



# MANAGING BROKEN SUPPLY CHAIN DURING COVID-19 CRISIS IN KUWAIT

Webinar Report  
19 May 2020  
16 July 2020

# **BACKGROUND, AGENDA AND SPEAKERS**



# “Managing broken supply chain during COVID-19 crisis in Kuwait”

19 May 2020 // 14:00 - 16:10

## Moderator



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

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 Cordially invites you to the above mentioned webinar organized 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**.

## Registration

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

## Opening Remarks

## Speakers



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



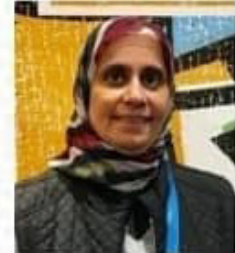
**Dr. Tarek Elsheikh**  
Representative of UNSG  
Resident Coordinator



**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

- 13:00 - 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

**For more info:**

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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 Francescutti**  
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. Thaar Yaseen**  
Regional Plant Protection Officer FAO-RNE  
(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 Alfeeli**  
Director of Innovation and Enterprise  
Directorate at the Kuwait Foundation for  
the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS)



**Mr. Mischa Tripoli**  
Economist, Trade and Markets  
Division of FAO.



**Ms. Regina Orvañanos**  
Acting Head of Resident Coordinator Office  
Webinar moderator

## Webinar Programme

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

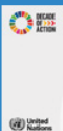
Opening remarks  
15 mins

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**Webinar – 16 July 2020**  
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time



We have to work together – now more than ever and with determination – to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### 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.



## 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**  
ممثل الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة  
المنسق المقيم لدى دولة الكويت
- صاحب السعادة يوسف ججيل**  
FAO ممثل دولة الكويت لدى منظمة
- الدكتور دينو فرانشيسكوتي**  
المنسق دون إيفلين لمنظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم  
المتحدة (الفاو) لعدد من مجلس التعاون الخليجي
- الدكتور صالح العقيلي**  
مساعد وكيل وزارة التجارة والصناعة
- السيد ناثر ياسين**  
المسؤول الإقليمي عن ولاية الكويت، منطقة الأمانة  
والتجارة في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا
- السيد جوزيف شميدهور**  
رئيس المدير، شركة الأسواج والتجارة،  
منظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة (الفاو)
- السيد بنشام القبلي**  
مدير قطاع الابتكار لدى مؤسسة الكويت  
للتقدم العلمي
- السيد ميشا تريبولي**  
خبر اقتصادي في شعبة التجارة والأسواق  
نظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة (الفاو)

## برنامج الحلقة:

3 دقيقة

الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة

2 دقيقة

الإدارة المبتكرة والمستدامة لسلسلة التبريد للأغذية

3 دقيقة

منصات التجارة الالكترونية والرقمنة في إطار النظم الغذائية

10 دقيقة

الخاتمة والكلمات الختامية

15 دقيقة

كلمات افتتاحية

15 دقيقة

السيدة ريجينا اورفانانوس  
مديرة مكتب المنسق المقيم بالولاية  
المسؤولة عن الحلقة

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

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## 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 سلسلة 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 وهدر 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 وندرة الأراضي والمياه العذبة، تتعرضها القيود التي تحد من التوسع في نطاق قدراتها الزراعية. وتعدد التحديات: التكنولوجيات والطول الزراعية المبتكرة ضرورة 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 سلسلة الإمداد، ضمن المجالات الناشئة التي يتعين على الكويت الاستفادة منها. إن تحسين تتبع تجهيز الأغذية وتوزيعها، واستخدام تكنولوجيات الكتلة المتسلسلة والتميز لتأمين البيانات، مما يتيح للمستهلك تتبع المنتج المحلي، بإمكانها الإسهام في اعتماد الابتكارات في النظم الغذائية.

كما يوجد تحدي آخر يكمن في تطوير سلسلة أقصر للإمداد الغذائي، وزيادة العمر التخزيني للمنتجات العالية القيمة حتى تتأقلم مع جائحة كوفيد-19 الطارئة وتعزز 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 الإنترنت (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.

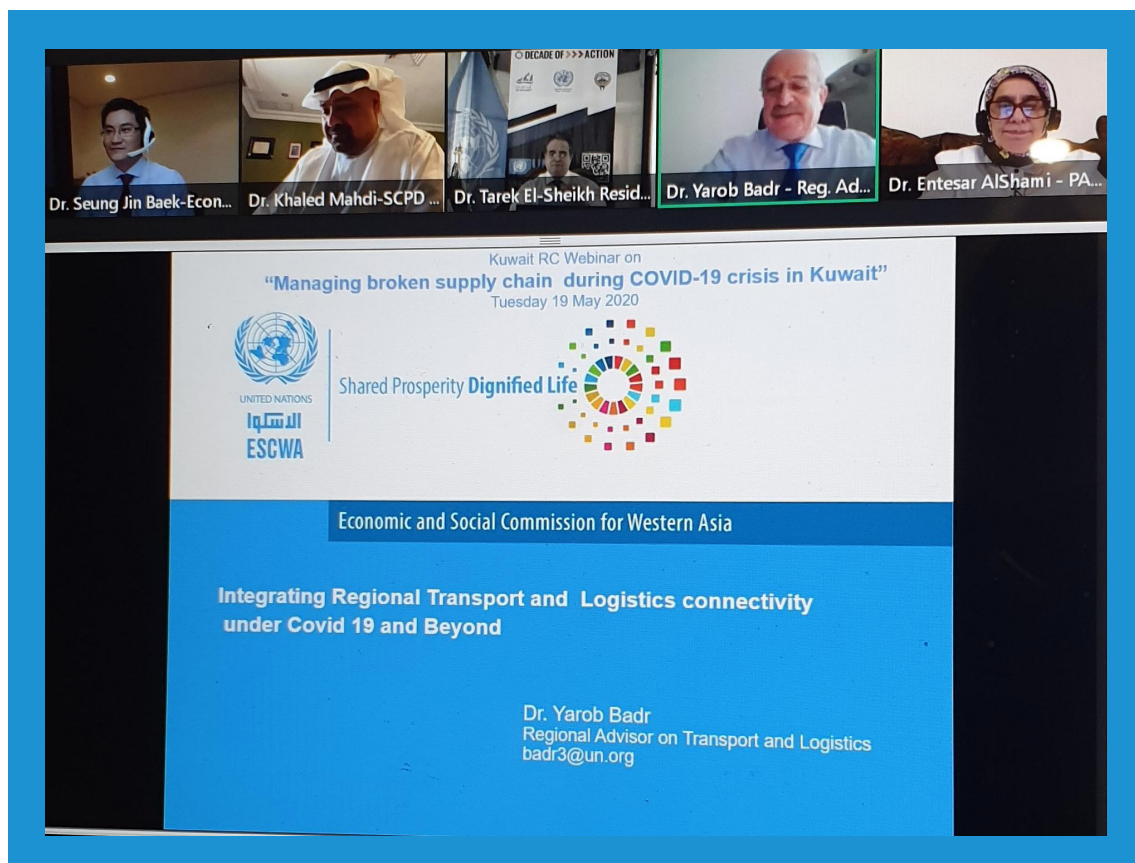
## النتائج المتوقعة:

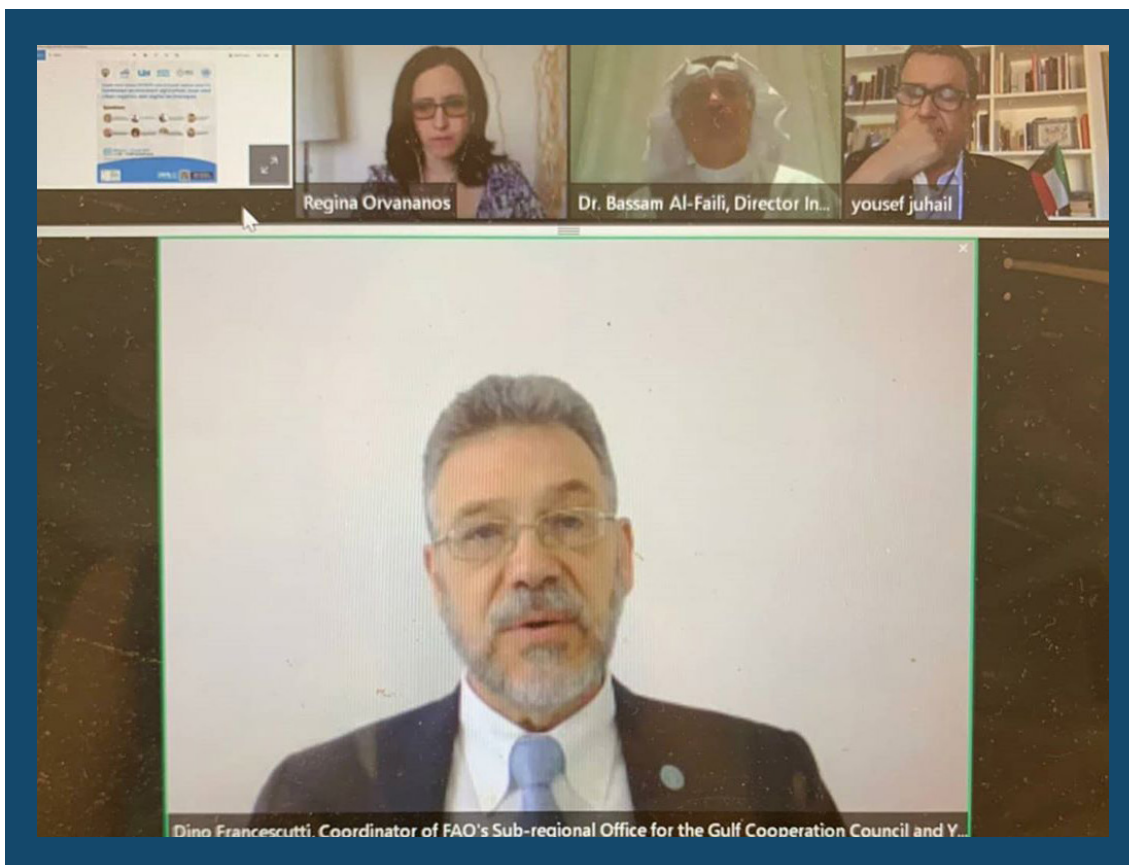
- تبادل المعرفة بين الحكومة والأمم المتحدة والفاو بشأن التجارب وأفضل الممارسات المتعلقة بالمسائل المطروحة للنقاش.
- الإسهام في إصدار تقرير مشترك بشأن السياسة العامة حول موضوع "التعامل مع انقطاع سلسلة الإمداد في ظل مرض كوفيد-19 في الكويت".
- الإسهام في الحوار بشأن السياسة العامة في مجال الزراعة المستدامة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

# 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:**

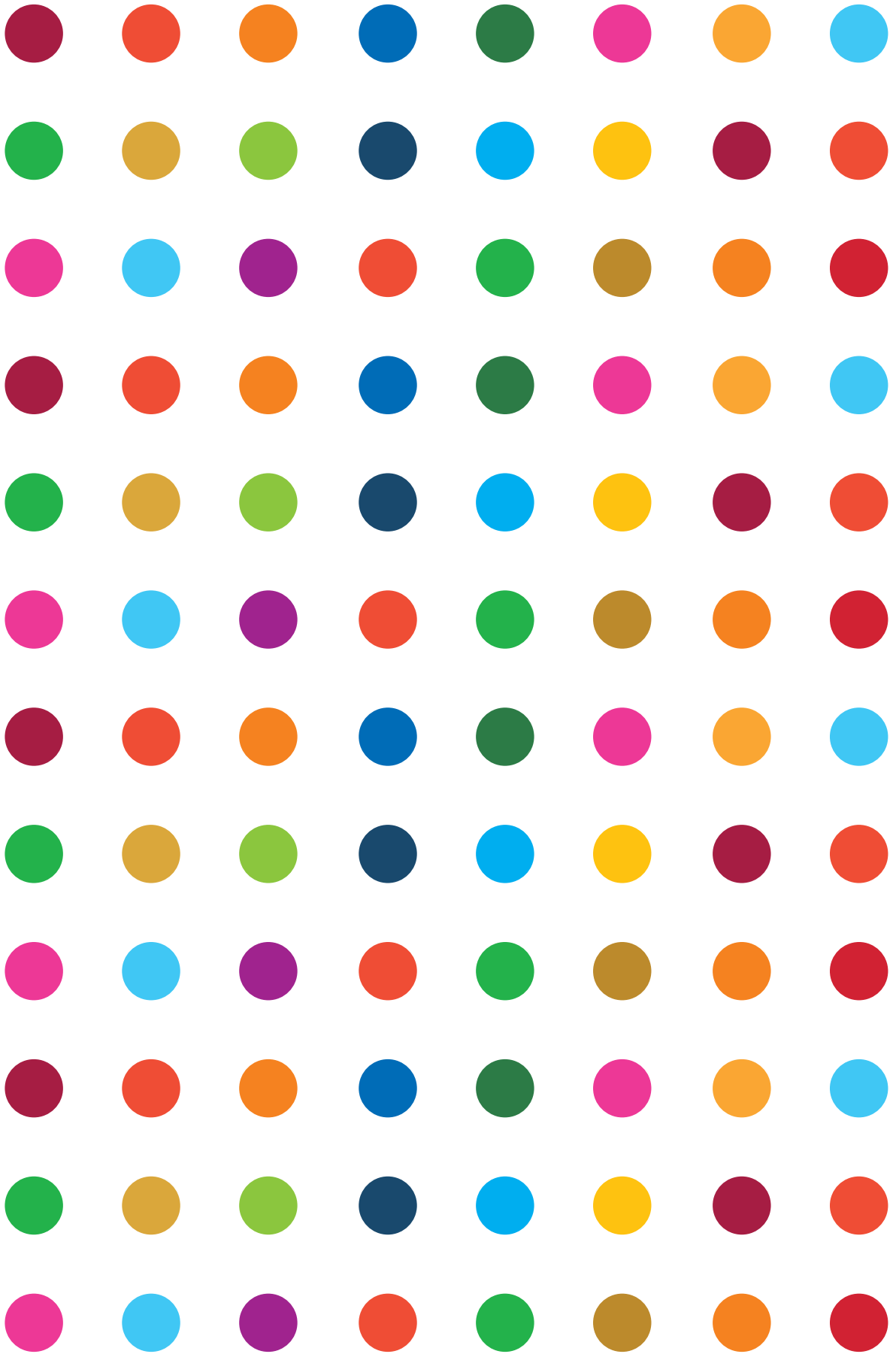
The high prevalence of overweight and obesity, in children and adults has become a public health concern, alerting to an elevated risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including heart disease and diabetes.

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.



# 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. Tariq Al Sheikh
- H.E. Yousef Jubail
- Mr. Dino Franciscelli
- Dr. Saleh Al-ogaili
- Mr. Thani Yaseen
- Mr. Josef Schmidhuber
- Nassim Alheidi
- Mr. Misha Tripoli

**Webinar - 16 July 2020**  
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

<https://global.gotowebinar.com/join/7533904048125611020777537640204101132>

**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 products and improving the quality of preservation.

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**Webinar - 16 July 2020**  
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

**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.

<https://global.gotowebinar.com/join/7533904048125611020777537640204101132>

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**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

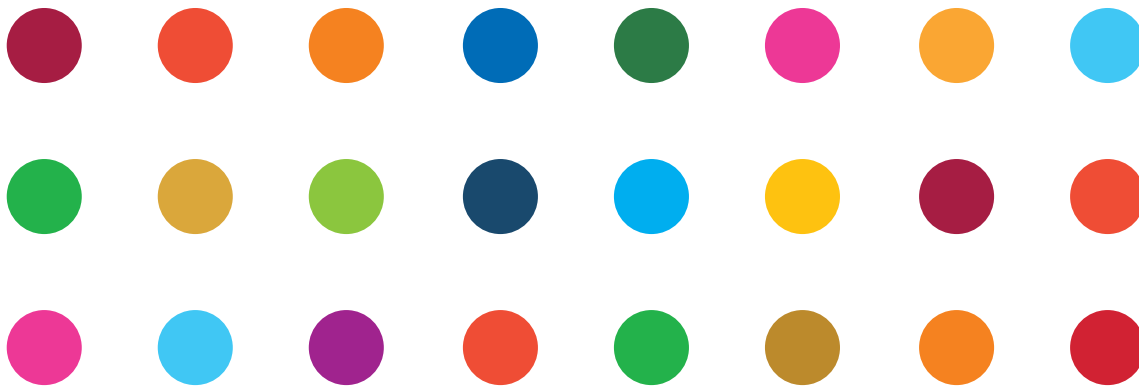
E-commerce platforms and digitalisation in food systems 30 mins

Conclusion and closing remarks 15 mins

**Webinar - 16 July 2020**  
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

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**إدارة انقطاع سلسلة الإمداد خلال أزمة كوفيد19- في الكويت - حلقة دراسية عبر الإنترنت (ويبنار) رقم 3**

**الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة ولوجستيات سلسلة التبريد للأغذية والتكنولوجيات الرقمية**

**المتحدثون:**

- الدكتور طارق الفقيه
- الدكتور خالد العليان
- الدكتور محمد العبدون
- الدكتور محمد العبدون
- الدكتور محمد العبدون
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- الدكتور محمد العبدون

**Webinar – 16 July 2020**  
11.00 - 13.00 Kuwait time

<https://global.gotowebinar.com/join/7532804048125811020/77537840204101132>

**UN75** **SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER** **3025 AND BEYOND** **HAVE YOUR SAY, TAKE THE SURVEY!**

**البيئة الرقمية - 16 يوليو/ تموز 2020**  
11:00 - 13:00 بتوقيت الكويت

**المقدمة:**

تسبب مرض كوفيد-19 في اضطرابات عميقة لسلسلة الإمداد الغذائي حول العالم وأثار المخاوف بشأن الأمن الغذائي. تأثرت سلباً سلسلة الإمداد لسلسلة الخدمات في الكويت، ومن أجل تجنب نقص الأغذية، بذلت الحكومة الكويتية كل الجهود الممكنة للحفاظ على سلسلة 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 والتغذية بالنسبة للكويت. تحظى المسائل المتعلقة بالإنتاج المحلي وفتح وحدر الغذاء وزيادة الوزن والسمنة والأمراض غير المعدية المتعلقة بالنظم الغذائي بغزير تثير من الاهتمام الكويتي، مثل غيرها من دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي الدول العربية، حيث يسود المناخ الجاف وتدره الأراضي والمياه العذبة، وتعرضها المبرود التي تحد من التوسع في نطاق قدراتها الزراعية. وتعددت التحديات: التكنولوجيات والحدود الزراعية المتكثرة ضرورة للتوسع في الإنتاج والتوزيع.

يتزايد الاهتمام بإنتاج المزيد من الأغذية محلياً من أجل تجنب التعرض للفحص المعدلات الغذائية والتحول إلى تقليل الاعتماد على أسواق الاستيراد الدولية. إن التكنولوجيات الحديثة للزراعة والنظم الغذائية المستخدمة ملائمة للكويت. انخفاض الاحتياجات المائية للزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة نتج زيادة الإنتاج المحلي من المحاصيل عالية القيمة والغنية بالمغذيات، مثل الفواكه والخضروات. توجد ميزة نسبية في اعتماد الزراعة في بيئة خاضعة للرقابة في ظل وحدة الطاقة وتخص المياه وارتفاع مستوى التصور. اعتماد إنتاج المزيد من الفواكه والخضروات وتوافرها محلياً يدفع بتحسين التغذية والنشر الواسع لزيادة الوزن والسمنة، والانتشار الواسع للأمراض غير المعدية ذات السمنة. لاسيما السكري من النمط 2 ومرض القلب التاجي.

في حين أن إنتاج المحاصيل الأساسية غير محققاً، يزداد إنتاج الدواجن والبيض والخضروات، حيث تشجع الدولة على استيراد الاستيراد. ولكن بظل وصول المنتجين للسوق تحدياً كبيراً نظراً لضعف الطلب على المنتجات المحلية. إن منصات التجارة الإلكترونية التي تربط المزارعين والمستهلكين بالسوق، وكذلك رقمنة سلسلة الإمداد ضمن المجالات الناشئة التي يقعون على الكويت الاستفادة منها، إن تحسين طرق 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 سلسلة إمداد غذائي، وزيادة العمر التخزيني للمنتجات عالية القيمة حتى يتأقلم مع جائحة كوفيد-19. الطاقة وتوفر سلاسل اللوجستيات الغذائية المستخدمة بعدد من الإنتاج حتى الأسواق وإعطاء المزيد من دعم نظام التبريد المسائل التطبيقية العملية على امتداد سلسلة الإمداد الغذائي لتوفير الطاقة وتوزيع خسائر المنتجات أثناء التخزين وطالة العمر التخزيني للمنتجات والرقمنة جودة المنتج.

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**البيئة الرقمية - 16 يوليو/ تموز 2020**  
11:00 - 13:00 بتوقيت الكويت

**الهدف:**

الهدف من الحلقة الدراسية على الانترنت (الويبنار) مناقشة إمكانيات الامتلاء التكنولوجية من أجل التعامل بكفاءة مع التحديات التي تعترض سلسلة الإمداد الغذائي. كما يسعى الوبينار إلى الإسهام في التعاون بين حكومة دولة الكويت ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة ومنظمة الأمم المتحدة للأغذية والزراعة (الفاو) لتقديم الدعم اللزم من أجل وضع استراتيجيات 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 كوفيد19- في الكويت".
- الإسهام في الحوار بشأن السياسة العامة في مجال الزراعة المستدامة والأمن الغذائي والتغذية.

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**السيدة ريجينا اورفانتانوس**  
مديرة مكتب الخليج لعلوم البيئة  
البيئية في الكويت

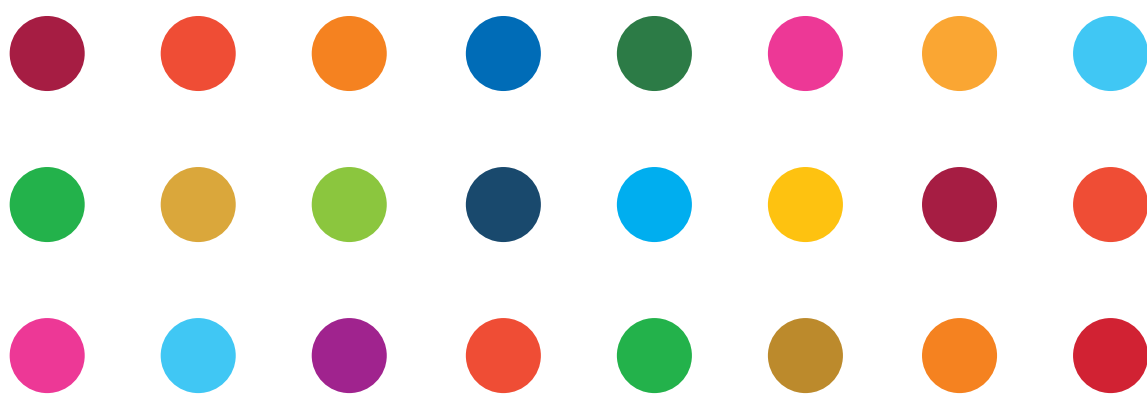
**برنامج الحلقة**

- 11:00 - 11:15: الختام والكلمات الختامية
- 11:15 - 11:30: منصات التجارة الإلكترونية والرقمنة في إطار النظم الغذائية
- 11:30 - 11:45: الإدارة المتكبرة والمستدامة لسلسلة التبريد للأغذية
- 11:45 - 12:00: كلمات افتتاحية

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

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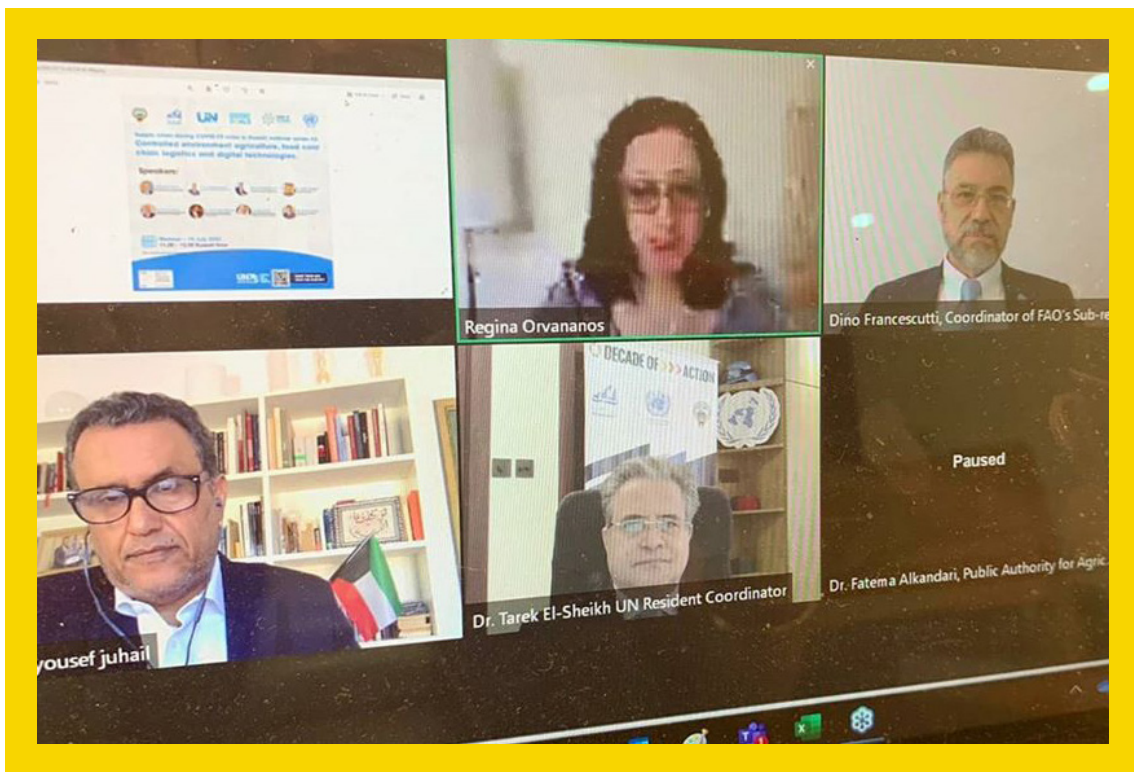


**UNITED  
NATIONS  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FAO INTERVENTION**

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.



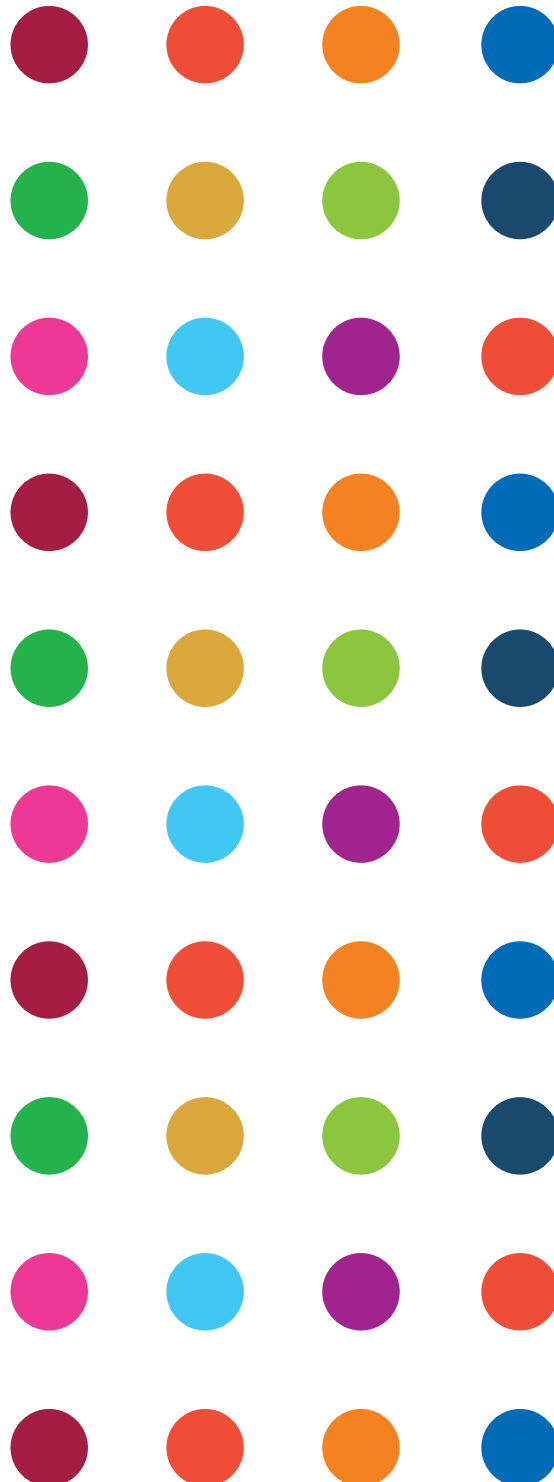
As part of the overall country assessment, conduct a trade and policy analysis. Nutrition and diet-related NCD analysis would be necessary. It should be undertaken not only by producing food-based dietary guidelines but also through stocktaking of nutritional profile for the country and assessment of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

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.

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



# 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

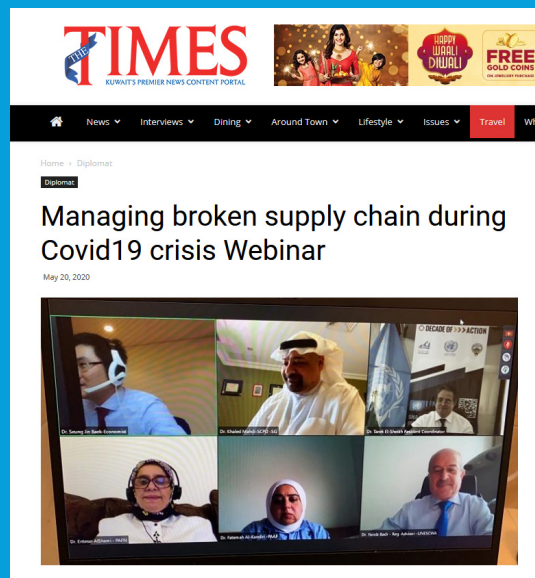
RCO UN75Talk on ‘Managing Broken Supply Chain During #COVID19 Crisis in #Kuwait’ coverage. The Session was in partnership with GSSCPD, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries and the Public Authority for Food Security and Nutrition. In collaboration with UN-ESCWA,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

[https://twitter.com/kuna\\_ar/status/1262829832754335745](https://twitter.com/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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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<sup>1</sup>.** This flagship publication is part of THE STATE OF THE WORLD series of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

End,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9692en>

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