

Impact of Covid-19 on the Production and Marketing of Horticultural crops in Tamil Nadu

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ABSTRACT

The entire world reeled under the pressure of Covid-19 since early 2020. The daily life of each and every individual on the planet came to a grinding halt due to the pandemic tremendously affecting all the economies. With global lockdowns, all the sectors were affected beyond measure. Agriculture and horticulture too were not spared from the clutches of covid-19 and it affected the input, processing and output of the sectors. The global import and export of these sectors too bore the brunt and exhibited a painful picture. The horticultural crops like vegetables, fruits and flower markets were adversely affected thereby impacting farmers miserably. All states except Gujarat (5%), Rajasthan (2.5%) and Karnataka (1.7%) have witnessed a decrease in production in the horticulture sector. Amongst the larger states, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu faced the highest decline of 18%, 17.9 and 13.9% respectively. Moreover, the horticultural sector was also affected by the non-availability of labourers. Due to the lockdown, many of the migrant agricultural labourers returned to their native states creating a huge demand for agricultural labourers. Such factors make it imperative to shed light on the crisis. Hence, against this backdrop, the present study has been taken up to analyse the impact of Covid-19 on the production and marketing of horticultural crops in Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Covid-19, Horticultural crops

1.INTRODUCTION

The entire world reeled under the pressure of Covid-19 since early 2020. The daily life of each and every individual on the planet came to a grinding halt due to the pandemic tremendously affecting all the economies. With global lockdowns, all the sectors were affected beyond measure. Agriculture and horticulture too were not spared from the clutches of covid-19 and it affected the input, processing and output of the sectors. The global import and export of these sectors too bore the brunt and exhibited a painful picture. The horticultural crops like vegetables, fruits and flower markets were adversely affected thereby impacting farmers miserably. All states except Gujarat (5%), Rajasthan (2.5%) and Karnataka (1.7%) have witnessed a decrease in production in the horticulture sector. Amongst the larger states, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu faced the highest decline of 18%, 17.9 and 13.9% respectively¹. Moreover, the horticultural sector was also affected by the availability of labourers. Due to the lockdown, many of the migrant agricultural labourers returned to their native states creating a huge demand for agricultural labourers. Such factors make it imperative to shed light on the crisis. Hence, against this backdrop, the present study has been taken up to analyse the impact of Covid-19 on the production and marketing of horticultural crops in Tamil Nadu.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To study the impact of Covid-19 on the production and marketing of horticultural crops.
- To present the statistical data of the impact of Covid-19 on the production and marketing of horticultural crops.

- To interpret the impact of Covid-19 based on the statistical data available.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Secondary data was used to analyse the trend that prevailed during the pandemic. The data were collected from the NABARD website, which offered insights into the various agrarian crisis faced during the early years of Pandemic when full lockdowns were enforced by the majority of the state governments in India.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE: 1 State-wise Impact on production of agriculture and Allied Sector -Magnitude

State-wise Average Increase/Decrease in magnitude of production in Agri & allied sector (%)						
State/ U.T.	Agriculture	Horticulture	Poultry	Dairy	Fisheries	Pig/Sheep/Goat
Andaman & Nicobar	-21.7	-15.0	-15.0	-20.0	-55.0	-25.0
Andhra Pradesh	-2.0	-7.5	-15.9	-0.8	-21.7	-1.0
Arunachal Pradesh	0.0	0.0	15.0	-5.0	5.0	25.0
Assam	-4.2	-2.3	-2.3	-9.0	-1.0	-3.3
Bihar	-5.3	-7.6	-29.9	-10.0	-10.2	-7.2
Chhattisgarh	-12.9	-17.9	-21.1	-11.5	-10.4	-5.9
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Daman & Diu	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Goa	0.0	-5.0	0.0	0.0	-15.0	0.0
Gujarat	6.7	5.0	-1.4	4.2	-6.5	-6.7
Haryana	-0.7	-1.8	-33.3	-5.8	-13.0	-17.0
Himachal Pradesh	-15.0	-18.0	-12.0	-5.0	-21.3	-13.3
Jammu & Kashmir	0.6	-3.8	-8.3	4.0	-12.1	5.0
Jharkhand	-6.7	-8.9	-29.7	-13.0	-9.4	-13.2
Karnataka	4.2	1.7	-15.5	-6.8	-16.5	-11.4
Kerala	-7.2	-8.0	0.7	-8.3	-6.3	-8.3
Madhya Pradesh	-0.1	-4.3	-26.6	-9.5	-22.7	-16.3
Maharashtra	-7.6	-11.7	-20.2	-9.0	-23.5	-10.0
Manipur	-15.0	-15.0	-20.0	-16.7	-13.3	-20.0
Meghalaya	-5.0	-5.0	-6.4	-2.1	-7.5	-6.7
Mizoram	-13.3	-8.3	-15.0	-15.0	-8.3	-9.0
Nagaland	0.0	0.0	-25.0	0.0	0.0	-25.0
Odisha	-7.5	-13.3	-21.5	-4.4	-1.5	0.7
Puducherry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-55.0	-55.0
Punjab	5.0	-1.2	-23.4	2.1	-20.0	-15.0
Rajasthan	4.4	2.5	-12.0	1.0	-20.0	2.1
Sikkim	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tamil Nadu	-8.6	-13.9	-9.7	-6.3	-21.8	-3.2
Telangana	23.3	0.0	5.0	2.5	7.0	10.0
Tripura	-5.0	0.0	-23.3	-15.0	0.0	0.0
Uttar Pradesh	0.0	-0.5	-24.7	-5.8	-11.3	-7.6
Uttarakhand	0.6	-4.1	-8.6	0.7	-3.6	0.0
West Bengal	-1.4	-2.5	-14.4	-11.9	-10.8	-13.2
All India	-2.7	-5.7	-19.6	-6.6	-13.6	-8.5

Source: www.nabard.org

It is implied from the above table that Tamil Nadu was highly impacted recording -13.9% of impact in production of horticultural crops. Out of all the states covered in the study, Tamil Nadu was in the sixth place, next to Manipur in terms of impact.

TABLE: 2 State wise Impact of COVID-19 on supply of Agri-Labour

Number of Districts where the Supply of Agri/Rural Labour (No.)				
States/U.T.	Decreased	Increased	Remained same	Total districts covered
Andaman & Nicobar	2	0	1	3
Andhra Pradesh	11	0	2	13
Arunachal Pradesh	8	0	1	9
Assam	14	1	1	16
Bihar	22	12	3	37
Chattisgarh	16	2	0	18
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	1
Daman & Diu	0	0	1	1
Goa	2	0	0	2
Gujarat	16	1	10	27
Haryana	22	0	1	23
Himachal Pradesh	8	1	3	12
Jammu & Kashmir	11	0	2	13
Jharkhand	10	8	2	20
Karnataka	22	2	2	26
Kerala	12	0	0	12
Madhya Pradesh	34	10	9	53
Maharashtra	24	8	2	34
Manipur	2	3	1	6
Meghalaya	3	1	7	11
Mizoram	6	1	0	7
Nagaland	6	0	2	8
Odisha	18	2	2	22
Puducherry	0	0	1	1
Punjab	21	0	1	22
Rajasthan	18	3	0	21
Sikkim	3	0	0	3
TamilNadu	15	6	10	31
Telangana	5	1	2	8
Tripura	2	0	4	6
Uttar Pradesh	37	26	2	65
Uttarakhand	9	3	0	12
West Bengal	14	3	0	17
All India	393	94	73	560

Source: www.nabard.org

It is observed from the above table, out of 31 districts analysed the majority of the districts (15) in Tamil Nadu was adversely affected from decrease in agricultural labourers. The significant reason for this factor could be attributed to the migration of labourers to their native place due to the lockdown imposed by the government.

TABLE: 3 State wise Impact of COVID-19 on Price Discovery Through MSP

Number of Districts where Price Discovery Through MSP (No.)				
States/U.T.	Favourably Impacted	Adversely Impacted	No Impact	Total districts covered
Andaman & Nicobar	0	3	0	3
Andhra Pradesh	2	6	5	13
Arunachal Pradesh	1	4	4	9
Assam	1	9	6	16
Bihar	4	21	12	37
Chhattisgarh	0	3	15	18
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	1
Daman & Diu	0	0	1	1
Goa	0	1	1	2
Gujarat	6	10	11	27
Haryana	2	3	18	23
Himachal Pradesh	1	5	6	12
Jammu & Kashmir	2	7	4	13
Jharkhand	0	11	9	20
Karnataka	4	8	14	26
Kerala	1	0	11	12
Madhya Pradesh	0	16	37	53
Maharashtra	1	20	13	34
Manipur	0	3	3	6
Meghalaya	0	3	8	11
Mizoram	0	0	7	7
Nagaland	0	1	7	8
Odisha	2	7	13	22
Puducherry	0	0	1	1
Punjab	0	2	20	22
Rajasthan	1	14	6	21
Sikkim	0	1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	5	7	19	31
Telangana	2	1	5	8
Tripura	0	0	6	6
Uttar Pradesh	13	24	28	65
Uttarakhand	0	3	9	12
West Bengal	1	10	6	17
All India	49	203	308	560

Source: www.nabard.org

It is inferred from the above table that the Tamil Nadu was adversely impacted in the price discovery through MSP. A total of 31 districts were covered for the study and the favourably impacted districts and adversely affected districts have been displayed. Though Tamil Nadu fared better than its counterparts, it was equally impacted.

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The present study highlights the impact of Covid-19 on the production and marketing of horticultural crops in Tamil Nadu. It is clearly evident from the study that the horticultural crop production and marketing in Tamil Nadu has indeed been adversely affected due to Covid-19. It is necessary on the part of the Government to revive the sector by giving a strong impetus. Moreover, attractive subsidies, aggressive marketing might help in restoring the sector to its old glory. The level of impact of Covid-19 must also be analysed by the government by considering all the stakeholders in the sector. The damage inflicted should be measured and necessary compensation can also be given to support the producers and marketers.

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