

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: May 22,2020

Report Number: IN2020-0046

Report Name: COVID-19 in India - Weekly Food Retail Update

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News, Retail Foods

Prepared By: Lazaro Sandoval, Dhruv Sood, Sharon Sonali Kalsi, Prashant Patil, Arundhati Sawant, and Uma Patil

Approved By: Jeanne Bailey

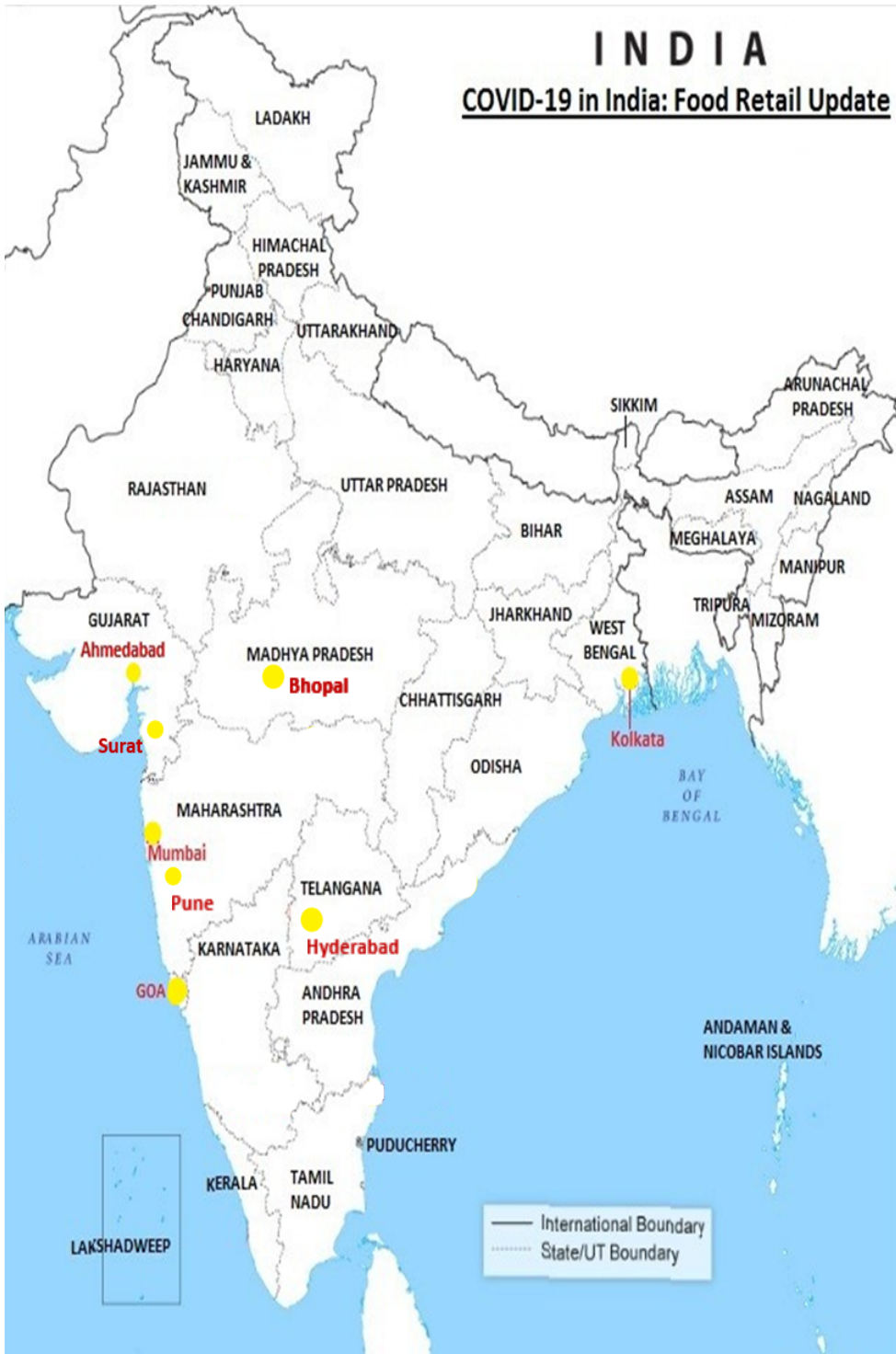
Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of May 22, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.

1. **Mumbai:** The Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Navi Mumbai - a major wholesale market for produce, pulses, and grains for the greater Mumbai area – will begin delivering directly to customers via online orders. This is in response to an advisory from the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation that is seeking to curb the number of people entering the market to maintain social distancing. So far, over 120 APMC workers have tested positive for COVID-19. Local authorities are working to avoid new detections with increased testing and sanitization of market facilities.
2. **Ahmedabad:** After an eight-day ban on the sale of groceries that ended on May 15, residents rushed to local produce markets and grocery shops. The grocery items consumers demanded the most after the reopening were pulses, sugar, flour, onions, tomatoes, and potatoes. Authorities have issued 32,000 licenses to vendors, allowing them to resume operations.
3. **Bhopal:** Media reports that many shop owners are undecided about reopening, despite a relaxation in restrictions under Lockdown 4.0, as regulations prescribing inter-zone movement of staff remain unclear.
4. **Goa:** The Government of Goa has revised its APMC Act to provide farmers more direct access to APMCs and other markets, without the need for middlemen. Media reports a 200-250 percent hike in poultry prices due to limited supplies, because of restrictions limiting the entry of poultry from the states of Karnataka and Kerala, and the culling of poultry flocks at the beginning of the lockdown due to low prices.
5. **Surat:** The sale of fruits and vegetables has resumed, except for in containment zones.
6. **Pune:** On May 19, Pune's APMC food grain market was closed after eight people tested positive for COVID-19. While the market remained opened during the past two months to ensure the smooth supply of essential foodstuffs to Pune and nearby districts, the rising number of COVID-19 cases has forced the market to shut down until further notice. Local food retailers are worried about the effect this will have on the supply of food grains in the city. Pune APMC's leadership is now evaluating alternative arrangements to ensure traders can continue supplying food grains to local retailers and consumers. Since the APMC shutdown, a new market has emerged outside the city on the Katraj-Dehu highway where farmers and local retailers are doing business. Retailers report that prices of the goods at this new market are 10-15 percent higher than APMC rates.

INDIA

COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update



7. **Kolkata:** Market complexes were shut down by the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation on May 20 as a precautionary measure in response to cyclone Amphan.
8. **Hyderabad:** On May 19, traders from the Malakpet wholesale market demanded that authorities reopen the market after being sealed for 20 days. Traders are concerned about the financial losses they are incurring due to rotting produce and groceries.

Attachments:

No Attachments.