



A REVIEW ON LOCKDOWN DUE TO COVID 19 AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL ECONOMY BASED ON SMALL TEA GARDENS IN TINGKHONG, DIBRUGARH DISTRICT, ASSAM

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ABSTRACT- Development of any region depends economic condition of the region. Most of the rural areas of our country depends on different types of agriculture for their livelihood. Assam is the highest producer of Tea in our country India. In Assam Tingkhong taluk of Dibrugarh district contributed a huge amount of tea to the total production of the state. Here a huge amount of young people self established by making small tea gardens. Due to the global pandemic COVID-19 ,when whole country was fully shutdown these small tea growers of Assam affected badly. Along with them some others like daily wages workers and enterprise associated with the tea sector also affected. This paper is trying to concentrate on the financial loss and other affects of LOCKDOWN in grass level to the National level economy.

Key words- Development, Economy, Financial, Lockdow

INTRODUCTION:-

COVID 19, or Corona virus is the global pandemic in our known history. It started from the Wahuan province of China in the months of October November and slowly spread all over the world and destroying their Health sector as well as Economic conditions. This virus usually spread through social contacts ,so

to save their people all the countries of the world declared total LOCKDOWN for specific time. Our country India is also not differ from them and done the same. Our Prime Minister Naredndra Modi declared lockdown from the 24th March , 2020. To 14th April 2020 as first phase, and 15th April to 3rd May as second phase, 4th May to 17th May 2020 as third phase and 18th May to 31st May, 2020 as fourth phase. During this lockdown, first two phases were very strict as compared to the last two phases. In the first two phases whole country faced different kind of problems like food crisis, work crisis etc. During this time economy of the country was badly affected. At the time of Lockdown all kind of activities are stopped and the people of the country also faced problem. Due to lockdown some of the industries are fall down and lots of people lost their jobs. The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on farms, forestry and fisheries will be variable. Some will be less affected, where operations are deemed 'essential' and contracts for produce are already negotiated for medium- or long-term delivery. The same goes for those feeding into essential food, fish or timber processing businesses, tea producers and with direct farm payments continuing¹.

Assam which is famous for black tea production or which is known as highest producer of black tea all over the world. Tea gardens also faced problems during lockdown time. In Assam out of the company tea estates lots of young people established small private tea gardens as for self establishment in their own locality. A huge amount of tea leaves are coming from these small tea gardens to the factories for finish product. Along with these young gardeners a large amount of labour also engaged in these tea gardens as well as in the factories. So these whole amount of people faced different kind of problems at time of lock down.

So the writer is trying to explore the problems of small tea growers and the peoples associated with this sector during the time of lockdown. This paper is trying to concentrate on the problems and losses of small tea growers, labors and agro enterprises.¹

OBJECTIVES: Objectives of any research or survey express the path to examine the problem in a systematic way. Objectives are very essential part of any survey and research. This paper is mainly depending on primary source related small tea gardens at the time of lockdown. Objectives of this paper are-

1. To detect the problem and losses faced by small tea gardeners during lockdown.
2. To detect the problems of tea garden labors related to these gardens.
3. Find out the impact of these tea growers in other sector associated with it.in lock down.

METHODOLOGY: Methodology in a research paper or survey is an important characteristics of good research. Here mainly included use of technique to collect data for analysis in a proper way. These methods or techniques may be direct and indirect. For the proper understanding author used some journals and web portals for literature review. Here data collected from the location directly which is known as raw data. Author used primary as well as secondary method for the article.

ASSAM- THE TEA HUB OF THE WORLD

Assam its name means "unparallel" or "peerless" which derive from the six hundred years rulers of Assam "Ahom" community. Assam the heart of North East India is lies between 88°25' E to 96°00' E longitude and 24°5'N to 28° N latitude with the area of 78438 km². The land has uneven topography full of hills

plains and rivers. The state is surrounded by Arunachal Pradesh in the East, Meghalaya, Westbengal, Bangladesh in the west, Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan in the North and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura in South.. Assam is the state with 33 districts, out of which two are known as the hub of tea i.e. Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

Dibrugarh is the tea city of India, located in 27°5'38" N to 27°42'30" n latitude and 94°33'46"E to 95°29'8"E longitude. Its bounded by Dhemaji district in north, Tinsukia district in east ,Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh is in South East, Sivasagar district on the north and southwest.

Tingkhong is a revenue circle and town of Dibrugarh district located in 27°30'Nlatitude and 95°10' E longitude with the elevation of 116 meter (MSL). Demographically it is mixture of different communities and Bihu is the main festival among them. Economically the people of Tingkhong depend upon tea and rice cultivation.

ANALYSIS:

Assam is the tea hub of our country, India. In Assam Dibrugarh district contribute a huge amount of tea to the national production. This contribution impact on the economy of the district as well as the state. Due to the pandemic Corona virus whole world is totally closed. So in this time our pride tea industries also closed for almost 21 to 30 days. During this lockdown tea industries and the tea estates associated to it are getting losses a huge amount of money. The labors those who engaged in this sector are also affected badly. In Assam out of these tea estates and industries a large amount of young people are also engaged as self employed and depend on it for livelihood. Their day to day life depend on it, at the same time a huge amount of labors and their family also depend on it for their livelihood.

As a result of the above discussion author tried to look towards the economic condition of the peoples related to the small tea growers always through the comparative analysis of data March and April, 2019 and March and April, 2020. In the time of lockdown around 100 farmers data collected safely via online and their one month production during the months of March and April given below.-

Table – 1

Production of Tea buds in the months March and April

Range of Production in kg	Nos person produced
Less than 100	12
100-500	40
500-1000	20
1000-1500	16
1500-2000	7
More than 2000	5

Source – surveyed by the researcher

But due to lockdown this production was almost nil in the months of March and April, 2020. Self employed younger are not able to earn single penny from their tea gardens. But to maintain the production in

future they spent some money to cut the tea trees. Those people had large amount of tea gardens like 100 bigha, 200 bigha or than that they are not able to maintain it properly due to lack of labor. Due to strict lockdown, these self employed peoples faced lots problem. From the above table it is also clear that these 100 small tea garden produces approx. 8400 kg per month which was totally fall down to zero during lockdown. In the other side, if we look to the monetary side of the 100 person, than following results come out. Normally the price of March and April, 2019 was in average Rs 22 (place to place it is different due to transportation cost)so, ²

Table -2

Nos of person	Average production in kg per person	Total average production in kg	Average price per kg	Total average price in Rs
12	100	1200	22	26400
40	250	10000	22	220000
20	750	16500	22	363000
16	1250	20000	22	440000
7	1750	12250	22	269000
5	3000	15000	22	330000
			Total -	1648000

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

From the above table it is clearly trace that each one of person of the selected surveyed group has lost a large amount of money i.e. around 1648500. From here it is mentionable that those people of Assam who have small private tea gardens losses a huge amount of money during the time of lockdown similarly govt. of Assam is also not getting any taxes from tea industries. In the study only 100 small tea growers has lost mentioned amount, but in general there are thousands corers of money lost in pandemic time .

Since the owners are losing lots of money during lockdown a huge amount of workers who are dependent upon these private tea garden and industries are also losses their financial support for livelihood. In the studied shows along with 100 small tea growers following nos of workers family dependent.

Table -3

Range of production	No of owners	No of labor needed
Less than 100kg	12	1
100 -500	40	2
500-1000	20	5
1000-1500	16	9
1500-2000	7	15
More than 2000	5	22

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

Above table explain that a huge amount of daily wages workers dependent upon the small private tea gardens as well as industries. Their families are running from these tea gardens .Due to the corona virus

our country declared total lockdown from 24th march 2020 and these workers losses their works and faced financial problems almost for one month. Even these peoples are not able to get their three time meals in the end of the month.

Out of these some other sectors which are related to these tea gardens also losses in this lockdown period .Among them agro medicinal enterprise are mentionable which mostly depend upon this tea garden sector in Dibrugarh district of Assam. Researcher try to categorized the losses of this enterprises in the following tables. The following tables shows the amount of manure, insecticide, pesticide bought by a small tea grower and how do the enterprises affected

Table -4
Use of Manure

Use of Manure/Insecticide/Pesticide	Use per Bigha	Price of the comodities
Urea	1	250
Super	1	300
Potash	1	320
Insecticide	500 ml	500
Pesticide	300 ml	400

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

Use of urea, super, potash, insecticide and pesticide in the months of March and April and the cost of urea shows below:

Table -5 Use of urea

Rang of tea gardens in bigha	Nos of owners	Total land	Cost of urea per bigha (Rs)	Total cost (Rs)
.5-1	12	12	250	3000
1-3	40	120	250	30000
3-6	15	90	250	22500
6-9	5	45	250	11250
9-12	9	108	250	27000
12-15	7	105	250	26250
			Total	120000

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

Table -6 Use of super

Rang of tea gardens in bigha	Nos of owners	Total land	Cost of urea per bigha (Rs)	Total cost (Rs)
.5-1	12	12	300	3600
1-3	40	120	300	36000
3-6	15	90	300	27000
6-9	5	45	300	13500
9-12	9	108	300	32400
12-15	7	105	300	31500
			Total	144000

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

Table -7
Use of Potash

Rang of tea gardens in bigha	Nos of owners	Total land	Cost of urea per bigha (Rs)	Total cost (Rs)
.5-1	12	12	320	3840
1-3	40	120	320	38400
3-6	15	90	320	28800
6-9	5	45	320	14400
9-12	9	108	320	34560
12-15	7	105	320	33600
			Total	152800

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

Table -8 Use of insecticide

Rang of tea gardens in bigha	Nos of owners	Total land	Cost of urea per bigha (Rs)	Total cost (Rs)
.5-1	12	12	500	6000
1-3	40	120	500	60000
3-6	15	90	500	45000
6-9	5	45	500	22500
9-12	9	108	500	54000
12-15	7	105	500	52500
			Total	240000

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

Table -9

Use of pesticide

Rang of tea gardens in bigha	Nos of owners	Total land	Cost of urea per bigha (Rs)	Total cost (Rs)
.5-1	12	12	480	5760
1-3	40	120	480	57600
3-6	15	90	480	48200
6-9	5	45	480	21600
9-12	9	108	480	51840
12-15	7	105	480	50400
			Total	230400

Source – Surveyed by the Researcher

The above mention tables shows the data of use of inputs in the surveyed 100 private tea gardens in the months of March and April ,2019.Due to COVID 19 and lockdown declared by the government, the agro based enterprises of the surveyed area got a heavy lost. If the 100% of the surveyed area purchase Rs 936800 amount of product from them then where almost 40% people depend their livelihood on it, how much product purchase it's a big question ? From the above table it is also extract that the small private tea gardeners of Assam not only produces tea leaves but also contribute to the input and output sector of the market .In these tables shows that for the input 100 nos of tea growers used almost 9.36 lacks of money which is totally zero in the months of March and April due to lockdown. Similarly in the case of output the same peoples unable to produce around 75000 kg of tea buds only in the mention months which is almost the cost of Rs 1648500. These losses of surveyed people greatly impact on the economy of the locality .In the case of Dibrugarh district of Assam

which is known as the tea hub of Assam and where approximately 40% people depend on tea gardens for their livelihood faced tremendous financial problems during the time of lockdown.

FINDINGS : The discussion about the lockdown due to the global pandemic corona virus tracing the following facts .

- Author found that small tea growers never want to save sufficient amount of money for emergency . So now they learnt to save some money to fight the unexpected situations like lockdown.
- From the analysis it is also taced that small tea gardeners contribute a huge amount towards the state as well as national economy.
- It impact on the GDP of our country .
- It is also found that along with the small tea growers a huge amount of families got their engagement without going outside state.
- Agro based enterprises also affected from lockdown because they unable to sell any kind of products related to tea sector ,even though they mainly depend on it in Dibrugarh district .
- In the findings it is also mentionable that lockdown teaches each and everyone related to tea sector to maintain social distance and cleanliness.

CONCLUSION: At the end of the overall discussion it is screen out that in the time of lockdown, the main cash crop sector of Assam faced a heavy financial loss . In this case the tea hub of Assam , Dibrugarh where almost 40% people depend their livelihood on it faced a financial problem as well as food crisis . The author surveyed to only 100 persons of small tea growers of Tingkhong area, Dibrugarh district of Assam and found there economic conditions and how do they self established and also provide establishment to daily wages workers. It is also confirm from the discussion that due to lockdown how do those tea growers faced different problems. In the case of economic development of the selected area also slowed down and the rural economy of Assam which are related to tea sector badly affected and it impacts on local to the national economy .

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