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**Impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture: An Empirical Study with special reference to
Himachal Pradesh**

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Abstract

Exposure of the Covid-19 Pandemic in different sectors of the financial system in each country has come to a screeching halt. It forced millions of employees/workers particularly in unorganized sectors in India who are dependent on everyday wages for his or her survival and have lost their basic source of livelihood. It is too important to diagnose the dimensions of the monetary disaster in an accurate way. It is the need of the time that the governments, the civil society, and different stakeholders immediately address the miseries of the poor and prone by offering cash as well as meals so that they may recover and the horticulture sector be better again. Pandemic has caused a situation of concern among every sector. The profits which may be

opted out from free time works associated with flora and decorative leaves with the approach for the environment & modern green places are highly getting identified so relatable.

Keywords: Workers, Epidemic, Livelihood, Economic Development, Horticultural sector, Himachal Pradesh

Introduction

During the acrimonious outburst of contagious viral diseases, as COVID-19, with the regulations pervasive on daily lives being an organ of social distancing guidelines to restrict the disease to be spread, scores of migrant laborers tried to be returned to their hometown. Also, during the rapid spreading of the COVID pandemic, a huge number of migrant laborers tried every feasible approach to attain their respective targets whereas some of the migrants are caught on boundaries of any state or even district & at countries' border regions. Those people belong to the most neglected strata of our social structure which is mostly dependent on everyday wages living, and in a period of such exhaustion, they need sympathy & support from society.

Himachal Pradesh faces Sevier problem by this calamity but we can see that the state authorities put

numerous approaches to hold migrant people, who are back to the Himalayan region after national isolation guidelines were setup to reduce the sphere of life-taking coronavirus disease. Himachal Pradesh has had been coping with a migration-related issue for a very longer duration: in search of employment throughout the Indian subcontinent, People have left the state's remote, hilly & far regions.

The absolute significance of workers relates to farming, fisheries & transportation connected to deliverable agricultural outcomes like food items or flowers tells us of the manner the formal economic system is subsuming casual modes in food production & horticulture while getting that Agribusiness has prolonged beyond stripping localities of resources, and is taking a flip to turn huge extractive operations into discontinuous networks of manufacturing & circulation throughout territories at a majored scale. To study all such circumstances & consequences,

The Impact on the Food Supplying Chains

Corona has averted changed the ordinary food supplying chains whereas infections, regulations & quarantine measures have caused the prolonged shipping of agricultural intakes, heavy dearth of labor approach, no production, the collection of items, thereby every so often brings shortages of merchandise in stores. It is more certain that issues can also emerge at distinct degrees in the meals supplying chains, from primary manufacturing to ultimate consumption whereas initiating from the adequacy of agricultural intakes, the peasants are dealing with a scarcity of seeds & fertilizers.

This paper is more than sufficient and the final result of this study will offer a few foods for ideas & recommendations to decide the shorter- & longer-term well-built plans to triumph over the coronavirus effect and to broaden the flexibility withinside the horticulture sector & its employees.

Literature Review

Mohanty (2021) examined that there has been massive disruption because of corona throughout the world in each aspect of human life as well as longer duration of lockdown period affected the monetary activities, then partial stoppages of those actions. There emerged a vast need for employment introduction & capability employment to the ground level with a self-sustenance manner against distinct dealers of perturbation while facing numerous demanding situations ahead to regain the normalcy so that an effective monetary boom is achieved on this post-COVID period.

R. K. (2021) states that large numbers of migrant people are back to their local places while many of the migrants are back to their respective who have worked in the post-Corona period. Those migrants are in need of stability & personal security despite the fact that they're underutilized & also a self-reliant farm-related technical approach by the small & marginal landholders could help them out of this destructive phase of life. Groups cropping or the cooperative approach can chisel the path near to self-reliance & financial boom of distorted peasants in the post-corona era.

Mandal (2021) brought our attention towards the Government schemes which must be efficaciously used by growing suitable mechanisms that are an immediate deposition of money to peasants & rural young people for farming & also allied sectors to the self-dependent startup

India introduced through the Govt. in battle with Corona. The formalizing of about nine hundred and ten FPOs (SFAC, 2020b) & approximately ten million SHGs in India (Mishra, 2020) can lead to the development of food microenterprises achievement whereas landless employees can also additionally shape cluster-based cooperatives for crops & other products like Bamboo, jute, chilly, potato, etc., to push the rural people towards employment, better livelihood & enhance manufacturing. The processing of numerous Agro-animal-based items may be evolved in rural areas with massive export profits and also other farming systems including beekeeping, herbal flowers production & beneficial animal husbandry will offer balance in a rural economic system with the help of government schemes. The revival of the damaged economic system caused by the destructive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is possible with this step.

Garg, A., & Agarwal, P (2018) tested the migration stream from a village area to town in India & tried to analyze the effect of the Coronavirus among migrants as they have to be back to their hometown due to the Implementation of lockdown by the Central Government of India. Being a developing country, India can acquire the advantages of migration only if the respective country improves the infrastructure including sanitation & health, housing, water intake & education. Migrants could contribute to NSDP only when those socio-financial variables are improved. The 'BIMARU' states have lots of assets possessing a hard work pressure that may rework the complete migration information of India if tasks are taken within the proper direction and it is the want of the hour to re-investigate & optimally layout each rural & modern improvement regulations.

Kaur, S. & Raj, H., (2021) mentioned that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) arrived with new themes, i.e., one season & only premium; with a cover-up of all rabi & Kharif seasons and yearly horticulture production; pervasive risks before sowing till harvesting period; some use of latest gadgets like drones & GPS to evaluate crop losses and to make it, even more, peasant friendly & successful, a few new capabilities had brought participation for all the peasants, enterprise allocation to coverage agencies for 3 years in place of single, Aadhaar card authentication, obligatory necessities for the states to deposit subsidy and so on.

Ghosh, (2018) observation point out that Indian farmers have a verse method concerning agriculture coverage whereas the Indian authorities is advertising agriculture insurance since its inception through subsidizing the payment but the involvement of farmers in agricultural

insurance programmed do not get up at a standard of expected satisfaction. The major disadvantage of the newly brought agricultural insurance scheme below PPP mode is associated with the non-public insurers which brought the extensive benefits with insuring the agricultural chances but simultaneously, farmers had not been benefitted from agriculture insurance during a crop failure by not getting the enough & suitable claims.

Kelkar, (2006) criticized the presentation of agricultural schemes as being disgusting in all aspects whether or not administrative & economic whereas the monetary presentation of agricultural insurance schemes has had been suffering from loss and even monetary presentation is suppressed concerning attempt a claim to the payments & acquired charges with least effect of the insurance scheme.

Hussain, B. (2021) took into account the Kissan credit card (KCC) scheme for the peasants as a great initiative maintained through the Indian govt. to reinforce the economic status of growers while NABARD launched this scheme to satisfy the complete credit necessities of the agriculture zone by offering adequate economic assist to growers. But 2% deductions on its rate of interest is required that is presently 8% & 4% with each grower & crop needing to be brought below numerous insurance schemes. This glorious journey for the development of the Horticulture sector is a project of central interest for the boom of the horticulturist zone overlaying veggies,spices, coconut, aromatic plants, fruits, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, flowers, bamboo, cocoa, & cashews.

FPOs & SHGs are given major roles, those corporations must be solidifying by offering extra monetary aid and the intake supplies like fertilizer, seeds, fertilizers, etc. must be ensured to the peasants for the sowing seasons. Talent improvement, Vocational training & micro meals corporations' startup will be required for the local young people, peasants & younger migrant workers. There's a need for enhancement of cold storages capacity, & developing new infrastructures for the garage of veggies & fruits for yearly market supply; market reforms by liberalized & subsidized trans-state shipping facilities.

Ahmad, R. (2021) found out that each district holds the capacity for horticulture manufacturing consisting of numerous types of fertile soil, and different geographical factors whereas in this regard, the Govt. of India (GoI) must discover new technologies & strategies to consult

specialists. Accurate records of the place & production of each fresh or dry fruit must be maintained and, in this field, diverse technologies evolved & verified by SKUAST-K for the increase & improvement of horticulture may be implemented. The introduction of high-density plantations (HDP) of temperate fruits brought about a revolution to the horticulture enterprise of J&K but still, conventional orchards are in need to be reintroduced.

Ahmad, T. (2021) has believed that the horticulture sector will create enough job possibilities & enhance the nutritional necessities in the shape of vitamins & nutrients whereas the destiny of the state relies upon the well-skilled & hopeful youngsters bearing a positive outlook. So maximum youngsters residing in rural regions can be connected through diverse Govt. schemes to reduce unemployment. Govt. of India must operate numerous schemes sponsored by the center in those newly formed Union territories so that the growers may get a possibility to develop exceptional fruits with maximum output and with small

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To find the impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture
2. To ascertain the impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The present study is descriptive in nature wherein the significance of impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture was analysed. The sample taken for the study is 150. The information was gathered with the assistance of an organized poll on a five-point scale and investigated with the assistance of the mean qualities and t test.

Table1 Demographic profile of the respondents

Variables	Number of respondents	% age
Gender		

Males	74	49%
Females	76	51%
Total	150	100%
Profession		
Businessman	36	24%
Teacher	44	29%
Housewife	41	27%
Student	29	20%
Total	150	100%
Age		
20-35	35	23%
35-50	49	33%
50-65	66	44%
Total	150	100%

Table 1 presents demographic profile of the respondents on the impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture. There are 49% males and 51% females in the study. Among the respondents 24% are into business, 29% are teachers, 27% are housewives and 20% are students. The 23% of the respondents are 20-35 years of age, 33% are 35-50 years of age, and 44% are 50-65 years of age.

Table 2 Mean Value of impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture

Sr. No.	Impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture	Mean Score
1.	COVID has majorly impacted the supply food chain	4.10
2.	After COVID there has been a major issue of labour in every sector	4.09

3.	Agriculture insurance has played a major role in times of COVID	4.07
4.	The Government should introduce innovative techniques of conducting horticultural activities in order to get most of geographic attributes	4.11
5.	The damage that has been done to horticulture in India will take years to be corrected	4.08
6.	Most of the parts of the country are facing major issues since migrant labourers have returned to their hometowns	4.12
7.	COVID has impacted each and every aspect of human life	4.15
8.	A strong mechanism of agriculture is required so that this sector does not suffer in future	4.13
9.	Government needs to introduce schemes which may help the farmers in overcoming the losses happened due to COVID	4.16
10.	COVID has helped the farmers understand the need for farmers insurance	4.14

Table 2 shows the opinions of the respondents. It is observed that Government needs to introduce schemes which may help the farmers in overcoming the losses happened due to COVID with the mean value of 4.16. It is followed by COVID has impacted each and every aspect of human life (4.15), COVID has helped the farmers understand the need for farmer's insurance (4.14), and A strong mechanism of agriculture is required so that this sector does not suffer in future(4.13). Most of the parts of the country are facing major issues since migrant labourers have returned to their hometowns (4.12), The Government should introduce innovative techniques of conducting horticultural activities in order to get most of geographic attributes(4.11), COVID has majorly impacted the supply food chain (4.10), After COVID there has been a major issue of labour in every sector(4.09) and The damage that has been done to horticulture in India will take years to be corrected (4.08) were also considered important. Reasons like Agriculture insurance has played a major role in times of COVID (4.07) were also viewed as important.

Table 3

Sr.	Impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture	Mean	t-Value	Sig
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No.		Score		
1.	COVID has majorly impacted the supply food chain	4.10	7.428	0.000
2.	After COVID there has been a major issue of labour in every sector	4.09	6.869	0.000
3.	Agriculture insurance has played a major role in times of COVID	4.07	6.472	0.000
4.	The Government should introduce innovative techniques of conducting horticultural activities in order to get most of geographic attributes	4.11	5.916	0.000
5.	The damage that has been done to horticulture in India will take years to be corrected	4.08	5.903	0.000
6.	Most of the parts of the country are facing major issues since migrant labourers have returned to their hometowns	4.12	7.116	0.000
7.	COVID has impacted each and every aspect of human life	4.15	7.751	0.000
8.	A strong mechanism of agriculture is required so that this sector does not suffer in future	4.13	8.310	0.000
9.	Government needs to introduce schemes which may help the farmers in overcoming the losses happened due to COVID	4.16	7.912	0.000
10.	COVID has helped the farmers understand the need for farmers insurance	4.14	7.721	0.000

Table 3 shows the results of t-test. It is found from the table that the significance value for all the statements is below 0.05, hence all the statements the impact of Covid-19 issues on Horticulture are significant.

Conclusion

COVID has produced a different period in the food supply chains community & the food businesses and we are clearing out mankind's economy, outputs, & foods handling (Galanakis, 2020). Experts & professionals around the food areas face multiple problems in the future, e.g.,

ensuring food handle, separating Corona from situations wherein food is manufactured, disinfecting surfaces & running situations sufficient to others. The longer we flow toward ultimate levels of the manufacturing community, extra measurements are needed as extra people are occupied with the sphere whereas shifting by late-lockdown standards, common well-being remarks will rely mostly on the development of specific organic assets. Proceedings along with the supplying in food & horticulture region are essential to prevent the scarcity of meals & reduce its bad impact on the global economic conditions. The paper may carry concerns with screenings of population and investigation of Gianakos, & nearby environmental conditions. Supplying chains must be adaptable sufficient to make a reaction to the problems in the meals supplying chain and a public distribution system (PDS) is created as a revolving strategic solution and also its coordinating substructures are a proposal to analyze COVID conditions by spotlighting the essential activities.

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