

For a secure global food supply. International Cooperation and Trade with Developing and Emerging Countries in the Light of the COVID 19 Pandemic: Contributions of the German Agribusiness

German companies offer innovative technologies and expertise in the agricultural sector worldwide – be it in the areas of plant breeding, plant protection, animal husbandry, agricultural machinery and equipment, post-harvest management, trade or practical training. The use of these modern, efficient and safe technologies can make a major contribution to increasing agricultural production while using existing resources – and making the agriculture an attractive employment sector.

Modern agricultural technologies enable efficient and sustainable local yield and secure supply chains.

Free international trade in agricultural goods and innovative technologies is indispensable to ensure that humanity can continue to be reliably supplied with safe, diverse and sustainably produced food. An important prerequisite for agricultural trade are functioning and transparent markets, stable local and global supply chains and production standards as well as adequate financing.

The German business actively contributes to Public-Private-Partnership-projects in various countries in Africa, Asia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, which serve to secure income and food security, especially for family farms and small farmers – be it with inputs or agricultural machinery adapted to local conditions, training and practical demonstrations. All are aiming to supporting farmers to use modern technologies safely and efficiently. However, as a result of the corona crisis, not only the national value chains for food are at risk, but also the availability of inputs in the upstream value chain as well as agricultural machinery, spare parts and agricultural machinery repair is affected.

Despite these current constraints, companies are committed to ensure the availability of urgently needed operating resources in the projects and, if possible, beyond. Even more, the German agribusiness is prepared to work together with the governments of the partner countries to develop new approaches to support both the self-sufficiency and export of agricultural products.

Relevance of long-term strategic approaches.

The COVID 19 pandemic is hitting the developing and emerging countries economically hard, including the poorest of the population – it is important to take countermeasures at an early stage. It must be clear, that value chains in the agricultural and food sector are



systemically relevant: Supply bottlenecks in the food and health systems can lead to major social tensions. Short-term humanitarian aid must therefore not replace longer-term, strategic approaches to the structural fight against hunger – be it research projects, investments in infrastructure or education.

In the medium and long term, the projects in cooperation with local partners can help to establish a modern agricultural sector based on a strong local private sector, to increase the prosperity of countries and societies and at the same time make them more resilient to future crises. The German agribusiness will therefore continue to play an active role in cooperation with developing and emerging countries – both in trade and direct investment and in joint projects.

The German Agribusiness Alliance is a joint initiative of leading associations and companies in the German agricultural and food industry. It serves as a platform for cooperation with partner countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia - covering the areas of plant breeding, plant protection, animal husbandry, agricultural machinery and equipment, post-harvest management, trade, practical training and agricultural extension.

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