



ABSTRACTS

SESSION 4: PROMOTING SAFE, NUTRITIOUS AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

4.1 Consumers' food choice during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from a key urban consumption zone in the Philippines

Marie Claire Custodio

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) & Ghent University

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was felt in varying degrees across the world. In Southeast Asia, the pandemic has caused disruptions in the food supply chains and the food environment. It is important to understand how consumers cope with the pandemic in relation to their food choice and diets because the latter is a critical link between the components of food systems and nutrition and health outcomes, which have become more prone to disruption during the pandemic.

An online survey was conducted among middle-income households in Metro Manila, Philippines. The survey was conducted in April 2021, more than a year into the pandemic and when another city-wide lockdown was about to be imposed. The objectives are (i) to understand the impact of consumers' diets during pandemic, and (ii) to measure consumers' valuation for healthier rice types (i.e., brown/unpolished, colored/pigmented, and low-GI) as a nutritional intervention through contingent valuation method.

Results suggest that the types of dishes consumed during the pandemic did not vary from those consumed before the pandemic. However, ingredient substitution was evident. Respondents claim to have consumed more quantity of rice during the pandemic. Results also suggest that consumers are generally willing to accept the concept of healthier rice, given the types of dishes that they can use it for as well nutritional benefits. The price consumers are willing to pay for these healthier rice types is in line with the current market price of premium white rice.

Insights gained from the study may be used to provide policy makers with evidence-based recommendations to serve as basis in developing nutrition-sensitive intervention strategies to improve and protect consumers' nutritional status and well-being.

4.2 Market transformation of agriculture products in Indonesia: Covid-19 Pandemic and agri-food digital market

Sahara Sahara^{a*}, Pria Sembada^b, Apri Laila Sayekti^c, Syarifah Amaliah^a

^a*Department of Economic, IPB University (Bogor Agricultural University), Gedung FEM Lantai 2 Jl. Agatis, IPB Dramaga Campus, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia 16680;* ^b*Sekolah Vokasi, IPB University (Bogor Agricultural University), Kampus IPB Cilibende, Jalan Kumbang No.14, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia;* ^c*Indonesian Centre for Horticulture Research and Development, Indonesian Agency for Agriculture Research and Development*

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised concerns over the resilience of agricultural supply chains including in Indonesia. Much of agriculture products are produced in rural areas by small farmers, while the majority of consumers live in urban areas. Therefore, the supply chain of agri-food products tends to be long and heavily dependent on well-functioning, long-distance road and rail transportation networks involving a significant number of intermediaries. Prior to Covid-19 pandemic, the existence of conventional and modern food retailers in Indonesia has successfully linked smallholders and consumers. The use of the online agrifood marketplace has gained even more traction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the probit model, the paper identifies determinant factors influencing Indonesian consumers' decisions concerning their means of purchasing food during the Covid 19-pandemic. Younger and more educated consumers who have full-time jobs will tend to use online channels. The results also show that online purchasing behavior is increasingly observed for red meat, chicken, and fruits. The results from this study are important for food traders selling their products through online channels and agriculture policy in Indonesia in linking smallholders to consumers through the online channel.

*speaker

4.3 COVID-19 impacts beyond production: changes in food environments in Thailand and the Philippines

Jody Harris

World Vegetable Center

Unhealthy diets lacking fruits and vegetables are among the major drivers of illness and death globally, underpinning 11 million deaths globally each year. Yet healthy diets based on diverse plant-based foods are already inaccessible for 3 billion people globally, and shocks such as COVID-19 exacerbate this problem. Viewing the issue of healthy diets through the lens of food systems gives us a framework for researching how COVID-19 has had impacts on food choices and behaviour; on prices and affordability of different foods; and on how food system policy and practice decisions were made during the course of the pandemic. This study looks at these issues across the food system in two different ASEAN contexts to draw lessons from the current pandemic to be better prepared for future food system disruptions.