



Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Indian Agriculture

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Abstract

India is the country of villages and major part of the population lives in rural areas. Agriculture and its related services are the major source of livelihood of this population. In the past few decades agriculture sector was reduced and it became a hidden unemployment of farmers and its dependent workers. The price hike in agriculture equipments, pesticides and other essential things, low price of crops, cost of living of villagers are some major problems of farmers. The income of farmers and working labours is unorganized and with very slow growth rate. The cultivation of crops and income of workers depend on seasonal regimes and natural disasters. There are many examples of natural disasters and various types of pandemics had destructed the life of these workers in last decades. All these problems caused migration of workers from rural areas to urban centers in search of better employment. This increases the load of unorganized workers or population in cities. Recently Covid-19 pandemic affected the life of each and every person in most of the part of globe. It was very severely affected the life of unorganized labour in urban areas and caused a large scale migration of workers from urban to rural areas. This migration increased the population load and unemployment in rural areas. Present study reveals the post covid-19 pandemic effect on agriculture related unorganized workers and farmers during 2019-2020.

Key words: Agriculture, unorganized workers, migration, seasonal regimes, agriculture equipments, pesticides.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic is the 1st and foremost human disaster. Over two hundred countries and territories have confirmed active medical cases caused by a coronavirus. At the presentation of this study, there square measure of 216919 corona positive cases detected until the fourth Gregorian calendar month 2020, in India. Throughout this challenging time, however, will Indian Agriculture reply to the crisis, and the way do government measures affect one hundred forty million farm households across the country and, after that, impact the economy of a big country within the developing world? We tend to assess the immediate challenges that COVID19 has to exposure to the farm sector and counsel mitigation measures to confirm a property food system within the post-crisis amount. With the increasing cases of corona cases, the govt imprisonment transport services, all public and personal offices, factories, and restrictions on every kind of activity except solely several like medical, milk, and groceries. Some reports are aforesaid that there was employment loss of forty million folks within the country, principally within the unorganized sector. In India, agriculture staff square measure operating to feed the entire nation; several of them square measure unable to raise themselves bent poorness and food security. As a pestilence spreads, the continued offer of food is critical to preventing food crises, and to cut back the negative impact on the economy of the country, coordinated policy responses square measure has to support business and sustenance and dealing conditions of a lot of agriculture staff. The fast unfold of the coronavirus within the rural population affected the operating of agriculture workers; they're illegal from acquiring imprisonment. In such kinds of conditions, the operation of agricultural activities suppressed. This was the precious time of wheat crop that's the most crop on that our food security depends. Agriculture needs day to day operating within the fields, the leap of your time in practices affect the yield production, and its quality additionally. It's not solely operating mayhem on the stock market; it's inflicting a big worsening within the general economy. Imprisonment interrupted the availability of agricultural merchandise to wholesale markets, and it caused holdup the costs of vegetables, fruits, grains, pulses, etc. to the farmers. It created a significant loss in the financial gain of farmers—the labor-related to farming additionally affected because of the holdup within the business economy.

Agriculture staff additionally full of coronavirus infection because of a lack of special protection (sanitizers, soap, masks, and residential disinfectants) and awareness. The old-age staff et al. littered with some diseases lost their lives. Even among the various segments of the economy, the agriculture sector of different regions of the country is variable among producers and agriculture wage laborers. Some business crops square measure drastically hit as they rely on migrant labor has resulted in a very sharp increase in daily wages for harvest crops in several areas, the growth is as high as half, creating it remunerative for producers since costs have folded because of either lack of market access and as well as the stoppage of transportation and shutting of borders. This is often in distinction to areas wherever migrant laborers have come home from urban areas, and this has semiconductor diode to a pointy decline in agriculture wages—Lockdown in COVID-19 transferral transportation, agriculture market (mandis), and different retail market demand. Farmers were setting out to face difficulties harvest their rabi crops. Per the last printed census information, there square measure as several as forty eight. 2 crores staff in the Asian country. Out of those, there square measure eleven.9 large integer farmers, 14.4 large integer landless agriculture staff, and 21.9 large integers nonagricultural staff. Nearly none of them get any mounted monthly financial gain.

2. MIGRATION OF AGRICULTURE WORKERS

When federal imprisonment was declared in Bharat, whereas the rain-fed regions of the country failed to have standing crops, the areas blessed with irrigation facilities either had standing crops of wheat, vegetables, oilseeds, or pulses able to be harvested. The regional variation within the cropping pattern as a result of the inequality in the development of agricultural systems and wage rates contributes to the movement of migrant farm laborers in search of employment. Within the northern states of geographical area and Haryana, it's a busy season of wheat gather, which employs massive numbers of migrant laborers from the jap states of Bihar and Jharkhand UN agency are used in each the sector operations also because of the loading and unloading activities at the govt. Run acquisition centers. It's calculable that geographical area involves a million migrant employees and Haryana concerning zero.6 million employees throughout this rabi season, of whom belong to the state of Bihar. Within the wake of this pandemic, on the one hand, there has been a shortage of labor in these northern states to hold out harvest and post-harvest operations, whereas on the opposite side within the countries from wherever the employees couldn't migrate the agricultural wages have fallen because of oversupply of labor. The migrant employees in their home states have conjointly been adversely full of the absence of all nonfarm work throughout this era of imprisonment.

Some migrant employees, though, had been able to trip different states for work.

The shameful death of a twelve-year previous group girl, Jamla Makhdam, attributable to exhaustion, as she walked for three days to her home state, Chhattisgarh has thrown some light-weight on the multitude of deprivation that the migrant agricultural employees need to suffer. Jamla had migrated to Telangana state as Associate in Nursing associate agricultural worker to reap chilies beside others from her village. Child labor continues as a result of the miserable condition of the families and communities they belong to, conjointly attributable to the caste-ridden vision of policymakers. The Census of 2011, according to the presence of 10 million child laborers in an Asian country, of whom 62 % were employed in agriculture. The despicable work and living conditions that the migrant agricultural laborers square measure subject to are not distinctive to the Asian country. This pandemic crisis has created the policymakers confront with the essential work of the migrant farmhand's United Nations agency keep agricultural production running. The Food and Agriculture Organization noted in one among its policy briefs, "Migrants play a substantial role at intervals the agri-food systems. Measures poignant the movement of people (internally and internationally), and succeeding labor shortages will have control over agricultural worth chains, poignant food convenience, and market prices globally."

3. POST COVID CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE

Despite these measures and visible of constant restrictions on movements of individuals and traffic, issues are raised relating to negative implications of COVID19 pandemic on the farm economy. This is often the height of rabi season in Bharat, and crops like wheat, gram, lentil, mustard, etc. are at the harvestable stage or nearly reaching maturity. This is often conjointly the time once the farm harvests reach the mandis for certain acquisition operations by selected government agencies. Moreover, any severe disruption to the provision of destructible fruits and vegetables, dairy farm products, fish, etc. having mobilized to fulfill the increasing demand from a bulging class also as urban and rural customers, might produce irreparable injury to any or all actors within the provide chain. The migration of employees from few elements to their native

places has conjointly triggered panic buttons, as they're crucial for each gathers operations and post-harvest handling of turn out in storage and promoting centers. The Union Home Ministry has notified to exclude the movement of farmers, farm laborers, and gather and sewing-related machines from the orbit of imprisonment.

As the current imprisonment coincides with the rabi gather season, farmers across the country hunt to the govt. To make sure uninterrupted gather of the crops also as swish acquisition operations. The Union Home Ministry's circular waiving restrictions on the Inter-State and Intra-State movements of farmers/laborers, also as gather and connected farm machines, ar so a step in the right direction. Whereas guaranteeing the convenience of laborers for significant farm operations, their safety (from pandemic) and welfare should be prioritized by the govt. Systems. The sale of dairy farm products, fish, poultry, etc. has conjointly been hit throughout the imprisonment amount because the uptake by the organized business players has been affected because of a shortage of workforce and transport problems. As weather has been erratic over the past few months in several elements, harvested turn out should even be shielded from such risks.

4. RELAXATION IN AGRICULTURE CROP LOANS/DEBTS

Agriculture in Bharat could be a State subject, and as has been discovered in past years, policies and programs vary from one state to the opposite. However, agricultural activities, being interconnected in neighboring areas, agri-soaps, or advantages, should not distort the market situation. The release of farm loans, evidence recommends, hasn't benefitted the bulk of tiny and marginal farmers. Instead, it affects the long run credit behavior of the borrowers and so negatively impacts the agricultural credit culture altogether. Because the Kharif (rainy/wet) season is quick approaching, institutional disposal of crop loans ought to be enlarged and expedited for a swish and adequate flow of credit to borrowing farmers. Agri-inputs – seeds, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, etc. – ought to be pre-positioned for pure convenience. The personal sector should play a significant role in the necessary policy When federal imprisonment was proclaimed in an Asian nation.

In contrast, the rain-fed regions of the country didn't have standing crops; the dowered areas with irrigation facilities either had standing crops of wheat, vegetables, oilseeds, or pulses able to be harvested. The regional variation within the cropping pattern as a result of the inequality in the development of agricultural systems and wage rates contributes towards the movement of migrant farm laborers in search of employment. Within the northern states of geographic region and Haryana, it's a busy season of wheat gathering, that employs massive numbers of migrant laborers from the Japanese lands of Bihar and Jharkhand World Health Organization square measure utilized in each the sector operations also because of the loading and unloading activities at the govt. Run procural centers. It's calculable that geographic region involves 1,000,000 migrant employees and Haryana concerning 0.6 million employees throughout this rabi season, of whom belong to the state of Bihar. Within the wake of this pandemic, on the one hand, there has been a shortage of labor in these northern states to hold out harvest and post-harvest operations, whereas on the opposite side within the countries from wherever the employees couldn't migrate the agricultural wages have fallen thanks to an oversupply of labor. The migrant employees in their home states have conjointly been adversely littered with the absence of all nonfarm work throughout this era of imprisonment. Some migrant employees, though, had been ready to visit completely different states for work. The shameful death of a twelve-year previous social group lady, Jamla Makhdam, thanks to exhaustion, as she walked for three days to her home state

Chhattisgarh has thrown some light-weight on the multitude of deprivation that the migrant agricultural employees ought to suffer. Jamla had migrated to Telangana state as associate degree agricultural employee to reap chilies beside others from her village. Kid labor continues as a result of the miserable economic condition of the families and communities they belong to, also, because of the caste rode vision of policy manufacturers. The Census of the Year 2011 indicated the presence of 10 million kid laborers in Asian nations, of whom sixty-two percent were utilized in agriculture. The despicable work and living conditions that the migrant agricultural laborers square measure subject to don't seem to be distinctive to Asian nations. This pandemic crisis has created the policy manufacturers confront with the essential work of the migrant farmhand's World Health Organization to keep agricultural production running. The Food and Agriculture Organization noted in one amongst its policy briefs, "Migrants play a considerable role within the agri-food systems. Measures touching the movement of individuals (internally and internationally) and ensuing labor shortages can have control over agricultural worth chains, touching food handiness and market costs globally."

5. POST COVID CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE

Despite these measures and insight of constant restrictions on movements of individuals and traffic, issues are raised concerning negative implications of COVID19 pandemic on the farm economy. This is often the height of rabi season in Asian nations and crops like wheat, gram, lentil, mustard, etc. square measure at the harvestable stage or virtually reaching maturity. This is often conjointly the time once the farm harvests reach the mandis for assured procural operations by selected government agencies. Moreover, any severe disruption to the availability of biodegradable fruits and vegetables, dairy farm merchandise, fish, etc. having mobilized to satisfy the increasing demand from a bulging socio-economic class also as urban and rural customers, might produce irreparable harm to all or any actors within the offer chain. The migration of employees from a few components to their native places has conjointly triggered panic buttons, as they're crucial for each gathering operation and post-harvest handling of manufacture in storage and selling centers. The Union Home Ministry, in a {very, a} significant move, has notified to exclude the movement of farmers, farm laborers, and gathering and sewing-related machines from the orbit of imprisonment. As the in progress imprisonment coincides with the rabi gathering season, farmers across the country search to the govt. To confirm uninterrupted gathering of the crops also as swish procural operations. The Union Home Ministry's circular waiving restrictions on the inter- and intra-State movements of farmers/laborers, even as gathering and connected farm machines, square measure so a step in the right direction. Whereas guaranteeing the handiness of laborers for essential farm operations, their safety (from pandemic) and welfare should be prioritized by the government systems. The sale of dairy farm products, fish, poultry, etc. has conjointly been hit throughout the imprisonment amount because the uptake by the organized trade players has been affected thanks to the shortage of men and transport problems. As weather has been erratic over the past few months in several components, harvested manufacture should even be shielded from such risks.

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Agriculture in Asian nations may be a State subject, and as has been determined in past years, policies and programs vary from one state to the opposite. However, agricultural activities, being interconnected in neighboring regions, agri-soaps, or edges, should not distort the market state of affairs. Relinquishment of farm loans, evidence recommend, hasn't benefitted the bulk of little

and marginal farmers. Instead, it affects the longer-term credit behavior of the borrowers and so negatively impacts the agricultural credit culture altogether. Because the Kharif (rainy/wet) season is quick approaching, institutional loaning of crop loans ought to be enlarged and expedited for a swish and enough flow of credit to borrowing farmers. Agri-inputs - seeds, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, etc.-ought to be pre-positioned for straightforward handiness. The non-public sector should play a significant role in necessary policy support.

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