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# Working paper agricultural risks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and farm household welfare and diversification strategies in Africa.

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**Authors:** [Abdul Malik Iddrisu](#), [Alhassan Abdul-Wakeel Karakara](#), [Evans S. Osabuohien](#)

**Affiliations:** Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), London, UK ; School of Economics, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR), Covenant University, Nigeria ; Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR), Covenant University, Nigeria

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## Abstract

Agricultural activities in many African countries are bedevilled by a range of risk factors. Using micro-level household datasets from a range of countries in Africa, we examine the drivers of agricultural risks, while exploring the role of context as well as the impact

of the COVID-19 pandemic on household welfare, with a focus on farm households relative to their non-farm counterparts. We demonstrate that the probability of experiencing risks related to agriculture is significantly influenced by a range of individual- and farm-level/contextual factors, with these effects showing considerable variations across contexts and countries in Africa. We also find that farm households witnessed important reductions in their incomes during the COVID-19 period in Uganda. The study contributes to the design of evidence-based approaches to reducing farmers' vulnerabilities to agricultural risks and pandemic-related shocks.

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