



COVID-19 LOCKDOWN EFFECT ON SMALL AGRICULTURIST

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Abstract: The global economy is facing economic uncertainty due to the Pandemic named Novel Corona virus (COVID-19). It is believed that it started from Wuhan city of China by the end of 2019. The virus has created an unstable economic environment over the whole world. This study focuses the effect on small agriculturists due to lockdown. It includes those farmers whose only income source is farming. This study is important because, in India, the majority of people are dependent upon the agriculture sector. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, farmers are facing problems in selling their Agri products and as a result many times the unsold products/grains become pernicious which adversely affect humans. This results in decline in agriculture income. This study includes over 100 responses from farmers of Gujarat. And tried to examine the problem faced by them.

Key words: Agriculturist, Pandemic, Lockdown, Agri products

I.INTRODUCTION

India is a developing country. 70% India's population depend on agriculture sector. 1.7% contribution has decreased in India from 2014-15 till 2019-20^[5]. 70 percent of rural households depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Therefore, it might be difficult for the Government of India to manage the effect of Covid-19 pandemic on agriculture sector. Indian agriculture are facing some difficulties affecting productivity and source of income of farmers such as less market awareness, dependency on season, improper marketing structure, old agricultural production technology and not providing minimum wage prize to farmers by government are major problem which are affecting farmers source of income and economic stability.

In this paper we will examine the effect of COVID-19 lockdown on small agricultural sector. We will compare announcements of government, related to agriculture and find out the deceptive claims made by government. Even after two months the government has not helped the local farmers as needed. Indian finance minister announces a relief package of 1.7 trillion to help 800 million poor people in country. Apart from this benefit, government also provided the first installment of Rs. 2000 directly in Farmers bank account in April under the PM kishan yojana (pradhan mantra kisan samman nidhi scheme). The aim here is to provide financial support of Rs. 6000 to all farmers in the country in 3 equal installments of Rs. 2000 every four months. But this nominal amount is far too less to overcome basic necessities of poor farmers ^[6].

II.OBJECTIVE:

- 1) To understand the problems faced in selling agricultural products due to COVID -19
- 2) To measure the impact on income of small agriculturist due to COVID -19
- 3) To measure the farmer's satisfaction ratio towards Government's Financial package after lockdown due to COVID -19

III . RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this Research the methodology section outline the plan and method that how the study is conducted. This includes data and its sources, sample of study and many things which are covered in the primary research methodology. So, we mentioned below the detailed information about it.

Primary data: The primary data is collected by the survey only. The survey was done through a structured questionnaire which is on Google form.

Secondary data: The source of secondary data is journals, articles, research papers, online sites, website any many more sources which are available on online or offline platform.

Sample size: The sample size for this research is 100 farmers who have been randomly selected for this study.

Sampling method: The method is simple random sampling was used to collect the primary source of data based on the time available and respondents.

Statistical tools for analysis: Percentage method and graphical method have been used to analyze the data.

IV . LITERATURE REVIEW

1) Arumugam, D. U., & Kanagavalli, D. G. (2020) The research paper identifies that due to lockdown the regulation on the transfer of agricultural products from its place of production to the consumer has been delayed. Another problem is unavailability of labour force due to fear of viral transmission. The Corona infection fear create a effect on agribusiness item store network. Which results in disappointing transporter, distributor, retailer, and customer. Same as, the arranging of kharif and rabi crops has been placed into the end, which might be reason for delay and decrease in upcoming season.

2) Behura and Dash, 2020 The research paper identifies that the effect of reduce price, low demand and non availability of Labour. These are the hurdles which should be removed. It creates such a situation when one realizes that to set up crop in fire or using crops for feeding animal is better option. This affects all the market connection of agri products to final consumer due to lockdown restriction. So, government needs to take decision which maintains supply chain of agri products.

3) Rawal, V., Kumar, M., Verma, A., & Pais, J. (2020) The research paper identifies that the impact on farmer's economic situation due to price reduction and loss of crops on. Due to market opening instability, large number of farmers faced problem for selling agro products with low price.

4) Pulighe, G., & Lupia, F. (2020) The research paper identifies that lockdown due to covid19 and states banned interstate transportation caused a huge amount of loss in perishable goods, vegetables and export expenses. The whole supply chain was disturbed and especially for fresh vegetables and fruits retail price market was hugely affected. Low income household ,homeless unemployed faced scarcity of food.

5) Bhat, B. A., Gull, S., & Jeelani, G. (2020) The research paper identifies that due to lockdown, all transporting services were declined. Transportation of agricultural product was highly disturbed. Due to less supply of agricultural products, farmers were paying more price than actual. Local labourers, Migrants workers and farmers were mainly affected more due to lockdown

V .SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTION

Variable	Constructs	Frequency of respondents
Age	21-30	37
	31-40	14
	41-50	25
	51-60	18
	61-70	04
	71-80	01
	81-90	01
Agricultural land(Bigha)	1-10	48
	11-20	35
	21-30	10
	31-40	02
	41-50	01
	51-60	04

(2.5 Bigha is equal to = 1 Acres **Gujarat**)

Bigha (An Indian measurement of land)

Sample population is from the age of 21-90-year-old. Among the respondents 48% possess land up to 10 bigha only, 35 % have up to 20 bigha, 10% have up to 30 bigha, 2% have up to 40 bigha, 1% have up to 50 bigha and 4% have up to 60 bigha.

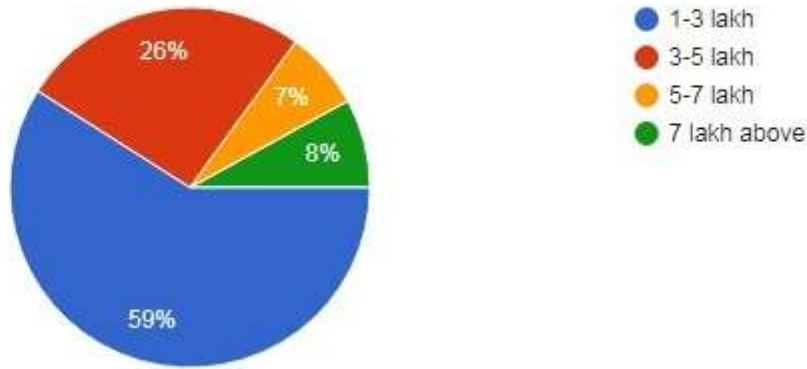
VI .ANALYSIS OF DATA

Following are the response of respondents on important question/issue related to covid-19 lockdown effect on small agriculturist.

1.

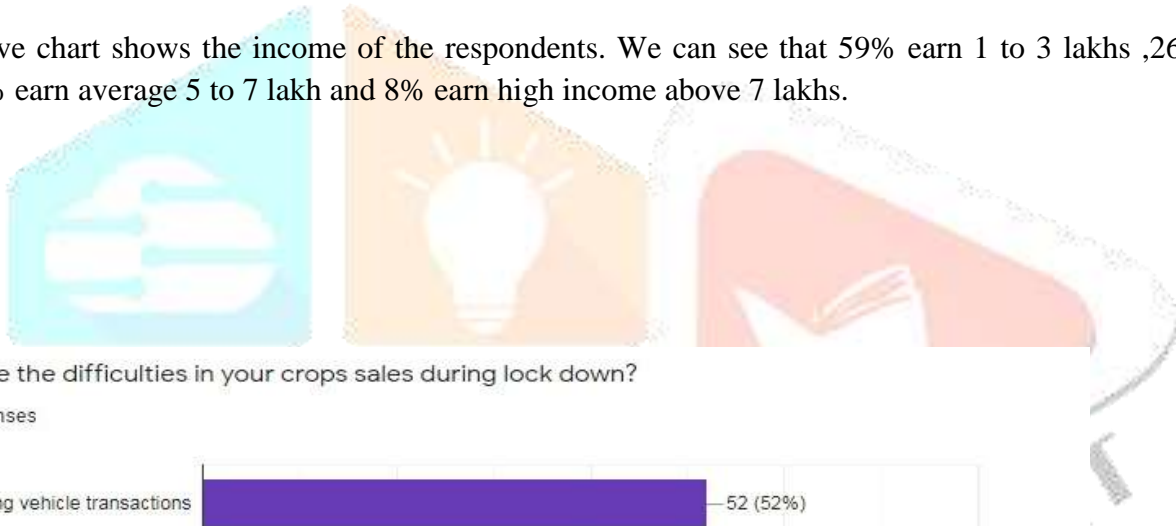
Income

100 responses



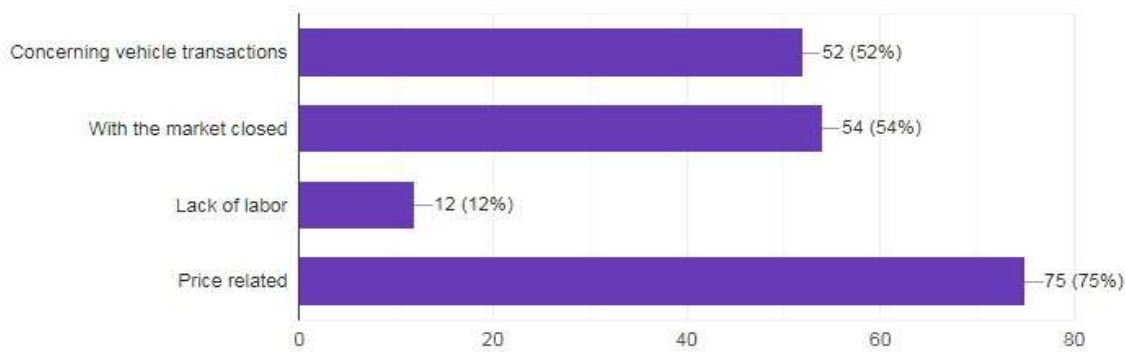
The above chart shows the income of the respondents. We can see that 59% earn 1 to 3 lakhs ,26% earn 3 to 5 lakhs,7% earn average 5 to 7 lakh and 8% earn high income above 7 lakhs.

2.



What are the difficulties in your crops sales during lock down?

100 responses

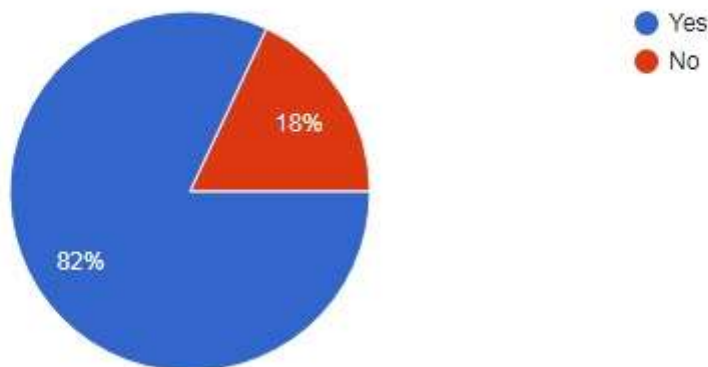


The above chart shows that the respondent’s faced difficulties in crop sales during lock down. We can see that Majority75%of farmers are facing price related difficulties, 54% farmers are facing problems by the market closed, 52% farmers are facing problems related to concerning vehicle transactions and 12% farmers are facing problems by non-availability or lack of labour.

3.

Is there any effect of labor availability during lock down?

100 responses

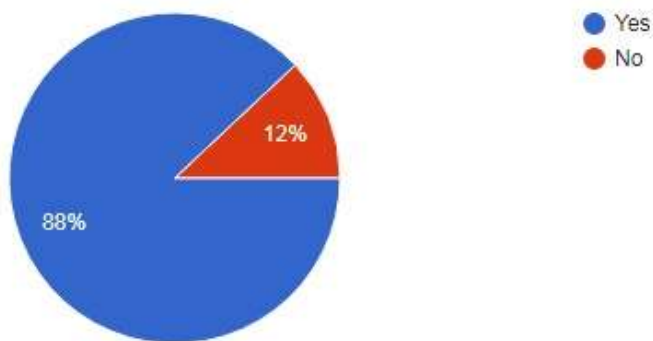


The above chart shows farmer’s labour availability during lock down. we can see that 82% of farmers are not having labour during lockdown and 18% farmers have labour during lockdown.

4.

Are you facing losses due to late sale of crops during market closure?

100 responses

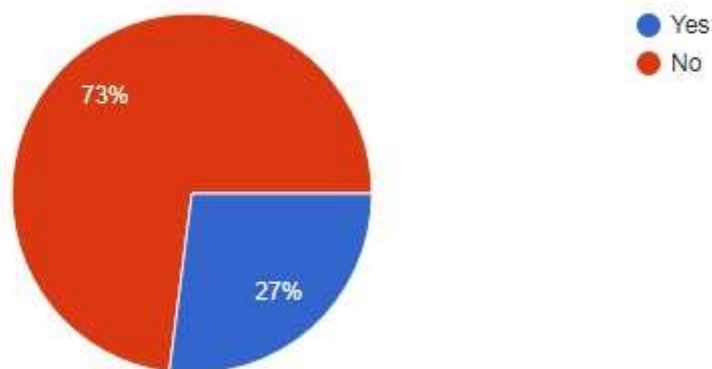


The above chart shows that how many farmers facing losses due to sale of crops during market closer. 88 farmers face loss by selling of crops during market closer.

5.

Did you get the right price for your crop?

100 responses

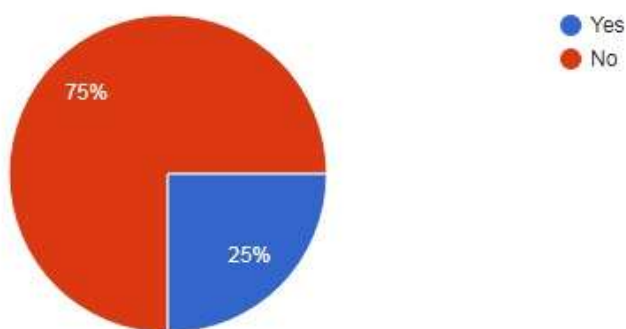


The above chart shows how many farmers get the right price for his crop. We can see that 73% farmers don't get right price and only 27% get right price by selling his crops.

6.

Did you have the right facility for crop storage?

100 responses

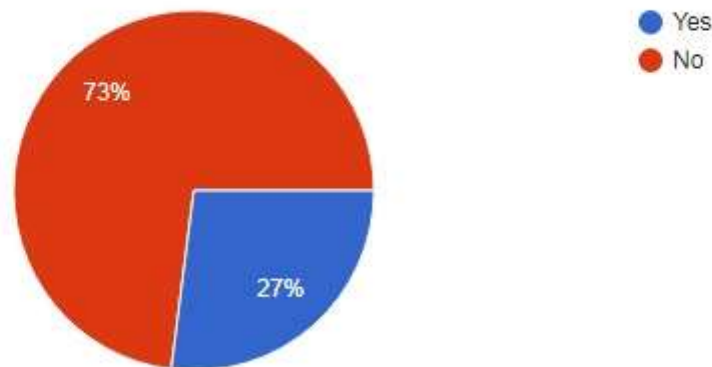


The above chart shows farmers have facility for crop storage. We can see 75% don't have facilities of crop storage and only 25% have facilities of crop storage.

7.

Do you know about financial package offered for farmers by government?

100 responses

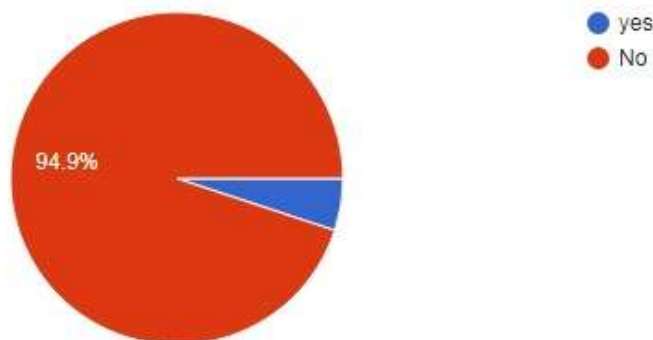


The above chart shows farmers know about financial package offered for farmers by government. we can see that 73% are unknown and 27% know about financial package offered by government.

8.

If above answer is yes, have you received financial assistance?

99 responses



The above chart shows that farmers received financial help. We can see that majority 94.9% framers don't received any financial help and only 5.1% farmers are received financial help.

VII .FINDINGS

Through this research we got deep understanding about the lockdown effect on small agriculturists of Indian rural areas. In this research the individuals who represent the data are among the age group of 21 to 90 years old also they have agriculture land in 1 to 60 **Bigha** (An Indian measurement of land).

We also found that in the farmers' income level, income level is 1lakh to 7lakh and above. In this we analyze that most of the respondents or famers are having income between 1lakh-3lakh which covers 59% of farmers.

We found that the farmers faced difficulties in crop sales during lockdown. We can see that Majority 75% farmers have faced price related difficulties and 12% farmers have faced problem by non availability or lack of labour.

We found that effect of labour availability during lockdown. We can see that 82% of farmers not having labour during lockdown and 18% farmers have labour during lockdown and we found that farmers get the right price for crop or not. In that we can see, 73% farmers don't get right price and only 27% get right price by selling his crops.

We found that farmers have facility for crop storage or not. In that 75% don't have facilities of crop storage and only 25% have facilities of crop storage.

We also found that farmers are aware about financial package which is offered by government of India or not. In that case 73% farmers are unaware about financial package and 27% farmers are aware about financial package. We also found that when we asked about, if they have got any financial help in that case 94.9% farmers said they don't get any financial help and 5.1% farmers said that they got financial help.

VIII .CONCLUSION

The study reveals that Covid-19 lockdown effect on small agriculturist since their major source of income is totally depending on agricultural production like seasonal harvest and sale of agri products. During lockdown period farmers were not able to harvest and sell their products due to unavailability of labours, unavailability market or transportation facility and many other problems which they are facing due to lockdown and social distancing norms. At this toughest time government are fixing the price for agri products which is helpful for the small agriculturist and also government is trying to do something related to e-trade activities which might be helpful for small agriculturists.

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