The outbreak of the novel Corona virus pandemic has left so many sectors lamenting, the agricultural sector inclusive. In many parts of the globe, it has become almost impossible for farmers to run their usual activities due to the fear of contamination and the measures put in place by states governments to curb the spread of the virus. Both agribusinesses and small holder farmers alike are feeling the effects of this pandemic though at different levels. The greatest fear is the challenge of food shortage which may become another cause of deaths if not properly handled.

The agricultural sector in Cameroon and in the North West in particular has witnessed difficulties for the past three years due to the socio-political instability in the region. Despite these challenges, small holder farmers have been able to ensure food sufficiency all these years. But with the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been a drastic fall in activities in the agricultural sector as a result of fear of contamination and measures put in place by the state to help curb the virus.

The local agricultural sector and the rural advisory services have been finding it difficult to cope taking into consideration the new challenges faced by all. Efforts are being made by both the farmers and advisory services to adapt and keep up with their activities so as to ensure continuity and food security.
Up to now, Rural Advisors would do on-the-farm routine visits and assessment; organize regular meetings with farmers and seminars. Nowadays, with the current trend of battling with the corona virus, they are adopting open air meetings and also over the phone assessments and advice. Though not very satisfying to some, it is solving issues and helping to bridge the gap.

While the small holder farmers on their part are experiencing a whole lot of challenges ranging from reduction in the labor force, a decrease in food and animal production and increase in cost of production, increase in prices in transportation since vehicles now carry fewer passengers; drop in market prices of some food stuff and drastic hikes in prices of some emergency products and irregular markets days. There are also huge post harvest losses as a result of shut down in restaurants and borders to neighboring countries like Nigeria, Chad, and Equatorial Guinea which serve as major markets for agricultural products.

Farmers are forced to sell at give away prices just to avoid waste. Tomatoes and other garden crops used to be carried to these countries by wholesalers via road and sea but not anymore since the event of COVID. But there are ways out.

Cameroon does not experience total lock down like some other nations, and farmers have come up with precautionary ways and innovations to adapt and cope with the restrictions imposed on them by the pandemic. The different adaptive measures are being practiced such as: attending open space meetings with advisors while respecting distancing; on-the-phone assessments with advisors; creation of WhatsApp groups to share ideas and photos; frequent and effective communication with clients on social media; creating alternative market outlets and distribution systems, and more.

The struggle is real and the fight for survival is unending as farmers push hard to meet up with life's demand which starts from farm-to-mouth.