

KAKATIYA GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, HANAMKONDA

WARANGAL URBAN



**IMPACT OF COVID -19 ON MARGINAL FARMERS – A CASE STUDY
OF HASANPARTHY MANDAL IN WARANGAL DISTRICT**

(2020-2021)

Students Field Study Project

Under the Supervision of

Dr.S.VinodarRao

Lecturer in Commerce,

Kakatiya Government College, Hanamkonda

Details of the Students Participated in this Study Project

Sl.No	H T No	Name of the Student	Class
1	006192543	P.Pradeep	B Com CA-III yr
2	006202176	J. Archana	B Com CA-II yr
3	006202119	E.Shravya	B Com CA-II yr
4	006202341	S. Manasa	B Com CA-II yr
5	006202091	Ch. Sujith	B Com CA-II yr
6	006202381	V. Shiva Krishna	B Com CA-II yr
7	006202099	D.Dinesh	B Com CA-II yr
8	006202244	Preethi	B Com CA-II yr
9	006212138	Raj Kumar	B Com CA-I yr
10	006202107	DHADI NAGESH	B Com CA –II yr
11	006202108	DHADIGELA RAKESH	B Com CA –II yr
12	006202109	DHARAVATH NIKHIL NAYAK	B Com CA –II yr
13	006202110	DONGRE VISHNU GOPAL	B Com CA –II yr
14	006202111	DOOTA NANDI VARDHAN	B Com CA –II yr
15	006202112	DUBASI SAI	B Com CA –II yr
16	006202113	DUBBA NARESH	B Com CA –II yr
17	006202114	DURISHETTI RAJU	B Com CA –II yr
18	006202115	EARLA NITHIN	B Com CA –II yr
19	006202116	EDABOINA PRAVEEN	B Com CA –II yr
20	006202117	EDLA BLESSY	B Com CA –II yr
21	006202119	EEGA SRAVYA	B Com CA –II yr
22	006202120	EEREDDY BHARATH	B Com CA –II yr

23	006202121	EERLA PRAVALIKA	B Com CA –II yr
24	006202123	ELAMAKANTI MEGHANA	B Com CA –II yr
25	006202124	ELLENDULA SAI KIRAN	B Com CA –II yr
26	006202125	ENUKONDA VISHWANTH	B Com CA –II yr
27	006202126	ERPA RAJKUMAR	B Com CA –II yr
28	006202127	ERRA SUPRIYA	B Com CA –II yr
29	006202128	ERUKALA GANAPATHI	B Com CA –II yr
30	006202129	GADE GANESH	B Com CA –II yr
31	006202130	GADEPE RAMYA	B Com CA –II yr
32	006202131	GAJJELA NARESH	B Com CA –II yr
33	006202132	GAJJELLI VIKAS	B Com CA –II yr
34	006202133	GAJU NAVEEN	B Com CA –II yr
35	006202135	GALI DEVARAJ	B Com CA –II yr
36	006202136	GANDI JYOTHI	B Com CA –II yr
37	006202137	GANGARAPU HARINATH	B Com CA –II yr
38	006202138	GANTA RAKESH	B Com CA –II yr
39	006202139	GANTA SRIKANTH	B Com CA –II yr
40	006202140	GATTI SWATHI	B Com CA –II yr
41	006202141	GATTU ASHOK	B Com CA –II yr
42	006202142	GEESA MAHESH	B Com CA –II yr
43	006202143	GODALA JYOTHI	B Com CA –II yr
44	006202144	GONE RAMU	B Com CA –II yr
45	006202145	GONGALLA NAVATHA	B Com CA –II yr
46	006202146	GOOLLA ANUSHA	B Com CA –II yr

47	006202147	GOPAGONI SRAVYA	B Com CA –II yr
48	006202148	GORRE JAYAPRAKASH	B Com CA –II yr
49	006202149	GORUKONTI AKHIL	B Com CA –II yr
50	006202107	DHADI NAGESH	B Com CA –II yr

IMPACT OF COVID -19 ON MARGINAL FARMERS – A CASE STUDY OF HASANPARTHY MANDAL IN WARANGAL DISTRICT

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health crisis that is already having devastating impacts on the world economy – both directly and through necessary measures to contain the spread of the disease. These impacts are also being felt by the food and agriculture sector. While the supply of food has held up well to date, in many countries, the measures put in place to contain the spread of the virus are starting to disrupt the supply of agro-food products to markets and consumers, both within and across borders. The sector is also experiencing a substantial shift in the composition and – for some commodities – the level of demand. Indian farmers are badly affected by the spread of COVID – 19. The pandemic not only disturbed the financial position of the Indian farmers but also taken away the valuable lives of several heads of the families. Many artisans lost their profession, some farmers have turned to be the agricultural farm labourers. Those who engaged workers for their farm work in turn have become themselves as farm workers.

How damaging these impacts turn out to be for food security, nutrition and the livelihoods of farmers, fishers and others working along the food supply chain will depend in large part on policy responses over the short, medium and long term. In the short term, governments must manage multiple demands – responding to the health crisis, managing the consequences of the shock to the economy, and ensuring the smooth functioning of the food system. While the pandemic poses some serious challenges for the food system in the short term, it is also an opportunity to accelerate transformations in the food and agriculture sector to build its resilience in the face of a range of challenges, including climate change. It has disrupted the transport system. Many of the farmers who leased agricultural fields elsewhere came back to their native villages and found no work to do at their homes. It's astonishing to say that no village in HasanparthyMandal in Warangal District left without loosing the life of atleast one farmer. Its ill effects are still prevailing in most of the villages where the situation has come to normal.

Keywords: COVID-19, lockdown, gross value added, small and marginal farmers, manufacturing and trade

Statement of the Problem

Indian Government imposed Lock Down from 25th March, 2020 to stop the spread of Covid-19. As a result many families suffered a lot due to sudden imposition of lock down. India never witnessed a sudden shock like this in the recent past. Many families lost their income source. The daily labourers lost their livelihood as they remain at homes. Small and Marginal farmers could not able to transport their vegetables and food grains so easily as before. They faced many hardships in clearing their credit. This study aimed at reviewing the situation of marginal farmers before and after spread of Covid-19 and suggesting some measures to improve their financial position.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the objectives of the Study:

- To study the effect of Covid-19 on the financial position of the small and marginal farmers of selected villages in HasanparthyMandal.
- To enumerate the loss on the death of key persons of the family who were hospitalized and later lost their lives.
- To examine the position of farmers families before and after spread of Covid-19.

Review of Literature

Asian Development Bank, ADB (2020). *The economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on developing Asia* [ADB Briefs no. 128]. Asian Development Bank, Manila, 6 March. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/brf200096> [[Links](#)]

AIMO (2020). *Results of largest ever industry survey*. All India Manufacturers' Organisation, Chennai. [[Links](#)]

FICCI (2020). *Impact of Coronavirus on Indian Businesses*. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi. [[Links](#)]

Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship, GAME (2020). *Improving Economic Dynamism and Accelerating MSME Growth* [National Task Force Report]. Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship, New Delhi. [[Links](#)]

GoI (2020). *Atmanirbhar India: Part 3, Agriculture*. [PowerPoint] Presentation made by Finance Minister, Government of India, New Delhi, 15 May. [[Links](#)]

Methodology

The present study relies on the primary and secondary data to make an impact assessment of COVID-19 on Indian economy. The primary data is collected on direct interviews with the small farmers. The secondary data sources are reports of National Account Statistics, a publication of ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MOSPI); Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy and Monthly Bulletin, Reserve Bank of India; Export–Import Database, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India; and annual reports (various issues), Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.

Lockdown and the economy: Nature of impacts

India imposed a national lockdown from 25 March 2020, which crippled economic activities across States. The resultant demand and supply shocks reverberated across the productive sectors of the economy.

Effect of Covid-19 on Food & Agriculture

Since agriculture is the backbone of the country and a part of the government announced essential category, the impact is likely to be low on both primary agricultural production and usage of agro-inputs. Several state governments have already allowed free movement of fruits, vegetables, milk etc. Online food grocery platforms are heavily impacted due to unclear restrictions on movements and stoppage of logistics vehicles. RBI and Finance Minister announced measures will help the industry and the employees in the short term. Insulating the rural food production areas in the coming weeks will hold a great answer to the macro impact of COVID-19 on Indian food sector as well as larger economy.

Impacts on agricultural production and incomes

Limits on the mobility of people across borders and lockdowns are contributing to **labour shortages** for agricultural sectors in many countries, particularly those characterized by periods of peak seasonal labour demand or labour-intensive production. For example, newly implemented travel bans within the Indian Union, as well as the closure of the passenger trains, have significantly reduced the available workforce for the fruit and vegetable sector in a number of Indian states. Harvesting season is imminent for many products in the northern and southern regions, and a shortage of labour could lead to production losses and shortages in the market. In many Indian states, this comes on top of existing difficulties in sourcing seasonal labour.

On the other hand, disruptions downstream from the farm gate are in some cases causing surpluses to accumulate, putting a strain on storage facilities and, for highly perishables, increasing food losses. For some products, supply side disruptions are being compounded by demand side reductions (in particular foods typically eaten away from home, and luxury items – see below). In combination, these effects are putting a strain on **farm incomes**. Moreover, those farm household income losses may be compounded by reduced off-farm income.

The COVID-19 pandemic may also affect the availability of key **intermediate inputs** for farmers. For the moment, there do not seem to be shortages in producing regions of developed states in India, although

farmers may face extra difficulties in sourcing inputs due to additional restrictions on the movement of people and goods. However, in the capital city of Telangana state namely Hyderabad for example, the production of pesticides declined sharply and only resumed gradually after production plants were shut down following the outbreak. Low availability and/or high prices of inputs such as pesticides could weigh on yields and crop production in 2020 and 2021, particularly in developing states. Closing borders or slowing down the state boundary movement of seeds could potentially hamper seed supply chains and on-time delivery of seed with negative impacts on agriculture, feed and food production over the next season and further into the future.

Shifts in consumer demand

Table 1

The following table shows that how the demand for various food items changed from January 2020 to June, 2020.

Export price indexes for select food categories, monthly percent changes, January–June 2020

Category	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	3-month change (March 20– June 20)
Foods, feeds, and beverages	2.3	-3.0	-1.5	-3.1	-0.5	1.1	-2.5
Meat, poultry, and other animal products	0.1	-1.8	0.3	-4.0	5.0	-0.4	0.4
Fish and shellfish	2.9	-0.6	-5.0	1.3	-2.0	-11.5	-12.2
Dairy products and eggs	1.1	-1.1	-2.7	-1.5	-11.9	24.5	8.1
Nuts and preparations	-3.0	-3.1	-3.9	-5.2	-1.5	-5.7	-12.0
Corn	2.2	0.1	-0.8	-10.2	-5.8	3.8	-12.2

Source: Indian Bureau of Labour Statistics.

Minimize the avoidable trade costs of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

New non-tariff measures are already being put in place that could have disruptive impacts on inter-state food value chains. While such measures can be necessary to manage sanitary risks, they could also significantly increase costs for food exporters, particularly if requirements differ between markets. There is thus a need to reduce unnecessary costs associated with such measures, with a view to keeping safe and affordable food available globally. Indeed, some WTO Members have notified that they are implementing measures to facilitate trade through, for example, the use of expedited submission of electronic documentation.

Address labour constraints in the food supply chain

- *Designate food sector workers as critical.* In addition to farm workers and workers in food businesses, this designation should include public and private providers of critical services for the sector, such as food safety inspectors.
- *Ease (non-health and safety related) regulatory requirements* for farmers to access seasonal labour through migration programmes.
- *Look for opportunities to facilitate farmers' access to an alternative workforce*, including by attracting workers laid off in other sectors (for example, services and the gig economy). Students may also be able to replace some of the shortfalls.
- *Take measures to ensure the health and safety of workers*, given that close working conditions in fields, packing and processing facilities put them at a heightened risk for contracting COVID-19.
- *Governments should adopt schemes like food for work which enable the agricultural labourers a feeling of work guarantee during the pandemic period.*

Ensure the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable populations are met – now and in the future

Most major economies are expected to enter into recession as a result of measures implemented to combat COVID-19, and considerable job losses have already occurred. This may have a significant impact on food insecure populations in both developing and developed states across India.

In developed regions, some groups, like the elderly, chronically ill and poorer households, may be particularly vulnerable to short-term shortages of food as a result of the closure of school meal programmes; closure of, or increased demands upon, food banks; and panic buying that reduces essential supplies and low cost options in supermarkets. Ensuring the food security and nutrition needs of vulnerable populations is essential, including through ensuring access to appropriate social safety nets. Many districts in Telangana have swiftly implemented policy responses in this area mostly by expanding funding for pre-existing food assistance programmes and in some cases implementing new measures. Governments are also working with non-governmental organisations to enable the provision of emergency food via food banks. Governments can co-ordinate with private stakeholders to restore and communicate trust in local food chains.

In developing states across India, particularly those already affected by conflict or humanitarian crises, COVID-19 is likely to have much more serious impacts on livelihoods and food security. The experience of Ebola provides evidence of how livelihoods can be decimated, as fear of contagion and movement restrictions kept some farmers from producing, affecting both cash and food crop production, disrupting agricultural supply chains, and causing acute agricultural labour shortages in the region. The Ebola outbreak also had a strong negative effect on the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households, and consequently on their access to food. For developing states – where food systems are more labour-intensive, many farmers are net buyers

of food staples, supply chains are less well developed, and where the macroeconomic shock risks plunging large numbers of people into poverty – international assistance may be needed.

Moreover, the effects of COVID-19 are taking place against the backdrop of a climate emergency. Supply shocks associated with extreme weather events, combined with demand shocks in a depressed economy could create food security tensions.

- *Address the immediate needs of the vulnerable populations*, for example, by means of emergency food assistance or targeted transfers.
- *Further develop social protection systems*. Cash transfers – both conditional payments, through systems such as adaptive safety nets, and unconditional transfers – provide a more efficient and effective response to food security concerns than market interventions, including those operated through public distribution systems.
- *Explore co-operative and give take policy solutions* to address the needs of the poorest people and ensure that COVID-19 does not result in a food crisis in their areas.

Support the transition to a more resilient agricultural sector and food system

- *Ensure that support measures* intended to provide temporary relief to farmers and other food system stakeholders *are consistent with wider socio-economic policies*, reach vulnerable socio-economic groups such as small and marginal farmers and contain clear exit strategies.
- *Consider wider opportunities to repurpose agricultural support* in ways that provide clear public goods, in particular in the form of climate change mitigation and improved environmental outcomes.
- *Secure and build on positive trade facilitation steps* that have been taken to reduce distortions at the border, to reinforce the role that Indian markets can play in ensuring securing and stable food supplies.
- *Continue efforts to build and maintain mechanisms to ensure transparency and policy dialogue* on food systems, ensure to build confidence in local markets and co-operation.
- *In moving forward, consider how adopting an integrated approach can help ensure the resilience of the locally available food system*. With enhanced resilience the food system will be better able to deliver on the triple challenge: providing safe, affordable food for a growing population and livelihoods for the many people involved in food around the areas (including the majority of the India's poor who live in rural areas), while ensuring environmental sustainability in the face of complex environmental challenges and a climate emergency.

Table 2

The following table shows the movement of small and marginal farmers before and after the spread of Covid-19 from the select villages of HasanparthyMandal of Warangal District:

Sl, No.	Name of the village	No. of persons moved away	No. of persons came
---------	---------------------	---------------------------	---------------------

		from their native place before the spread of Covid- 19	to their native place after the spread of Covid-19
1	Kaniparthi	05	04
2	Kogilvai	06	05
3	Siddhapur	08	08
4	Ambala	09	07
5	Gunturpally	03	03
6	Sithampet	07	05
	Total	38	32

The above table shows that as many as 38 marginal farmers moved away from their native villages in search of finding agricultural works for their livelihood and after outbreak of Covid-19, as many as 32 marginal farmers came back to their native places by losing their work in income. The Covid-19 resulted in 84% of the farmers returning to their native villages.

Table 3

The following table depicts the death of the family members of small and marginal farmers during the spread of Covid-19 from the select villages of HasanparthyMandal of Warangal District:

Sl, No.	Name of the village	No. of family members of the small and marginal farmers passed away during the spread of Covid- 19
1	Kaniparthi	02
2	Kogilvai	03
3	Siddhapur	05
4	Ambala	06
5	Gunturpally	03
6	Sithampet	06
	Total	25

The above table shows that as many as 25 family members of the small and marginal farmers passed away during Covid-19 pandemic period with Corona and Corona related diseases.

Conclusion& Suggestions

There is an opportunity today to not just respond effectively to the current crisis, but to roll back distortive, inefficient and environmentally harmful support, thereby freeing up financial resources for investments in a more productive, sustainable and resilient food system able to meet new challenges. This, together with accompanying regulatory reforms, can help build an enabling environment for the entire food system that is aligned with natural resource limits, a

changing climate, market demand, technological developments, and “low probability, high impact” catastrophic risks. The unanticipated shock of COVID-19 underscores the need for a shift from “business as usual” policies to a more forward looking policy package that invests in the productivity, sustainability, and the resilience of the locally available food system. At the same time the deprived masses need support and financial help from the governmental and non-governmental agencies. The governmental agencies should come forward to provide insurance at low premium to aid and support the victimized families.