COVID-19

Precautionary measures for agricultural farmers

Post-harvest-product processing and delivery to markets

- the farmers and daily wage labourers handling the products should wear gloves and masks, as well as maintain a permanent hand washing routine and use hand washing soap and detergents for sanitization of hands;

- while performing drying, threshing, winnowing, cleaning, grading, sorting and packaging operations at the farm level, wearing of protective face mask is required;

- ensure twice (before and after) daily disinfection and cleaning of implements, facilities, warehouses, and containers used for carrying agriculture products in order to lower the risks of infection;

- disinfect trucks, vehicles, carts, tricycles and wheelbarrows transporting varies agriculture products into the markets with appropriate disinfection;

- have scheduled delivery of products with other farmers in the village to avoid the influx of people in local transportation and routine markets in the district/province;
• maintain a safe distance of at least 1-2m (2 outstretched hand) from other farmers and daily wage labors during product delivery to local markets;

• be as fast while selling products in the local market and try to sell agricultural products on trucks;

• handling and touching cash will increase the risk of contamination. Please make sure after handling cash wash your hand with soap and water for at least 20 second or use disinfectant;

• ensure that all transaction i.e. product sale and purchase are done only with those wearing masks and after washing hands with soap while maintaining a safe distance of 2 meters (2 outstretched hands) from each other at all times;

• farmers are encouraged to save the seed that they will need for the next planting season. In case there are travel restrictions, market closures, border closers and price spikes at planting time due to COVID-19, then it is important that farmers have their own seed for planting rather than relying on others or local markets;

• farmers to establish a reliable information & communication network on agriculture and local markets. Farmers to establish contact with key people who you can rely on to provide accurate information about the farming and market situation over the current / forthcoming cropping season. e.g. extension workers, farmer leaders, local chiefs, local traders, agro-input dealers, etc. So as to avoid frequent trips to agriculture markets;
• If possible, contact the key informal traders who normally supply the inputs/seed that farmers normally buy for planting, and ask them whether they have inputs and expect to be able to continue to supply these inputs/seed up until the forthcoming planting season. This can minimize unnecessary visit to markets for purchase of inputs;

• Farmers should adapt to changes in consumer demand in local markets, ensure vegetables and other agri-products remain safe and avoid food wastage;

• The farmers and daily wage laborers working, in agriculture products processing should not face one another. Organize daily wage labor into working groups or teams to facilitate reduced interaction between groups. Maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 meters (2 outstretched hands) between an individual and other worker;

• Restricting non-essential physical contact as much as possible during agriculture products processing;

• Ensure proper drying prior to storage of harvested grains, pulses at farm/home and do not use reuse previous seasons jute bags to prevent pest infestation;

• Adequate personal safety measures to be taken for loading and transporting of farm produce and while participating in sale at market yards/ auction platforms;
• older farmers and anyone with pre-existing medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer) not to travel to market and process agriculture products, as they are considered vulnerable to infection and death from COVID-19;

• if the farm worker is feeling sick with COVID-19 symptoms, he/she should NOT work he should immediately stop working, should call a local health authority for guidance.