



## THE RESPONSE OF CONSUMER FOOD PRICE INDEX (CFPI) DUE TO THE IMPACT OF PANDEMIC COVID-19 ON INDIAN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

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### Abstract

India is an agricultural country and a core source of income for the world population. Indian economy is greatly depending on agriculture that is decrease day by day due to pandemic COVID-19. India is a major exporter of many crop foods. India, Thailand, and Vietnam are the major exports of rice if these stopped exports it reduces the economy up to 15%. A related circumstance is built up with diverse yields too like wheat, sunflower whose fare has been stationary by Kazakhstan, Serbia individually. In India, the end of April is the main source of income to farmers because they sell their rabi crops (wheat, mustard, maize, lentil, chilies, gram, tomatoes) in the market drastically decreases of CFPI may lead to the distress of Indian agricultural economy. The change over time in the price of options on wheat futures reveals increased price volatility in response to growing uncertainty about the COVID-19 impacts.

**Keywords:** *Coronavirus, COVID-19, 2019-nCoV, pandemic, public health emergency, Middle-Eastern-Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), and Severe-Acute-Respiratory-Syndrome (SARS). Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI).*

## INTRODUCTION

India is an agriculture country that play utmost vital role in Indian economy. Out of total gross domestic product (GDP) agriculture alone contributes 17 % that play very important role in providing employment. Approximately 60% of population income is depending on agriculture sector. In agricultural production, India is at position, which is lagged by US and china (Arjun MK, 2013).According to food and agriculture organization India is the main producer of many fruits (papaya, guava, mango and banana), vegetables (lemon,okra and chickpea) fibrous crops (cotton, jute) and many spices (ginger, chilly, pepper). Wheat and rice are the main staple food and India is second producer in it (FAOSTAT). Today we all know impact of virus COVID-19 on health, population and largely on Indian economy. COVID-19 has caused quick and articulated changes in consumer food request (Ker and Cardwell, 2020).

There is consistently a danger of building up another irresistible illness (Burnet and White, 1972), beginning from the Spanish influenza of 1918, to AIDS that despite everything has no authoritative fix (Table 1). Well now, Covid-19 is the infectious sickness that compromises and upsets humankind. From past pandemics that the world has encountered, it has been uncovered that isolates and related awfulness affect human achievements and monetary development (Hanashima and Tomobe, 2012; Bermejo, 2004; Arndt and Lewis, 2001); nevertheless, the impact likewise happens in agrarian exercises. When there is a flare-up of irresistible illness, there is additionally an expansion in craving and lack of healthy sustenance (Burgui, 2020; Sar et al. 2010).

**Table 1: Major pandemic from 20th century in the globe**

| Name          | Time period  | Type        | Death toll            | Reference         |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Spanish Flu   | 1918-1919    | H1N1        | More than 50M         | Farmer (2019)     |
| Asian Flu     | 1957-1958    | H2N2 virus  | 1.15M                 | Du et al. (2009)  |
| Hong Kong Flu | 1968-1970    | H3N2 virus  | 700,000 and 1M        | Wang-Shick (2017) |
| HIV/AIDS      | 1981-present | Virus       | 32M (TILL March 2020) | WHO (2020b)       |
| COVID 19      | 2019-Present | Coronavirus | 65464                 | WHO (2020c)       |

M\*: Million.

## WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronaviruses (CoVs) is a large group of viruses belongs to the family coronaviradea primarily causes various enzootic infections in birds as well as in mammals but, in the previous few decades, humans shown susceptibility to the potential of corona virus infection as well. The

epidemic of two deadly viral diseases recently Middle-East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in the year 2003 confirmed the virulence of CoVs when they penetrate species barrier and contaminate the most valuable creature on earth, the humans [31]. There are various elements of envelope protein-like get together, sprouting, envelope arrangement, and pathogenesis. The protein It has been recently discovered that SARS-CoV E contains a coupling subject known as the postsynaptic thickness protein-95 (PSD95)/Drosophila plate enormous tumor silencer (Dlg1)/zonula occludens-1 protein (ZO-1) (PDZ)- restricting theme (PBM), arranged in the last four amino acids of the C end. [1]. The PDZ space is a protein-protein cooperation segment that can fix to the C-end of target proteins, for example, the cell connector proteins unpredictable in have cell forms essential for viral disease [2,3,4,5]. Coronaviruses stick to explicit cell receptors with the assistance of spike protein, which thus causes a conformational change in spike and afterward intervenes combination between the viral molecules. [6,7]

After the receptor interface and the combination between the viral molecule and plasma layers, there is a blend of intracellular infection explicit RNA and proteins, may be completely in the cytoplasm. During contamination with coronaviruses, likewise, with all other RNA infections, replication of genome and interpretation of mRNAs must happen.. Henceforth, Expression of coronaviruses starts with translation of two polyproteins, which undergo cotranslational proteolytic processing into the proteins that form the replicase complex. After the receptor interface and the combination between the viral molecule and plasma layers, there is a blend of intracellular infection explicit RNA and proteins, may be completely in the cytoplasm. During contamination with coronaviruses, likewise, with all other RNA infections, replication of genome and interpretation of mRNAs must happen [8].

## **SOURCE OF ORIGIN AND TRANSMISSION**

It is very important to know the source and transmission of every disease, so that there would be proper preventive strategies in order to hold the infection. On account of SARS-CoV, the specialists at first centered around various plausible sources like raccoon mutts and palm civets, and these are supposed to be a key pool of Covid-19 contamination. However, merely the samples which are isolated from the civets at the food market indicated high peaks which are reflect as a positive results for viral RNA finding, so therefore civet palm might be secondary hosts [9]. In the year 2001, the examples were confined from the overwhelming people of Hong Kong and from there on atomic valuation portrays a 2.5% recurrence pace of antibodies against

SARS-coronavirus. These signs give a profound indication that SARS-coronavirus might be flowing in people some time ago causing the flare-up in 2003. [10]. Later on, it was found that Rhinolophus bats have anti-SARS-CoV antibodies proposing the bats as a source of viral replication[11]. Way back 2012 when there was an outbreak of The Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) coronavirus initial in Saudi Arabia [9]. MERS-coronavirus too pertains to beta-coronavirus and having camels as a zoonotic source or primary host of contamination [12]. In a latest revision, MERS-coronavirus was also identified in two creatures (bats) namely Pipistrellus and Perimyotis bats [13], proffering that bats are the vital host and spreading mode of the infection [14,15]. At the outset, there was presumption that snakes may be the potential host, in any case, after genomic sequencing it has been discovered that there is a similarity of coronavirus with SARS-like bat infections, strengthened the explanation that snakes are not the principle supplies but rather no one but bats could be the key repositories. [16,17].

### **THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES AGAINST COVID-19**

Initially, the use of interferons nebulization, wide range anti-microbial, and hostile to viral medications seemed to lessen the viral weight in Crown positive patients[18,19,20], However, only the potent drug called remdesivir has revealed promising impact against the virus [21]. Remdesivir only and a combo of Remdesivir and chloroquine or interferon beta expressively obstructed the replication of SARSCoV-2 and patients were affirmed as clinically and fully recovered [20,22,23]. Various other enemy of virals drugs like are Nafamostat, Nitazoxanide, Ribavirin, Penciclovir, Favipiravir, Ritonavir, AAK1, Baricitinib and Arbidol demonstrated gentle to reasonable outcomes when analyzed against the contamination in patients and in-vitro clinical isolates [20,22,23,24]. Various different mixes, for example, blending the antiviral or anti-infection agents with standard and natural Chinese medications were likewise assessed in inconsistency of SARSCoV-2 raise disease in mice and people [23]. Newly in Shanghai, specialists removed the blood plasma from clinically improved patients of COVID-19 and immunized it in the contaminated patients which shows promotable recuperation [24]

### **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AGRICULTURE**

The pandemic COVID-19 viral diseases spread all over the world very quickly and affect all areas of people. With in very short period of time COVID-19 shut down major economy of the world. The lockdown practice, which is trailed by all countries to control COVID-19, will block a wide scope of economy containing cultivation economy. The word “lock down” means the all

human activities are turned off in other words production and supply of all materials are not much easier which results people lose their jobs. World economy is totally dependent on import and export of goods (production and consumption of food). If the situation is not controlled it can lead to food “crisis” means shortage of food that result in to malnutrition and death (M.S swaminathan research reports)[29,30]. From the march there was increase in agricultural prices because of restrictions of food import and export. Some countries are major exporter of crop foods like India, Thailand and Vietnam are the major exports of rice if these stopped exports it reduces economy up to 15% (OXFAM Research Reports, 2019). A correlated circumstance is built up with diverse yields too like wheat, sunflower whose fare has been stationary by Kazakhstan, Serbia individually. In India, the end of April is mainly source of income to farmers because they sell their rabi crops (wheat, mustard, maize, lentil, chillies, gram, tomatoes) in market. In this pandemic condition, government should take some preventive measures in areas where farmer gathering (mandi) will take place to save farmer economy as well as to control spread of disease. For the benefit of farmers Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) already issue an advisory like social distancing in the field where they work and hygiene. The advisory also practices guidelines of harvesting, threshing, post harvesting, storage as well marketing of farmer’s products. To uplift the agriculture economy we must use available resources in right way. India has to develop innovative team and techniques in the field of agriculture that increase more productivity and sustainability. After the lockdown the government should make rule to provide quality seeds from seed banks to farmers for the kharif season crops. The indigenous methods should be adopted in the field that costs minimal for crop growth. The advantage of nanotechnology in the field of agriculture is infinite.

Use of nanozeolites, nanoclays and hydrogels that increase water holding capacity of soil [28]. Carbon nanotubes, nano metals, nano oxides materials should be use in field that absorb harmful contaminates [25]. Nanoparticles of gold, silicon, titanium and zincoxode can be used that increase uptake and mobilization of nutrients [26]. Nanosensors can be used in agriculture field to check soil pH, pathogen and pest exposure. Sensor technology can be used in tinier water area to maximize the water use productivity.

### **IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON FOOD SUPPLY**

The food flexibly chain is a system that associates the whole agrarian framework with the shopper's table, including procedures, for example, producing, bundling, appropriation, and capacity (Chen et al., 2020). COVID-19 can possibly impact the smooth capacity of transportation at about each progression along the food flexibly chain. Ailments identified with

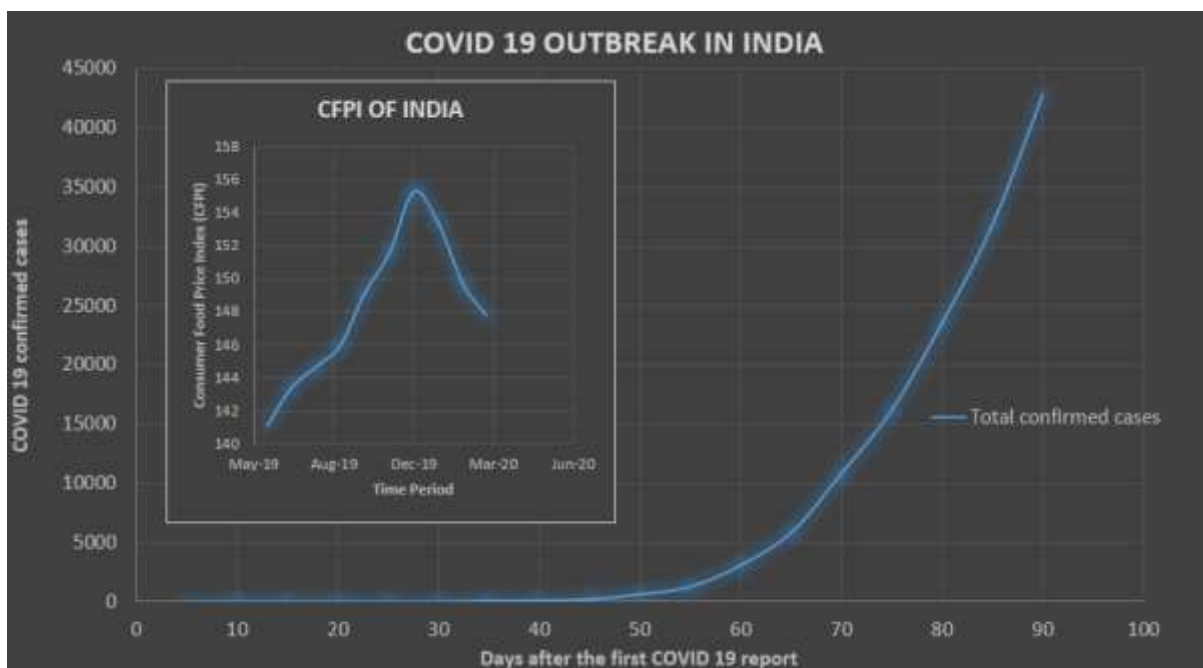
COVID-19 could confine the accessibility of talented work force in the transportation segment up and down the food flexibly chain. This mind boggling flexibly tie incorporates contributions to the field, to the capacity, processors and makers, and to wholesalers and retailers(Deaton and Deaton, 2020).At first, the declarations of social segregation caused individuals to go to the gracefully focuses and create a deficiency of certain items, regardless of this, the food flexibly has settled in light of the fact that it is one of the frameworks that must be kept up to guarantee food security.. One of FAO's jobs is to advance that (Weersink, Massow, and McDougall, 2020) food esteem chains are not hindered and keep on working (FAO, 2020b). Along these lines, notwithstanding the limitations that administrations have forced on the versatility of work in farming frameworks, in spite of the fact that with certain issues, the gracefully of essential necessities is typically guaranteed. The circumstance is distinctive when it comes to products that are imported or sent out; because of the conclusion of outskirts, worldwide exchange was interfered, albeit subsequent to having characterized security conventions to maintain a strategic distance from the spread of the infection, exchange balanced out. This might be impermanent; it relies upon what nations are doing to stop the spread of the infection.Part of the food supply system, are the social programs that some countries, mainly India, have to millions of below poverty line (BPL) families with limited economic resources. This supply system is being served in different ways:

- a. Door to door delivery of essential commodities to people (for example, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Odisha).
- b. Many state government did economic allocation equivalent to the cost of food rations of necessity.

Interferences to food moves are negligible, so the food gracefully stays stable; albeit watching China's involvement with this pandemic, there is a more prominent effect on the domesticated animals segment because of challenges in getting to creature feed and, then again, the lack of work (Zhang, 2020).In spite of the fact that it relies upon the nation and the measures that every one has received, comprehensively the costs have stayed stable, along these lines, no spikes in the costs of essential necessities are normal, despite the fact that it is bound to happen for high-esteem items, particularly rice, meat, and perishables. One of the files that measure the variety of the cost all through India is the MoSEI Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), a proportion of the month to month variety of the national costs of a bin of food items. According to the MoSEI, the CFPI of January 2020 had an average of 153.4points, that is, 1.9 points (1.0%) less than in December. SimilarlyCFPI of February and March are consistently decreasing in the rate of 3.7

and 1.9 respectively. Where as before COVID 19 outbreak the CFPI points was consistently increasing (Figure 1).

This was because of a sharp fall in the fare costs of vegetable oils and, to a lesser degree, in the costs of meat and oats, which counterbalance the proceeding with ascend in the costs of dairy items and united items. Post lockdown all the food mobilization have been sealed the farmers related to vegetable and milk production are had huge loss. Drastically decreases of CFPI may led to the distress of Indian agricultural economy. The change over time in the price of options on wheat futures reveals increased price volatility in response to growing uncertainty about the COVID-19 impacts (Vercammen, 2020).



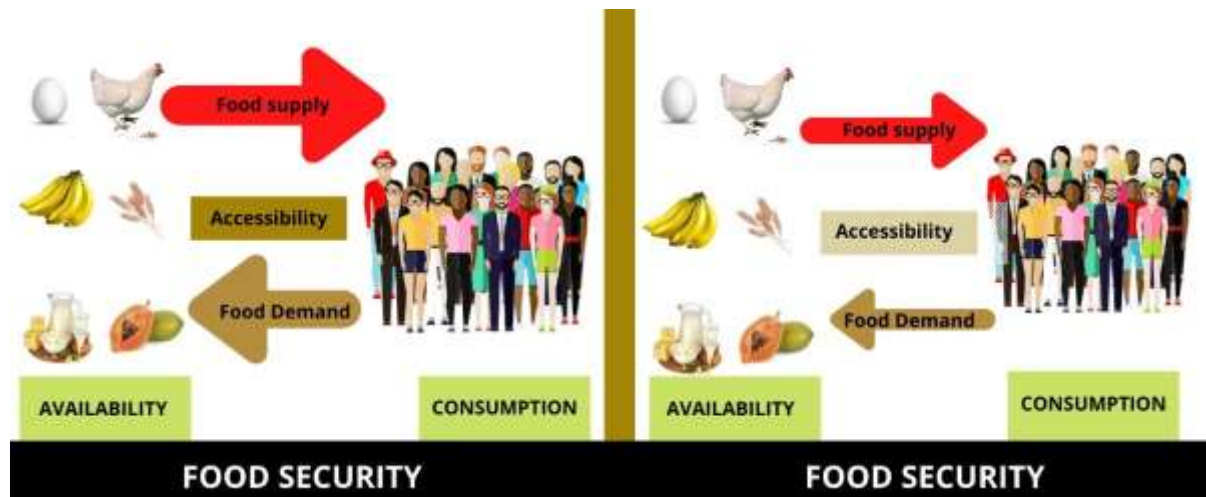
**Fig 2. All over India confirmed cases and Food Price Index by the effect of COVID-19.**

\*Graph constructed with data from MoHFW for the COVID 19 cases, and MoSPI for Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI).

### **IMPACT OF COVID 19 FOOD DEMAND**

Demand suggests the readiness and capacity of purchasers to pay cash for a specific decent or administration, during a specific period (Gottheil, 2013). The interest for food has diminished because of vulnerability and the decrease of individuals' spending limit, in spite of the fact that this reduction is yet slight; the circumstance could intensify if the pandemic proceeds for quite a while, because of diminished salary and employment misfortunes. (FAO, 2020b). Since

China represents a significant market in world exchange and where the COVID-19 infection began, his experience shows an expansion in online interest in the food and refreshment area, because of isolate approaches (FAO, 2020a). In circumstances like these, where an infection spreads on contact, contactless conveyance administrations become favored by customers. For instance, the individuals who use rambles for item conveyance (Fig 3).



**Fig 3. Food security system (a) without COVID-19 and (b) with COVID-19. Both demand and supply have been influenced, although a more noteworthy impact on demand, because of the chance limitations that influence availability. Accessibility and utilization remain practically steady. The agricultural framework incorporates producers, crude materials, agricultural machinery, data sources, preparing plants, ranch, and industrialized food. Consumption incorporates individuals and distinctive market system.**

### IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES ON INDIAN AGRICULTURE

In spite of of these dealings and in sight of persistent limitations on schedules of individuals and vehicle traffic , distresses are raised regarding negative allegations of COVID19 disease on the Agricultural economy.This is the termination of rabi season in India and yields like gram, wheat, lentil, mustard, etc. (including paddy in irrigated paddy lands) are at the harvestable time or almost getting maturity. Additionally, this is often the stage when the farmer reaches the mandis (market yards) for assured procurement by titled government agencies (ICRISAT, 2020).

Furthermore, any severe interruption to the stream of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, fish, etc. having mobilized to satisfy the growing demand from a bulging medium-



class also as urban and rural buyers, may create irreversible damage to all or any sellers within the supply chain. The migration of workers from a couple of parts to their native places has also triggered panic buttons, as they're crucial for both harvesting operations and post-harvest handling of produce in storage and marketing centers. However, the Union Home Ministry has notified to exclude the movement of farmers, farm laborers, and harvesting and sewing-related machines from the purview of lockdown.

On the off chance that we state that we Indians exceptionally reliant on horticulture legitimately or inaccurately it is right. As India is the principle cultivator of numerous food crops so it ought to be fortified by the administration to flood crop yield that can help in the aggregate Indian economy just as to have a tremendous effect. COVID-19 is a major test for India we as a whole have battle together to control this viral ailment. We as a whole ought to follow government rules now and again and mindful of individuals around us.

## CONCLUSION

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic is a Black Swan event. Governments have the option to deal with Black Swan events in real-time as they arise. This is almost always more efficient, as Black Swan events cannot be predicted as to their specific form, their timing, or the most appropriate policy response. Necessary spending on Covid-19 can be classified separately, but a separate Covid 19 budget may not be very productive, central and state governments should now prepare for a new budget itself as all critical parameters assumed then such as revenue estimates, expenditure estimates are no longer relevant. Drastically decreases of CFPI led to the distress of Indian agricultural economy. Other than short-run emergency policies, such as the Rupees 20 Lakh Corer central government emergency aid and economic stimulus package, governments should tread carefully in making structural policy changes at this time

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