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**WORLD AFTER COVID19 : A ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE
IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE AFTER COVID19**

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‘Agriculture is considered as the most Healthful and useful Nobel professions for man’- very rightly said by George Washington. There is no surprise that farmers and farming activities are given a sacred status even in the modern times. It has always been the backbone of the economy, even till now. Amidst the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic outbreak the Global Economic Growth predicted by the IMF director is near to negative for the current year, and the increment can only be plausible next year. Nehru Ji once said, “Everything can wait except Agriculture”. Although FAO has warned of an upcoming food crisis globally due to a shift in demand and supply for food and declogging of food still remains an option to be explored for the vulnerable parts. An onset of wave of food nationalism would disrupt the nature of agricultural trade flows too. This pandemic has affected all walks of life, no sector is left unrelieved from its impact and agriculture is one of them on which our survival is mainly dependent for fulfilling our basic necessities.

Indian Agriculture might have come a long way but it still faces many challenges, like floods, drought, soil erosion etc. and the current challenge is of COVID-19 which had adversely effected it. The nationwide lockdown is creating problem for the agricultural sector as it is overlapping the time-period of harvesting of crops, affecting the economic system and disrupting regional agriculture. In India, March and April are considered as the peak harvesting seasons but because of the current pandemic, selling and reaping of crops is a hurdle because of the unavailability of migrant labors thus interrupting harvesting activities particularly in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, resulting in the downfall of Food Production. Farmer’s income is affected, as most of the mandis [vegetable market] are closed and they are donating their crops in cow-sheds as they are unable to sell them and some of the farmers are committing suicide. There is a tremendous pressure on the seed and allied sectors to be closed and even the transport services are not allowed to operate as the border of states are sealed. Overall cost production has been spiked within the seed sector and some of the small and medium companies are facing difficulties. Due to this Pandemic fear, the network between the distributor and the retailer has also dried up. According to the media reports, there is a huge amount of inventory loss and the orders passed by the government have not been implemented at the ground level. There is also a downfall in the sales of dairy products



and fishes because of the shortage of labours and transport issues. Poultry sector has been severely affected because of the rumors spread particularly on social media that chicken are carriers of this virus. Without any doubt the current situation will have an adverse effect on Kharif season's agricultural output because of the unavailability of good quality seeds and fertilizers. Even the import and export of essential agricultural commodities is affected.

The only solution possible for reducing the impact of this virus on agriculture is by finding effective measures. First of all, the guidelines and orders given by the government has to be implemented at ground level. Transportation of seeds can be done from the seed hubs to all states with the help of railways. The farmers must have continued access to market and the government should look after their safety and welfare. For reviving the food production, investments can be done in small-scale agriculture. Modern farming techniques can be used for maximizing the production and abandoned ponds can be used for fish farming. Several strategies have to be made for restoration of food supply chain. Even the social media platform can play a crucial role.

The Centre and State Governments have done a phenomenal job for allaying the fear and quickly announcing the exemptions for the agricultural sector. State government of Punjab, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh were very proactive in handling the agricultural issues. The Central Government has even announced several relief packages for the farmers and the labourers. And even granted relaxations on agriculture farming which will ensure uninterrupted harvesting of crops. The ICAR has even conducted several online workshops for carrying out the strategic research for enhancing the sustainability and productivity of crops.

In conclusion, the world is under unprecedented crisis, the major share of budget allocations should logically go to the healthcare sector. However the investments could not be crowded out of the primary sector to prevent an irreversible damage to farm economy. A post Covid situation offers a unique opportunity to repurpose the existing food and agriculture policies for a burgeoning population. In addition, the development of export supportive policies including the imperatives of changing the consumer behavior can root the food system transformation.



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