

## “An Analytical study on farmers Problems in Nagpur District”

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### **i. Introduction:**

Farmers(Agriculture sector) are the backbone of the Indian Economy.Agriculture supplies bulk of wage goods required by the non agriculture sector. It provides raw material for a large section of industries.Agriculture not only helps to feed the large population, but it also supports the principal manufacturing industries with raw materials.Agriculture is an important sector of Indian economy as it contributes about 17% to the total GDP and provides employment to over 60% of the population.

However, In 2020 COVID 19 pandemic comes and its very bad impact on farmers.When on March 24, 2020 the Government of India ordered a complete lockdown of the country as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it had serious unwanted implications for farmers and the supply chains for agricultural produce. This was magnified by the fact that, as typically in developing countries, India's economy is strongly based on farming, industrialization of its agricultural systems being only modest. This paper reports on the various consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown for farming systems in India, including the economy, taking into account the associated emergency responses of state and national governments.

The nationwide lockdown came at an unfortunate time for farmers, as it was the harvest season for the Rabbi (winter) crop. The lockdown created both a shortage of labor and equipment - migrant laborers in India usually move to rural areas during harvest, and smallholder farmers often rent harvesting equipment as this is cheaper than purchasing it.

Smallholder farmers are a crucial part of the food value chain in India, as well as a critical element of the global food system. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new risks that threaten livelihoods as well as food *security*. India is home to about 120 million smallholder farmers who contribute over 40% of the country's grain production, and over half of its fruits, vegetables, oil seeds and other crops. Much of the global share of food staples such as rice and wheat come from India, and almost half of the population in India depends on agriculture for their livelihood.

Every year, Indian farmers face risks such as low rainfall, price volatility and rising debts. But risks from the COVID-19 pandemic are putting new challenges in front of a sector that is already under threat.

Consequently, farmers have not been able to harvest their bumper crops of cereal and oil seed harvest this season. In some places the crops have been abandoned, while in others the harvest is coming more than a month late, in hand with limited and more expensive labor.

Farmers are facing major problems because ongoing pandemic like non availability of labour at the time of plantation and also at harvest. It increase a labour cost. That's why more amount of crop was waste or late in market, it's decrease the income of farmers.

- India's ongoing lockdown to control the spread of corona virus is threatening the agriculture sector as it overlaps with the time of harvest.

- The lockdown has derailed harvest preparation and lack of agricultural labour to help in harvest and restrictions on transportation of produce despite being given waivers as essential services.
- Farmer leaders and agriculture experts criticized the relief package announced by the government to aid farmers impacted by the corona virus. They also expressed fear that once the lockdown is lifted the crash in prices would severely impact the income of millions of farmers.

The months of March and April in India are the time rabi crops like wheat, gram, tomatoes, mustard etc. are ready for harvest. Rabi crops include crops that are sown in the winter season. Following an unpredictable monsoon last year in many parts of India, which included untimely rains in some and drought in other parts, the lockdown soon after is another blow to India's farmers.

The ongoing health crisis around COVID19 has affected all walks of life. Protecting lives of people suffering from the disease as well as front line health responders have been the priority of nations.

**The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2020a) states that COVID-2019 is affecting agriculture in two significant aspects: the supply and demand for food. These two aspects are directly related to food security, so food security is also at risk.**

### **Absence of agricultural labour holds up harvesting**

According to the Indian government's data, around 263 million people are involved in the agriculture sector and, of them, more than half of them are part of agricultural labour who do not own farmland but work on others for wages, harvest the crops and support the sale of the crops at the mandis. Mandis are agricultural markets in every state where farm produce is bought, temporarily stored and sold.

Acute scarcity of labour has posed a serious challenge to crop procurement and is threatening to leave a lasting impact on agriculture as it will delay the harvest of winter-sown crops, particularly wheat, and is delaying the planting of the next crop.

Apart from procurement, planting of cotton and summer 'moong' pulses is a challenge for farmers in Madhya Pradesh, UP, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan because of concerns of labour shortage as well as availability of fertilizers and seeds. In the absence of adequate labour, farmers are scrambling for harvesting machines. "There is dire shortage of combine harvesters as the number of machines that use to come from other states have come down due to lockdown,". And it's very costly for farmers to rent harvesting machinery.

Farmers are struggling to plant crops. "There is a 50% labour shortage to plant moong and family member have joined in to help in planting of moong. If the lockdown continues, The concerned about planting cotton, chillies, maize and arhar," said a farmer, a farmer and member, Agriculture advisory council, Madhya Pradesh. He said planting of papaya and vegetables would also be hit.

Several farmers informed that rain would increase the moisture content in grain and that they would face difficulty at markets as the procurement agencies would not buy grains with moisture more than the permissible limit.

Reducing the numbers of employees on sites, to enable safe working distances, is occurring in all kinds of industries. And it is one of a number of factors currently impacting the supply chains that transport food from the fields to our fridges.

**The COVID-19 crisis is not permanent, but it has magnified the vulnerabilities already present in the food system in India. Taking stock of the issues can help governments and businesses create stronger, more resilient supply chains and measures to support smallholder farmers, who are critical to the food supply chain.**

Farm supply chains can be redirected to local areas by incentivising farmers to sell more and more of their produce in local cooperative style channels.

**The key lessons are:**

- **Long food supply chains involving multiple stakeholders and entities are clearly vulnerable to shocks such as the pandemic. Mapping and optimizing supply chains will be key for future resilience.**
- **Building a resilient food system is not about production, but also about ensuring access to nutritious food to people in times of crisis.**
- **Smallholder farmers are highly vulnerable to crisis as a result of their limited access to resources, credit and basic healthcare facilities. Measures will need to be taken by governments and businesses to protect the community.**

**“ If agriculture goes wrong nothing will have a chance to go right in our country”**

**“If next generation is stops doing farming then it’s very hard to be survive for humans on the earth”**

We have to serious about agriculture sector to empower the farmers. Government should be work on farmers difficulties. Give best irrigation technology to the farmers and educate about it.

India's corona lockdown has hit supply chains and seen vegetables left to rot in fields. But grassroots initiatives to connect farmers directly to consumers are helping cut waste and boost income.

Finally, we’re making sure that the relief measures the government has announced for farmers, including money, loan waivers, etc., are actually reaching the farmers in real-time. We are doing this by working with farmer producer organizations and leaders of the communities to make connections and meet and engage with district administration either over the phone or in-person depending on what is possible.

### **Review Of Litrature In The Subject:**

Covid-19 pandemic provided many negative effects on world economies and people around the world. The covid-19 creates many threats to sustainability of agriculture sector which is very sensitive because of food supply security needs. First of all, it is necessary to analyse and comprehend the immediate consequences of current pandemic on agricultural and food systems in order to develop necessary actions. The risks, vulnerability, resilience and systemic shifts of agricultural systems need to be better understood in order to adapt to covid-19 pandemic. The aim of this paper is to analyse the negative impacts of covid-19 on agriculture and food systems by applying vulnerability and resilience approach by treating covid-19 like global disaster. The concepts of ‘vulnerability’, and ‘resilience’ which dominates disaster studies historically initiated after the World War II were applied to systematise literature review. The main input of this paper is systematization and grouping of the main measures to enhance resilience of agriculture systems in the face of covid-19 pandemic based on recent scientific studies published in 2020. The future research guidelines are also provided based on conducted systematic literature review.

The covid-19 pandemic has a big negative influence on agriculture sector. Food safety and security were greatly threatened due restrictions on mobility, interaction of people and reduced purchasing

power of people. The most vulnerable groups of population were affected mostly. Therefore, the measures taken by governments to stop the spread of the Corona-19 virus, first of all influenced negatively global food supply systems.

The analysis of literature in the risk-vulnerability and resilience of agriculture systems in the face of covid-19 showed that the resilience of food systems needs to be enhanced by implementing technical, economic and measures. All these policies and measures first of all need to safeguard the health and food supply security of world population.

Technical measures aiming to improve the functional performance level of the infrastructure in agriculture sector are necessary to enhance physical resilience. Organizations and institutions in agriculture sector need to take necessary recovery efforts, considering the absorptive, adaptive, and restorative capabilities of the agricultural systems. It is obvious that the market forces via price mechanisms involuntarily reduce the demand of rare agricultural goods and match supply with demand during pandemic and the banning on such price increases has negative impact on resilience of agriculture systems by diminishing their absorptive and adaptive capabilities of resilience provided by the market price system. However, economic support and subsidies in face of economic losses of farmers allows to recover faster after disaster and are welcomed. The strong communities developed in rural areas can enhance the social resilience capacities of agricultural systems as strong communities pool their resources and survive during pandemic more easily and start rebuilding as government aid always come with delay.

Covid-19 pandemics just deepened prevailing economic and social inequalities around the people and differences in resilience of agricultural systems around the world as well as revealed the need for the enhancement of social nets dependent on income generation and stability of agriculture sector workers.

The current study has limitations as it aims to capture just general and fast effects of the covid-19 disaster on agricultural systems in the widest sense. The future research is necessary to investigate how various market disruptions of food supply affect small and larger scale farms, dependent on the volatile market prices and supply chains disruptions. The negative effects on food security need to be investigated further to define necessary changes in food systems to increase their resilience. Also, the wider impacts of covid-19 on other producers in different sectors, industries and regions need to be investigated. It is also necessary to explore further how the size of the farm, technological equipment available, production modes and practices provides for increase resilience of farms and what are the best policy measures for boosting resilience of agricultural systems.

### **International status**

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health crisis that is already having devastating impacts on the world economy – both directly and through necessary measures to contain the spread of the disease. These impacts are also being felt by the food and agriculture sector. While the supply of food has held up well to date, in many countries, the measures put in place to contain the spread of the virus are starting to disrupt the supply of agro-food products to markets and consumers, both within and across borders.

Limits on the mobility of people across borders and lockdowns are contributing to **labour shortages** for agricultural sectors in many countries,

### **National status**

The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest global humanitarian challenge the world has faced since World War II. India had moved swiftly, implementing a proactive, nationwide, 21-day lockdown, with the goal of flattening the curve and using the time to plan and resource responses adequately. India's effort to combat COVID-19 virus has been praised over the globe. COVID 19 is disrupting some activities in agriculture and supply chains. Preliminary reports show that the non availability of migrant labor is interrupting some activities, particularly in northwest India where wheat and pulses are being harvested.

### **Top 10 Issues for Farmers in 2020**

To gain a clearer perspective of the scale of challenge, here are ten issues that are currently facing modern farmers:

1. Climate change.
2. The ongoing trade war between the United States and China.
3. Rapidly depleting reserves of freshwater around the world.
4. The looming food crisis.
5. Economic insecurity in the United States.
6. Ongoing closures of food processing facilities and local businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. Depletion of natural resources due to widespread industrial agricultural practices.
8. High rates of food waste, which threaten to intensify food insecurity around the globe.
9. Disruptions in trade networks and fluctuations in global demand for agricultural products.
10. Economic strife and crippling debt for individual farmers.

### **Significance of the study**

This study has been undertaken to explore the various aspect of farmers problems not only from association and trade point of view in the Nagpur but also to understand perception of traders and impact on consumer. This will help to understand the pros and cons of the farmers for trade and consumer in Nagpur region. The implication of the will be useful for policy makers to consider the findings for further improvement in the existing rule of association.

### **Objective+**

- In COVID 19, How much the farmers are in profit and loss?
- The farmers and the buyer are convenient from the produce.

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