



CAL E-Abstracts on Covid-19

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1. COVID-19 AND INEQUALITY: A REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE ON LIKELY IMPACT AND POLICY OPTIONS

By RV HILL, A NARAYAN

WORKING PAPER-3, DECEMBER-2020

Abstract

The covid-19 crisis is bringing the inequalities in society into sharper focus. This discussion paper examines the unequal impacts of the pandemic across different groups, the potential consequences for long-term inequality, and the implications of both of these for policy. Although realtime data on the impact of covid-19 in developing countries is currently scarce, early data from surveys during the crisis period, together with available evidence from past shocks, form a useful basis for the discussion. The paper reviews the evidence to make the case that, while the short-run implication of covid-19 for income distribution is uncertain and varies across countries, the longer-term risks to equality and social mobility are less ambiguous. These risks are significant due to the pre-existing inequalities in most societies, the scale and distribution of short-run impacts, and the lasting effects of those impacts and the coping strategies households are forced to adopt. Over time, this combination of factors is likely to amplify inequality of opportunities in affected countries and reduce resilience to future crises. Policy measures need to be adopted during the recovery phase that keep the eye on the long game while also spurring economic recovery in the short run. This requires a concerted focus on inclusiveness and building resilience to future disasters, particularly among vulnerable people and communities.

Source: [Centre for Disaster Protection](#)

2. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case of Remittance Recipient Countries

By K. Bondarenko.

Abstract

The advent of the new coronavirus hinders the fragile welfare of migrant workers. Those economic sectors with a large migrant workforce appear to be those hit hardest during the lockdown, resulting in surge in migrant unemployment and a plunge in the volume of remittances. This has become yet another factor putting pressure on the gross domestic product (GDP) growth, balance of payments, and budgets of countries that are net remittance recipients, while also triggering rising poverty levels. This paper evaluates the impact of the current pandemic (and respective economic downturn) on remittance inflows to recipient countries and tackles the potential contribution that international financial institutions could make to alleviate the adverse economic aftermath. In Central Asia and Southern Caucuses (except Azerbaijan) emergency financing granted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank covers 9– 20% of the overall size of the annual remittances received. This financial support could be rendered insufficient due to the sharp decrease in the

volume of remittances, decline in tourism revenue, and weakening economic activity, while the poor quality of state institutions may hinder the efficient distribution of accumulated resources. In Europe, the IMF and the World Bank provided approximately \$7.7 billion in financing to low- and middle-income countries for such purposes as economic stabilization, support for population welfare, and financing of internal/external deficit, of which \$5 billion is represented by the new Ukraine-IMF Stand-By Agreement. With the exception of Ukraine, Macedonia, and Bulgaria (the latter having received no loans/grants so far), the cover index for European remittance-recipients stands within a range of 2–18% over 2019 remittance inflows. Therefore, it is most feasible that the current 2020 GDP growth forecasts made by the IMF, the World Bank, and local governments are inaccurate in the light of the insufficient financial support provided by international financial organizations. Additional pressure on the GDP figures might stem from further extension and/or toughening of the lockdown period, as well as from uncertainty regarding the revival of regular business activity and the timeline for resuming migrant remittances.

Key words: migration; remittances; macroeconomics; coronavirus; foreign aid; EAEU; Uzbekistan; Europe.

Source: iorj.hse.ru

3. Global impact of COVID-19 on aquaculture and fisheries: A review

By Q Minahel, S Munir, W Komal, S Fatima, R Liaqa

International Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Studies 2020; 8(6): 42-48

Abstract

The recent epidemic that affected the whole world badly is Covid-19. The RNA virus disease effect particularly respiratory system causing difficulty in breathing and if condition get severe, it leads to death. This worldwide pandemic disturb each and every sector of the world as mostly all the countries impose lockdown and restrictions in movement in order to control its spread. This create a huge loss for many sectors such as import/export, industries, stock markets, aquaculture and economies. Considering specifically its impact on aquaculture and fisheries, it greatly reduces its consumption particularly seafood. Fish food chains are affected, small scale fisheries are facing extreme consequences and there is an increase in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Some positive aspects of this situation such as food sharing and decline in fishing pressure also appears but obviously the negative impacts it holds are far greater than these constructive impacts.

Keywords: Covid-19, aquaculture, small-scale fisheries, sea food sector, blue economy

Source: www.fisheriesjournal.com

4. Agricultural labor, COVID-19, and potential implications for food security and air quality in the breadbasket of India

By Balwinder-Singh, Paresh B. Shirsath, M.L. Jat, A.J. McDonald

Agricultural Systems, Vol.185, Nov. 2020

Abstract

To contain the COVID-19 pandemic, India imposed a national lockdown at the end of March 2020, a decision that resulted in a massive reverse migration as many workers across economic sectors returned to their home regions. Migrants provide the foundations of the agricultural workforce in the 'breadbasket' states of Punjab and Haryana in Northwest India. There are mounting concerns that near and potentially longer-term reductions in labor availability may jeopardize agricultural production and consequently national food security. The timing of rice transplanting at the beginning of the summer monsoon season has a cascading influence on productivity of the entire rice-wheat cropping system. To assess the potential for COVID-related reductions in the agriculture workforce to disrupt production of the dominant rice-wheat cropping pattern in these states, we use a spatial ex ante modelling framework to evaluate four scenarios representing a

range of plausible labor constraints on the timing of rice transplanting. Averaged over both states, results suggest that rice productivity losses under all delay scenarios would be low as compare to those for wheat, with total system productivity loss estimates ranging from 9%, to 21%, equivalent to economic losses of USD \$674 m to \$1.48 billion. Late rice transplanting and harvesting can also aggravate winter air pollution with concomitant health risks. Technological options such as direct seeded rice, staggered nursery transplanting, and crop diversification away from rice can help address these challenges but require new approaches to policy and incentives for change.

Keywords: Rice, Wheat, Burning, COVID, Labour shortage, PM2.5, Economic loss, Transplanting

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

5. COVID-19 impacts on agriculture and food systems in Nepal: Implications for SDGs

by Jagannath Adhikari, Jagadish Timsina, Sarba Raj Khadka, Yamuna Ghale, Hemant Ojha

Agricultural Systems, Vol.186, Jan. 2021

Abstract

The objective of this study was to understand the impacts of COVID-19 crisis in agriculture and food systems in Nepal and assess the effectiveness of measures to deal with this crisis. The study draws policy implications, especially for farming systems resilience and the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2. The findings are based on (i) three panel discussions over six months with policy makers and experts working at grassroots to understand and manage the crisis, (ii) key informants' interviews, and (iii) an extensive literature review. Results revealed that the lockdown and transport restrictions have had severe consequences, raising questions on the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2, especially in the already vulnerable regions dependent on food-aid. This crisis has also exposed the strengths and limitations of both subsistence and commercial farming systems in terms of resiliency, offering important lessons for policy makers. Traditional subsistence farming appears to be somewhat resilient, with a potential to contribute to key pillars of food security, especially access and stability, though with limited contributions to food availability because of low productivity. On the other hand, commercial farming - limited to the periphery of market centres, cities, and emerging towns and in the accessible areas - was more impacted due to the lack of resilient supply networks to reach even the local market. Lower resiliency of commercial farming was also evident because of its growing dependence on inputs (mainly seeds and fertilizer) on distant markets located in foreign countries. The observation of crisis over eight months unleashed by the pandemic clearly revealed that wage labourers, indigenous people, and women from marginalized groups and regions already vulnerable in food security and malnutrition suffered more due to COVID-19 as they lost both external support and the coping mechanisms. The findings have implications for policies to improve both subsistence and commercial farming systems – in particular the former by improving the productivity through quality inputs and by diversifying, promoting and protecting the indigenous food system, while the latter through sustainable intensification by building reliant supply network linking farming with markets and guarantying the supply of inputs.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic, Food security, Food sovereignty, Subsistence farming, Sustainable development goals, System resilience.

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

6. COVID 19 IMPACT ON POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS: A CASE PAKISTAN

By SH Akhtar Gul, H Ali, F Zahra

Research Gate, Dec. 2020

Abstract and Figures

The COVID-19 and two other pandemics had a severe impact on advance and emerging markets and developing economies, leaving the huge adverse effects on labor productivity. During this pandemic world's poverty and unemployment increased along with other socioeconomic crises. The current world faced three major shocks Locusts, Oil prices shock, and COVID-19 within fifteen months. About one million people lost their jobs in two weeks with 33 million people entered the shelter of poverty. The aim of this paper to investigate the impact of Covid-19 on poverty and unemployment on how COVID damage the social economy of the world. This study adopted an In-Depth approach for investigation and the result indicates that there is a positive association of poverty and unemployment with Covid-19 and it causes increasing suicides rate, and crime rate, also other social problems. During Covid-19, the world's productivity low due to lockdown, stay at home policy, oil shock, and locusts. Several novel people entered in poverty and unemployment worldwide. The poverty and unemployment rate are increasing in both the advance and emerging markets and developing economies. Thus, socioeconomic problems are not will affect the single status of a state or society, but also collapse every sphere of the world. The long-term consequences of these two evils are more dangerous in short term. This study recommends that to compose new policies for social economy sustainability and increasing job ratio in this situation. We argue from economic phenomena that when the government of state increases employment rate on the domestic level then other social problems decrease. This study suggests to policymakers that increase the employment level in the COVID-19 situation. This leads people to make better political decisions on their own which further helps to strengthen democracy.

Source: www.researchgate.net

7. COVID-19 and the limits of economic growth models: Case of the Philippines

By MF Villamejor-Mendoza

Research Gate, Dec-2020.

Abstract and Figures

Authoritarianism and neoliberalism in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the limits of development theory anchored on economic growth models in a globalized market of unbridled liberalization and privatization. The virus immobilized people and economies already beset by a global trade war and the rise of autocrats. The pandemic, however, has a disproportionate impact on people and countries, exacerbating inequality and poverty within and among countries. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte rode on the wave of economic growth in a regime of low inflation with the country enjoying the so-called 'strong macroeconomic fundamentals.' But COVID-19 radically changed the global landscape and unraveled market failures. For the first time in decades, the economy shrank to its lowest and now in recession. The country imposed the longest and strictest lockdowns while grappling to contain the coronavirus. In the midst of a crisis, Duterte ramps up repressive measures but was stingy on stimulus spending. Government's response to address the pandemic in political, fiscal, monetary and human development measures would be looked into in this paper.

Source: www.researchgate.net

8. Vendors' Attitudes and Perceptions towards International Tourists in the Malaysia Night Market: Does the COVID-19 Outbreak Matter?

By MJM Tilaki, G Abaali, MH Marzbali, N Samat - Sustainability, 2021

Journal Description, MDPI Sustainability

Abstract

Although the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 are undiscovered, the tourism industry is recognized as one of the most vulnerable sectors. Considering tourism's contribution to Malaysia's GDP, this study aims to examine vendors' attitudes and perceptions towards international tourists in night markets after the emergence of COVID-19 and the impacts of propagation power of COVID-19 on vendors' perceptions in Malaysia. As large numbers of informal workers lost 60% of their income worldwide due to the pandemic, a lack of research is observed on vendors' attitudes after the pandemic, especially in Southeast Asia. The study model was derived on the basis of the revised social exchange theory (SET). A questionnaire survey was conducted among local vendors in Malaysia using a multistage probability sampling method. Findings revealed that place attachment has a significant effect on positive perception but not negative perception towards international tourists' receptiveness. Results indicate that positive perceptions towards international tourists significantly and positively mediate the relationship among place attachment, economic gain, and involvement with tourist receptiveness. Moreover, the research concluded that vendors still have positive attitudes towards international tourists' receptiveness due to economic gain and their place attachment and involvement levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: vendor's attitudes; international tourists; COVID-19; night market; social exchange theory (SET); Malaysia

Source: www.mdpi.com

9. Pathways for building resilience to COVID-19 pandemic and revitalizing the Nepalese agriculture sector

By Dinesh Babu Thapa, Magara Sirish Punb Ram Panditra, Maria Fayola-Rubzenc

Agricultural Systems, Vol.187, Feb. 2021

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected the agrarian and remittance-based economy of Nepal. Dwindling the employment opportunities and disrupting the food production and distribution channels, the pandemic has further exacerbated the unemployment and food insecurity situation. Providing employment opportunities and livelihood support to pandemic-affected households has, therefore, become increasingly challenging but a necessary priority to the government. Therefore, to build a sustainable and resilient economy that generates employment and enhance agricultural productivity, revitalization of the constraints-ridden agriculture sector is essential as it still contributes 65% and 24.3% to employment and Gross Domestic Product, respectively. Against this backdrop, this paper presents major pathways and priority actions to rebuild and revitalize the growth of the agricultural sector in Nepal while addressing the challenge posed by the pandemic to generate employment and income-earning opportunities. We emphasize the need for scale-appropriate strategies, programs and plans to build resilience of production, supply chains, and agribusiness systems. We conclude that the government should initially focus on targeted priority interventions to the pandemic-affected farmers and agro-entrepreneurs, and strengthen their productive, competitive, and adaptive capacities. These need to be followed by long-term strategies such as development of agricultural infrastructure, innovative policies, legal instruments, and institutional arrangements, including strengthening of the recently established local governments in line with the federal structure of Nepal.

Keywords: COVID-19, Nepalese agriculture, Impacts, Constraints, Employment, Revitalization.

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

10. Enhancing the ability of agriculture to cope with major crises or disasters: What the experience of COVID-19 teaches us

By Evagelos D Lioutas Chrysanthi Chamatsari

Agricultural Systems, Vol.187, Feb. 2021

Abstract

The COVID-19 outbreak was an unprecedented situation that uncovered forgotten interconnections and interdependencies between agriculture, society, and economy, whereas it also brought to the fore the vulnerability of agrifood production to external disturbances. Building upon the ongoing experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, in this short communication, we discuss three potential mechanisms that, in our opinion, can mitigate the impacts of major crises or disasters in agriculture: resilience-promoting policies, community marketing schemes, and smart farming technology. We argue that resilience-promoting policies should focus on the development of crisis management plans and enhance farmers' capacity to cope with external disturbances. We also stress the need to promote community marketing conduits that ensure an income floor for farmers while in parallel facilitating consumer access to agrifood products when mainstream distribution channels under-serve them. Finally, we discuss some issues that need to be solved to ensure that smart technology and big data can help farmers overcome external shocks.

Keywords: Agriculture, COVID-19, Major crises, Smart technology, Community marketing, Resilience.

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

11. Impacts of COVID-19 on agricultural production and food systems in late transforming Southeast Asia: The case of Myanmar

By Duncan Boughton, Joseph Goeb, Isabel Lambrecht, Derek Headey, ... Xinshen Diao

Agricultural Systems, Vol. 188, March 2021

Abstract

The objective of this contribution is to report the initial impacts of measures taken to contain the COVID-19 pandemic on Myanmar's agri-food system. Myanmar is one of several late-transforming low-income countries in Southeast Asia where agriculture still plays a large role in rural livelihoods, and where food prices are a key factor affecting nutrition security for poor urban and rural households. Whereas the economic impacts of COVID-19 disruptions on tourism and manufacturing were obvious to policymakers, the impacts on the agri-food system were less evident and often more indirect. This resulted in the rural sector being allocated only a very small share of the government's initial fiscal response to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19.

To correct this information gap, a suite of phone surveys covering a wide spectrum of actors in the agri-food system were deployed, including farm input suppliers, mechanization service providers, farmers, commodity traders, millers, food retailers and consumers. The surveys were repeated at regular intervals prior to and during the main crop production season which began shortly after nationwide COVID-19 prevention measures were implemented in April. While the results indicate considerable resilience in the agri-food system in response to the initial disruptions, persistent financial stress for a high proportion of households and agri-food system businesses indicate that the road to a full recovery will take time. The experience provides important lessons for strengthening the resilience of the agri-food system, and the livelihoods of households that depend on it.

Keywords: COVID-19, Myanmar, Agri-food system, Phone surveys, Rural livelihoods, Food security

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

12. Multi-level impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown on agricultural systems in India: The case of Uttar Pradesh

By Pavan Kumar, S.S. Singh, A.K. Pandey, Ram Kumar Singh, ... Martin Drews

Agricultural Systems, Vol. 187, Feb 2021

Abstract

When on March 24, 2020 the Government of India ordered a complete lockdown of the country as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it had serious unwanted implications for farmers and the supply chains for agricultural produce. This was magnified by the fact that, as typically in developing countries, India's economy is strongly based on farming, industrialization of its agricultural systems being only modest. This paper reports on the various consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown for farming systems in India, including the economy, taking into account the associated emergency responses of state and national governments. Combining quantitative and qualitative sources of information with a focus on the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, including expert elicitation and a survey of farmers, the paper identifies and analyzes the different factors that contributed to the severe disruption of farming systems and the agricultural sector as a whole following the lockdown. Among other issues, our study finds that the lack of migrant labor in some regions and a surplus of workers in others greatly affected the April harvest, leading to a decline in agricultural wages in some communities and an increase in others, as well as to critical losses of produce. Moreover, the partial closure of rural markets and procurement options, combined with the insufficient supply of products, led to shortages of food supplies and dramatically increased prices, which particularly affected urban dwellers and the poor. We argue that the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis could fuel the development of new sustainable agropolicies and decision-making in response not only to future pandemics but also to the sustainable development of agricultural systems in India and in developing countries in general.

Keywords: COVID-19, India, Asia, Lockdown, Farmers, Economy

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

13. Rapid assessments of the impact of COVID-19 on the availability of quality seed to farmers:

Advocating immediate practical, remedial and preventative action

By Walter S. de Boef, Gareth D. Borman, Arnab Gupta, Abishkar Subedi, ... Patrick Oyee

Agricultural Systems, Vol. 188, March 2021.

Abstract

Rapid assessments of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the seed sector were conducted by a coalition of partners in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Uganda in May and June 2020. The method was rapid, iterative, inclusive and valuable in revealing threats to the availability and timely access of farmers to quality seed and to food, nutrition and income security, and in advocating for remedial and preventative action. Via mobile application and web survey, and focus group discussions on virtual conferencing platforms a panel of 36 or more local experts operating particularly in formal seed systems in each country identified potential disruptions to activities in the seed sector and recommended immediate practical action to ensure continuity in performance. Recommendations, and the stakeholders best positioned to propel their action, were proposed to and approved by senior leadership in the sector. The entire process from survey to publication of a seed alert in each iteration was completed within two weeks. Due to the highly seasonal nature of agriculture, and recognition that activities are time-bound, quick turnaround on assessments was essential. Dashboards indicated where impact was felt the hardest, also showing how dynamic the situation was. Countries were at different stages in their agricultural seasons, which made the data highly contextual, but also interesting for getting a glimpse into the future. Lessons were offered from one country to another. Reduced mobility was the root cause of many disruptions in supplying seed to farmers. Disruptions caused seed and related industry to operate at reduced capacity. The cost of transactions and doing business during these times may have increased the scarcity and

price of inputs beyond what farmers can recover. Sales of quality seed in formal markets were perceived to decline due to delays in distribution, weakened promotion efforts and fewer farmers present. Farmers are less likely to benefit from investments in crop improvement for more seasons to come due to delays in the development and release of new varieties. Social distancing prevents stakeholders from meeting to exchange goods, services and information, but the sector is gradually getting up to speed with information technology. For all concerns, practical options were offered and often implemented. The pandemic has exacerbated structural weaknesses in the organization of the seed sector, for which reforms are not only justified, but overdue.

Keywords: COVID-19 impact, Rapid assessment, Seed availability

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

14. COVID-19 global risk communication and community engagement strategy, December 2020-May 2021: interim guidance, 23 December 2020
World Health Organization – 2020

Overview

There is an unprecedented need to elevate the role risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) plays in breaking the chains of transmission and mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Until biomedical tools such as vaccines or treatments are developed and widely available, people's behaviours and their willingness to follow public health and social measures remain the most powerful tools to stop the spread of the virus.

The COVID-19 Global Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy, December 2020 - May 2021 provides an important update for member states and supporting partners. The updated strategy is underpinned by a socio-behavioural trends analysis and builds on the learnings from the response to-date. The shift presented in the document is towards the community engagement and participatory approaches that have been proven to help control and eliminate outbreaks in the past.

The overarching goal of the strategy: That people-centred and community-led approaches are championed widely – resulting in increased trust and social cohesion, and ultimately a reduction in the negative impacts of COVID-19.

Source: www.who.int

15. Agricultural digitalization and rural development in COVID-19 response plans: A review article

By WM Haggag

International Journal of Agricultural Technology 2021 Vol. 17(1)-67-74

Abstract

COVID-19 has led to spread economic adversity throughout the world since it effects on food security. After COVID-19 there is necessary to suggest the novel direction and combination of new input, information and telecommunication technologies for agricultural growth and development. Agricultural digitalization is able to impact rapidly to mitigate some of the negative effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. In developing countries, rural information and services are the most important of effective agricultural and development. The "Internet of Things" and electronic networks offer very promising technologies and many services and solutions including the agricultural fields. The application of digital technology is of great importance because it has the ability to provide technologies, innovations and acquired sustainability to the agricultural sector and increase productivity as an alternative and complement to agricultural extension. Mobile application have developed rapidly for enhancing telecommunication, information ,input , development , invention in service transmission and their quality. However, many stakeholders have known the need for digital agriculture. The most countries have already taken a national strategy for the agricultural sector's use of information and communication technologies. These reviews explain the possibility of agricultural digitalization for rural services and development in COVID-19 response plans.

Keywords: Mobile application, Agricultural digitalization, Rural development

Source: www.ijat-aatsea.com

16. Addressing the Economic Fallout of COVID-19: Pathways and Policy Options for a Gender-Responsive Recovery

By Authors/editor(s): Jade Cochran, Baba Diallo, Seemin Qayum, Anuradha Seth, and Silke Staab

Unwomen, POLICY BRIEF NO. 15

Summary

This brief presents emerging evidence of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on women's economic empowerment. Complementing a separate UN Women Policy Brief on COVID-19 and the care economy, it considers the immediate gendered economic impacts, including widening socio-economic divides and shifting national and international priorities for the allocation of resources, as well as the long-term implications for women's employment and livelihoods. The brief makes recommendations to be considered by all stakeholders, from governments to international organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations, in order to guarantee the economic rights of women during the public health crisis and in plans for recovery and resilience. Drawing on the latest available research and data, the brief highlights examples of action already being taken.

Source: www.ijat-aatsea.com

17. Dark and bright spots in the shadow of the pandemic: Rural livelihoods, social vulnerability, and local governance in India and Nepal

BY D Gupta, H Fischer, S Shrestha, SS Ali, A Chhotre

World Development, 2021

Abstract

The global COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented disruption to lives and livelihoods around the world. These disruptions have brought into sharp focus experiences of vulnerability but also, at times, evidence of resilience as people and institutions gear up to respond to the crisis. Drawing on intensive qualitative enquiry in 16 villages of Himalayan India and Nepal, this paper documents both dark and bright spots from the early days of the pandemic. We find intense experiences of fear and uncertainty, heightened food insecurity, and drastic reductions in livelihood opportunities. However, we also find a wide range of individual and collective responses as well as a patchwork of policy support mechanisms that have provided at least some measure of basic security. Local elected governments have played a critical role in coordinating responses and delivering social support, however the nature of their actions varies as a result of different institutional arrangements and state support systems in the two countries. Our findings highlight the changing nature of vulnerability in the present era, as demographic shifts, growing off-farm employment and dependence on remittances, and increasing market integration have all brought about new kinds of exposure to risk for rural populations in the context of the present disruption and beyond. Most importantly, our research shows the critical importance of strong systems of state support for protecting basic well-being in times of crises. Based on these findings, we argue that there is a need for greater knowledge of how local institutions work in tandem with a broader set of state support mechanisms to generate responses for urgent challenges; such knowledge holds the potential to develop governance systems that are better able to confront diverse shocks that households face, both now and in the future.

Keywords: COVID-19, Rural livelihoods, Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Local governance, Food security, India, Nepal

Source: www.sciencedirect.com

18. The Compounded Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic and Desert Locust Outbreak on Food Security and Food Supply Chain

By Z Xu, A Elomri, A El Omri, L Kerbache, H Liu .

Sustainability, 2021

- Abstract and Figures

The COVID-19 pandemic and locust swarm outbreaks pose a significant threat to global food systems, causing severe disruptions in both local and international food supplies from farm to fork. The main objective of this study is to understand and identify the disruptions during the crises and create a map of how resilience can be established to recover and sustain the food supply chain (FSC) functions as well as food security. The detrimental impacts of the compound crises on the FSC are explored and the effects of the affected areas are estimated under optimistic and pessimistic scenarios. As a response to the disruption caused by the crisis in FSCs, reactive and proactive solutions are proposed to develop resilience at the food sector level. In the short term, the reactive solutions, consisting of smoothing the food demand, supply and delivery, and food production and processing, can be borrowed. In the long term, the proactive solutions can be conducted by developing multi-level short intertwined FSCs. Our comprehensive investigation of the resilience elements in diverse operations and potential strategies should contribute to the improvement of FSC resilience in the face of ongoing and growing threats.

Source: www.researchgate.net

19. Initial Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Sustainable Forest Management Asia-Pacific States

By K Giri

Executive Summary

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2) is a global pandemic that has caused enormous effects on human lives and the global economy. The on-going health crisis has led to common restrictions across countries such as a complete and/or a partial lockdown and restricted mobility. These control measures, while useful in preventing COVID-19 spread, have severely disrupted global supply chains, strained fiscal capacity and safety nets, increased unemployment, loss of income, food insecurity, and increased poverty rates. In particular, the economic sectors related to tourism and hospitality, agriculture, remittance, and industry have been the most affected. However, there is limited information and evidence of COVID-19 impacts on the forestry sector. This study investigated the impacts of COVID-19 on the forestry sector in the Asia-Pacific, with focus on Thailand and Nepal, through analyzing impacts on i) sustainable forest management (SFM); ii) the forestry sector, forest-dependent people, indigenous peoples, and local communities; and iii) forest industry and trade.

Given the time constraint for preparation of a comprehensive study on the entire Asia-Pacific region which includes a large number of countries, as well as difficulty in getting inputs and responses by UNFF national focal points to the queries of consultants, two countries from the Asia-Pacific region, Thailand, and Nepal, were used as case studies to understand and analyze the impacts of COVID-19 on the forestry sector. These countries offer a mix of geographical spread within Asia, with each having a different experience in terms of COVID-19 spread and containment. Data was collected through secondary sources and supplemented with key expert interviews in the country. The results indicate that COVID-19 has created impacts in the forestry sector. The disruptions caused through partial and total lockdowns have impacted the forestry sector operations and management targets. While some incidents of illegal logging and poaching are reported, they have yet to severely threaten the forest condition and wildlife species. However, forestry sector operations in terms of plantations, forestation, and reforestation have slowed down. Forest sector industry and trade also were impacted mainly due to the halts in the transport sector; these abruptions, in turn, affected the timely supply of raw materials or lengthened the process adding the extra cost of production. The low supply of raw materials hindered fuller operations, decreasing the scale of production and sales. This has further impacted the loss of jobs, with industries now downsizing their labor force by 60 percent. Forest-based tourism, particularly in areas of the watershed and protected areas were also negatively affected. Communities who were involved in the harvesting of high-value non-timber forest products also lost their main source of income. As other sources of livelihood are cut short during these difficult times, forest communities were found to use forest-based resources as a safety net. Forest communities in both countries resorted to forests for basic provisions such as food, fodder, and grass. Some used forest-based resources to support alternative livelihood options such as livestock rearing, milk selling, and forest-based tourism. These results suggest that there is space for using the forestry sector in supporting subsistence livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, whilst also contributing to revive the economy through commercial production models of management. Land use planning of forests based on site characteristics to cater to different types of products and services offers a plausible option. However, to do so, the forestry sector needs to harmonize legal and regulatory barriers that currently appear as constraints.

Source: www.un.org

20. THE IMPACT AND ROLE OF MEDIA FOR PEACE AND HUMAN SECURITY DURING COVID-19 CRISES

By S Kapoor, M Dubey

Journal of Content, Community & Communication Amity School of Communication Vol. 12 , Dec – 2020.

ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study is to investigate the impact of Covid-19 on the peace and security of the human beings. The epidemic of corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has created a global crisis that has had a deep impact on our lives. Every country faces the spilling of necessities based either on focusing economic, geographical or process related reality for peace and human security. This paper discussed the Covid-19 as threat to peace and security. The paper focuses on key issues relating to the concepts of peace, human security at the time of corona virus pandemic and the role of media. The issues include the social media as one of the pillars which aware the society at the rural level to urban level during the pandemic and also helps to maintain peace and security in the world. The paper also presents the importance of media in 2020 year and the associated debate regarding how the different organizations can help to overcome the covid-19 crises as well as role of media to achieve the “peace and human security globally, much-talked-about”.

Keywords: Media, Covid -19 crisis, Peace, Human Security, Impact, Threat.

Source: www.amity.edu

21. The Socio-Economic Impact on Policy National Food Security: Study of the Effects of Agricultural Product Distribution by Poor Farmers on the Pandemic Covid19

By C Nasirin, A Lionardo, R Kurniawan

Proceedings of the 5th NA International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Detroit, Michigan, USA, August 10 - 14, 2020

Abstract

One of the socio-economic impacts on national food security is the problem of farmers' poverty. Poverty will cause a lack of ability to access various resources, which in turn will lead to a process of impoverishment. In other words, the poor in the pandemic Covid-19 era have the potential to give birth to poverty issues that will affect the uneven distribution of agricultural products. This study uses a qualitative approach that will look at the extent of the socioeconomic impact on national food security problems of farmer poverty. Data analysis uses an interactive approach model that analyzes the current low quality and capacity of farmers' resources. Research findings explain that poverty alleviation efforts will be useful if carried out systematically, comprehensively, and sustainably. This means that poverty alleviation of farmers must be carried out through planned stages, covering all aspects of the causes and their implications, covering various fields in synergy, and carried out continuously. The conclusions of the study provide information on the socio-economic impact of food security as a basis for planning and formulating current poverty reduction policies for farmers.

Keywords: Socio-economic, Food security, Farmers, Regional autonomy.

Source: www.ieomsociety.org

22. Impact of Covid-19 Crisis on MSME Sector in India

SA Bhat, S Meher - vvuqla/kku

MS Islam - ISRA International Journal of Islamic Finance, 2020

Abstract and Figures

After World War II, the entire nations of the world are now facing simultaneously one of the biggest health and economic crisis, which is known as Covid-19 crisis. Although there is a long history of pandemics of diseases in the past, which includes smallpox, tuberculosis, influenza pandemic (Spanish flu 1918), influenza pandemic (H1N1 2009) and many others. However, the outbreak of these pandemic diseases has not affected so devastatingly as much as Covid-19 has affected in the entire nations world. The outbreak has started from Wuhan city of China and has spread sharply throughout the world and has led to shutdown of world economy. Covid-19 is not only now a global health crisis, but it has become an economic crisis, in the entire world and same is case with India. Nonetheless, Indian economy was already in a crunch of slow growth rate from last 2 years. However, the shutdown of economic activities with this Covid-19 crisis will further worsen the economic growth rate of India. The growth rate of Indian economy has already declined to 4.5 percent in Jan 2020, which was 7.7 percent in 2018. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has projected that global trade in goods is set to decline steeply between 13 percent and 32 percent in 2020 as the entire nations of the world are battling with the Covid-19 pandemic. However, India will suffer very badly as the biggest impact will be on the MSME sector, because it contributes 48 percent to the total export basket of the country This sector is the largest employment providing sector and are contributing more than 30 percent to the GDP of the country .Therefore, the present paper explores the impact.

Source: www.researchgate.net

23. Kudumbashree Mission and COVID-19: A Success Story from the State of Kerala

By J Thomas, P Prakash

International Journal of Research and Review, 2454-2237 (print), 2349-9788 (online)

Abstract

Background: Economic activities in most of the sectors have adversely affected during the lockdown period. It adversely affected the growth prospects in the key sectors like households, businesses, educational sectors, hospitality, entertainment, recreational amenities, public and private sector engagements, as well as sporting activities all over the world. Rural development usually relates to the method of enhancing the quality of life, financial well-being, development of rural areas to improve the living standards of people in the village economy. As a poverty eradication mission, Kudumbashree has peculiar roots in Kerala's development history. Aim: The present study has been undertaken to evaluate the key activities undertaken by Kudumbashree mission in the state of Kerala during the pandemic. Kudumbashree is the poverty eradication and women empowerment programme implemented by the State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM) of the Government of Kerala. The name Kudumbashree in Malayalam language means 'prosperity of the family'. The name represents 'Kudumbashree Mission' or SPEM as well as the Kudumbashree Community Network. What is commonly referred to as 'Kudumbashree' could mean either the Kudumbashree Community Network, or the Kudumbashree Mission, or both. Results: The Government of Kerala together with Kudumbashree Mission has undertaken different activities to face the COVID 19 pandemic. It is understood that the driving force behind the successful implementation of all these activities is the women in Kerala. The main force which stands as a

support to all activities is the members of Kudumbashree. The major activities undertaken during this pandemic includes break the chain campaign, WhatsApp Communication, Special care for elderly people, KSFE Kudumbashree Vidhya Shree Scheme, Mask Making and Sanitizer Production, Nutrimix Production, Sahayahastham- Loan Scheme, Community Kitchen, Buds Activities, Balasabha Activities, Agricultural Activities, SannadhaSena, Snehitha Gender Help Desk and Immini Balya Onnu. Kudumbashree Women of Kerala gives a new message to the entire world that if you are willing to empower your women, then

Keywords: Covid-19, Kudumbashree Information Education and Communication Programme (IEC), Area Development Societies (ADS), Community Development Societies (CDS), Neighbour Hood Groups (NHG), Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), Take Home Ration (THR), State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM)

Source: www.ijrrjournal.com

24. Falling living standards during the COVID-19 crisis: Quantitative evidence from nine developing countries

*By D Egger, E Miguel, SS Warren, A Shenoy, E Collins -
Science Advances, 2021*

Abstract

Despite numerous journalistic accounts, systematic quantitative evidence on economic conditions during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic remains scarce for most low- and middle-income countries, partly due to limitations of official economic statistics in environments with large informal sectors and subsistence agriculture. We assemble evidence from over 30,000 respondents in 16 original household surveys from nine countries in Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone), Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines), and Latin America (Colombia). We document declines in employment and income in all settings beginning March 2020. The share of households experiencing an income drop ranges from 8 to 87% (median, 68%). Household coping strategies and government assistance were insufficient to sustain precrisis living standards, resulting in widespread food insecurity and dire economic conditions even 3 months into the crisis. We discuss promising policy responses and speculate about the risk of persistent adverse effects, especially among children and other vulnerable groups.

Source: advances.sciencemag.org

25. COVID-19 Outbreak: Impacts on Environment and Food Security

*By BB Dasnet, JK Bishwakarma, MN Alam, SS Bhattarai
Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies, 8(10) October, 2020*

Abstract and Figures

The pandemic novel coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) is surmise to be one of the major transformative events of the 21 st century in human-history. The outbreak of the highly infectious disease COVID-19 exploded lethal storm on trend of human civilization. Despite it impacts on several issues, we reviewed the positive and negative influence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 outbreaks on environment and agriculture at global scales, based on published articles, WHO bulletins, guidelines, books, reports, worldometer including government documents and conference papers. However, the exact severity and networks of its consequences is unpredictable. A clear improvement in air quality has been observed as a boon in the environment. Energy

consumption and carbon emission has been reduced. Thus, the ozone layer has been maintained at the expected level. However, on the flip side, disruption of assessment, temporary closure of educational institutions, inequalities and students drop-out is the serious concern resulting from COVID-19. In the environment, the medical and food wastes, plastic packaging has been added. Many agro-processing industries have been severely halted. Moreover, the global economic activities have been crippling which is raising the issues of food security, increased unemployment at national and global scales. Furthermore, it has increased the health crisis and worsens human development index and economy in present decades, consequently increasing environment and food security threats. Thus, this study aim to improve the better understanding of how pandemic influences on environment and agriculture issue of global perspectives. It provides wide ideas to government, social practitioners, and policymakers to improve outbreak preparedness and response plan to any kind of biological outbreaks and pandemic crisis.

Source: www.researchgate.net

26. Implications of COVID-19 on agriculture in eastern region

By A Mukherjee, U Kumar, K Shubha, S Anand –
Food and Scientific Reports, 2020

Abstract and Figures

The COVID 19 and lock down has created a major issue for agriculture in eastern states. A majority of the labours working in India belongs to eastern states. Due to massive lock down extended for more than two months a majority of the labour forces are facing problems. Return migration has created a great concern for policy makers to think. This article has shown three point implications of the pandemic as disruption in supply chain, Problems of labours and cash shortage for agricultural operation.

Source: www.researchgate.net

27. Reorienting Priorities of Extension and Advisory Services in India during and Post COVID-19 Pandemic: A Review

By M Chander, P Rathod
Indian Journal of Extension Education, 2020

Abstract

Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) are delivered by millions of extension professionals representing the public, private and civil society located across the globe and have been helping in addressing farmers' needs over the years, including during COVID-19 pandemic situation. However, public sector has been a major agency dealing with EAS in India and is facing several challenges and constraints to fulfil the demands of farmers on timely basis. The challenge today is to change the organizational culture to incorporate innovation as a core value and to institutionalize the emerging paradigms. Further, different strategies and measures need to be taken to ensure timely and quality EAS by reorienting extension priorities in such emergency situations and later too. In this context, an effort to review the extension mechanism across India and also has focused on reorienting extension priorities post COVID-19 scenario. The study has highlighted on strengthening extension and feedback mechanism, improving research-extension linkages, capacity building, public-private partnership (PPP), developing infrastructure, mass media support and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) etc. to improve the efficiency as the time demands. The paper concludes that reorienting extension priorities is very essential with a vast network of various stakeholders by adapting effective approaches like

utilization of social media, human resource development, PPP, farmer groups etc. during and post pandemic scenario. Further, empirical efforts are also needed to develop reliable, location-specific, participatory, gender-sensitive and inexpensive extension methodologies and materials to meet the demands during such crisis. Further, developing countries like India have to invest in terms of various resources like financial, human resource etc. for promoting higher productivity and sustainability through EAS.

Keywords: Extension priorities, Extension and Advisory Services (EAS), Public-Private Partnership (PPP), Research-Extension Linkages, COVID-19 Pandemic

Source: www.researchgate.net

28. Impact of COVID-19 on agricultural food: A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis

By A Abid, S Jie

Food Frontiers, 2021

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has put unprecedented stress on agricultural food. Therefore, the goal of this study is to analyze the effect of the COVID-19 outbreak on agricultural food and provide policy recommendations based on SWOT analysis to minimize risks. Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics were used for this study with a thorough literature review containing policy documents and scientific magazines in the related sector. There is enough evidence to demonstrate that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive influence on agricultural food supply, largely impacting food demand as well as food insecurity. The study uses SWOT analysis to identify the highest-priority policies that may remediate the current issues. Key strategies include developing new online resources such as digitized trade and providing a digital platform to strengthen the buyer–supplier collaboration and lower the risk of food wastage and insecurity. The government should invest in technology that contributes to the sustainable flow of agricultural products along the supply chain to prevent food crises during the pandemic.

Source: onlinelibrary.wiley.com

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