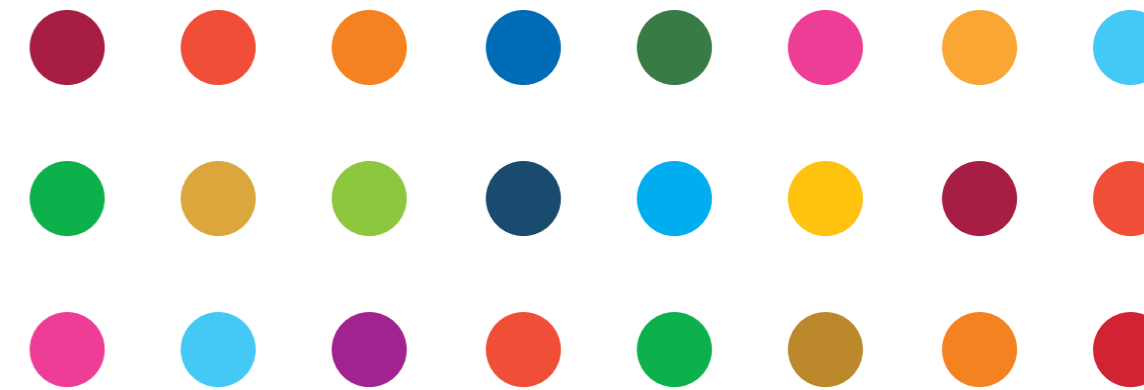
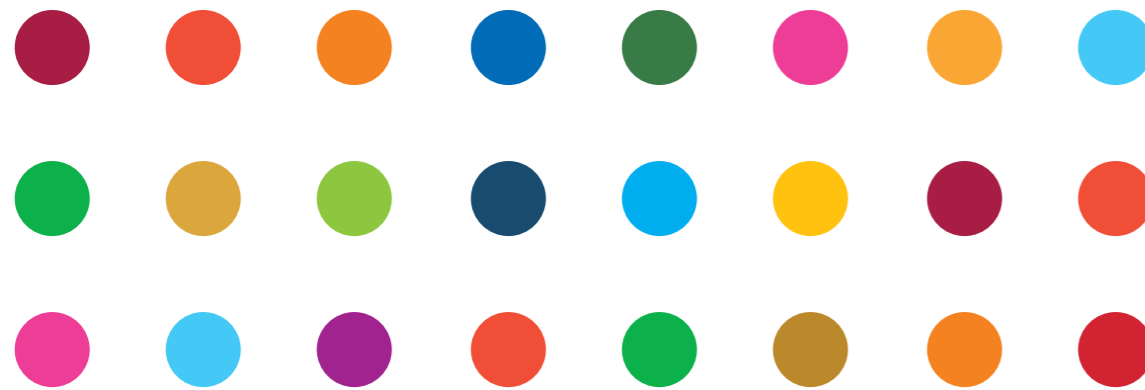
- تبادل المعرفة بين الحكومة والأمم المتحدة والفاو بشأن التجارب وأفضل الممارسات المتعلقة بالمسائل المطروحة للنقاش.
- الإسهام في إصدار تقرير مشترك بشأن السياسة العامة حول موضوع "التعامل مع انقطاع سلسلة الإمداد في ظل مرض كوفيد-19 في الكويت".
- الإسهام في الحوار بشأن السياسة العامة في مجال الزراعة المستدامة والأمن الغذائي والتغذية.

السيدة ريجينا اورفانانوس
مديرة مكتب التنسيق العالمي
الأمم المتحدة

برنامج الحلقة

- الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة: 30 دقيقة
- الإدارة المتكيفة والمستدامة لسلسلة التوريد للأغذية: 16 دقيقة
- منتجات التجارة الإلكترونية والرقمنة في إطار النظام الغذائي: 16 دقيقة
- النتائج والاختتام الختامية: 15 دقيقة

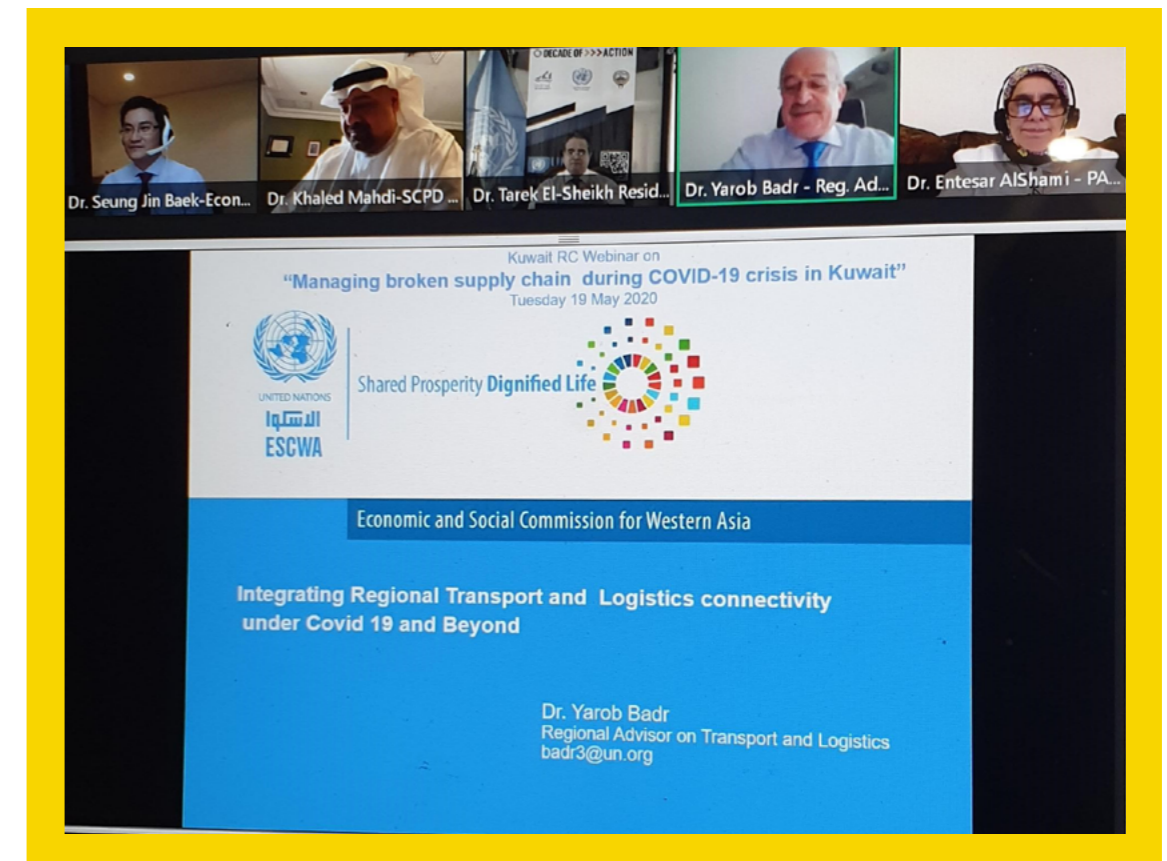
تاريخ الحلقة - 16 يوليو / تموز 2020
13:00 - 11:00 بتوقيت الكويت

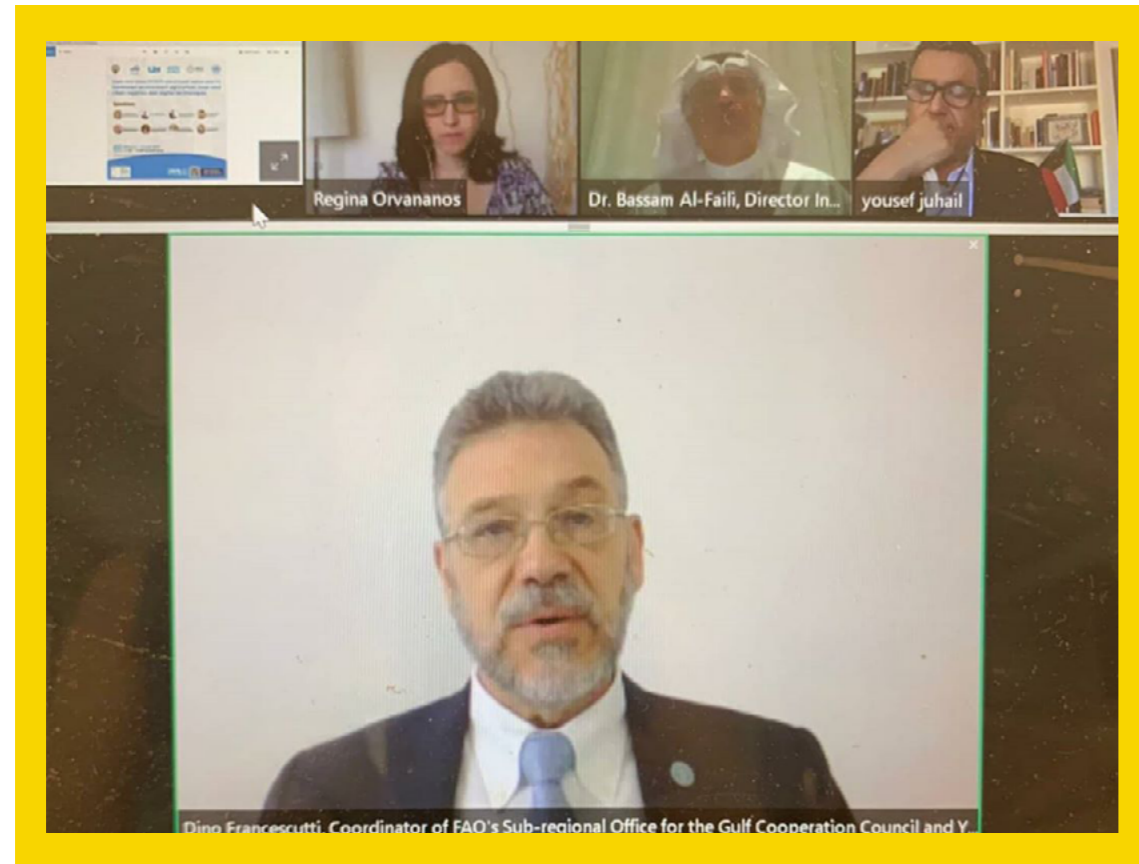


SUMMARY

Dr. Khaled Mahdi, The Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and Dr. Tarek El-Sheikh, Representative of the UN Secretary-General Resident Coordinator to State of Kuwait organized a virtual UN75Talk on Managing Supply Chain during the COVID-19 Crisis in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia -UNESCWA, Food and Agriculture Organization-FAO and United Nations Office for Projects Services-UNOPS. With the participation of Kuwait Ministry of Commerce and Industry-MoCI, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition-PAFN and the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries Affairs-PAAF.

Given exponential dynamics of COVID-19, the supply chain is critical to getting goods and services quickly, safely and securely to those at risk of infection. The supply chain sustainability is a particularly essential for Kuwait as its economy is highly vulnerable to the global and regional value chain, with more than 80% of goods exported to and imported from outside the region and in fact as a net importer when oil related exports are excluded. In this context, supply chain resilience planning requires holistic approaches to manage the broken supply chain by building in enough flexibility to protect against future disruptions. UN-OPS provided a strategic framework on the concepts of supply chain resilience and resilience planning, as well as the important role of public policies, particularly on the trade challenges due to COVID-19.





Taking this initiative on supply chain resilience planning into account in a timely and effective manner, the Kuwaiti government and businesses should best utilize regional transport and logistics networks, including Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19 in which ESCWA addressed the joint efforts of the UN Regional Commissions, in cooperation with other International Organizations, to provide solutions, including standards, guidelines, metrics and methodologies. This would immediately help the government and business to keep transport networks and borders operational to facilitate the flow of goods and services, while seeking for greater opportunities to configure and tailor alternative supply chain networks. The session moved on to narrowly focus on the challenges of food supply chain disruptions where FAO experts

highlighted the important role that small businesses (farm enterprises, traders, food manufacturers, distributors and retailers) play in functioning national food systems during the crisis, focusing on recommendations that target a mix of ministries, public institutions, food industry associations, local business service providers and chambers of commerce. Furthermore, FAO introduced mechanism for food market monitoring that enables to sensitizing global and national risks to supply chain throughout a series of managing demand, tracking, inbound/outbound logistics and transport. This approach should be technology-led, leveraging platforms that support applied analytics to address various challenges that arise from growing product complexity in Kuwait.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The webinar was attended by 111 people (Registered 111, opened invitation 1847, clicked registration link 200), with attendance from UN agencies, governmental partners, the diplomatic community, and NGOs.

In light on the going collaboration between the Government of Kuwait and the UN, the Cooperation Framework is the umbrella document for joint initiatives, programmes and projects by UN and Government agencies towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kuwait has a good success story to share on how it avoided food supply chain problems. The Ministry of Commerce has developed a strategy for making food available for all by focusing on markets and mobilising efforts with the private sector. The work of Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company is commendable and well acknowledged in Kuwait for its contributions to ensuring food security. During the onset of the crisis, volunteers and civil society made significant involvement as well in maintaining the availability of required supplies, as they were affected by lockdown measures. The retail shops as the end of the supply chain were vital and kept open.

KUWAIT GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGES

The following challenges across nutrition and sustainable food and agriculture domains:

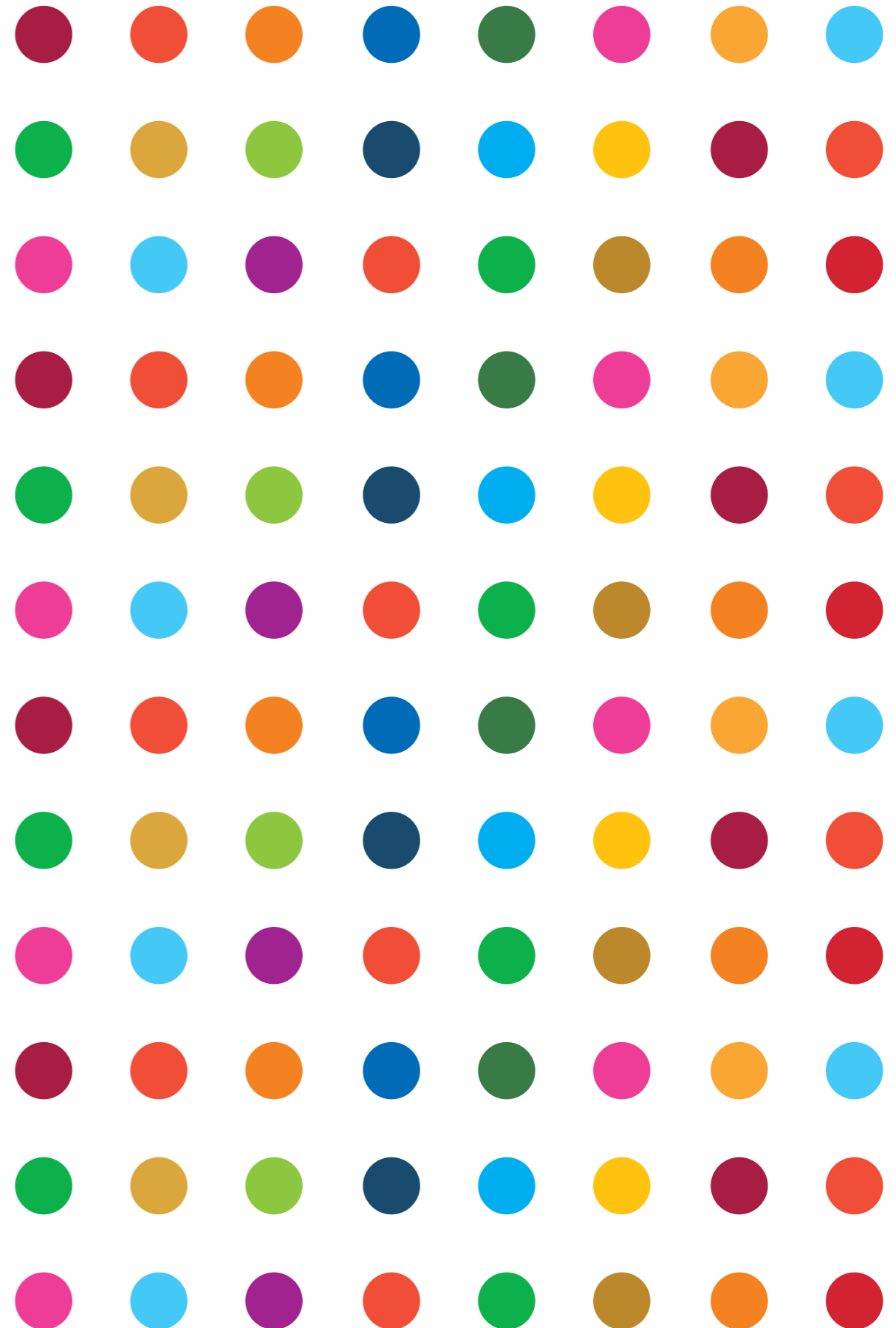
The high prevalence of overweight and obesity, in children and adults has become a public health concern, alerting to an elevated risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including heart disease and diabetes.

Population is not knowledgeable in terms of responsible food purchasing, food consumption, nutrition. There is a need for behaviour change for healthy diets. The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) prioritises assistance in developing food-based dietary guidelines and undertakes educational campaigns on nutrition and healthy diets.

The poultry, egg and vegetable production is increasing as the country is promoting import substitution. The Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF) focuses on improving local food production through boosting animal (including fish) and crop production, supporting farmers, as well as the start-up farming communities in the areas of horticulture, fruits and vegetables. However, access to markets by local producers remains the most crucial challenge, as demand for local products is slim.

Though civil society and charities promote marketing of local products in the food supply chain, the national policies need to support producers to market their produce, including through direct access to supermarkets.

Lack of freshwater, land and the harsh weather conditions make significant constraints for sustainable agriculture. Challenges are many; innovative agricultural technologies and solutions are required to enlarge production and help marketing. Domestic food production is not in a position to cover local food demand, and Kuwait is import-dependent. For some products such as rice, sugar, and milk, the import dependency ratio reaches 100%. There is a need to considering incentives and needs of small-scale producers and creating a competitive environment.

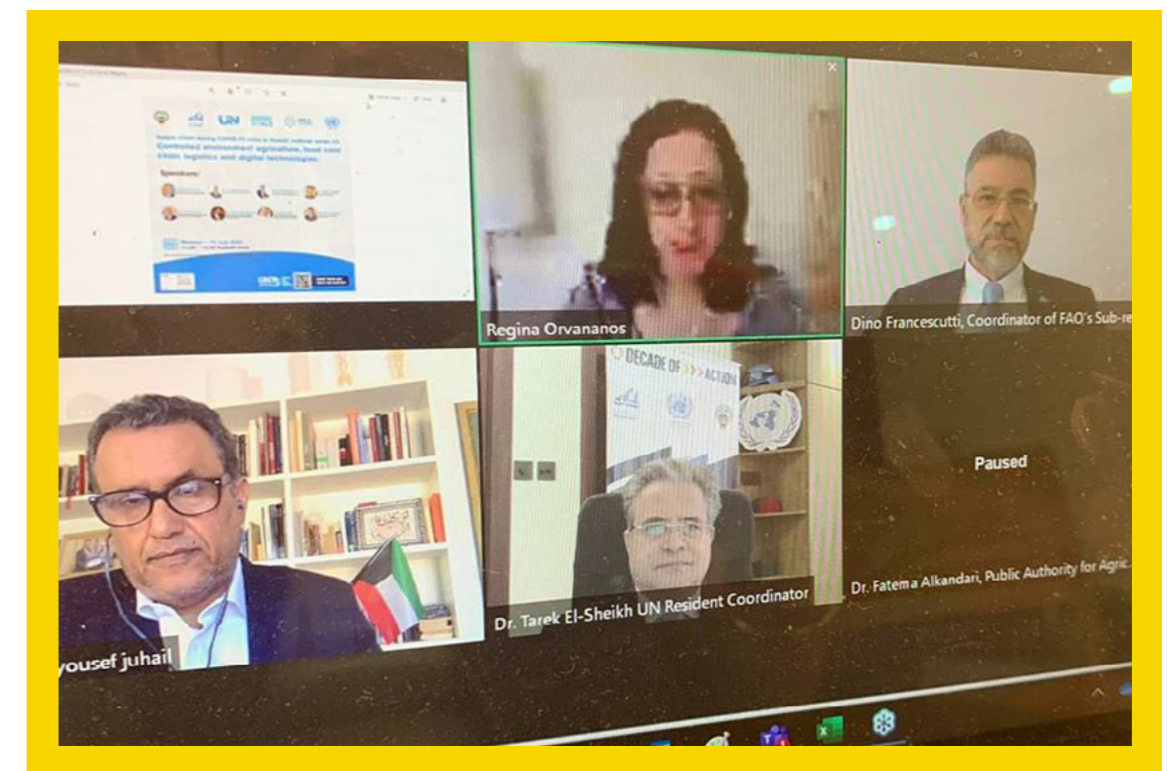


UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS FAO INTERVENTION

While organising webinars, it is beneficial to consolidate the knowledge that Kuwait possesses, and consider webinars in the context of the entire food system of Kuwait and work together in generating an associated policy brief. Also, as a follow up of such a policy brief, explore opportunities for strengthening FAO and UN collaboration with Kuwait on the key topics that may arise from these webinars.

Given the production constraints Kuwait may not be self-sufficient for staples and is not advisable. New, innovative ideas and a comprehensive assessment of the entire agricultural and food system are expedient for Kuwait. A diagnostic study may look closely into the potentials, challenges, production, trade, consumption, prices, food security and nutrition policy aspects. The study could assess the potential of Kuwait to addressing its food self-sufficiency using the Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) to increase domestic fruit and vegetable production and promoting pipeline stocks (maintaining vast food processing resources). The latter can serve food security stocks in time of crises.

E-commerce platforms, connecting farmers and producers to markets, as well as the digitalisation in supply chains are among the emerging areas that Kuwait may benefit from developing. Studies on improving traceability in food processing and distribution, usage of blockchain technologies, tokenisation, allowing consumers to trace local produce, can inform setting the system and diagnosing constraints and adoption of innovations.





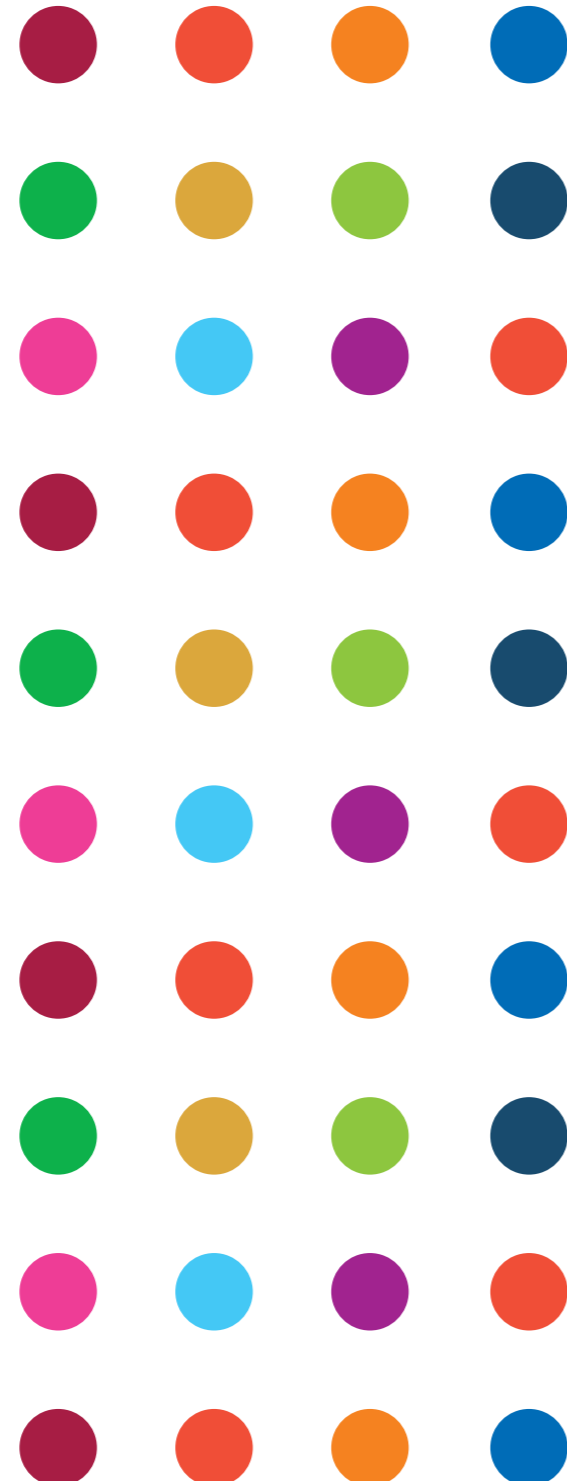
As part of the overall country assessment, conduct a trade and policy analysis. Nutrition and diet-related NCD analysis would be necessary. It should be undertaken not only by producing food-based dietary guidelines but also through stocktaking of nutritional profile for the country and assessment of problems arising from unhealthy dietary consumption. Based on the findings draw lessons on how agriculture and food system could have the most impact.

Kuwait may be interested in early warning tools, including Food Price Monitoring Analysis (FPMA). Food price indicators are key, informing producers for production decisions, so as for policymakers. After the 2008 crises, responding to the increased demand for early warning and monitoring systems, FAO developed tools as FPMA. It is a user-friendly online application that can be available for countries, with their data; it can incorporate retail and export prices. FAO can provide capacity development in the usage of the tool.

The new technology, called passive refrigeration system (PRS), may offer practical applications across the food supply chain for energy saving at 81%, 50% from losses, extending the shelf life of produces for up to three times, and improving the quality of preservation.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, in its final remarks, noted that innovation as a key element of Kuwait Vision 2035, would counter the challenges Kuwait faces in the sector. This needs to be put together into one concrete strategy, with sub-pilots in collaboration with FAO and other UN Agencies with the GoK. It will require different set of consultation in the shape of webinars, which need to be substantiated

by documents, verification and substantive analysis, in the shape of policy documents. This will be shaped into a programme proposal for a National Strategy for Food security and Nutrition.



OUTCOME, FOLLOW-UP AND WAY FORWARD

The GCC Unified Water Strategy, and Kuwait vision 2035 as promoting innovations, have implications and there is increasing priority to designing a national strategy, including in the area of food security and nutrition. Webinars should be taken as part of consultations and data harvesting to complement the policy processes.

Should there be a confirmed interest, FAO, in collaboration with other relevant UN Agencies may recommend and start working on a potential UN/Government Cooperative Project to design a national food and nutrition security strategy, in parallel with the ongoing initiatives of strengthening the Gulf Cooperation Council Early Warning Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases and DNA Centre for agriculture and fisheries, and associated action plan, with the incorporation of different pilot projects.

FAO proposed two seminars (The three areas proposed for webinars fits well with the discussion and Government priorities (Technological innovations, nutrition and Trade & Markets)

Policy note could be drafted based on these seminars and consultations, as supported by evidence-base from data and substantive analysis on Kuwait

- Controlled environment Agriculture – Mainly focus on fruits and vegetables
- Digitalization and e-commerce
- Dry cold chains using alternative energy-saving technologies
- Adjusting business models through the food value chain (subject of previous webinar)
- Aquaculture (subject of previous webinar)
- Livestock (subject of previous webinar)

MEDIA INSIGHTS

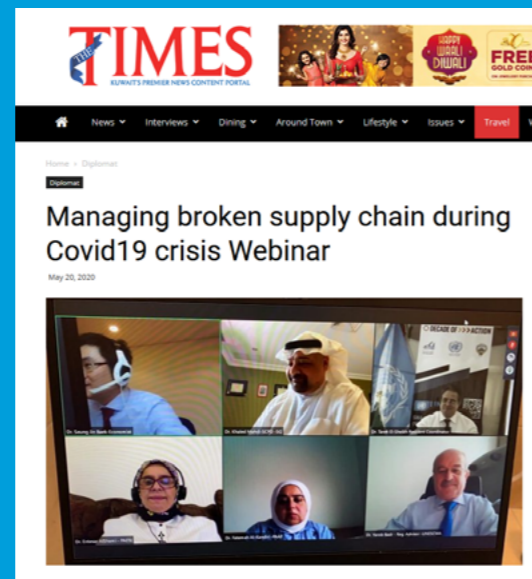
RCO UN75Talk on ‘Managing Broken Supply Chain During #COVID19 Crisis in #Kuwait’ coverage. The Session was in partnership with GSSCPD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries and the Public Authority for Food Security and Nutrition. In collaboration with UN-ESCWA, FAO and UNOPS.

https://twitter.com/kuna_ar/status/1262829832754335745

<https://twitter.com/Q8Hashtagat/status/1263020902226296832>

<https://www.timeskuwait.com/news/managing-broken-supply-chain-during-covid19-crisis-webinar/>

Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic of webinars would benefit the wider and active participation of stakeholders in Kuwait.



PRESS RELEASE



Draft Press Release

On Supply Chain Webinar Series “Controlled environment agriculture, food cold chain logistics and digital technologies”

Kuwait, 16 July 2020, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in the State of Kuwait in collaboration with FAO sub-Regional Office for GCC and Yemen and in partnership with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Public Authority Of Agriculture Affairs And Fish Resources (PAAF) organized the 3rd Supply Chain Webinar session on “Controlled environment agriculture, food cold chain logistics and digital technologies”.

Covid-19 has caused global disruptions to the food supply chains highlighting the universal concern about food security. Among many negatively affected, the Government of Kuwait preserved to curb the ensured food shortages and keep the supply chains as alive as possible given the unanticipated circumstances.

Dr Tarek Elsheikh, the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator to the State of Kuwait, emphasized on the importance of this continuous discussion in order to stress on the potential of technology examples to effectively tackle challenges in food supply chains. The webinar also aims to contribute to the collaboration between the Government of Kuwait, the United Nations with FAO as the mandated agency on the lead in support for developing a national strategy for food security and nutrition.

Dr Tarek Elsheikh added that “COVID-19 revealed the fragility of food systems, and the importance for Kuwait to be even more attentive to food and nutrition security. Issues of domestic production, food loss and waste, overweight and obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is receiving a much greater attention. Kuwait, likewise, other GCC countries, with the dominating dry climate, land and freshwater scarcity, face limitations in expanding agricultural capacity. Challenges are many; innovative agricultural technologies and solutions are required to enlarge production, distribution and marketing.

HE the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to FAO Dr. Youssef Juhail expressed his great interest in this important national priority and is working closely with the United Nations and the government authorities at the national level to ensure establishing an FAO office in Kuwait to enable direct technical expertise and provision of international recent technologies and resources to support mandated government institutions’ strategies and national initiatives in advancing the agriculture and

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aquaculture process, as an important natural wealth of the State of Kuwait, especially in these times of crisis and to tackle the obstacles and negative impact of COVID19 pandemic.

Dr Dino Francescutti, Sub-Regional Coordinator for GCC and Yemen and FAO Representative in the UAE, highlighted that natural resources sustainability, including water use optimization, among other constraints, challenge Kuwait to look for various strategic options for sustainable food production to both protect the environment and increase food security and enhance nutrition. In these efforts, utilization of innovation technologies is critical; especially the use of those that target increased water productivity such as new generations of greenhouses, agri-aquaculture systems, other. Now, the technological progress and innovation, through controlled environmental agriculture, allow producing high-quality and nutrient-rich products sustainably almost everywhere, including in the desert and arid areas.

Dr. Bassam Alfeeli, Director of Innovation & Enterprise at KFAS mentioned that continuing on its role as an enabler and promoter of technological solutions, KFAS issued in last April a special call for practical solutions that could address the implications of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on national food security and supply chain disruption. The goal is to encourage and accelerate the adoption of new technology solutions and/or adaptation of more mature technologies proven elsewhere to Kuwait conditions through funding of pilot projects. Then used these pilot projects to demonstrate and showcase the capabilities and limitations of such applied solutions to the concerned entities.

Dr Francescutti explained that developing shorter food supply chains through improved food cold chain logistics so as digital platforms, connecting farmers and producers to markets, are becoming important tools. They provide a unique opportunity to extending the shelf life of produces from production to markets and bring greater efficiency, transparency and traceability to the exchange of value and information in the agri-food sector.

The Webinar was well attended by various partners from all sectors, government, NGOs, Private Sector, Research Institutions and interested individuals from the general public who shared examples and case studies achieving the sole aim of the webinar in exchanging knowledge between the Government, UN and FAO on experiences and best practices related to the topics discussed. This will contribute to the production of a joint policy report on "Managing broken supply chain in the context of COVID-19 in Kuwait," and a continuous policy dialogue in the area of sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition. This webinar comes in a timely coincidence with FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO 2020; **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report, Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets. Rome, FAO**¹. This flagship publication is part of THE STATE OF THE WORLD series of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

End,

¹ <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9692en>

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