



## Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 in Agriculture – Livestock Farmers

A qualitative study on livestock farmers behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic in three PRISMA target provinces

6 May 2020

# About The Survey

The first COVID-19 case occurred in Indonesia on 2 March, 2020 in Jakarta. By mid March, the Government of Indonesia (GoI) had followed this up with intensive dissemination of information on reducing the spread of the virus.

PRISMA conducted three of qualitative phone surveys, i.e. crop farmers, livestock farmers, and kiosks in mid April 2020 during the transition from harvesting to the new planting season. The surveys aim to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture after a month of intensive dissemination of information from the GoI.

The livestock farmers survey involved 52 farmers in three PRISMA target provinces (Central Java, East Java, and NTT). This may not fully represent farmers in Indonesia but can provide valuable insights for PRISMA's partners to improve their strategies during the pandemic.



# Topic

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**General Farmers understanding of COVID-19**



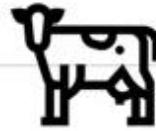
**Rearing activities**  
Changes in rearing activities during COVID-19



**Rearing inputs**  
Challenges and initiatives regarding rearing inputs during COVID-19



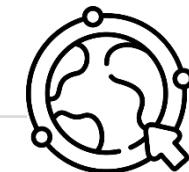
**Receiving information**  
Ways for farmers to receive information



**Product sales**  
Livestock sales performance during the pandemic



**Financing**  
Farmers' access to financing during the COVID-19 pandemic



**Internet usage**  
Farmers' internet behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic



# General

## Farmers understanding of COVID-19

# Farmers Awareness of COVID-19

**99,8% of livestock farmers know about COVID-19**

Farmers' have sourced information on COVID-19 from neighbours, TV and radio. Local government initiatives in several districts in NTT are using announcements from vehicles to disseminate information on COVID-19.

Farmers understand that COVID-19 is a **respiratory disease** with symptoms similar to **flu**, including **a cough**, and that it **spreads quickly**—and may even **cause death** in severe cases.

Only one respondent did not know about COVID-19, while the remaining respondents were aware that it is a pandemic virus that does not have a cure yet.

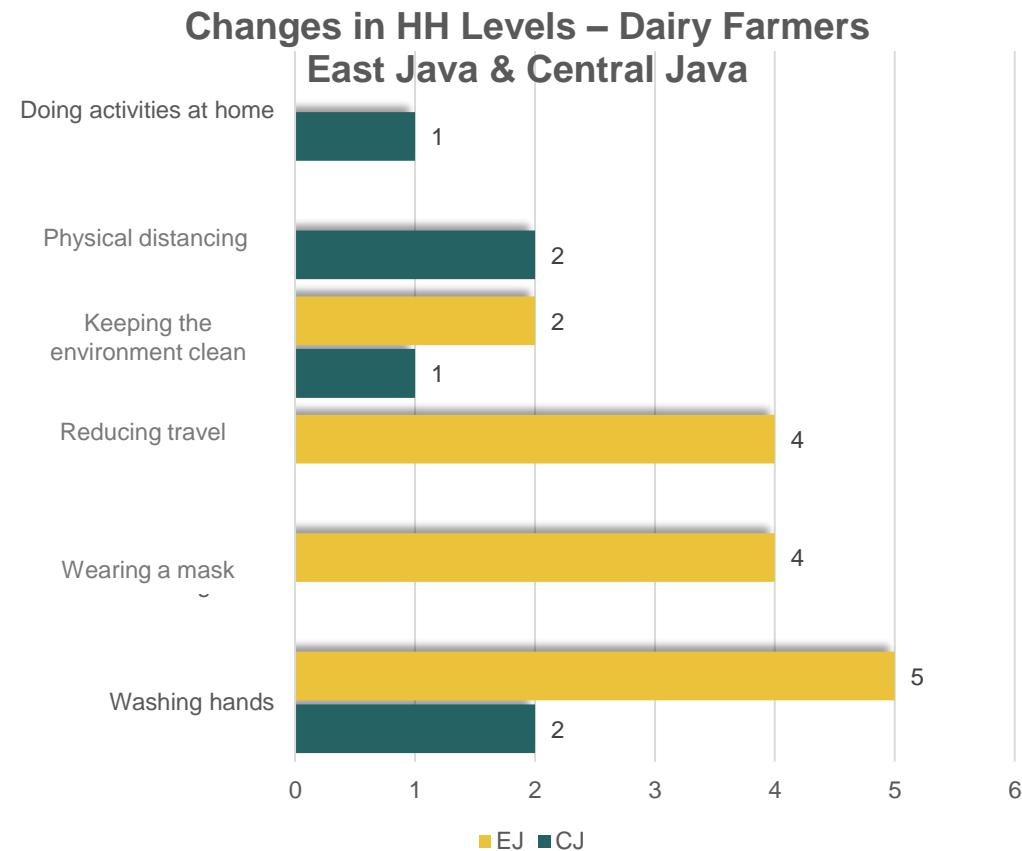


Photo credit: Media Indonesia

# Changes in Farmers Household due to COVID-19

Most farmers have already implemented the government recommendations on washing hands, wearing a mask and physical distancing

- The most significant change is most of the respondents said that they are **staying at home** during the pandemic.
- Farmers hygiene habits are also changing. 75% of pig farmer respondents claimed that they are maintaining **hygiene** with handwashing. 50% of them are also **wearing masks** when interacting with people. There were similar findings with poultry and cattle farmers in EJ and CJ.
- Aside from maintaining hygiene and practising social distancing, some farmers are also aware that they need to ensure **cleanliness of the pig pens** so the pigs do not get ASF.



# Changes in Farming Communities

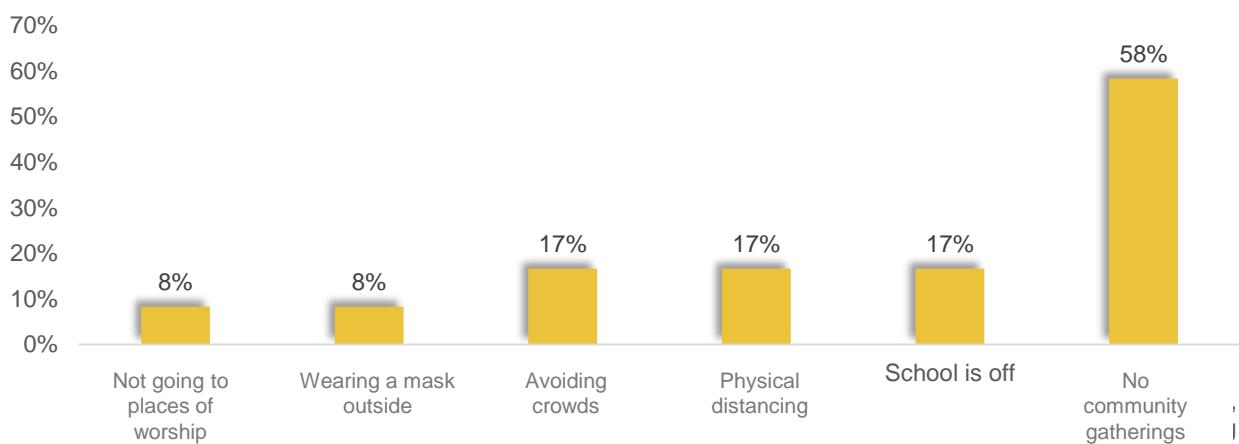
All farmers are complying with the government instruction to prevent infection

- Most of the respondents (58% of pig farmers in NTT) claimed that they no longer attend group meetings, which includes farmers group meetings, *arisan*, as well as visiting relatives.
- Farmers are also practising social distancing and avoiding crowded places such as traditional markets. Some respondents stated that they are not attending places of worship.

“ Yes, there are no longer group meetings. There is an instruction from Government through Bappeda so it is mandatory for us to stay at home. Every house must provide a place for handwashing, and each district is to be monitored and patrolled.

Malang, East Java

Changes at the Community Level – Pig Farmers in NTT



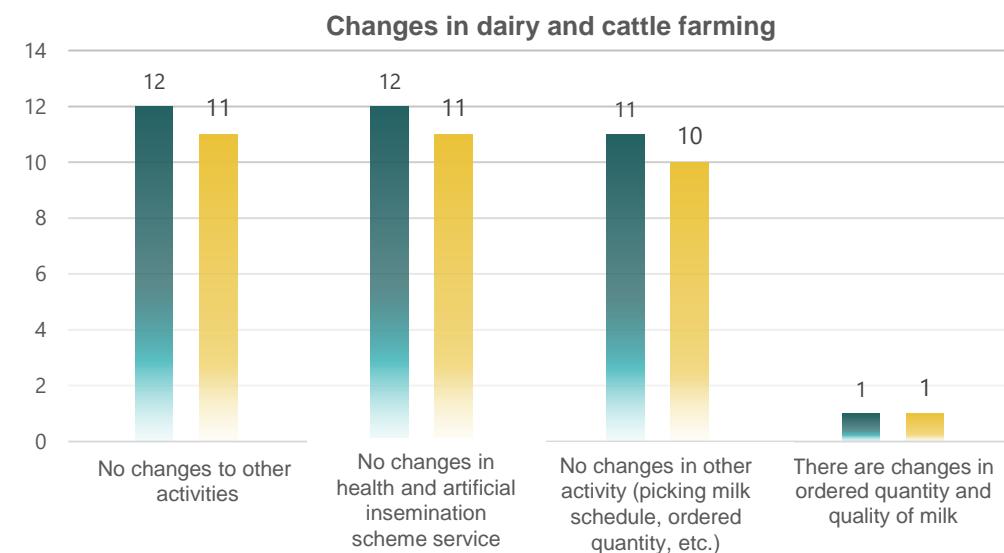
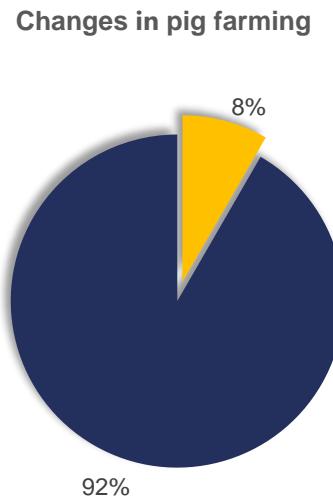
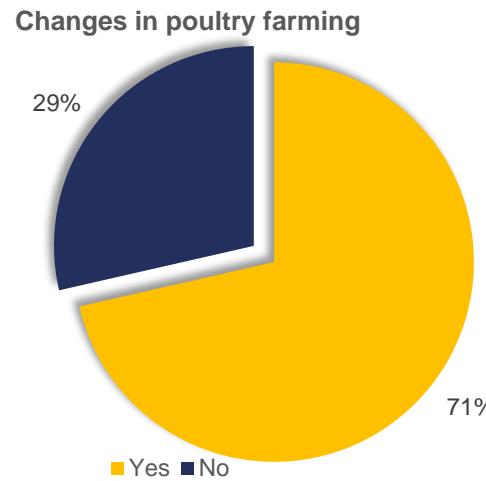


# Rearing Activities

Changes in rearing activities during COVID-19

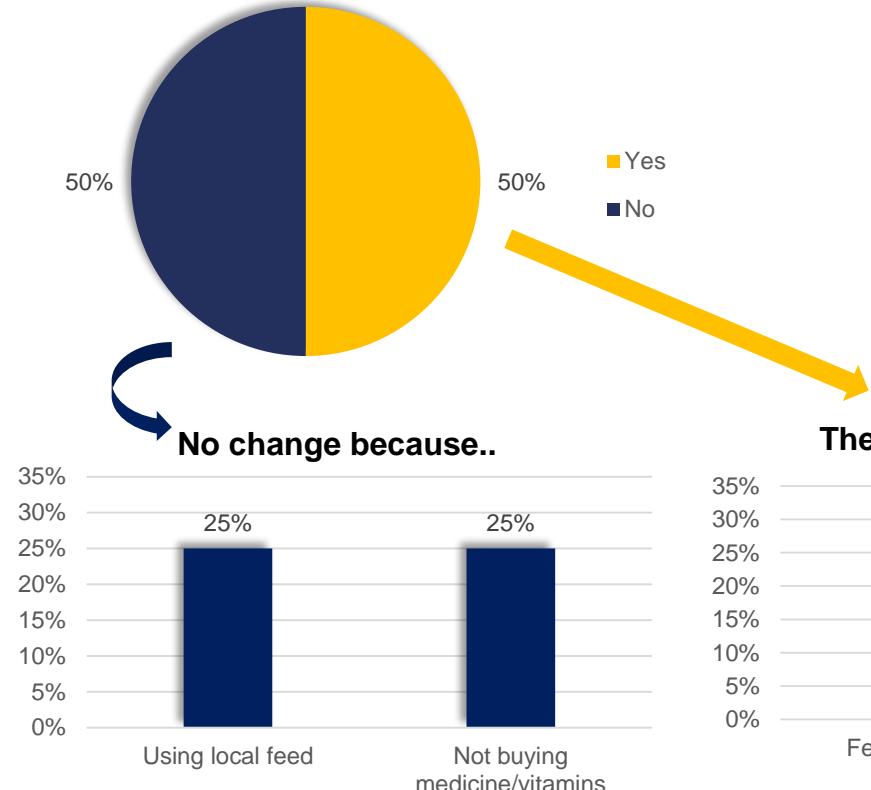
# Changes in Rearing Activities

- In contrast to the cattle, dairy and pig sectors, respondents from the poultry sector in NTT are facing several challenges due to COVID-19 such as:
  - Limited complete feed (particularly for the Arab chicken species)
  - Limited day old chicks (DOC), because there is no stock available at the kiosks.
  - Customers are not buying chicken, due to the policy to stay at home and social distancing.
- Only 8% of pig farmer respondents said that there are slight changes to pig rearing due to the increasing costs.
- Most of the dairy farmers in East Java and Central Java are **still running their businesses** because farmers see that the dairy market is operating as usual and the dairy cows are healthy.
- There have been no changes to health and artificial insemination scheme services for dairy farmers in East Java and Central Java.



# Changes in Capital

Are there any changes in budgets for pig rearing?



- Only pig farmer respondents in NTT stated that there were changes in rearing costs due to increased prices of feed in the market.
- The pig farmers in NTT who said there were no changes in rearing costs are firstly using traditional feed and secondly not buying vitamins or vaccines.

**“**For now, feedstock is still available at “Kuda Terbang” kiosk, but the price has increased slightly. Drinking water for the pigs is stable and we are now keeping the pigs in cages.

Manggarai, NTT

**“**Farmers' income is slowly decreasing, and on top of that the cost of pig rearing is increasing.

TTU, NTT

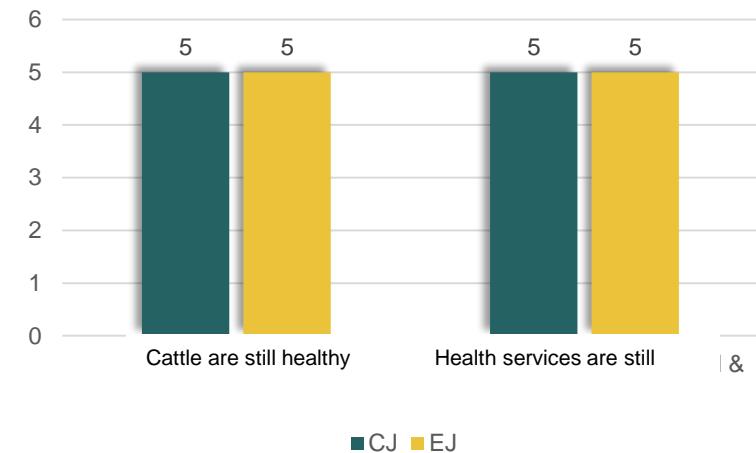
# Changes in Livestock Health and Breeding Services

- When asked about the condition of pigs due to ASF, 58% of respondents said that they lost their pigs due to ASF in March 2020 and only 33% of farmers maintained good hygiene in the pig pens, providing the pigs with complete feed. Check-ups with vets confirmed that their pigs had not contracted ASF.
- 8% of the pig farmer respondents in NTT did not have any information on ASF.
- 16% of the pig farmer respondents in NTT and 14% of poultry farmers in NTT are encountering difficulties in accessing medication because Animal Health Centre workers are no longer visiting them and there is limited stock at the kiosks.
- Most cattle and dairy farmers are confident that their livestock are healthy and have developed additional SOP for milking activities to improve hygiene.

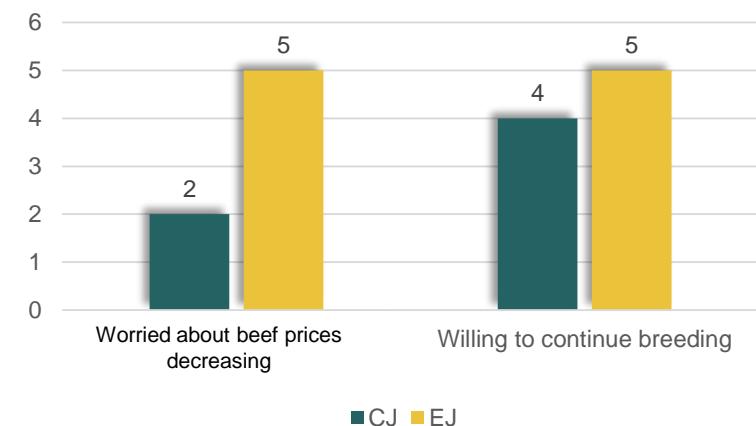
**“** If we want to milk the cows, we need to ensure that the cows are clean. Farmers must wash their hands and wear a mask before milking, and the milk bottles need to be sterilised.

Probolinggo, East Java

Condition of cattle & access to health services



Breeding after the pandemic





# Rearing Inputs

**Challenges and initiatives concerning rearing inputs during COVID-19**

# Changes in Access to Inputs - Feed

## Major challenge: Feed

- All cattle farmer respondents in Central Java and East Java were using concentrated feed before the pandemic and are willing to continue using the same concentrated feed once the pandemic is over. Concentrated feed brands that the respondents will use include Nutrifeed, Superfeed, and Susfeed.
- A significant number of pig farmer respondents in NTT (50%), poultry farmers in NTT (57%), and cattle and dairy farmers in East and Central Java (50%) stated that they are having difficulty in accessing feed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and some kiosks are now limiting the number of purchases per farmer.
- Almost half of the farmers stated that there are changes in feeding dairy cows as some of the feed raw materials are becoming scarce in the market such as concentrated feed, cassava, and tofu dregs.

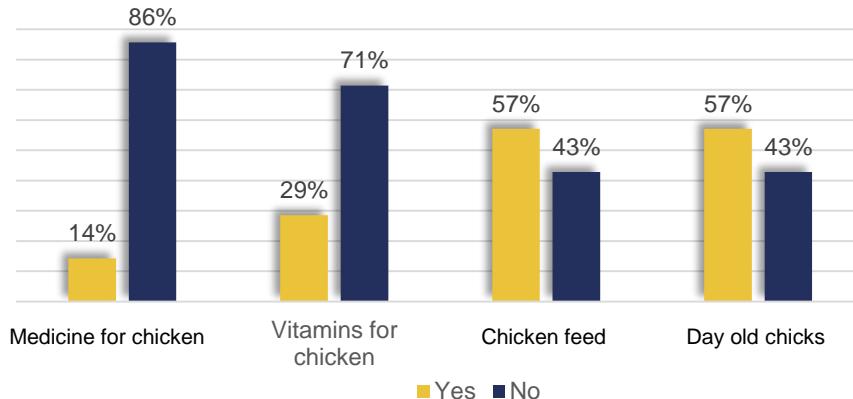
**”**There is a change in poultry feed distribution. Some shops are not allowing large quantities of certain brands of feed to be purchased, such as brand Angsa and 709.

Kupang, NTT

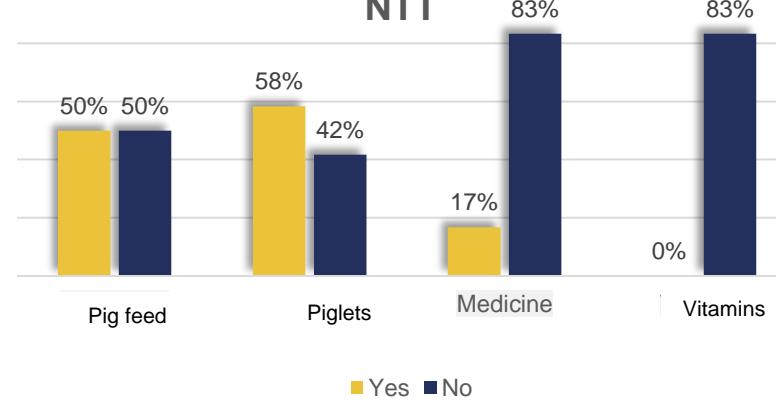
**”**Cattle feed stock has frequently been delayed since the COVID 19 pandemic began.

Klaten, Central Java

## Challenges with inputs - Poultry in NTT



## Challenges with inputs - Pigs in NTT

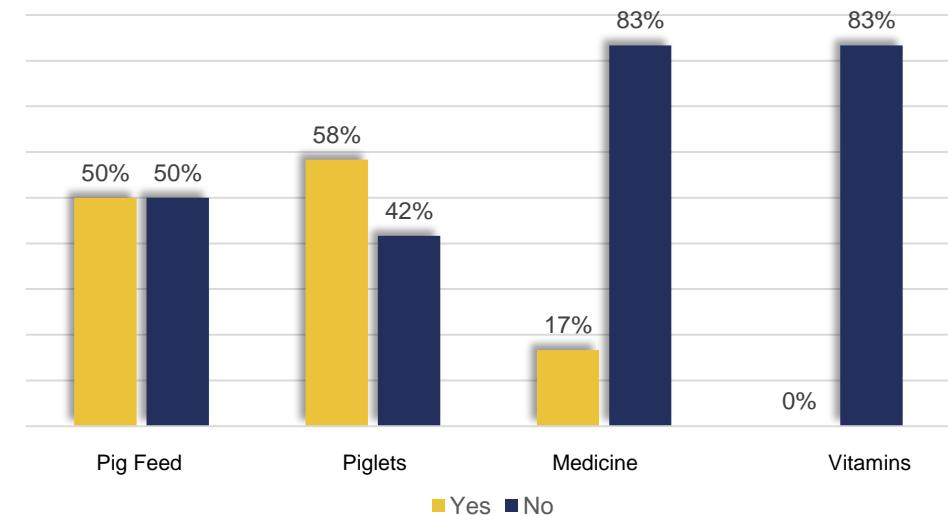


# Changes in Input Access – DOC/Piglets/Calves

Poultry farmers are facing difficulties in accessing DOC due to COVID-19 and pig farmers are having difficulties due to ASF

- DOC in NTT are limited and this is causing higher prices.
- 86% of poultry farmers in NTT said that they had not heard about the restriction on inputs entering their areas despite the government restriction on Arab Chicken species DOC entering NTT because of permit and certification issues.
- Pig farmers have had problems in getting piglets, which is mainly due to ASF, as farmers have lost their adult pigs and piglets. Some farmers are focusing on farrowing sows for the production of weaned piglets, so that they will have stock.
- There have been no issues with calf availability in Central Java and East Java as farmers continue to regularly conduct breeding activities.

Do you have any difficulties getting these inputs during the COVID-19 pandemic?

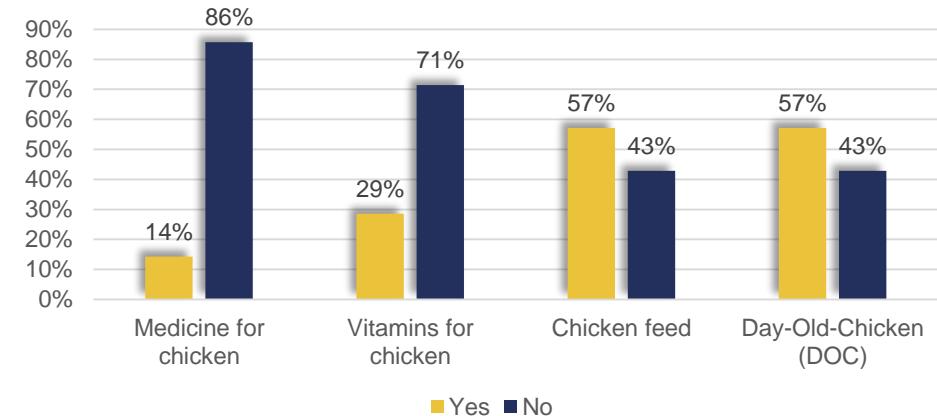


# Changes in Input Usage – Vitamin

## Farmers are starting to encounter challenges in accessing vitamins and health services

- Most of the farmers in Central Java, East Java and NTT said that they still have no difficulties in getting medicine and vitamins as they are still available at the kiosks while 14% are starting to encounter difficulties.
- These difficulties are due to:
  - Medication for pigs is usually prescribed by Animal Health Centre (PUSKESWAN) workers so there are no difficulties in accessing this type of input. However, some farmers said that the Animal Health Centre workers have not visited since the outbreak of COVID-19.
  - Kiosk stock is limited as confirmed by 29% of poultry farmers in NTT and 25% of dairy farmers in Central Java and East Java.

Are there any difficulties in getting any of these inputs?

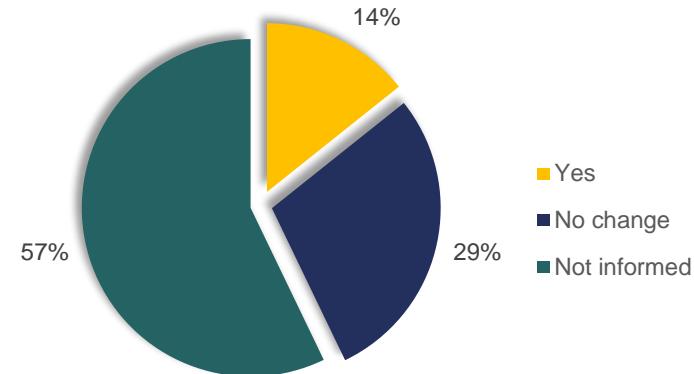


**”** So far, farmers don't have any issues with availability of medicine. There are adequate amounts of stock and the prices haven't changed much, except for feed.

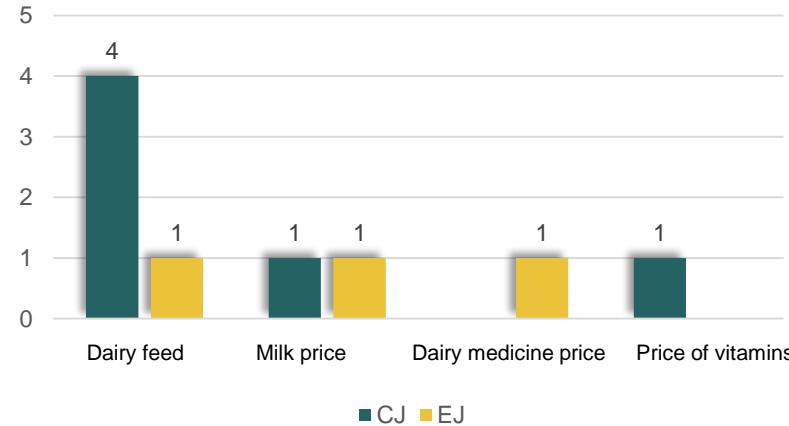
Manggarai, NTT

# Changes in Input Prices

Changes in Poultry Input Prices  
during COVID-19



Changes in input prices for dairy  
farmers



## Increased competition has helped to reduce the price of feed – a case in Naiola, TTU, NTT

- 14% of poultry respondents stated that there have been some changes to input prices. Traditional feed has increased from IDR 500/bag to IDR 1,000/bag.
- The scarcity of DOC has caused the price of DOC to increase. Before COVID-19, the price was only IDR 1,150,000 per box and now it is IDR1,250,000 per box.
- 67% of pig farmers said that the changes in pig rearing costs were mostly due to the increasing price of complete feed such as Pokpan, which has increased from IDR 430,000 per sack to IDR 450,000 per sack in Karot, Manggarai.
- In contrast, the price of the EGP 703 brand pig feed from PRISMA's partner, PT Sierad Produce, has reduced from IDR 420,000 per sack to IDR 395,000 per sack. This is due to the increased number of shops in Naiola in TTU that went up from 6 to 11. PRISMA's intervention has helped increase competition and the availability of feed in this location.

# Updates from Farmers on the Kiosks



90% of respondents stated that kiosks are still open during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there are changes in opening hours and limits to the quantity of feed that farmers can buy.



Inputs such as feed, medicine and vitamins are still available at the kiosks.



The kiosks are providing handwashing facilities and require customers to use a mask when shopping at the kiosk.



Several inputs needed by the poultry sector are not available at kiosks such as DOC and chicken feed.



There are no changes to payment methods at kiosks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Most of the respondents in NTT said that they have not received information on ASF during the COVID-19 pandemic.



17% of respondents said that they are going to kiosks less to reduce the risk of COVID19 and ASF.



*No, the kiosk only provides inputs. In terms of information on ASF, farmers find out via the internet and at events that occur around the neighbourhood.*

Manggarai, NTT



# Receiving Information

**Ways for farmers to receive information**

# Receiving Information

## Social distancing is creating difficulties for farmers to access information

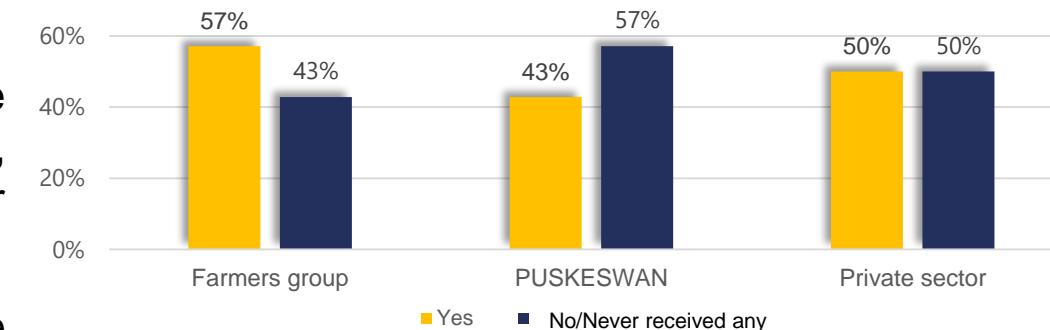
- Poultry farmers in NTT said that they cannot attend farmers group meetings, due to the government's instruction for social distancing. 60% of dairy farmers in East Java also said the same.
- Poultry farmers in NTT usually receive information from the private sector via the kiosks. However, since the spread of COVID-19, farmers have not often been going to the kiosks to buy inputs or discuss chicken farming activities.
- 50% of the pig farmer respondents in NTT said that they are experiencing changes in information delivery from the PUSKESWAN since the pandemic started. 17% of respondents said that they did not know, because the PUSKESWAN had never visited them even prior the pandemic.
- Only 16% of dairy farmers in East Java said that activities with the Mantri/extension services have been disrupted.

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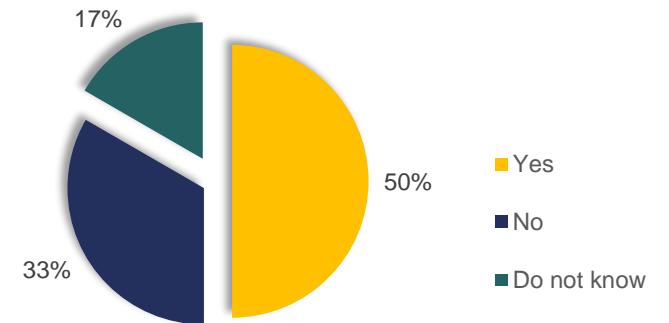
*Yes, the field staff (Nestle) are no longer going to the field or visiting livestock farmers.*

Pasuruan, East Java

Are there any issues on information delivery from these sources?



Have there been any changes to information delivery from extension services/PUSKESWAN/Dinas during COVID-19?



# Sources of Information

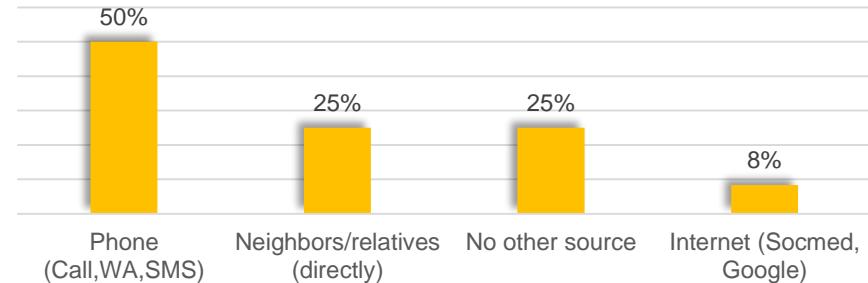
## Social distancing is creating difficulties for farmers in accessing information

- 42% of pig farmer respondents in NTT said that information on pig rearing has not been disrupted as they still have access to telephone and the internet (Google).
- When asked whether farmers have new platforms or media to receive information during the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the farmers stated that they are not using any new platforms/media to receive information but continue to use the telephone, WhatsApp, social media, Google and their neighbours.
- All of the dairy farmers in East Java and Central Java are receiving information on dairy farming. 33% of them are getting information from online sources (WhatsApp, phone).

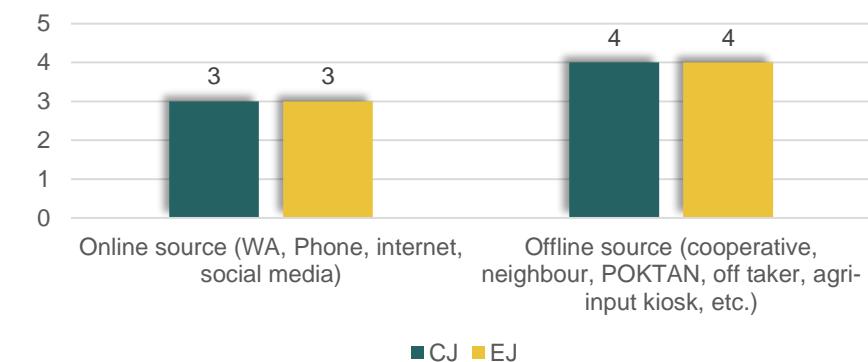
**“** There are no pig farmers group meetings, so information can only be sourced from TV, SMS, or calls.

Manggarai, NTT

Other sources of information during COVID-19



Other information sources





# Livestock Markets

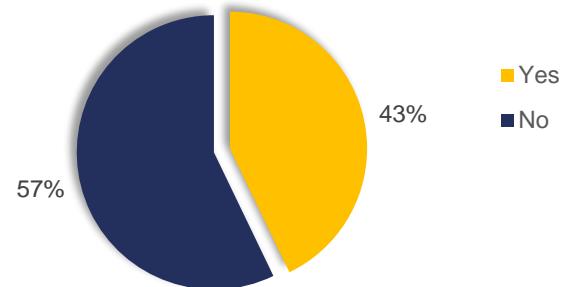
Livestock sales performance during COVID-19

# Changes in Selling Activities

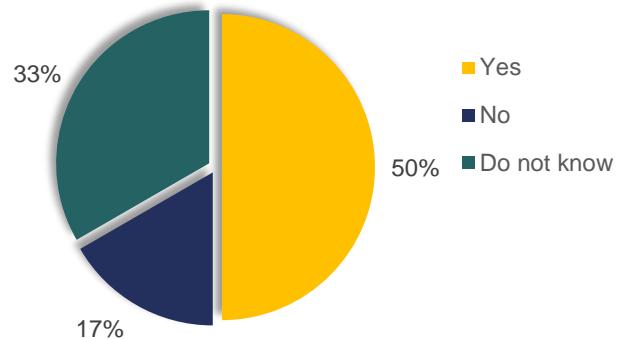
Pig and poultry farmers are encountering difficulties in selling their products

- **43% of the respondents reported that selling chicken has been difficult due to:**
  - Off-takers have stopped buying chicken as restaurants have closed down due to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Customers are not buying live chickens during the COVID-19 pandemic
- While the price of pigs and pig stocks are both stable, **pig sales are decreasing** due to **markets closing** and **limited consumers buying pigs**.
- Most of the dairy farmers said that they have not experienced any changes in selling milk to off-takers/milk factories/cooperatives, while only one respondent said that prices had increased, but that happened before the pandemic.

Have there been any challenges in selling chicken during the COVID-19 outbreak?



Have there been any changes in pig\* sales in the market ?

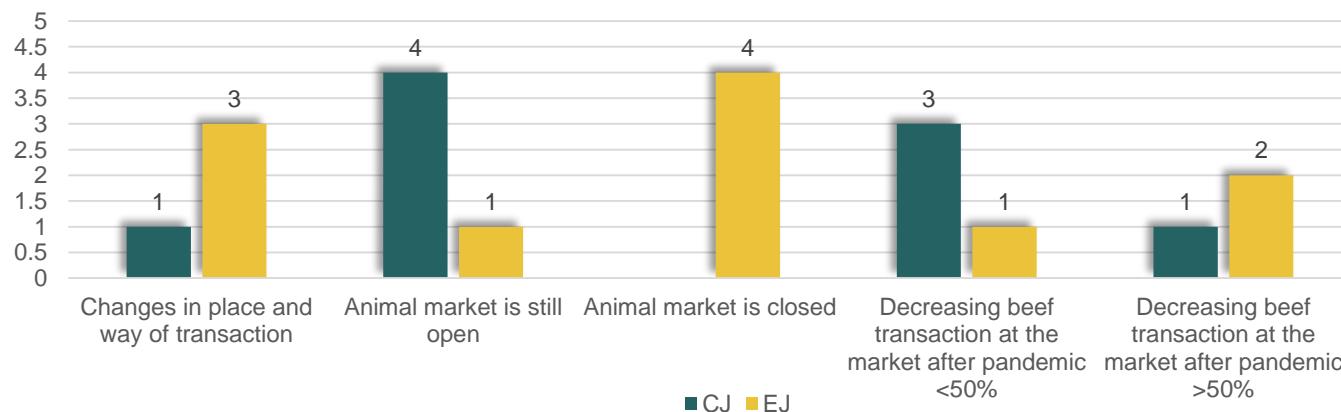


# Changes in Selling Strategies

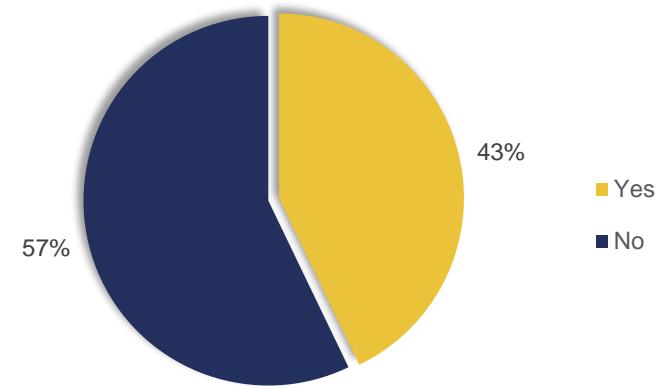
Social distancing has created difficulties for farmers to access information

- 43% of poultry farmers have started to sell their chickens via Facebook. They have also developed strategies of providing order-delivery services, lowering the price of chicken, and promoting chicken to friends and relatives.
- Most animal markets in EJ have been closed, whereas in CJ they are still operating normally. There have been changes to transaction locations in EJ due to the closure of the animal market. Transactions are taking place at respondents' homes.

Cattle markets in Central Java and East Java



Do you have any particular strategy for selling chicken during the COVID-19 pandemic?



“Usually cattle are sold at animal markets, but at the moment off-takers come to our houses instead

Tuban, East Java



# Financing

Farmers' access to financing during the COVID-19 pandemic

# Changes in Financing Behaviour

**42% of respondents have loans with banks or cooperatives**

- Some farmers with loans, stated that they are having problems finding solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic as it is difficult to find chicken buyers and pig sales have decreased.
- 33% of dairy farmers in CJ and EJ who have loans said they are having difficulty to repay their loans and the banks have not responded to their loan waiver applications.
- 17% of poultry farmer respondents in NTT said that they will request a loan if the pandemic continues and if they cannot earn income from chicken farming.

**“** The off-takers who own restaurants no longer buy chicken, because their restaurants are closing down and they have no more customers.

Manggarai, NTT

**“** Yes, I will request a loan if Corona continues and I do not get any income from chicken farming.

Manggarai, NTT

**“** Yes, I borrowed money from the factory. The repayments are made every month by deducting money from the milk I sell to the factory.

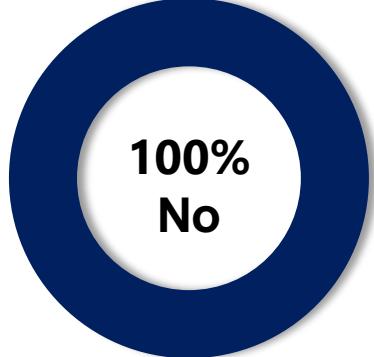
Pasuruan, East Java

**“** During Corona I haven't repaid my loan, which usually gets paid every 6 months. It's due in June.

Klaten, Central Java

# Updates on New Government Schemes

Have you heard about the new loan scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic?



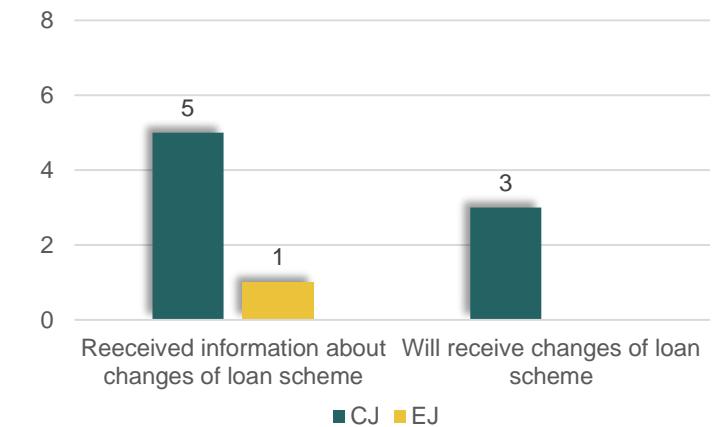
When asked if there was a new loan scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic, none of the respondents from NTT had heard about it.

**I have not heard or received information about new loan scheme.**

Manggarai, NTT



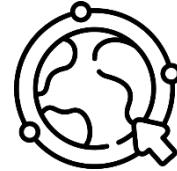
## Changes to Loan Schemes



- Five dairy farmers in CJ and one in EJ who still have loans said they had received information about changes to the loan scheme from TV/YouTube/local banks and other sources.
- Only three dairy farmers in CJ believe that they will receive access to the loan scheme changes.

**Yes, they explained the payment method and the interest rates.**

Boyolali, Central Java

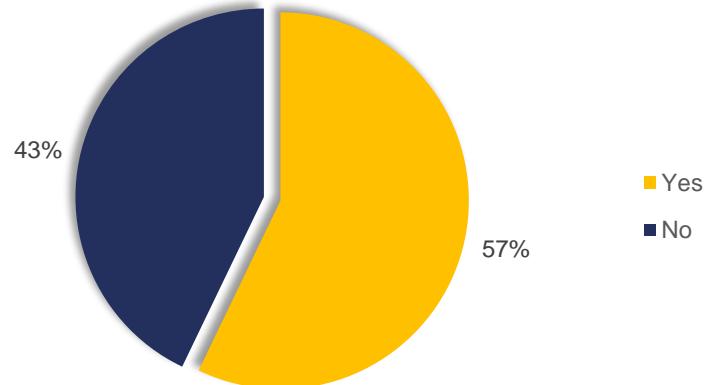


# Internet Usage

**Farmers' internet behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic**

# Internet Usage

Internet usage for promoting chicken and gaining information on chicken farming in NTT



- 43% of poultry farmers in NTT, 50% of pig farmers in NTT and 45% of farmers in EJ and CJ are actively using the internet during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Farmers are using the internet to find information on good rearing practices and to buy and sell livestock.
- The remaining respondents are not actively using the internet because they do not have the facilities. The farmers in this category only use phones to make calls or send texts.
- There are indications that these farmers do not know how to promote their products on the internet. Intervention regarding ICT literacy for these farmers would help them to cope with the current situation.

“ Yes, especially for information on the impact of Corona on livestock farming.

Lamongan, East Java

“ No, we buy agricultural products and animal rearing products directly from the agri-input kiosk.

Tuban, East Java

“ Yes it is easier to access everything through the internet, but I do not have smart phone.

# Summary

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- Farmers are aware of COVID-19 and are complying with the government recommendations to prevent infection. Dairy farmers have even changed their SOPs to improve hygiene.
- The main challenges in livestock farming during the COVID-19 pandemic are:
  - Feed stock is becoming limited
  - DOC are becoming limited and they are increasing in price
  - Animal health products and services are becoming limited
  - Difficulties in selling products due to closure of markets.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers have started to adjust their plans on improving rearing practices, using the internet to access markets and information, and applying for loans due to the increased rearing costs.

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# Thank You!

Devi, Henny, Imam, Renata, Ica, Yuni, Danang

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*The views, findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this publication are not the views of the Government of Australia and the Government of Indonesia.*