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THE COVID-19 EFFECT ON FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE

Email

¹Jham Lal*, ²Narsingh Kashyap and ¹Shivbhajan

jhamlalj@gmail.com

¹College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, India

²Institute of Fisheries Post Graduate Studies – TNJFU Vaniyanchavadi, Chennai, India

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on various sectors, including agriculture, horticulture as well as fish and shrimp farming business. The corona pandemic will interrupt fisheries operations and supply in a variety of ways, including crop harvesting, processing, procurement, as well as marketing. Imports and exports are growing more slowly, and in some cases have stopped entirely. COVID-19's spread had both direct and indirect implications on worldwide economic development.

The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and COVID-19 pandemics in March 2020. Since its discovery, the virus has spread fast and widely, killing millions of people (Guan *et al.*, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has a long-term impact on the four major dimensions of food security: availability, accessibility, use, and stability (Laborde *et al.*, 2020). The corona outbreak will interrupt fisheries operations and supply in a variety of ways, including harvesting crops, processing, procurement, and marketing. March through June is the prime season for fish farming and shrimp farming, which will be affected by a lack of migrant workers. A lack of fish seed, fertilizer, and other inputs may also impede the required level of output. Reduced supply, transportation difficulties, and the closure of various restaurants and shopping establishments will have a significant impact on suppliers and manufacturers. Due to the failure of supply networks, many farmers are unable to sell their crops correctly, resulting in enormous losses.

The COVID-19 prevention

In those civilizations, COVID-19 preventative measures like lockdown, stay-at-home orders, mass quarantine, and transportation halt are extremely difficult. Imports and exports are moving more slowly, and in some cases have ceased entirely. Because of the lockdown imposed in numerous countries, the transport sector has also ceased operations, disrupting the supply chain for vital items, including food (Reardon *et al.*, 2020) and humanitarian supplies supplied by various organizations.

Food Sectors

Agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture have already experienced serious economic consequences and job losses as a result of decreased production capability and disturbed distribution channels (FAO and CELAC 2020). Food insecurity, like the virus, will disproportionately impact disadvantaged groups; thus, potential disruptions to food production and supply networks remain a major concern (Gregory *et al.* 2005).

Impacts on the Fisheries Sector

The fisheries sector employs about 14 million people in India, with the COVID-19 epidemic affecting the livelihoods of over 9 million active fishers, 80 percent of whom are small-scale fishers. The nationwide lockdown has had a significant impact on both the capture as well as culture fisheries sectors. Transportation, migrant labour, and trade disruptions have all had an impact on the supply chain for aquaculture and aqua-food products. Due to transportation constraints, shrimp seeds were scarce, feeds, liming material, and related aquaculture materials (e.g. aqua drugs). Restrictions and closures of national and international markets, as well as the foodservice sector, including restaurants, hotels, catering services, and school/office canteens), led to a dramatic drop in the market, consumer preferences, and the post-harvesting processing sector. This circumstance has a significant impact on the majority of women working in the post-harvest economy. Small-scale fisherman confronts grave danger in coastal India, where a day's catch buys that night's dinner (Mohanty *et al.*, 2020).

Impacts on the Agriculture Sector

Normal life has been severely disrupted as a result of the country-wide lockdown, with approximately 50–60% of all agricultural activity halting. More than half of India's

workforce works in agriculture, fishery, and related industries. Food systems present a risk, and agricultural expansion may slow in the medium and long run. Due to social distance standards, agricultural labourers were unable to continue work and were obliged to reverse their journey. With fewer than 2 hectares of land, about 85% of Indian farmers are small and marginal, relying primarily on seasonal crops. In most parts of India, the summer/rabi crops were ready for harvest when phase-I of the lockdown brought everything to a halt. Plantation crops like bananas, coffee, and pepper were harvested at this time. The harvest of summer/rabi crops was postponed due to COVID-19 and the lockdown, mostly due to a lack of workers, machinery (tractors, harvesters, threshers, etc.), social-distancing norms, and travel/movement restrictions. Farmers who produce perishable items like fruits, flowers, and vegetables, in particular, suffered massive losses.

Conclusion

The nationwide shutdown has had a significant impact on both the catch and culture fisheries sectors. Agriculture employees were unable to return to work due to social distancing conventions, forcing many to reverse migrate. Transportation barriers and worker movement limitations will have a direct impact on the farming and processing industries. The global pandemic of COVID-19 has had a particularly devastating effect on food supply chains. COVID-19's spread had both direct and indirect implications on worldwide economic development.

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