

Impact of Covid-19 on food value chains in West Papua Province, Indonesia

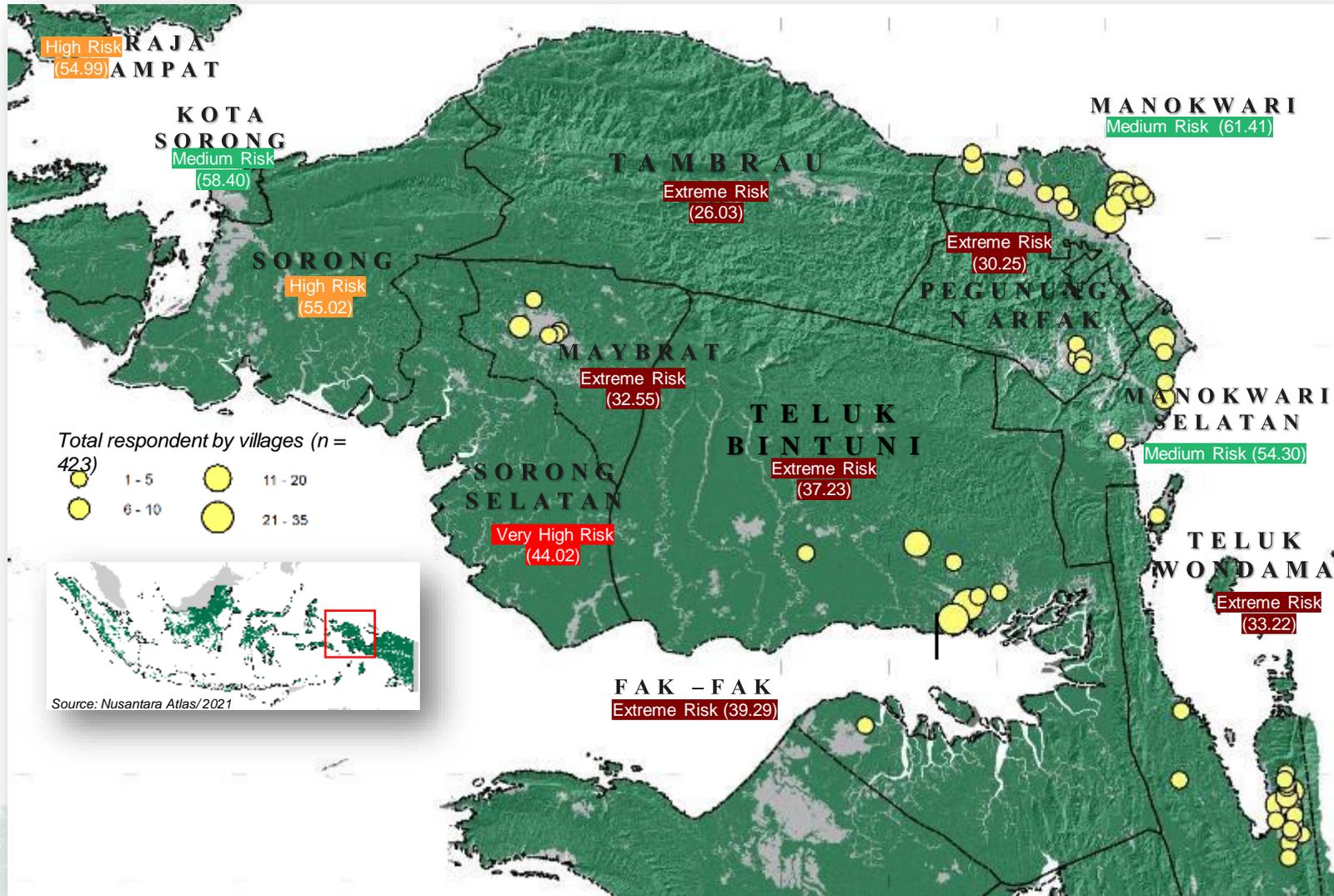
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FTA Rapid Research Response on Covid-19, 2021



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Pegunungan Arfak



Teluk Bintuni



The study aims to understand the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the food value chain in West Papua Province.

Map: Agus M (2021); Photo credit: Research and Development Agency of West Papua (2021)



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Methods

Mixed online and field visit survey

We circulated a link to an online survey, and combined this effort with visits to markets, distributors, food stalls, farms etc, to ask food value chain actors to participate in the survey

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In 6 regencies; September to December 2020

The regencies represent different geographies and states of food security. They were Manokwari, Manokwari Selatan, Teluk Wondama, Teluk Bintuni, Pegunungan Arfak, Maybrat

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Analysis

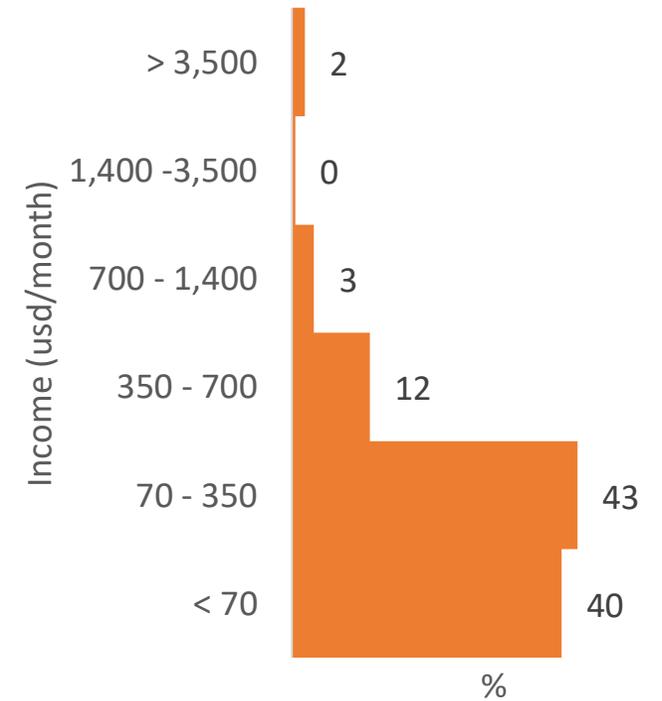
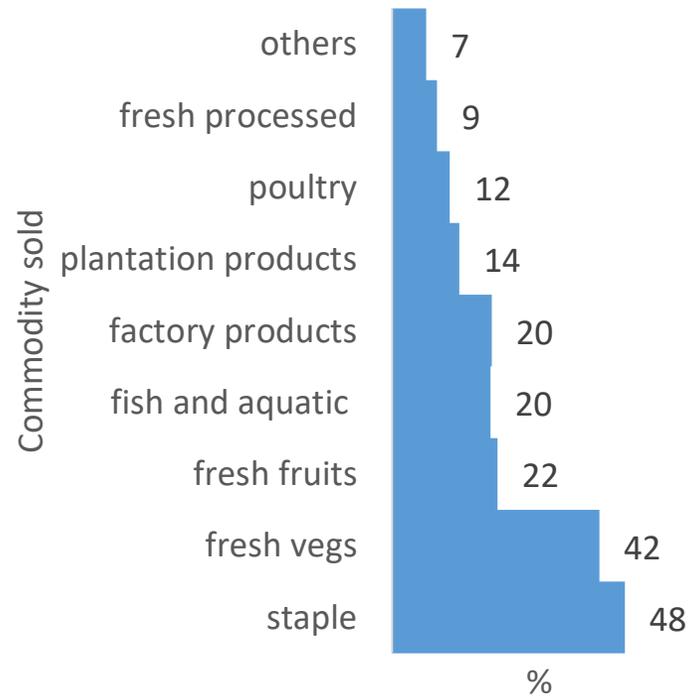
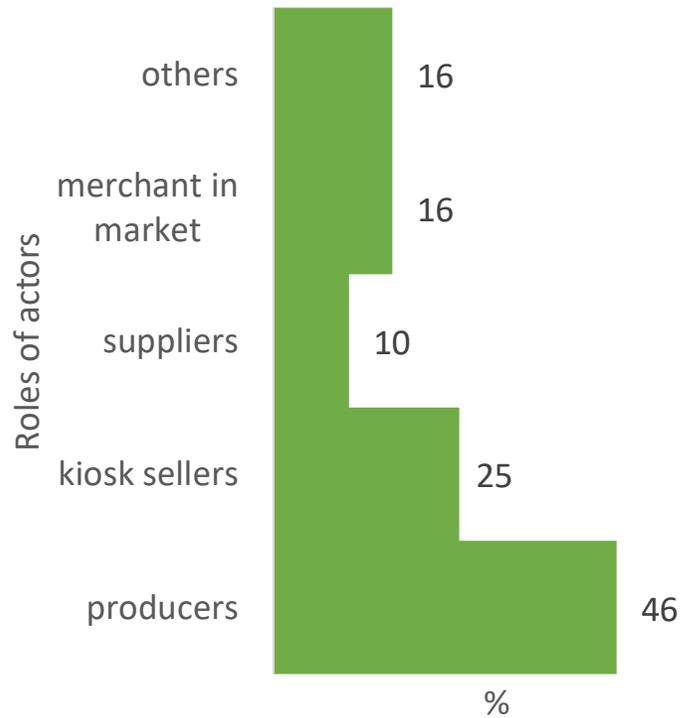
Results of the surveys were analysed using descriptive statistics and exploratory analysis. Comments were analyzed by coding key words and then quantifying the numbers of each keyword stated by respondents.

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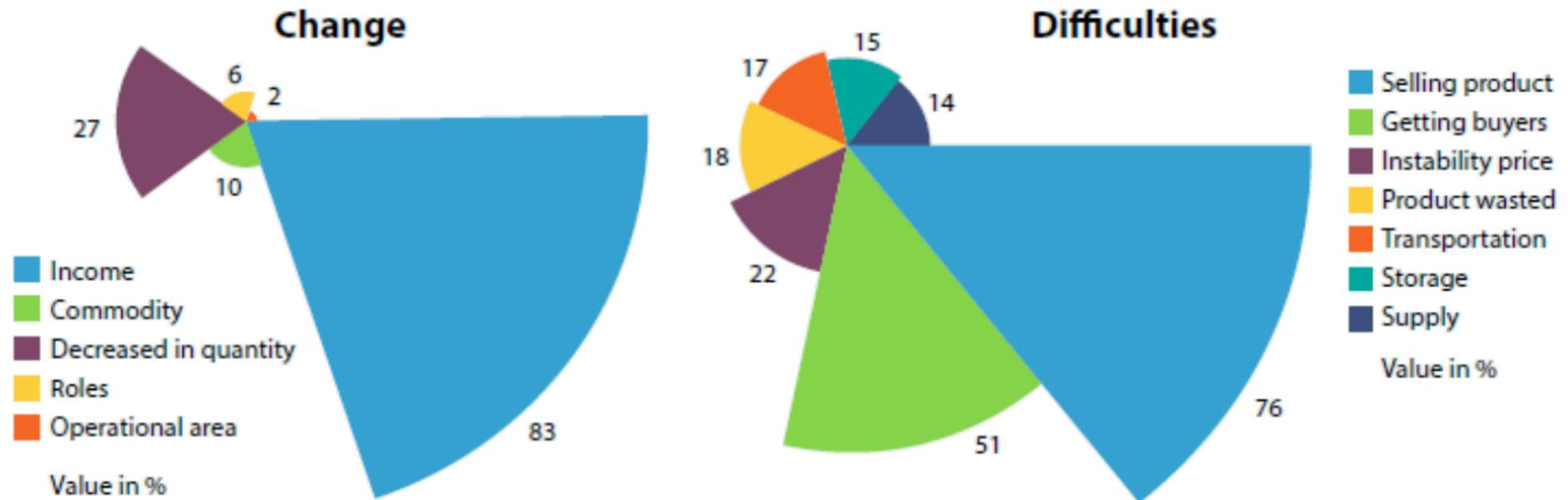
Photo credit: Research and Development Agency of West Papua, 2021

Demography



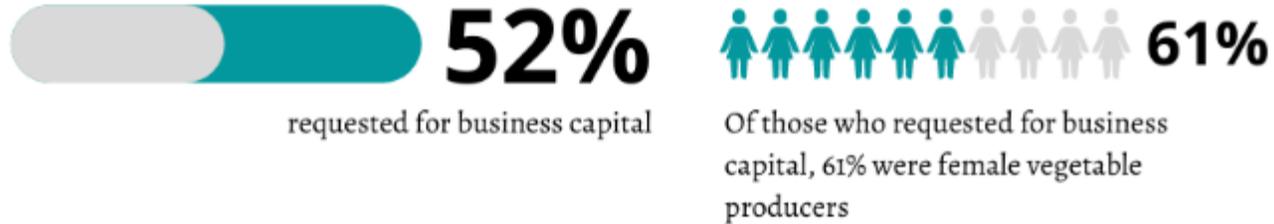
We received valid responses from 423 respondents, **55%** of whom were female. More than half (**51%**) of the participants identified themselves as indigenous Papuans. The figure shows the roles of the respondents in the value chain, the commodities that they traded and their range of income.

Impacts of Covid-19 on food supply chain



Covid-19 affected incomes of **83%** respondents. Among those who were affected, **78%** reported less than a **50%** decline (with 31% reported less than a 30% decline), and 16% reported more than a 50% decline. Most of the Papuan women in this study (72%) earned less than 70 usd per month before pandemic, and **72%** of the Papuan women experienced decline in their income down to 50% after pandemic.

Analysis of comments



A fisherman in Manokwari and Teluk Bintuni complained about the abundant fish not sold but also could not be stored due to the lack of infrastructure;

“Here we don’t have ice factory, so it’s very difficult for us to store fishers’ catch”



A female vegetable farmer from Teluk Bintuni complained;

Our products sometimes are not sold, we have to carry them back home, but we cannot store them well, and finally damaged, deteriorated, we throw them away. And sometimes we spend money on transport, while not getting any profit.

Photo credit: Research and Development Agency of West Papua, 2021

Strategies for mitigation of impacts



Despite having these difficulties, only a few respondents had a specific strategy to mitigate the disruption; only **18%** said they reduced production and stock, **13%** said they went looking for new markets, and **11%** said they processed less than usual. Other than food-based social assistance, only **12%** of respondents had received business support, and mostly from government.

Photo credit: Research and Development Agency of West Papua, 2021



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Recommendations

- Respondents suggested that financial support would be most helpful for their businesses to get through the pandemic.
- Business support, such as financial literacy courses, business management during crisis, and the like may also benefit them to become more resilient and help their businesses to survive future crisis.
- Special attention needs to be given to the Papuan women, who are important actors in the value chain of vegetables in West Papua province, had low income and affected by the pandemic.



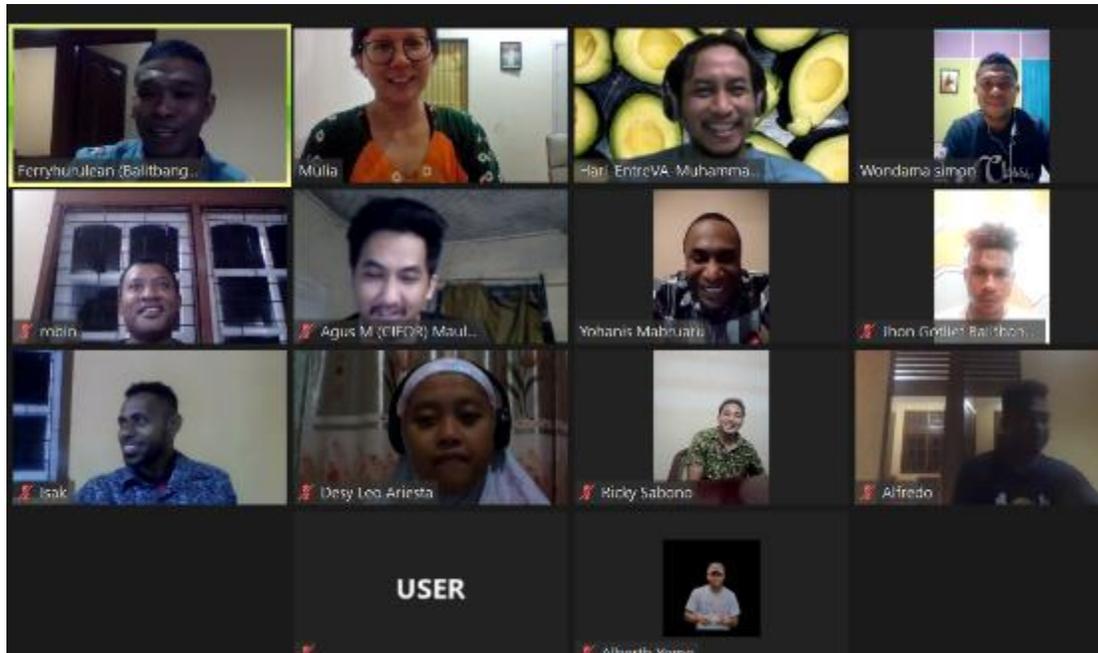
Photo credit: Research and Development Agency of West Papua, 2021



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Thank you for listening!



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