

## Contribution of agriculture to country's economy under circumstances of Covid -19

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Agriculture called the backbone of Indian economy because most of the part of India is related from village and villagers directly depend upon the farming. As we know whole world is under crisis due to pandemic corona virus – 19 which is acute infectious disease. Whole world is under lockdown to slow down the spread and due to this various activities mainly agriculture is severely affected, but only due to agriculture we are alive today.

Amidst the threat of Covid-19 the rabi crops are approaching to maturity , Harvesting of wheat is approaching in Northern states , sugarcane Harvesting is at peak and also manual planting in north, Harvesting of lentil, maize , chilies and grams is fast approaching for such agriculture operations there has been some guidelines released by government of India which includes

- ❖ Social distancing
- ❖ Personal hygiene
- ❖ Wearing facemasks
- ❖ Protective clothing
- ❖ Copious washing of machine parts touched with soap is advised

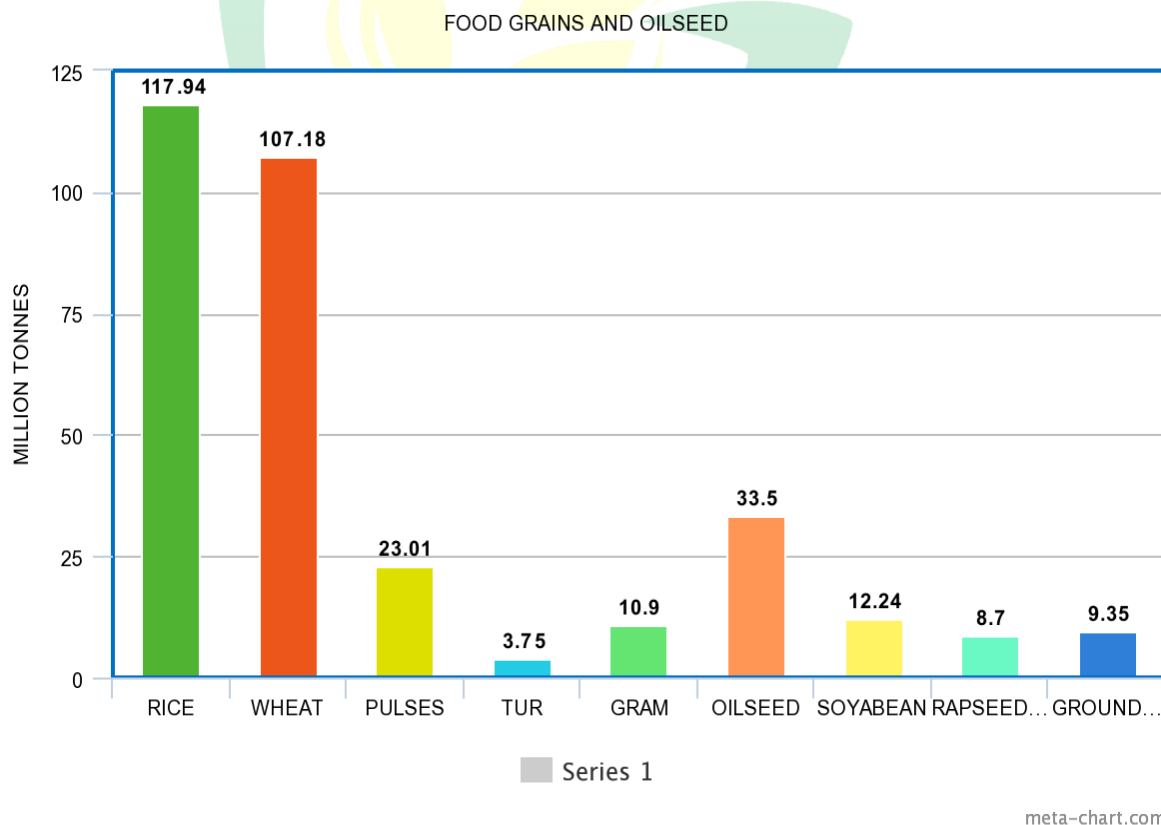
Due to Covid -19 and lockdown – Plantation crop stare at huge loses with few hands to harvest to the standing crop. Plantation crops like Rubber, Coffee and Black pepper, are facing huge losses on standing crop especially impacted the tapping and maintenance of rubber plantations in Kerala and may result losses of RS 3,000 Crore and also a shortage of rubber for medical purpose like- gloves and sanitization masks. The sale of dairy products, fish and poultry has also been hit during the lockdown period .

### **How the agriculture does plays key role in economy?**

FCI (Food Corporation of India) steps up to ensure No shortage of food grains to

poor. As centre allows the state to directly purchased the fixed quota of wheat and rice from FCI depots without participation in E-auction under open market sale scheme and this has been done to meet the requirement under NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT (NFSA) and PM – GARIB KALYAN YOJNA (PMGKY) . Under this scheme PMGKY-5 KG food grains (rice or wheat ) for three months was announced to 81.35 Crore Families and NFSA targeted populations gets 5 kg food grains for each month at the rate of Rs. 2 or 3 kg. Government approves plans to convert the FCI’s surplus rice into Ethanol in which food grains stocks with FCI is 58.49 million tones and rice 30.57 million tonnes. NATIONAL BIOFUEL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (NBCC) approved available stock with FCI and converted to ethanol for utilization in Making alcohol based Sanitizer and in Blending for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP PROGRAMME)

One of the members of NITI – AAYOG quoted as saying ‘the farm sector will grow up by 3% this year despite the adverse condition and add at least 0.5 % to India’s GDP growth in 20-21. The third advanced estimate of production of food grain and oilseed for 2019-20 released by department of Agriculture cooperation and farmer’s welfare and they are:



## India as an aid

- ❖ India exported around one lakh tones of wheat to Afghanistan and Lebanon under government to government agreement (G2G)
- ❖ NAFED exported 50,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan and 40,000 tonnes to Lebanon through diplomatic route.
- ❖ Government has been exporting wheat to African and Asian countries on HUMANITRIAN ground under G2G agreement.
- ❖ To support the farmer and agriculture the Government of India has released various platforms, financial aid, schemes by which they should not get suppressed by the covid pandemic and lockdown. Online platform like KISAN RATH APP Launched by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare (17/04/2020) to facilitate the farmers and traders in identifying the right the Right mode of transportation for moment of produce (fruits ,vegetables ,spices ,oilseed).
- ❖ Another online trading platform ENAM ( A pan India electronic trading program portal launched on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016)
  - There are 585 mandis in first phase
  - In second phase their wings integrate to 415 mandis with total of 1000 mandis across 18 States and 3 Union territories.
- ❖ Pradhan mantra kisan samman nidhi (PM –KISAN) is a central sector scheme in which 17,793 crores released for 8.89 crore farmer families during lockdown.
- ❖ Another additional working capital worth 30 thousand crores to farmers through NABARD (NATIONAL BANK OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ) And facility to help 3 crore farmers
  1. 33 state cooperative banks
  2. 351 district cooperative banks
  3. 43 regional rural banks
- ❖ The finance minister also said that 63 lakh loans worth Rs. 86600 crores were approved in agriculture sector between 1 march to 30 march 2020 as LIQUIDTY SUPPORT MEASEURES.

Hence agriculture is the best sector to boost the economy and fulfils the demand of country in every term.