

## Summary SDGP Risk Register (May 14 2020)

### SDGP Lead Partner Assessments (data from 9 out of 17 projects)

This summary is not exhaustive of all risks, consequences and mitigation measures encountered by SDGP projects, but provides a program-wide overview.

#### Risks/Consequences

- **Country/Program level**
  - Government and private partners engage in corona mitigation and away from project related activities.
  
- **At project level** - Increased delays, inefficiencies and effectiveness of project implementation. Delays of between 1-6 months of 2020 planned SDGP project activities. These include delays in construction, imports, international TA visits, surveys for baselines, etc. As a result, reduced project outputs/results for 2020. More specifically:
  - Restricted movement: travel bans, uncertain when these will be removed, resulting in restricted movement during lock-down which prevents follow-up with (key) farmers en training of groups of farmers. This will impact targeted outreach. In addition, international experts cannot enter countries in which the projects take place.
  - Inception phase: inception/ baseline studies cannot be done under ideal circumstances and would either be impossible or would provide unreliable results. In addition, seedling development or testing crops might be delayed due to closing of universities and research centers. This results in a 1-3 or 4-6-months delay. In a less positive scenario, using wrong/ not ideal inputs/ seedlings could cause the project to experience less results along the entire value chains (seed potatoes e.g.).
  - Hardware: hardware constructions/ liquidity problems can result in a 4-6 months delay: in some cases, it's impossible for hardware to be delivered, expanded or constructed, or shipments are delayed. RVO project funding can be attached to delivery and realization of these hardware investments.
  - Many trainings schedule for a particular season (i.e. pre-post-harvest). If these are missed, an entire year delay in results (till the next season)
  
- **At partnership level**
  - Within the partnership, delays in exchange; analyses and co-creating activities are difficult. If this continues to occur, this could decrease common understanding; lack of coherence and team spirit. This does not only apply to the SDGP partnership, but also to (local) subcontractors.
  - Delays in signing the partnership agreement and integrity agreement (with governmental parties).
  - Partners facing problems financing their own contributions to the partnership.
  
- **At community level**
  - Local economies are affected due to lockdown measures, which will affect farming communities with uncertain markets and limited cash to buy inputs. Although markets in most project areas are still functioning, problems are encountered with transport, consumer confidence (are afraid that vegetables are contaminated with Covid) and sometimes organizing labor on markets/ farms.

- **At market level**
  - Supply: input dealers might face problems re-stocking from main dealers. Farmers' reduced confidence in markets will affect their business. With less business opportunity, some smaller dealers may look for alternative incomes and may be less interested in the training programs targeting them via the SDGP intervention. Besides, limited inputs might result in a price increase (of both inputs and agricultural products).
  - Demand: consumers spending power, freedom to move and confidence in fresh products are being affected. With less demand this will impact farmers planting patterns over the coming season(s).
  - Increased competition: from actors such as the government who is increasing their reserves of certain crops for food distribution. Could result into a price increase due to market speculation and increased competition.

## Mitigation Measures

- **Projects at start can make up lost time in subsequent years**
  - For example: moving planting and distribution of banana seedlings to next planting season.
- **COVID-19 measures**
  - Health checks and good health conditions for employees, ensuring local regulations are applied to protect workers, production safety and safe transport.
- **Lockdown measures**
  - Putting in place a virtual inception workshop in which the partnership action plan will be drafted roughly beforehand and discussed in detail during this meeting.
  - Stockpiles of farm inputs have been put into place before the lockdown started.
  - Ensuring that products produced by one of the partners (like seed) is made available when needed.
  - Encourage farmers to diversify cropping (producing a wider variety of crops to reduce risks and increase opportunities for self-reliance).
  - Training farmers and family units individually.
  - Prepare the post-lockdown phase as far as possible, so that implementation can start immediately when the situation allows it.
  - Projects remain engaged with targeted stakeholders (via telephone, radio, etc.).
- **Alternative (training) methods:** radio, e-learning and blended learning have taken off; for example:
  - Radio program to reach farmers 3 times a week over the coming months with technical advice, and to develop confidence in markets, echoing government messages that eating vegetable is necessary for your immune system.
  - Mobile tools: baseline interviews are done via phone; cooperates are contacted via phone and social media (WhatsApp group) to keep sharing updates; a toll-free number is installed through which farmers can contact the partnership for feedback and collection of data. Field teams call key farmers daily to support and offer advice or provide diagnosis on plant disease/ crop status via photos.

- E-learning: field agents are making efforts to reach farmers via online communication instead of actual field visits
- Online methods: coordination of maize pick-up is done online

## Additional Support Requests to RVO

- In summary: flexibility!
- **Flexibility regarding project planning**, time frame, targets and changes therein, or project duration (extension). This could also include approval of a reduction in outcomes. Especially the possible revision of inception phase targets is mentioned.
- **Flexibility regarding hardware investment**. For example, if the purchase has been done at a certain moment and delivery is delayed, releasing the RVO funds that are linked to the investment. In that way, the project can continue to operate after the COVID situation and will not be delayed by financial issues.
- **Additional financial support on investment budget** to share the impact of higher prices and delivery time.
- **Receive the funding for year 1 timely**, and/or reduce turnover time between inception and first payment.
- **Advise / examples** from other projects, thinking along