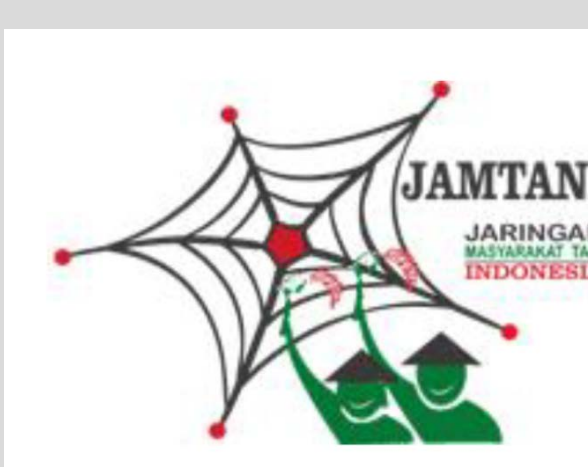


Virtual Tropentag 2020
Food and nutrition security &
its resilience to global crises
September 9-11, 2020
ATSAF e.V.



Impact of COVID-19 on local food systems in Southern Africa and Indonesia

A digital co-research with small-scale farmers

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Background

Timeline

Declaration of COVID-19 pandemic

- 11 March 2020

Outbreak containment approaches

- Indonesia**, 15 March 2020: Large-scale social restrictions
- South Africa**, 27 March 2020: Lockdown
- Zimbabwe**, 30 March 2020: Lockdown
- Mozambique**, 1 April 2020: State of emergency
- 1 April 2020 : Start of the research
- 7 June 2020 : End of data collection

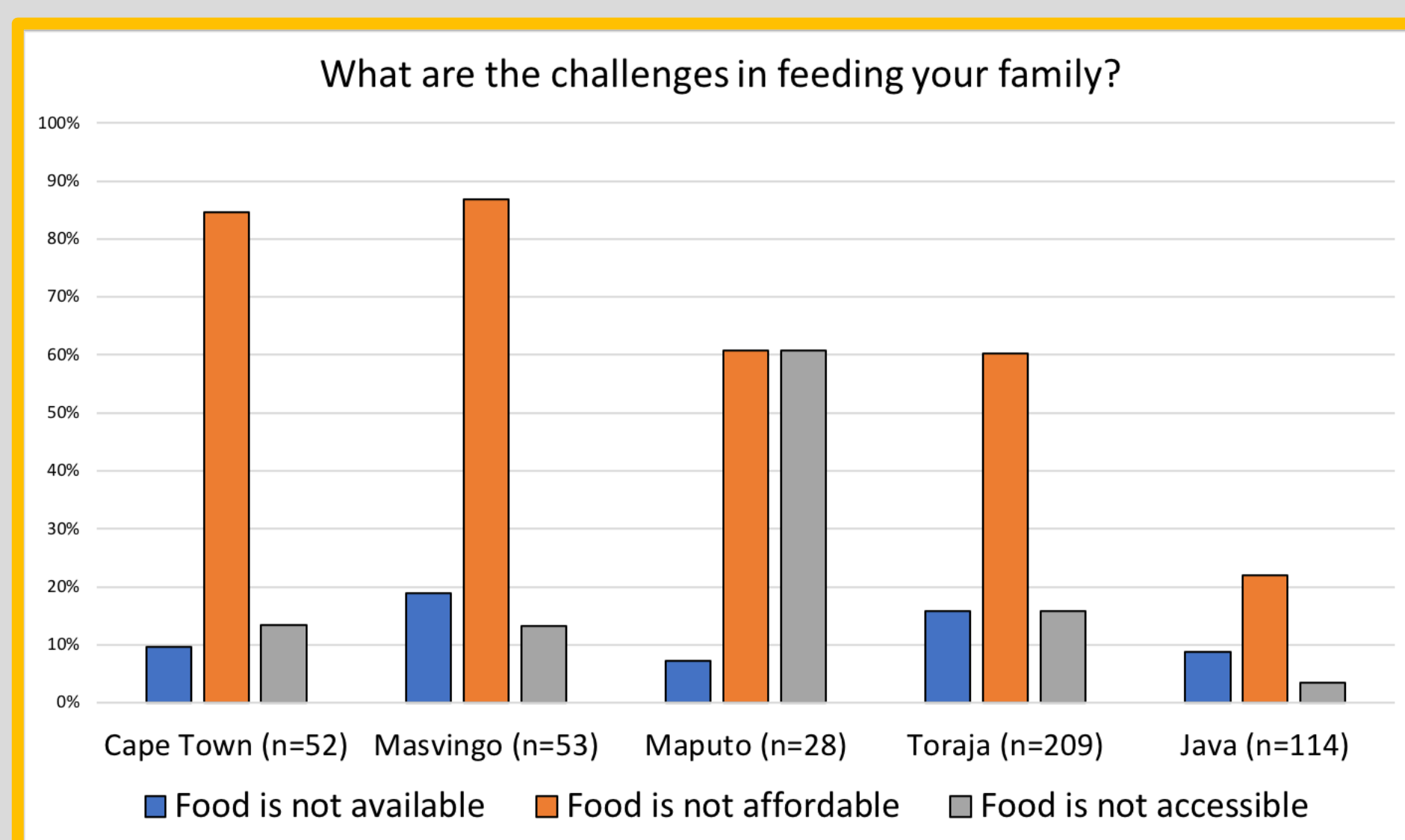
Objectives of the study

- The participatory co-research investigates the impact of COVID-19 in two urban and three rural food regions in the global South.

Common perspective

- Small-scale farmers** provide insights into how COVID-19 measures have affected their farming and food systems and the resilience of the food systems.
- Farmers** perceive themselves as 'responsive actors' and not "passive victims" of the COVID-19 crisis. They want to become part of the solution.

"The increasing number of COVID-19 cases worldwide is a cause for great concern. We don't want to be just a mere number in this crisis. We want to share what we as farmers can do to maintain our local food systems."
Nomonde Buthelezi, 28 March 2020
Cape Town Urban Farmer Forum



Farmers' food security challenges after 2 months of COVID-19 containment. (Survey data, 1st week of June 2020)

Key Findings per Research Site

Photovoice, central challenges and wordcloud from the perceived impact on their families

Co-research methodology

Digital data collection via KoboToolbox app

- Previous experience with tool in Indonesia
- Participating farmers co-design the survey
- Pre-test by resident coordinators and translation into local language
- Data collection in four weekly surveys in April, one in June 2020 via snowball sampling
- 56 simple questions: 26 single choice, 8 binary, 8 multiple choice, 6 open-ended, 6 demographic
- Photo voice in April surveys: meal culture, farm and market challenges, solutions
- More than 700 participating farmers

Analysis and contextualisation

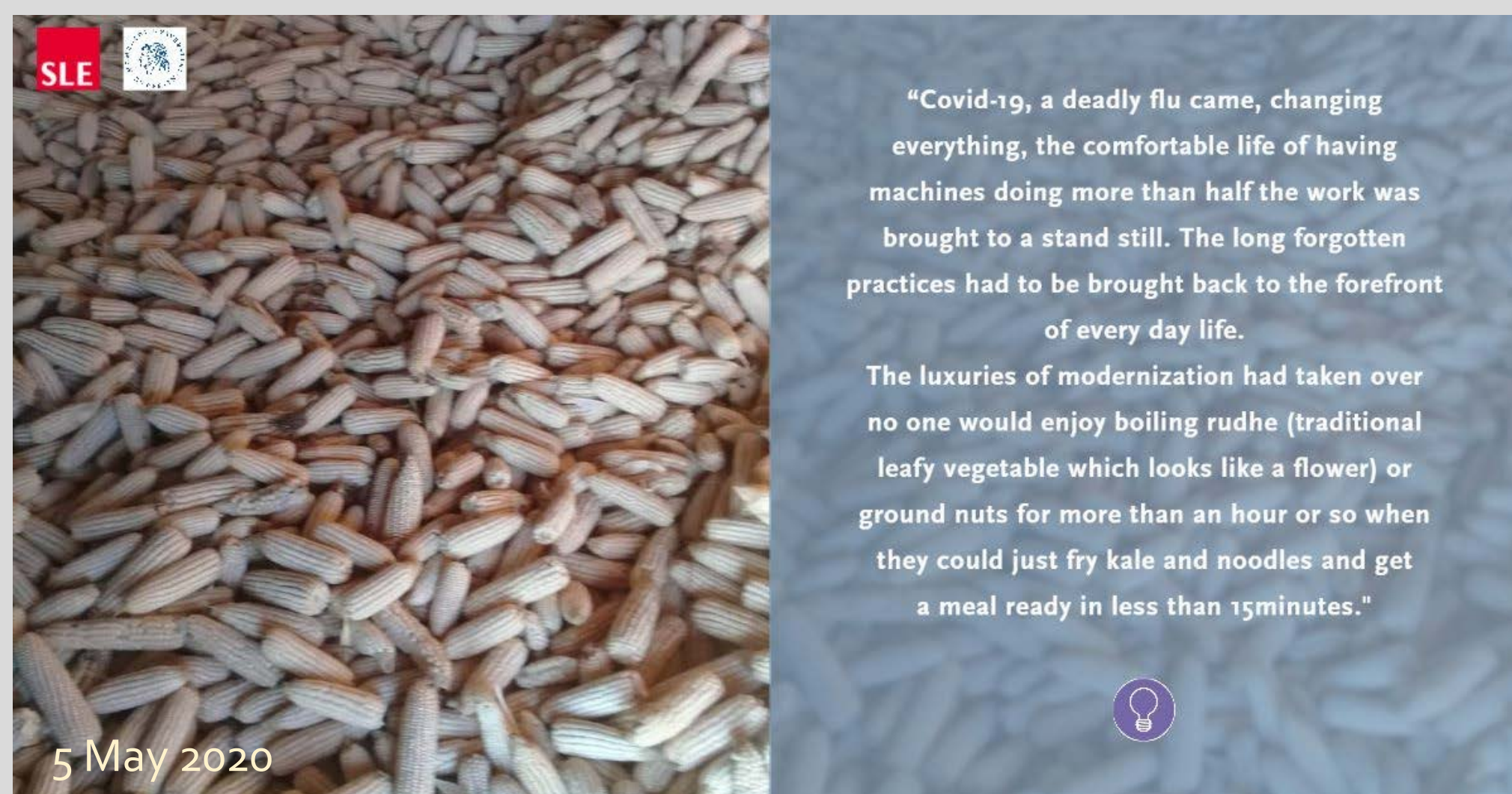
Farmer voices and photos via social media (**Facebook, Instagram, whatsapp**)

Simple graphs and tables for descriptive statistics (**SPSS, MAXQDA**)

Contextualisation and validation of data with co-researchers (**Zoom calls, whatsapp**)

Project Outputs: Fact Sheets, Presentation at the Webinar of the All-African Student's Union (AASU), 3 Journal Papers, farmer stories on social media, digital South-South exchanges

Masvingo, Zimbabwe



Loss of market outlets, as farmer markets and restaurants closed; sold food to local communities, **hunger** aggravated by the meagre harvests due to climate change and **drought**, **women farmers** are strong players in food and seed exchange

social restrictions high price fear church school movement shortage
affected lack food income family hunger

Maputo, Mozambique



Banning of food imports from South Africa caused **price hikes**, particularly for sugar, fruits; increased consumption of vegetables and staples; farmers lost their market outlets and consumed more of their own produce.

hands we all soap have use masks water washing goods facilitate people access

Cape Town, South Africa



Lockdown effects: Price hikes for all food groups; informal sector was heavily restricted; township farmers often went to bed without a meal (**hunger crisis**); rise of community kitchen; food aid dependence; no permits to visit farms; rotting vegetables

income permit poverty fear food money hunger market lack protection

Java, Indonesia



worship keeping school income no difficult activities
house distance children cannot gather outside

Farmer markets partly closed, and **people feared to go outside**; less meat and fish consumption due to price hikes for all food groups in Java, and for meat and sugar in rural Toraja; more consumption of vegetables, farmers started **growing more food** in own gardens and changed to a **more healthy diet**, e.g. less sugar.

Toraja, Indonesia



school reduced outside difficult income children family not

Conclusions

Coping strategies were different in the various research sites, however in all areas farmers relied mostly on **social capital and local knowledge**, i.e. own family, own farming community to develop solutions such as community kitchens or seed swap systems.

Local food systems and agro-ecological farming systems (in Indonesia, Mozambique) are more resilient towards shocks; while small-scale farmers who are not supported by government (in South Africa, Zimbabwe) faced severe challenges.

The participating farmers acknowledged the **digital exchange** with farmers from other areas. The South-South farming exchange created **mutual learning experiences**.



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This research was funded by foundation fiat panis and Verein der Förderer und Freunde des SLE e.V.

