



DEAR READERS,

We understand the difficulty that has befallen us but like **Maya Angelou** said, *“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.”* In that vein, our businesses and mode of interactions have been changed by the pandemic but we hope we could be like

Maya and not be reduced by it. Meanwhile, things are starting to go back to normalcy, therefore, we encourage the entire membership of SLNBCC and everyone else to heed the necessary precautions and to follow the appropriate procedures that will help prevent us from this disease. Surely we shall survive this trial.

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CBI webinar on the report of the Impact of Covid 19 on the cocoa sector



On Thursday the 9th of July, the CBI organised a webinar on the impacts of Covid 19 on the cocoa sector. The Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries which is abbreviated as CBI is a Dutch company that contributes to sustainable and inclusive economic development in developing countries through the expansion of exports from these countries to Europe.

The current project of CBI in the three Mano River Union Countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) focuses on supporting cocoa exporters in these countries become competitive in the European market. This support has come through various means whether by conducting training on Corporate Social Responsibility, providing technical assistance or providing financial support for cocoa field trips.

With the outbreak of Covid 19, the cacao industry like almost all other industries has considerably slowed down. It is against this backdrop that a webinar was organised for stakeholders within the cacao sector.

During the webinar, participants were presented with the two publications of CBI on the cacao industry. “ **The bittersweet impact of Covid 19 on the cacao and chocolate market**” highlighted the various challenges that have befallen the industry due to the Covid 19. Intercity and Interdistrict lockdowns have hindered exportation whilst lower consumer demands have drastically reduced the value of cacao.

The other publication titled “**How to respond to Covid 19 as a cacao exporter**” features great tips for businesses especially exporters on how to keep their businesses afloat through this difficult period. It also presents great opportunities for cacao exporters to pursue when the crisis would have subsided.

Aside from publications, the webinar presented an opportunity for expert and stakeholders to have round table discussions and share their experiences about the challenges they have experiences in their countries due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

CBI continues to do most of their work virtually and hopefully would start executing their duties on-site by the end of this year as travel restrictions ease.

Memuna Bayoh (SLNBCC)

Think Africa Institutes survey on Food, Farmers During COVID-19



On 29 May 2020, nearly eight weeks after Sierra Leone recorded its first COVID-19 case, Think Africa Institute (TAI) launched a short survey to explore how the pandemic might affect farmers and the food supply-chain system. Five enumerators across five districts, Bo, Kenema, Western Urban, Western Rural and Makeni, were dispatched using Google Forms and following all WHO and COVID-19 preventative measures. Respondents were randomly selected and interviewed with a priority given to women respondents. The interviews were held over three days.

In total, 160 respondents were interviewed with 44% (female) and 56% (male); interview participants were from communities around the selected districts.

The survey revealed food stocks at respondent households was at an acute shortage across the country.

Among the households covered, 72 % of households had inadequate food stocks with only 28% having adequate food. The most severe was in Western Rural (WR) (18.1%) and Western Urban (WU) (16.8%) followed by Kenema (14.3%) and Bo (13.1%). The food situation was better at Makeni (15%) of the 28% of households having adequate food stocks.

Only 28.8% of households surveyed depend solely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Many households do a variety of activities to supplement their incomes. For example, 34.4% of households farm and also hold a job (employed). 23.1% of households farm and do another kind of business.

In May, the majority of the households (68.7%) have crops in the field with Makeni (17.5%) leading the way followed by Western Urban (16.8%). However, households in Kenema reported only 13.7% had no crops in the field. Major crops included cassava, banana and vegetables. In upland farming, the majority of the households grow vegetables and green leaves (30.6%), maize and cereals (24.4%), fruits (18.1%), green leaves and others (13.8%) and yam and tubers (9.4%).

Most households were planning to increase (47%) their food production this year. But, the

majority were utilizing under one acre of land (61%). 28% of households were farming between one and two acres (28%). Only 11% were farming more than two acres (11%).

The majority of households surveyed (57%) have no crop seeds while 43% have their seeds.

Those who have no seeds hope to get seeds from the community (30%), seed companies (23%) and own seeds (20%). 11.8% of households in Bo get their seeds from the community. Sadly, the majority of households (75%) have no surplus seeds whereas only 25% of households have surplus seeds.

Many of the households surveyed raise a variety of livestock. As expected, 22.5% raise poultry followed by goats and sheep at 14.4%. In Bo, 14.3% of farmers were raising chickens and in Makeni, roughly the same number of farmers were raising a combination of poultry, goats and sheep. Most of the livestock farming involved free-range animals (65%) and only 19% were raising animals in stalls or pens.

Think Africa Institute (TAI) is a for-profit consulting firm who self-funded the research in hopes of learning more about food production and food supplies in Sierra Leone under the COVID-19 pandemic. The full report will soon be published at <http://thinkafrica-institute.org/resources/>

Source: www.thinkafrica-institute.org

Sierra Leone government COVID-19 travel advisory



The government of Sierra Leone as of the 17th July have published a travel advisory to guide all those air travellers that may want to visit the country either for business or pleasure. Since the 22nd of July, flights to and from Sierra Leone have resumed. The following are the safety and public health guidelines that must be strictly abided by when arriving and departing the Freetown International Airport.

ARRIVING PASSENGERS

1. All passengers shall produce a negative *Polymerase Chain Reaction* (PCR) COVID-19 test result issued no longer than 72hrs before departure at the point of origin.
2. At the check-in desk at the airport of embarkation, passengers are required to display travellers' authorisation to Sierra Leone, received through the Government of Sierra Leone travel portal (www.travel.gov.sl). The travel authorization consists of:
 - Negative PCR COVID-19 test result issued no longer than 72 hours before departure,
 - Pre-departure public health passenger locator form
 - Proof of payment for COVID-19 testing on arrival paid through the online platform
3. Health officials will collect temperature, basic health screening data, and seat number on arrival.
4. All passengers shall be subjected to a mandatory COVID-19 test upon arrival:
 - Passengers will simultaneously have a PCR test swab and an RDT test on arrival.
 - If the RDT screening is negative, passengers are allowed to depart from the airport and observe public health protocols (mandatory proper mask-wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing) while awaiting their PCR test result.
 - If the RDT screening is positive, passengers will be isolated at a hotel in Lungi while awaiting their PCR test result. Note, the cost of the accommodation at the hotel shall be borne by the passenger.
 - For all test results, the PCR result supersedes the RDT result.
 - PCR results will be disseminated via the local contact number confirmed by the passenger on arrival.
5. All children under 2 years shall be exempted from pre-departure and arrival PCR test requirements.
6. Airline crew are exempted from the pre-departure and arrival PCR test requirements and should follow airline policy for testing. Airline crew must adhere to public health protocols.

7. Two temperature screenings will be conducted by Port Health Services. If the temperature is 37.5 degrees Celsius or above, the passenger will be taken aside for further observation.
8. All passengers shall go through a walk-through disinfectant channel/Infrared temperature scanner at the entrance of the arrival hall.
9. All passengers with machine-readable passports shall go through the Immigration E-gate system. Passengers with Emergency Travel Certificates or non-machine-readable passports shall go through the Immigration booth.
10. At the Baggage Reclaim section passengers shall maintain social distancing and observe all public health protocols, including proper use of face mask at all times.
11. All passengers will be directed to a Reception Lounge while awaiting their COVID-19 test.
12. Passengers with a negative RDT screening test are cleared to proceed to their destination while awaiting their PCR result and adhering to public health protocols. PCR test results (available in no more than 48 hours) will be distributed via the contact confirmed on arrival.
13. If a passenger's PCR test is positive, s/he will be contacted by public health authorities and taken to an appropriate treatment centre.
14. Passengers sitting near a positive case on the plane will be considered primary contacts. Self-quarantine and monitoring by public health officials will be required.
15. All passengers are strictly advised to observe all public health protocols (proper and constant use of face mask, hand washing/sanitizing, observing social distancing) as directed by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation / NaCOVERC.
16. The same protocols shall apply to all VIP passengers.

DEPARTING PASSENGERS

1. All passengers are subjected to a mandatory *Polymerase Chain Reaction* (PCR) COVID-19 test with a negative result issued no longer than 72hrs before departure at the Freetown International Airport. Cost for this test will be borne by the passenger.
 - Passengers will use the Government of Sierra Leone Travel Portal to request their pre-departure test, to pay for the test, and scheduling sample collection.
 - Passengers with negative PCR results will receive e-confirmation and certificates ahead of travel. Physical copies can be collected at the airport at a designated desk.
 - Passengers with positive PCR results will not be permitted to travel and must follow public health protocols for isolation and contact tracing. They will be re-tested after seven days.
 - Passengers who have entered Sierra Leone within five days shall be exempted from the mandatory additional test on departure.
 - All children under 2 years shall be exempted from PCR test requirements.
2. On arrival at the airport, passengers shall be directed to a reception area to avoid congestion and ensure social distancing during the check-in process.
3. All passengers are encouraged to complete their check-in online before arriving at the airport.
4. All departing passengers shall go through the thermal screening/disinfectant channel at the airport's departure entrance.
5. All departing passengers shall have their passport/travelling document verified before proceeding to the check-in counter.
6. Departing passengers shall proceed to the check-in counter for baggage drop and collection of their boarding pass. While at the check-in counter, they are mandated to

produce their COVID-19 PCR negative test certificate or e-certificate issued within the past 72 hours.

7. Departing passengers shall proceed to the immigration services for onward travel authorization via the e-gate or immigration booth.
8. All departing passengers shall go through security screening before proceeding to the departure hall.
9. All departing passengers shall proceed to the waiting lounge where social distancing, proper use of face mask and other health protocols shall be strictly observed.
10. All passengers shall proceed to the final screening and verification point before boarding the aircraft.
11. Boarding procedures shall be following the approved SOPs of the respective airlines.
12. All passengers are strictly advised to observe all public health protocols (proper use of face mask, hand washing/sanitizing, observe social distancing) as directed by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation / NACOVERC.
13. The same protocols shall apply to all VIP passengers.

Kemurl Fofanah [SLNBCC]

(source: <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Sierra-Leone-issues-COVID-19-Travel-Advisory-17072020.docx>)

Procurement Notices

Bid Summary: General Procurement Notice for Sierra Leone Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support

Funded by: African Development Bank

Bid deadline: 09 September 2020

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Bid Summary: General Procurement Notice for Sierra Leone Threshold Program

Funded by: Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)

Bid deadline: October 15, 2020

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Bid Summary: Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of a Planning Software System

Funded by: Millennium Challenge Account

Bid deadline: 26 September 2020

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Bid Summary: Construct Pour Flush Toilets For School Pit Latrines/Dry Sanitation Toilets For Schools, Construct/Provide Boreholes with Solar-Powered Water Supply System (Hand-Dug) Wells and Boreholes With Hand Pumped Water Supply

Funded By: African Development Bank (AfDB)

Bid deadline: 12 August 2020

For full/more procurement's notices, visit:

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice>

<https://www.nppa.gov.sl/>

<https://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/procurement.htm>

<https://www.biddetail.com/global-tenders/sierra-leone-tenders>

How to Protect Yourself from covid19

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. Please consult with your health care provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.



Clean your hands often



Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Avoid close contact



Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, and only go out when you need to get medical care.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



Wear a facemask if you are sick



Clean and disinfect

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

SOURCES:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.html>
2. http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/misinformation_related_to_the_2019_coronavirus_pandemic



COLOFON

Credits

This newsletter is written and edited by Kemurl Fofanah for the SLNBCC. All articles are written by SLNBCC staff, or shared from news sources with correct references.

Feedback

Do you have any comments, suggestions or remarks on this newsletter? Feel free to contact us at any time. Please send an email to memunabayoh@gmail.com or binta@gnbcc.net. Also, we are looking for more press releases from our members. If you have anything you would like to share with our extensive network, our monthly newsletter provides the perfect platform to do so.

Membership

If you are interested in becoming an SLNBCC Member, please contact Binta Jalloh directly through binta@gnbcc.net or by calling **+232(0)78381007**.

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Thank you for reading our newsletter, the SLNBCC team: Binta Jalloh, Kemurl Fofanah, and Memuna Bayoh

