Objective
The farmer-listeners should be able to identify some of the activities that family farmers in the Asia-Pacific region undertook to cope up with the challenges brought by COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Message
Continued engagement and partnership with local government units and non-government organizations will allow family farmers to continue their economic activities during pandemic.

Supporting Message
Family farmers have experienced challenges in producing, marketing, selling, and distributing their produce amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Imposition of lockdowns, suspension of public transport, and the risk of acquiring the virus adversely affected the livelihood and productivity of family farmers.

So how do family farmers overcome these economic challenges? And what is the role of the government and the private sector on addressing these challenges?

In the Philippines, Farmers’ organizations partnered with homeowners’ associations to set up weekend markets in their communities. They’ve also partnered with the Agriculture department and to small and medium scale enterprises or S-M-Es in conducting farmers’ market in strategic areas around the country.

In Laos, family farmers also encountered problems in bringing their produce to the capital. Through the support of their local government, farmers were able to secure necessary permissions to transport their produce. The government also assisted in negotiating with a local shipping company to help the farmers in delivery services on a reduced rate to help them cut the production cost.
And in Nepal, family farmers’ networks coordinated with the local government to loosen lockdown on agriculture, as well as providing farmers with immediate economic relief, provision of agricultural inputs, and marketing support while practicing safety measures for COVID-19.

Call to Action

Family farmers, through their organizations and networks, are highly encouraged to engage with the government, advocacy groups, and the private sector to mitigate the effects of the pandemic in their livelihood and to continue their important role as food heroes and front liners.

This public service announcement is brought to you by the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, ComDev Asia, AMARC Asia Pacific and this station (state the name of the community station).

Source http://www.asiapacificfarmersforum.net