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“Impact of Covid 19 on Agriculture Sector In India”

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Abstract:When India hit the first wave of COVID-19 from January to June 2020, agriculture became a bright spot. The Economic Survey estimates that India's GVA for the rest of the economy will contract 7.2 percent by 2020-21, largely due to the sharp decline in the first half of FY. In this catastrophe caused by the closure of the country, agriculture is the only area of interest and it is estimated that agricultural GVA has grown by 3.4 percent in normal terms (2011-12). India is at the forefront of the agricultural sector. The Indian economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. Therefore, this search title was created based on secondary information based on the title of this search article. In this regard, various books and materials have been used in national and international research.

Keywords:Agriculture, COVID-19, Economy, GVA, Rabi Crop.



Introduction:

When India hit the first wave of COVID-19 from January to June 2020, agriculture became a bright spot. The Economic Survey estimates that India's GVA for the rest of the economy will contract 7.2 percent by 2020-21, largely due to the sharp decline in the first half of FY. In this catastrophe caused by the closure of the country, agriculture is the only area of interest and it is estimated that agricultural GVA has grown by 3.4 percent in normal terms (2011-12). Can the agricultural sector be a savior again when the second wave of COVID-19 strikes India with greater force than the first wave? In this regard, it seems that rural India has not been preserved.

The news report highlighted the deplorable state of affairs in various states of Uttar Pradesh; although state officials have repeatedly denied the seriousness of the epidemic. In addition, a recent CRISIL report also sounded alarming about a second wave rising in rural India as its share of infection increased from 21 percent in March to 30 percent in April.

In large parts of India, the rabies crop has been widely harvested. As of April 30, 28.039 million tons of wheat have been purchased. UP was far behind in its target of 5.5 million tons, while Bihar, as of 2020, had purchased only 3,000 tons of wheat.

The outbreak of the epidemic and the subsequent impact on supply chains have significantly affected new products such as fruits and vegetables. With long locks and restricted movements across the country, moving agricultural production from one area to another was

a challenge. Considering the decay of products, many products began to rot while consumers paid higher prices. However, this disruption also underscores the need for strong, secure / new plant storage areas for a long time. It also gave us an idea of the need for additional investment in the field of food processing which is a long-term requirement for farmers.

In terms of floriculture, the need for flowers, as buyers are afraid of anything that could be a place / object of transfer. As wedding ceremonies and other ceremonies / activities become more common, the demand for previously popular flowers such as rose petals and marigold flowers has diminished considerably. In addition, flower transport has also declined due to travel restrictions. On the other hand, as fear of man gradually fades, people have begun to consider keeping flowers for longer or exporting them.

In terms of milk supply, the lockdown closure had a moderate impact, leading to a 30% drop in purchase prices. But egg consumption increased significantly as people focused more on protein utilization. At the same time, fishing grounds were also affected moderately, as water treatment allowed fish to live longer. However, the cost of poultry meat is declining, as poultry prices have dropped by more than 25%, due to widespread concerns about the use of animal products.

As the supply or supply of agricultural inputs was disrupted in the early days as the distribution of shares in all areas was restricted and there was a shortage of assets and they continue. In addition, the ban on work coincided with the rabies harvest, which affected cereal crops. However, the input movement increased when closing the lid was lowered, which was beneficial for the following seasons for Rabbi and Kharif.

The effect of COVID-19 was also observed on farm machinery; sales of tractors have declined sharply due to the availability of cheap labor, which has created inequality in the loan sector. Disruption was also seen in funding young people.

The biggest change in employment has taken place with more than 50 million migrants, working in provinces such as Delhi, Punjab and Haryana, returning home. There are several variations in employment levels and staff availability, but it is not a skilled agricultural worker. Therefore, even in the presence of low labor costs, skills issues remain a major challenge. And deciding how many of them will return is also daunting.

Steps to address the challenge

In the meantime, there are some changes in government perspective. In line with a number of benefits, the government has announced a budget increase for PM-KISAN Yojna, where INR 6,000 a year is transferred to farmers' accounts through three INR 2,000 installments.

Another initiative was the launch of the Agri Infrastructure Fund 1 lakh crore for farmer infrastructure. This will support farmers, PACS, FPOs, agribusinesses, etc., building community agricultural products and post-harvest agricultural infrastructure. In addition, Small Food Companies (MFE) was established to assist 200,000 MFEs in improving their technical skills and to provide financial assistance to individual units to improve food processing facilities.

A number of CSR programs aimed at assisting farmers in dealing with the COVID crisis, are backed by strong government support. On the other hand, Yara International worked with local government officials in India as well as their suppliers, suppliers, and transporters to continue the work that was important in distributing seeds and supplies to farmers for the upcoming planting season. The epidemic acted as a catalyst, forcing various industries, including Agri-tech, to build and come up with quick solutions to overcome the uncertainty of housing closures. Overall, Agri-tech companies embraced the challenges of the epidemic and were able to create products and services that would meet the needs, giving Indian farmers opportunities to grow with open and open evolution.

Objectives:

- 1) To study that the Indian agriculture sector has been affected to a great extent during the pandemic.
- 2) To study what has changed in the agriculture sector during the pandemic
- 3) Studying whether India's GDP grew or declined during the Corona pandemic

Review of Literature:

(AG Adeeth Cariappa, 2021), Impact of COVID-19 on the Indian agricultural system: A 10-point strategy for post-pandemic recovery, findings indicates that the pandemic has affected production and marketing through labor and logistical constraints, while the negative income shock restricted access to markets and increased prices of food commodities affecting the consumption pattern. The pandemic wreaked substantial physical, social, economic, and emotional havoc on all the stakeholders of the Indian agricultural system. Seizing the crisis as an opportunity, the state announced a raft of measures and long-pending reforms. We propose a 10-point strategy ranging from social safety nets, family farming, monetizing buffer stock, staggered procurement to secondary agriculture to revive and prosper post-pandemic.

Hypothesis:

- The agriculture sector in India has been affected during the Corona pandemic.

Research Methodology: India occupies a leading position in the agriculture sector. The Indian economy is largely dependent on the agriculture sector. Therefore, this search article has been created on the basis of secondary information depending on the title of this search article. For this, various books and other materials have been used in national and international research.

Limitations:

- 1) Secondary information has been used for this search article
- 2) The findings obtained from this research article are presented only on the basis of available information.

Conclusion: The agriculture sector in India suffered huge economic losses during the pandemic period. Because the transport for transporting agricultural goods was closed, it was not sold to keep the goods lying with the farmers. Since the things produced in the agricultural sector are perishable, it needs to be sold immediately, but due to the people's down, the agricultural goods have suffered the most and its impact has been seen on the Indian economy.

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