



An impact of COVID-19 on Indian Agriculture

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India is currently confronting its most noteworthy emergency since its freedom. There is a two months lockdown to authorize self-separating to forestall the spread of COVID-19 and straighten its development bend. It is regular that all the while, the economy is on finished bed rest. The activity is to discover the expense of this lockdown. Internationally, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) expects moves in the inventory of and interest for nourishment. It cautions of a world "nourishment emergency" if nations don't shield defenceless individuals from craving and malnourishment, and de-stop up nourishment supply chains. Thus, the India has cautioned that the COVID-19 emergency could trigger "nutritional deficiencies" around the globe. The World Food Program (WFP) has noticed that the COVID-19 emergency is taking steps to influence a large number of individuals previously made defenceless by nourishment frailty or lack of healthy sustenance. Little and negligible ranchers will likewise be severely influenced on the off chance that they can't keep working their territory, win profitable item costs, and access markets for purchase or sale.

As can be seen, aside from basic administrations, power, gas, water supply and part identifying with broadcasting, money related administrations (banking) and, open organization, safeguard, and so forth, all different segments have been totally closed. The effect on horticulture, which is regular in nature, can't be discovered precisely. Our survival is dependent on agriculture and a good harvest depends on quality seeds delivered to farmers by the seed sector, both public and private. As we are in the corona virus crisis, it is imperative that good seeds and other farm inputs reach farmers in time for the *kharif* season.

During these difficult occasions, how does Indian agriculture react to the emergency and how do government estimates influence 140 million ranch family units the nation over and from that point sway the economy of a significant nation in the creating scene. We evaluate the quick difficulties that COVID-19 has presented to the homestead division and recommend alleviation measures to guarantee a feasible nourishment framework in the post-emergency period. In this informational review, we will discuss the impact of COVID-19 in Indian agriculture industry. The problems in agriculture at the moment are primarily related to (a) labour availability and, (b) inability to access markets for produce due to issues in transportation as well operation of markets.

The non-accessibility of work has harmed tasks in numerous parts. A few pieces of farming that have the advantage of conveying innovation for gathering, similar to

paddy and wheat, are generally more protected since they frequently don't need to rely upon huge number of work. The expanding utilization of mechanical gatherers for paddy has helped in the current conditions, however their between state development has been seriously shortened. In any case, business crops are definitely hit as they will in general be progressively subject to transient work. Thus, the deficiency of vagrant work has brought about a sharp increment in day by day compensation for reaping crops. In numerous territories, the ascent is as high as 50 per cent, making it unprofitable at makers since costs have crumpled due to either absence of market get to including the stoppage of transportation and conclusion of outskirts.

Agriculture producers are especially hard hit with returns on produce shifting from 33% the standard or a total misfortune. In various locals, between state exchange business yields or nearness to urban zones gives advertise access and better costs. These are frequently because of activities of individual ranchers as opposed to coordinate state support. This is frequently the situation of yields like onions, cotton, mango, inland fisheries, blossoms and vegetables. The ascent in labour expenses and absence of access implies that ranchers are gazing at immense misfortunes and henceforth permitting harvests to spoil in the fields, a superior 'stop-misfortune's system. The individuals who have kept away from a total misfortune scarcely squeeze out any cash to take care of the expense not to mention family support or land rent rates. If we bifurcate the impacts of COVID-19 in some areas we can understand the current situation:

Economic impact

Let us first beginning with the topic of costs. It is critical to take note of that even before the COVID-19 pandemic started, Indian economy was confronting an ascent in food costs. Information shows that food swelling had started to ascend from the center of 2019, coming to, by January, 2020, and levels recently achieved in 2013-14 (Fig. 1). Information on the discount value files (WPI) for chose crop gatherings, accessible just till February, 2020, show that while WPI for food articles has been ascending from August, 2019 onwards, the ascent was driven by an ascent in the costs of vegetables; inside vegetables, the cost of onions, trailed by potato and tomato, drove the WPI up (Fig. 2). While onion costs have descended, vegetable costs stayed high even in February, 2020.

The RBI's appraisal is that food swelling weights will fall, since total interest is probably going to debilitate on

account of the COVID-19 emergency. Buyer value lists (CPI) for food additionally show a comparable pattern of an ascent after August, 2019 with some debilitating in January and

February, 2020 (Fig. 3)



Fig. 1. Food inflation rates in India (Source: Trading economics)

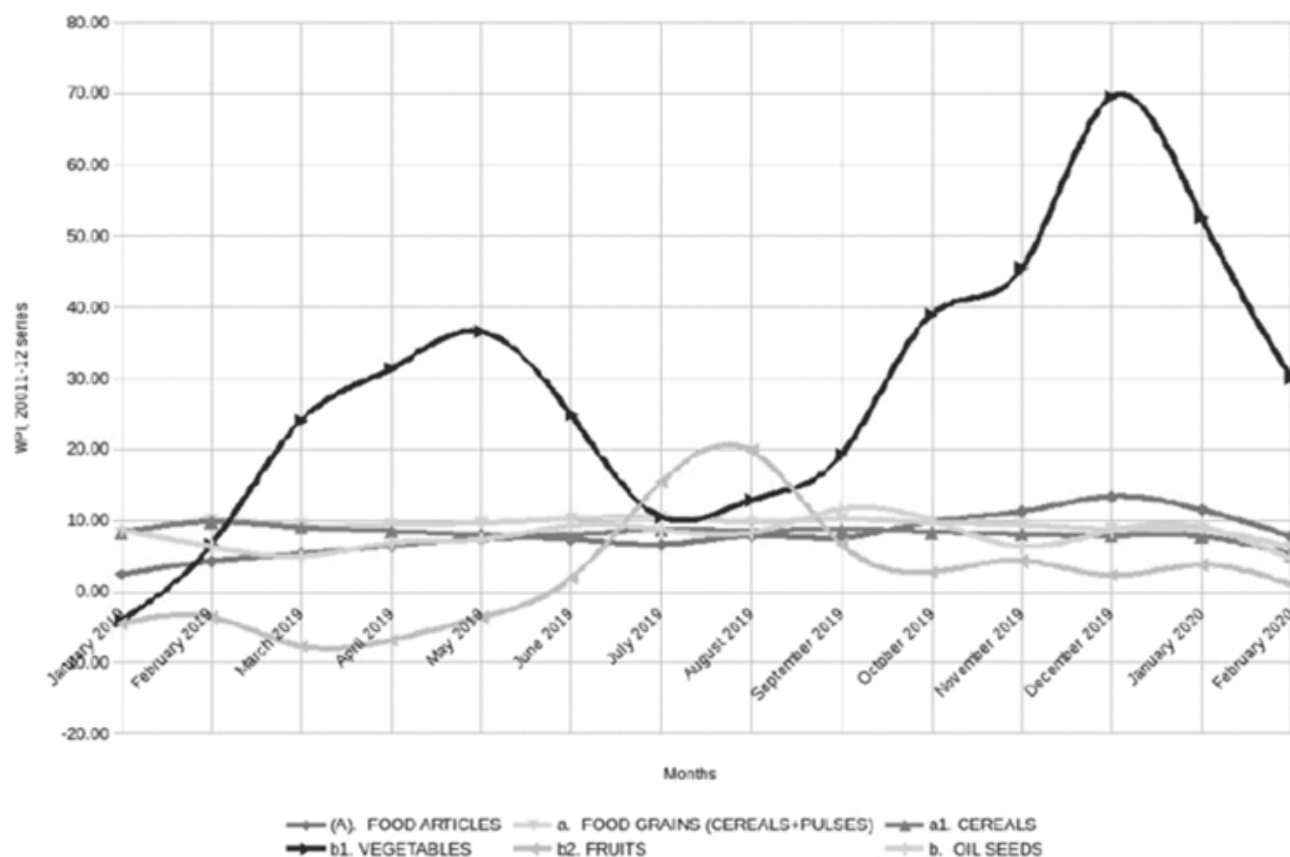


Fig. 2 Percentage change in the WPI of important agricultural commodities, y-o-y (Source: MOSPI)

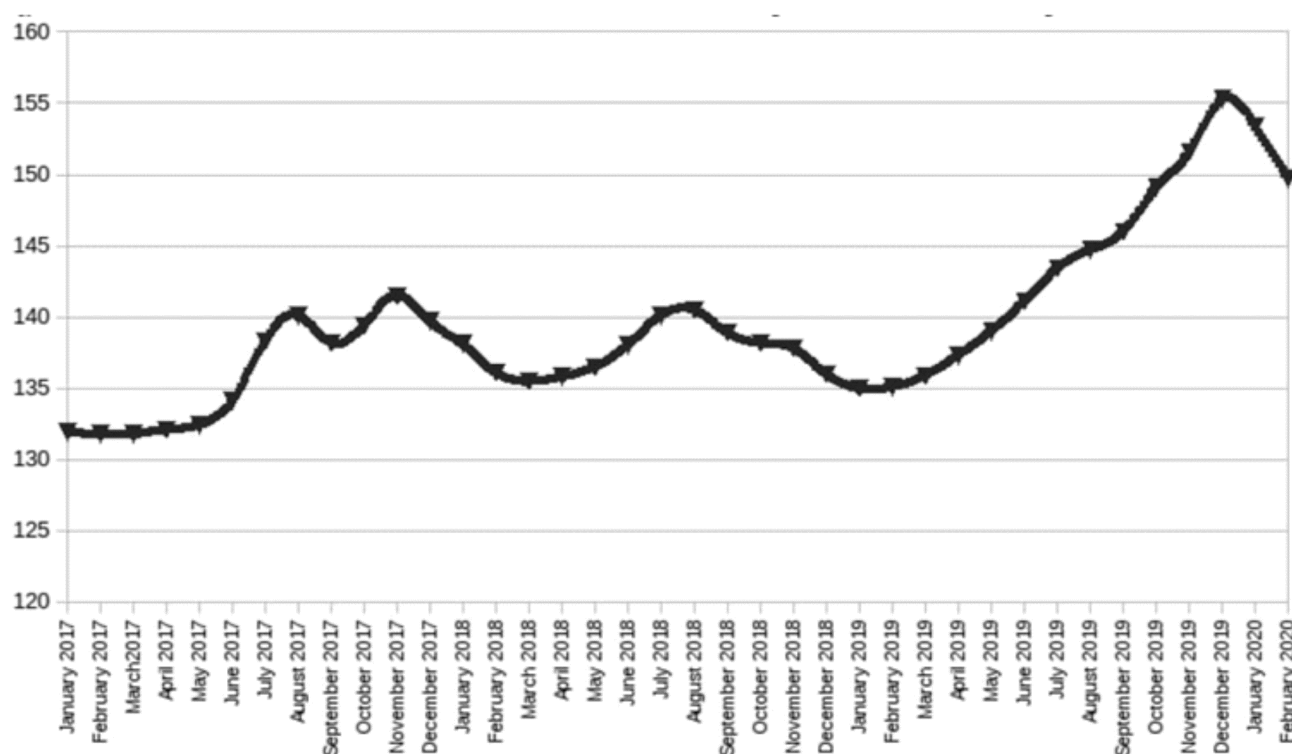


Fig. 3. Consumer Food Price Index, India, January 2017 to February, 2020 (Source: MOSPI)

Harvesting and marketing

Reaping and showcasing crops at the ranch level is in emergency the nation over, in light of the fact that are (a) interruptions in the acquirement of food grains by government organizations; (b) disturbances in the assortment of harvests from the homesteads by private merchants; (c) a lack of laborers to collect the *rabi* crop; (d) a deficiency of drivers in the transportation division; (e) bars in the development of horticultural wares over the significant interstates; (f) constrained tasks of APMC *mandis*; and (g) shutdowns in the retail farming markets. These variables have prompted an emergency in a scope of harvests as well: wheat, grapes, watermelons, bananas, muskmelon, cotton, chillies, turmeric, cumin, coriander, onion, and potato. These bottlenecks have led to a fall in the farm prices of a range of commodities in agriculture. Tomato growers in Maharashtra are reported to be receiving not even Rs. 2 per kg. Grape growers are reported to be facing an aggregate loss of Rs. 1000 crore because of the crisis, as demand has fallen. Wheat prices in Madhya Pradesh are reported to have fallen from Rs 2200/Q to about Rs. 1600/Q by March 25, 2020. For many crops, these prices are also below the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) announced. In Punjab, vegetables that were sold at Rs. 15/kg are reportedly being sold at a mere Rs. 1/kg. In Delhi's *mandis*, the price of broiler chicken has fallen from Rs. 55/kg in January 2020 to Rs. 24/kg in March 2020. In Tamil Nadu, egg prices are reported to have fallen from Rs. 4/egg to Rs. 1.95/egg over the same period.

As the lockdown continues, these costs can be relied

upon to rise, similarly as in the Western economies, the ascent driven by alarm purchasing and flexibly bottlenecks. In spite of such value rises, ranchers are probably not going to be the recipients; most advantages are relied upon to stream to discount and retail dealers just as other go between.

Migration of workers

The arrival of numerous vagrant laborers to their homes has implied that collect activities are not occurring easily, and numerous ranchers are being driven away from the yield in the field. Misfortunes to ranchers will be the most elevated in such cases. While mechanical reapers can be utilized, lockdown guidelines disturb their free development. Further, in certain spots, a lack of drivers/administrators for these reapers has additionally been accounted for. As machine fix shops are shut and mechanics become inaccessible for work, save parts are not effectively accessible, prompting numerous machines being left unused. In the rice plants of Kerala, reports show a lack of transient laborers, which has prompted these factories not securing sufficient supplies of paddy from ranchers. Ranchers have either not reaped by any means, or have collected and left the item close to the fields. Work deficiencies are additionally being knowledgeable about most milk handling plants, cold stockpiling units, and distribution centers. As indicated by the chairperson of AMUL, most milk preparing plants are right now working with half of the work power. Numerous specialists are not revealing for work or have get back additionally on account of the dread of police outrages.

Supply chain

Supply chains have been upset the nation over for a scope of products. The primary authority warning on lockdowns seems to have been poorly considered; prompting the prohibition of various exercises from the rundown of fundamental things (this included even cleanser and sterile cushions till March 28, 2020). A subsequent warning has adjusted this, at any rate incompletely. However, significant thruways and section focuses to states are seeing a heap up of trucks unfit to push ahead. Bus transport is in significant lack at numerous spots, prompting the incredibly sluggish development of products the nation over. APMC *mandis* are not working each day; while some have shut down, others are working just twice or threefold every week. The bottlenecks because of the lockdown are set apart as crosses at the fitting areas. The data for this reason has been sourced from news reports and are thus to be viewed as primer. Likewise, the nearness of bottlenecks may contrast broadly across States/districts.

Shortage of livestock feed

The lack of domesticated animals feed and their accessibility is raising the expenses of creation in numerous creature farming units. This is in spite of the way that poultry has been proclaimed as a fundamental thing. This is prompting the demise of numerous flying creatures at the homestead, or ranchers undertaking alarm selling at exceptionally low costs.

Possible shortages ahead

An immediate consequence of this should make the government weary and alert to a possible sharp spike in the price of vegetables and other commercial crops due to large scale changes in cropping patterns. Large buffer stocks in paddy and wheat mean that food grains shortage due to poor harvest is unlikely, at least this year. The case of commercial crops and vegetables is more complex. The decision to plant, these are largely dependent on realization price in the preceding season. A collapse in returns means that farmers are likely to shift to another crop thereby substantially altering supply dynamics and with it prices. This, in turn, may have a bearing on food inflation.

This is the pinnacle of *rabi* season in India and yields like wheat, chickpea, lentil, mustard, and so forth (remembering paddy for flooded tracts) are at harvestable stage or nearly arriving at development. This is additionally when the homestead harvests come to the *mandis* (showcase yards) for guaranteed acquisition activities by assigned government organizations. In addition, any serious interruption to the flexibility of transient leafy foods, dairy items, fish, and so forth having activated to satisfy the expanding need from a protruding white collar class just as urban and country purchasers, may make unsalvageable harm to all on-screen characters in the gracefully chain. The relocation of laborers from scarcely any parts to their local spots has likewise activated emergency signals, as they are significant for both gathering tasks and post-collect treatment of produce away and showcasing focuses. The Union Home

Ministry, in an extremely noteworthy move, has told to prohibit development of ranchers, ranch workers and collecting and planting related machines from the domain of lockdown.

As the progressing lockdown harmonizes with the *rabi* collecting season, ranchers the nation over admire the government to guarantee continuous gathering of the harvests just as smooth acquirement activities. The Union Home Ministry's roundabout deferring limitations on the between and intra-state developments of ranchers/workers, just as collecting and related homestead machines, is for sure a stage right way. While guaranteeing accessibility of workers for basic ranch tasks, their wellbeing (from any COVID contamination) and government assistance must be organized by the Government frameworks. The offer of dairy items; fish; poultry, and so forth has likewise been hit during the lockdown time frame as the take-up by the composed business players have been influenced because of lack of workforce and transport issues. As climate has been flighty over recent months in numerous parts, gathered produce should likewise be shielded from such dangers.

Need for possible plan

The finish of the lockdown won't end the issues. Actually, they are probably going to be exacerbated at the beginning of the new planting season. The most significant issue that ranchers need to overcome is the issue of reimbursing their yield advance and gold advances at any rate for the individuals who have acquired from the proper financial part. Yield credits are reimbursed among April and May and a new advance is allowed at the beginning of another season. Ongoing value breakdown implies that ranchers are gazing at enormous misfortunes and the vast majority of them are as of now exceptionally obliged and henceforth improbable to have the way to reimburse their credits.

Any inability to do so will imply that they will be compelled to get cash from the casual area at high paces of enthusiasm for the new season. Henceforth, the administration will be all around instructed to think with respect to a rescheduling of credits wherein existing advances are changed over to long haul advances payable over a multiyear time span. There is requirement for government support as help for other rural sources of info. Absence of any help will just exacerbate the farming emergency.

India needs to make more collaboration in food innovation, farming, and biotechnology. Organizing and adaption of development should go about as primary drivers of profitability development and improved manageability. We ought not to neglect to use accessible assets in the correct way. The sufficient, suitable and accessible assets should stream the correct way. The progressing across the country lockdown should be checked on and supplanted with group indicated limitations (as required) in view of epidemiological evaluation, as there is no possible situation of control or end in a brief period. An interdisciplinary group of general wellbeing authorities and social researchers, alongside grassroots political and social initiatives and volunteers, should keep

bringing issues to light about the COVID-19 methods of transmission and strategies for anticipation in the network. Assistance of vagrant specialists to come back to employments after the lockdown in any case staple food creation can be influenced prompting a grave effect on food security. There ought to be an arrangement of value seeds to ranchers by the seed area - both open and private.

Conclusion

The episode of Corona infection began in Wuhan region in China in December 2019 has now gotten a worldwide pandemic influencing about 15 lakh populace with a demise cost of about 1 lakh individuals. In spite of the fact that the greater part of the individuals are recuperating every day, this organic fiasco has seriously shaken the world economy and has had an enormous negative ramifications on the equivalent. The most touchy agribusiness segment which is the foundation of our nation is additionally hit with the externalities of COVID-19 flare-up. Despite the fact that not straightforwardly, yet in a roundabout way the fallout of crown infection spreading impact for example lockdown the nation over has ended up being a dark opening for the cultivating network. The ranchers are probably going to feel a plunge in their pay. For the most part because of lockdown the limitations on the development of agribusiness products from its place of creation to a definitive customer has been hampered. Another issue lies with the deficiency of work power due to the dread of viral transmission which at last prompts the wastage of gathered items, chiefly foods grown from the ground vegetables which are transitory in nature, in the rancher's field itself. The Corona infection pandemic has

put a potential sway on the farming item flexibly chain which is a complex trap of maker, transporter, distributor, retailer lastly the shopper. Likewise the arranging of the *kharif* and *rabi* crops has been placed into an end which will cause a significant halt in the up and coming rural seasons. In any case, it can be battled with the incorporated endeavors of the focal what's more, state governments alongside the exploration foundations what's more, expansion administrations. To keep away from the unfavorable effect of COVID-19 episode and to keep the farming division unaffected the legislature should give specific rules for agribusiness activity, the value structure ought to be taken into thought and changed such that the ranchers are not under any sort of budgetary misfortunes, the cultivating network alongside the workers ought to be ensured from Corona infection by keeping up social separating along with help with managing the frenzy and mental misfortunes during this time and obviously giving the ranchers a stage for direct showcasing to satisfy the need of the buyers by home conveyance of the agrarian create and stay away from any sort of wastages in the gathered items.

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