



PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTS A DANGEROUS RELIANCE ON PREDATORY POULTRY TRADE

In an [interview](#) published by AllAfrica.com, Dominique Burgeon, Director of FAO's Emergency and Resilience Division, explains the particular challenges **COVID-19** poses in vulnerable communities already coping with high levels of hunger due to pre-existing crises.

Ms. Burgeon explains that even before **COVID-19** hit, 113 million people on the planet were already struggling with severe acute food insecurity due to pre-existing shocks or crises.

The vast majority live in rural areas and depend on agricultural production, seasonal jobs in agriculture, or pastoralism. If they become ill or constrained by restrictions on movement or activity, they will be prevented from working their land, caring for their animals, or accessing markets to sell produce, buy food, or get seeds and supplies. "These people have very little to fall back on, materially speaking. They could find themselves forced to abandon their

The FairPlay movement is a non-profit initiative to end predatory trade practices worldwide.



EU POULTRY INDUSTRY BEMOANS THE SAME PRESSURES THAT THEIR PREDATORY TRADE HAS CAUSED IN AFRICA

As COVID19 disrupts supply chains and reduces demand for chicken within Europe, the EU is now suffering the very same pressures that they've caused in Africa. Except this time, they've done it to themselves.

The EU has for years been a trade predator, dumping millions of tonnes of excess chicken in Africa and South Africa, causing job losses and ruining the livelihoods of farmers. Now it appears that the chickens are coming home to roost.

As reported by IHS Markit's IEG Policy platform dated 01/05/20, in a letter sent to the EU's Directorate General for Agriculture (DG AGRI), EU farmers' and cooperatives' association Copa-Cogeca warns that the closure of hotels,

livelihoods.”

Over the past 3 years, the FairPlay Movement has continually and consistently made the case that predatory trade, in South Africa and elsewhere, has undermined food security by building a reliance on cheap, dumped imports, most notably in the poultry sector.

Predatory trade in poultry has resulted in 30 percent of chicken consumed in South Africa being filled from foreign sources such as Brazil and the EU. Thousands of jobs have been lost and small producers have been put out of business as foreign suppliers dump unwanted chicken cuts into South Africa at prices well below the cost of production.

Now that global supply chains are being interrupted by the pandemic it is becoming abundantly clear how unfair trade threatens food security.

With sensible trade policies and reasonable protections those lost jobs in poultry production could come back. And South Africa could easily produce enough chicken to meet the needs for affordable protein for its entire population without the need for foreign imports.

restaurants and catering services is already causing problems for the EU poultry industry.

Markets for egg products have also been hit by the closure of out-of-home food services. At the same time, demand has risen for shell eggs sold in retail, leading to some shortages.

Signed by Copa and Cogeca secretary general Pekka Pesonen, the letter says retail sales are not sufficient to offset the loss of the hospitality industry channel.

The letter calls on the Commission to limit import by using tariff rate quotas (TRQs) in a way that avoids an 'oversupply crisis'.

EU poultry producers now recognize the devastating impact that imports will have on their own industry, and have called on EU member states to urgently halt poultry imports.

The EU has always been happy to benefit from predatory trade when it's in their favour – extracting as much as they can, while ignoring the devastating socio-economic impact their trade policies leave behind.





WORKERS AT BRAZIL'S BIGGEST POULTRY EXPORTER DEVASTATED BY COVID 19

SAO PAULO (Reuters) – According to an article by Ana Mano published by Reuters a JBS SA poultry plant in southern Brazil was hit by an outbreak of COVID-19, according to labor prosecutors, marking the first large-scale infection at a Brazilian meat plant.

The plant was shut as part of an ongoing investigation by the prosecutors. It follows several other outbreaks at meat-processing facilities in the United States in recent weeks, including at some JBS-owned plants in the US.

The company declined to comment on the cases of COVID-19 affecting its employees and said nothing specifically about the outbreak at the Passo Fundo plant, which employs 2,600 workers.

The labour prosecutor's office confirmed that it found at least seven cases when its probe began a few days ago, and said the tally has since risen to 20.

Brazilian news website UOL cited the department as saying that some 78 JBS employees had been removed from work for showing flu symptoms.

The labour prosecutor's office, which on Saturday filed a civil lawsuit against JBS seeking damages, said the meat processor's failure to follow health authority guidelines had triggered its investigation.



LOCAL CHICKEN PRODUCER TAKES CARE OF VULNERABLE

This article was originally published in the Saturday Star on 18 April 2020.

Food security during lockdown is a burning issue in poverty stricken areas of South Africa, where the most vulnerable are now also cut off from regular means of income to provide for their families.

Poultry producer Country Bird Holdings (CBH) has stepped up its contributions to the communities in which it operates, and has distributed five tons of Supreme Chicken (CBH brand) products to the community of Tigane in Hartbeesfontein, near Klerksdorp, during the lockdown.

CBH executives and staff visited Tigane last Thursday and hand-delivered around 2.7 tons of chicken to the community, ensuring that each household would have some meat for the pot. A similar trip the week before saw a ton of meat being distributed.

CBH processing director Arno Kietzmann said: "We normally provide meat to the schools in the area, but with schools closed due to the Covid- 19 pandemic, we realised that children who rely on the meals at school might be going hungry during the lockdown, and thus wanted to find an alternative means of getting food to people."

According to Kietzmann, around 1000 people from the community are directly employed by the company at its adjacent Supreme Poultry abattoir, and another 200 local contractors deliver regular services to the production facility.

"CBH is the biggest single job creator in the area and the community relies on us as much as we rely on them. We know that the lockdown is presenting serious challenges for families, and it is important for us to reach out and help as much as we can."

Kietzmann said that the initiative was organised with the help of the ward councillor, Kagiso Piet Moena. "Mr Moena has worked closely with us to identify the best way to reach the most households in the available time.

We are part of this community and because it is a relatively small community we were able to take a hands-on approach, while still maintaining the prescribed safety measures," said Kietzmann.

The company has production facilities in Mahikeng in the North West Province and Botshabelo in the Free State, where it has partnered with local soup kitchens that provide food to homeless and other vulnerable people.



**We will not be your chicken
dumping ground.**

AFRICAN POULTRY PRODUCERS BRACE FOR MORE DUMPING AS EU CONFRONTS OVERSUPPLY OF BROILER MEAT

The EU has for years been a trade predator, dumping millions of tonnes of excess chicken in Africa and South Africa, causing job losses and ruining the livelihoods of farmers. Now it appears that the chickens are coming home to roost.

The EU is waking up to find their continent flooded with surplus chicken that simply can't go anywhere. This, on top of an already precarious post-Brexit trade situation, threatens to upend their agricultural stability.

If the past is anything to go by, the EU is likely to make shifting this surplus their number one priority, ignoring the devastating impact of their actions. They will deflect, distort and ignore inconvenient facts, as they've done in the past.

In fact, their PR campaign has already begun. A Farmer's Weekly journalist recently went on an all-expenses-paid trip to Poland to promote its chicken industry, no doubt to soften us up ahead of an expected surge in predatory imports from that country. <https://bit.ly/2W8uzGX>

To the EU, we say, keep your chickens! The global pandemic has shown us all the importance of food security. Just because you have a glut of unwanted product, doesn't mean you're entitled to dump it here and benefit from the destruction that it causes.

South Africa is a proudly food-secure nation. We produce chicken more efficiently and cheaply than the EU does, and we do this without the EU's massive agricultural subsidies. In coming months, as trade resumes, we will need to do everything we can to stay that way.



The FairPlay movement is a not-for-profit trade movement that fights for jobs. Its goal is to end predatory trade practices between countries so that big and small nations play by the same rules. It supports the principle that penalties for transgressing those rules apply equally to everybody.

FairPlay was founded in October 2016. In alliance with existing organisations and experts it formulates and promotes strategies to defend communities made vulnerable by predatory trade practices and promote sustainable livelihoods.

These alliance partners are international, currently from the USA, Canada, Ireland, UK, Ghana and South Africa.

FairPlay mission: To end the scourge of dumping as an immoral trade practice.

FairPlay vision: A world where dumping no longer exists, with free trade according to the rules.

<http://fairplaymovement.org>

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