Panel discussion on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food trade of the Commonwealth

Tuesday 15 December 2020, 2.00pm – 3.00pm GMT / 3.00pm – 4.00pm CET

The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted to contain the spread of the virus have affected the food and agriculture sector in many ways. Restrictions on movements and partial border closures implemented around the world immediately affected food supply, demand and value chains, and led to short-term disruptions to international trade.

Beyond immediate disruptions to value chains caused by COVID-19 and their impacts on access to food, the severe effects of the pandemic on all economic activity, and resulting reductions in income and rising unemployment rates, are also expected to affect access to food.

The webinar will explore some of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade in food products in Commonwealth countries in the early months of the pandemic.

**Speakers**

- **Andrea Zimmermann**
  Economist, FAO

- **Collin Zhuawu**
  Economic Adviser - Multilateral Trade, Commonwealth Secretariat

- **Boubaker Ben-Belhassen**
  Director, Markets and Trade Division, FAO

- **Manzoor Ahmed**
  World Trade Advisor, Senior Fellow, Pakistan Institute for Development Economics

**Moderator: Ruth Kattumuri**
Senior Director, Economic, Youth & Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat

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