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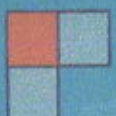
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The Impact of Covid-19 on Economics Activity: Evidence from Agriculture Sector **Dr. Chandrakant P. Kamble**

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Abstract:

The existing coronavirus pandemic is a global crisis, having prospective impact on the global population. India, as a part of the world, is also facing crisis in agriculture sector. Covid-19 pandemic not only hampering the traditional life, but also its impact on agriculture is compound and mixed across various segments that form the agricultural value chain system. This agriculture sector is facing number of problems due to the non-availability of migrant labourers which is intersecting some harvesting activities. Transportation problems lead to distractions in supply chains. In the pre Covid-19 period, agricultural GDP practiced an average growth rate of 3.3% per year in the last five years period 2014-15 to 2019-20 with fluctuation situation. Terms of trade for agriculture looks to have improved with the nominal agricultural GDP growth was 11.4% as compared to real growth of 4% in 2019-20. Impact of Covid-19 on agriculture has been much less as compared to industrial and services sectors. But the initial lockdown did affect agricultural events. The supply chain is necessary through several channels, input distribution, collecting, procurement, transport obstacles, marketing and processing, Shutdown of restaurants, transport blocks etc. reduced the demand for agriculture production. These productions included as fresh food, poultry and fisheries products, more affecting producers and suppliers. This paper studies an impact of COVID-19 pandemic situation on agriculture sector with supply chains, migrant labour, price level etc. Eventually all economic activities were slowdown due to *the Covid-19 pandemic situation*.

Key Words: Covid19 pandemic, agriculture, supply chains, migrant labour, cash flow, public goods.

Introduction:

The impact of covid19 pandemic is new phenomena for agriculture sector. First, we should understanding the overall food supply position of agriculture in the in India. The food situation in April and May 2020 looked sufficient, there were likely to be general food shortages in country. But food supply dependent on imports food situation. During the pandemic period there were particularly food exporting countries restricted exports of food. In the case of many agriculture products, that the extreme reduction in supplies created shortages in many are developing countries like India. Secondly, the distractions in food supply chains encouraged in the pandemic period. An International trade in agricultural market shortened during the lockdown as imports fell and dockyards remained closed. As per estimated data more than 2000 markets were considered to the fall in daily market arrivals for 16 crops across the country. Thirdly, investigation of prices indicates that global price tables for food, dairy and meat fell in April and May 2020. For India, we do not find an across the board rise in both wholesaler and retailer prices of agri-cultural goods during the lockdown. The come down in wholesale price indices for cereals, vegetables, eggs and poultry product by farmers. At the same time, the rise in urban CPI for cere-als, vegetables, and egg, mainly in April 2020, was suggestive of reduce supply chains in these commodities.

Finally, the Covid-19 pandemic made the human values and raises the cost of migrant labour. After the lock-down initiated, the flexibility of migrant workers was severely restricted and large numbers of migrant workers returned home to themselves. In this situation agriculture was acutely affected; suffered from the impacts of labour short-ages across the country.

Objective of the study:

This study observes the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Indian agriculture in the lockdown period with the various aspects of farming.

Research Methodology:

In this study secondary data have been used for collected through various websites, Newspapers, Books, repots and E-Journals.

Impact on Indian agriculture:

Covid-19 made significant economic and social troubles in India. In the agriculture including rural households, smallholders, migrant labour were affected by loss in income, livelihood and farm and non-farm incomes. The start of the coronavirus pandemic has coincided with the peak harvesting season. As the markets are locked down, there is a hazard to the crop in over 100 lakh hectares in the country. The impact of covid19 varies widely among different part among agriculture producers and consumers. This impact has elaborated one by one.

1. Disorders in supply-chain

The lack of transport facilities run with attentive closing roads has an effect on the movement of agriculture activities. All migratory harvest labours have adversely impact. Also, trucks and tractors are

not completely working in agriculture; it means agri-machinery of farming was not working in lockdown period. Therefore supply chains have not been working properly in the agriculture production process. Due to supply disturbance vast amounts of food started getting wasted leading to huge losses for Indian farmers. However the closure of all hotels, restaurants, sweet shops and tea shops during the lockdown period affected the milk producers harmfully. Because lack of demand of the milk of the dairy farmers. Unable to export their produce many farmers are also neglected their seasonal products such as grapes, pomegranate, and Bananas etc. Eventually disruption in supply chain affect decline in exports of vegetables.

Peak harvest with no gaining

This is the peak of Rabi season in India and major crops like wheat, gram, lentil, mustard, paddy etc. were at a harvestable stage or almost reaching maturity. When the farm harvests reach the peak level government agencies should have design patter of market or price but it is not determined at all over country.

Shortage of labour due to reverse migration

The shortage of labour has impact on operations in agriculture sector. Consequently, the non-availability of migrantlabour has resulted in a large increase in daily wages for harvesting crops. Some parts of agriculture that has the bonus of arranging technology for harvestings, like Paddy and Wheat, are relatively more protected. In the lockdown labour unavailability, harvesting of current season crops like cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, and onion was adversely affected.

Fall in prices of agriculture commodity

Agricultural prices have come down due to lack of market access because transportation and closure of borders. The rise in daily wage of labour and lack of access means that farmers are staring at massive losses. Decrease in wholesale prices of vegetables (25%). Tomato and onion arrivals and prices were low in major APMC markets of specially Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh. Potato prices were higher during March 2020. However potato processing was badly affected, which about 50-60% of potato is processing in India.

Shortage of public goods

Some of the basic goods that is the food grains, fruits and vegetables and other essential items available to consumers, both in rural and urban areas, is the most serious experiment. Supply of public distribution system (PDS) items to last-mile delivery agents, by rail and road, has been strictly impacted in the beginning of pandemic. Milk sales during lockdown period about one million liters remained unsold every day. Milk consumption declined by 25% during March 2020, and sale price of milk also declined by Rs. 5-7/liter. Around 10% profit loss in dairy or milk industry.

Limitations on Sale

There were self-imposed and government restrictions on the inter- and intra-State activities of farmers/labourers. The harvesting and related farm machines movements were totally closed. Flower sale is severely affected due to closure of religious ceremony, social functions, events etc.

Lockdown made debt and Cash Flow Restrictions

The most important matter that farmers have to overcome is the problem of repaying their crop loans, gold loans and other informal debts. Crop loans are repaid between April and May and a new loan is granted at the start of a new season. Some farmers have failure to repayment and taking new loan for agriculture. Most of the farmers borrow money from the informal sector at high rates of interest for the new season.

Conclusion

There were long-term impacts of the covid19 and lower economic growth on Indian agriculture. It was seen with a 4% growth rate in agriculture in 2019-20. Whereas 3.4% in first quarter of 2020-21 in the lockdown period. It was a moderate impact on the agriculture and allied sector. The bank credit from commercial banks to agriculture and allied sectors have been slowdown during the month of April 2020. A large number of migrant labourers who are back in the villages they are now jobless. Return of migrant labour take some support of MGNREGA. Finally the end of covid19 pandemic will not end the difficulties in the Indian agriculture. There is a greater need for government aid in the form of provision for all agricultural inputs.

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