

Covid-19 impacts on Indian agriculture- A study

B.Sailakshmi

*Department of Economics,
CSSR&SRRM Degree&PG College,
Kamalapuram
University of Yogi Vemana
YSR, kadapa*

ABSTRACT: *The ongoing health emergency around COVID-19 has exaggerated all walks of life. The Covid-19 pandemic will close down huge parts of the world economy for at least a few months more. Governments have swung into measures since the Corona virus attack created an extraordinary situation. India stated a three-week nation-wide lockdown till mid-April in the early phase, which was consequently extended for achieving acceptable containment of the virus spread. COVID-19 is troublemaking some actions in cultivation and supply chains. Preliminary information shows that the non-availability of emigrant labor is interrupting some cultivation activities, mainly in northwest India where wheat and pulses are being cultivated. There are disruptions in supply chains because of shipping problems and other issues. Prices comprise dwindle for wheat, vegetables, and additional crops, yet consumers are often suffer more. Media reports show that the shutting down of hotels, restaurants, sweet shops, and tea shops during the lockdown is previously gloomy milk sales. Meanwhile, poultry farmers have been poorly hit due to propaganda, mainly on social media, that chicken are the carriers of COVID-19. I focus on the likely impacts on farming, food and nourishment safety measures and livelihoods.*

KEYWORDS: *COVID-19, health emergency, cultivation*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The continuing health emergency around COVID-19 has exaggerated all walks of life. Self-protective lives of people pain from the disease as well as frontier health responders have been the main concern of nations. Governments have swung into actions since the Corona virus attack twisted an extraordinary situation. India declared a three-week nation-wide lockdown till mid-April in the initial phase, which was consequently extended for achieving satisfactory containment of the virus spread. During these difficult times, how does Indian Agriculture react to the crisis and how do government actions affect 140 million farm households across the country and subsequently impact the economy of a very significant country in the developing world? We evaluate the instant challenges that COVID-19 has posed to the farm sector and put it to somebody improvement measures to ensure a sustainable food system in the post-crisis time.

The India has taken in the early hour's action to limit the increase of COVID-19, ordering a 21-day nationwide lockdown for its population of 1.3 billion people starting March 25. The novel corona virus has multiplied widely in India relatively recently compared to other countries, and the number of reported infections is low so far, with 5,274 cases and 149 deaths as of April 8. However, as COVID-19 cases are growing fast, there is great concern about the disease's potential increase and impact. India has to be ready for a possible rush forward. Testing should be expanded extensively. The government views the pattern of the spread of COVID-19 as similar to the 2009 H1N1 influenza virulent disease, meaning the spread is unlikely to be uniform. After the 21-day period expires, it is planning to keep up the full lockdown in "hotspot" areas and relax it in other places. These procedures may help in limiting the health crisis, but—as in other countries—the complete shutdown of all economic activities except necessary services will generate an economic disaster and misery for the poor, with enormous job victims and rising food uncertainty. Goods and services are not supplied in sufficient quantities to meet obtainable demand. In addition, because there is a lockdown, people do not undertake out to purchase goods and services. Thus, as a result of reduced utilization, overall demand also falls. Recent crises in the comprehensive real economy have been caused by either demand slowdowns or supply shocks or economic crises. The Covid-19 pandemic hit an easily broken economic world. In India too, the banking sector was reeling beneath far above the ground levels of NPAs and little require for fresh credit even before the virulent disease erupted. Lesser economic activity implies that most debt repayments bring to a close. An extended lockdown would definitely lead to a banking crisis as well. Sectors of the economy extremely dependent on

exports, such as the spice and cultivated area sectors in India will face a fall in export demand and prices. Sectors of the economy dependent on imports of liaison goods or raw equipment will see imports halted and production stopped. Above all, remittances fall, harmfully affecting the nation's foreign exchange capital. The fall in oil prices is diminishing but the fall in domestic demand for oil counteracts this effect.

Farming in India is a State subject, and as has been pragmatic in past years, policies and programs vary from one State to the other. On the other hand, farming activities, being interrelated in neighboring regions, agri-sops or payback must not deform the market scenario. Waiver of farm loans, evidences put forward, have not fully benefitted the mainstream of small and secondary farmers. Rather, it affects the future credit behavior of the borrowers and thus negatively impacts the agricultural credit culture on the whole. As the *khariif* season is rapid imminent, institutional lending of crop loans should be prolonged and facilitated for smooth flow of credit to borrowing farmers. Relaxation of the norms by Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) allowing farmers to sell their manufacture further than the chosen *mandis* will positively ease the burdens of farmers. State Governments must mechanism awake their machineries for soft procurement operations of farmers' saleable surpluses at MSP (minimum support price) or through other price hold up schemes

II. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on the secondary data like Journals, Books, News Papers and Websites

III. DISCUSSION

Covid-19 Impacts on Agriculture

In spite of all these actions and in view of ongoing limitations on movements of people and vehicular traffic, concerns have been raised on the subject of unconstructive implications of COVID-19 virulent disease on the farm economy. This is the hit the highest point of the Rabi season in India and crops like wheat, gram, lentil, mustard, etc. are at crop growing stage or almost reaching maturity. This is also the time when the farm harvests reach the market yards for assured procurement operations by chosen government agencies. In addition, any cruel interruption to the supply of unpreserved fruits and vegetables, dairy products, fish, etc. having mobilized to meet the increasing demand from a stuffed middle class as well as urban and rural customers, may create irreversible harm to all actors in the supply chain. The relocation of workforce from few parts to their resident places has also triggered fear buttons, as they are critical for both harvesting operations and post-harvest handling of manufacture in storage and marketing centers.

As the ongoing lockdown coincides with the *Rabi* harvesting season, farmers across the country look up to the Government to ensure continuous harvesting of the crops as well as smooth procurement operations. As weather has been very unpredictable over past few months in many parts, harvested produce must also be protected from such risks. COVID-19 is upsetting some actions in farming. Preliminary information shows that the non-availability of emigrant labor is interrupting some harvesting tricks, mainly in northwest India where wheat and pulses are being harvested. There are disruptions in supply chains because of transportation problems and other issues. During these difficult times, how does Indian Agriculture counter to the crisis and how do government measures affect 140 million farm households across the country and subsequently impact the economy of a very important country in the developing world? We assess the urgent challenges that COVID-19 has posed to the farm sector and suggest improvement measures to make sure a sustainable food system in the post-crisis period.

These procedures may help in preventive the health crisis, but—as in other countries—the complete shutdown of all economic actions except necessary services will create an economic crisis and unhappiness for the poor, with huge job losses and rising food insecurity.

❖ The government has in the approved manner issued lockdown strategy that excused farm operations and supply chains. But achievement troubles leading to labor shortage and declining prices should be rectified.

❖ Maintenance supply chains implementation well is critical to food security. Farmers must have sustained admission to markets. This can be a mix of classified markets and government procurement

❖ Small poultry and dairy farmers need more embattled help, as their pandemic-related input supply and market-access troubles are critical.

❖ Farmers and farming workers should be included in the government's support wrap up and any social defense programs addressing the emergency.

❖ As lockdown actions have greater than before, demand has risen for home delivery of provisions and E-commerce. This trend should be optimistic and promoted.

❖ The government should encourage trade by avoiding sell to other countries bans and import limitations.

Economic Impact on Agriculture: India

Let us first begin with the problem of prices. It is important to note that even before the Covid-19 virulent disease began, Indian economy was facing a rise in food prices.

According to the RBI's 7-th bimonthly economic policy report, dated March 27, 2020: "as regards inflation, the prints for January and February 2020 indicate that actual outcomes for the segment are management 30 bps above projections, amazing the onion price shock". On the other hand, the RBI's evaluation is that food price rises pressures will fall, since collective demand is likely to grow weaker because of the Covid-19 crisis. Consumer price indices (CPI) for food also point to a comparable tendency of a rise after August 2019, with some deteriorating in January and February 2020

In the case of milk, AMUL has distinguished that its procurement from 36 lakh farmers transversely India is going on efficiently. In terms of capacity, this amounts to distributing 1.50 lakh litres of milk every day crosswise India. As the lockdown proceed, AMUL expects milk require to send regrets. In other words, the overall supply condition of necessary food items does not emerge to be too troublesome in India at this point. Though, if the lockdown proceeds away from a month, the supply state of affairs will turn into tighter. Attached with supply bottlenecks, prices may begin to increase. Here, the price curve may start to look like a U-shaped curve, with a sharp fall in prices in the early days of the lockdown replaced by a razor-sharp improvement in prices in the later days. Regardless it seems that comfortable circumstances with esteem to overall supply, it is important that we emphasize some concerns that exist by the side of the ground level, mainly with regard to the supply chain and the smooth organisation of farm operations.

First, harvesting and selling crops at the farm level is in emergency transversely the country, because are

- ❖ Disruptions in the procurement of food grains by administration agencies;
- ❖ Disruptions in the gathering of harvests from the farms by individual traders;
- ❖ a scarcity of employees to harvest the *rabi* crop;
- ❖ a deficiency of drivers in the shipping sector;
- ❖ Blockades in the pressure group of agricultural cargo across the major highways;
- ❖ Closure or incomplete operations of APMC *mandis*; and
- ❖ Shutdowns in the wholesale agricultural markets. These factors have led to a crisis in a range of crops too: wheat, grapes, watermelons, bananas, muskmelon, *chana*, cotton, chillies, turmeric, cumin, coriander, onion, and potato.

Secondly, these bottlenecks have led to a fall in the farm prices of a range of supplies in agriculture. In Punjab, vegetables that were sold at Rs 15/kg are supposedly being sold at a simple 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 takings, these prices can be predictable to raise, just as in the Western economies, the rise ambitious by fear trade and supply bottlenecks. in spite of such price rises, farmers are doubtful to be the beneficiaries; most remuneration are predictable to gush to comprehensive and retail traders as well as other middlemen.

Thirdly, the comeback of many immigrant human resources to their homes has destined that crop operations are not enchanting place easily, and many farmers are being forced to leave the crop in the field. Wounded to farmers will be the highest in such cases. While unthinking harvesters can be used, lockdown regulations disrupt their free movement. Further, in some places, a shortage of drivers/operators for these harvesters has also been reported. As mechanism repair shops are closed and mechanics become busy for work, spare parts are not easily accessible, leading to many machines being left unused.

Fourthly, contribute chains have been disrupted transversely the country for a range of cargo. The first official notification on lockdowns appears to have been ill-thought out; leading to the keeping out of a number of activities from the list of necessary items. A second notification has corrected this, at least to some extent. Yet, main highways and doorway points to States are considering a pile up of trucks incapable to move forward.

Fifthly, the scarcity of farm animals feed and their accessibility is raising the costs of production in many animal husbandry units. This is regardless of the fact that poultry has been affirmed as a necessary item. This is leading to the death of many birds at the farm, or farmer's activity panic selling at very low prices

IV. CONCLUSION

Improvement agricultural operations frequently are necessary. All along the supply chain, marketing and governmental innovations are more and more important. Thus, there is a need to understand the particular role of government and private sector in increase agriculture and facilitating the implementation of more percipient practices at the farm and agro-food firm level. One post-COVID-19 challenge will be to restore economic activities including those in food and agriculture. The government should speak to these concerns with a more rational policy atmosphere to meet food demand sustainability. Suggested policies can include--hopeful association of knowledge age group and transport between public and private actors, obvious distribution of information to strengthen government management over food market, guide framers to make coherent manufacture decision, streamline risk administration policies. It is also critical to improve considerate

of overall economic and well-being situation of farm domestic to intend farm-income support measures targeting those in need. However, there is still a enormous lack of Research & Development (R&D) in connecting dots to find out the strong link between agriculture and nourishment. Time stress us to invest in widespread R&D for beating stunting, homicide and various other forms of undernourishment. A high level of consciousness is necessary at all levels. Imperative research incorporating Indian data and scenarios need to build models for India and design effective social protection schemes will be helpful. The government must create enabling and facilitating atmosphere to get rid of the further delay.

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