

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

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

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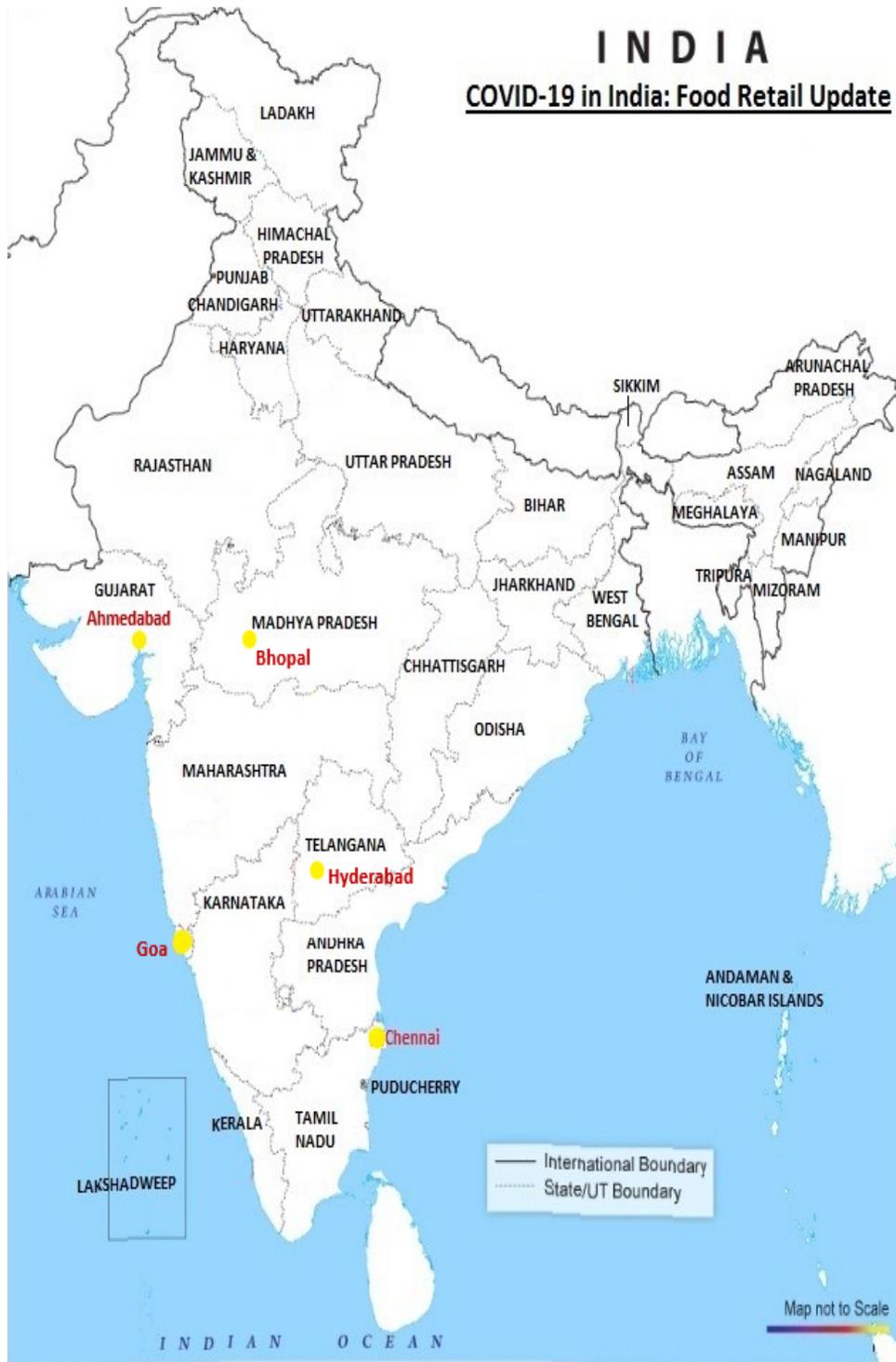
Approved By: Jeanne Bailey

Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of August 7, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.

India Food Retail Update as of Friday, August 7, 2020

INDIA COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update



- Bhopal:** Municipal authorities are imposing financial penalties (INR 20,000 or approximately USD \$270) on grocery shop owners who do not follow social distancing rules. So far, fifteen shops have been sanctioned by the District Collector's office.
- Hyderabad:** Thanks to abundant monsoon rainfall, vegetable prices have begun to decline after weeks of elevated prices. The prices for tomatoes, green chilies, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, and cucumbers have declined by 25-50 percent just in the past week. According to local vegetable traders, there has been a 50 percent increase in daily vegetable arrivals at wholesale markets, leading to lower prices. Traders expect prices to continue to decline in the weeks ahead as deliveries rise.
- Ahmedabad:** According to local media reports, authorities are receiving increasing requests from local vegetable traders to reopen the Jamalpur agricultural produce marketing committee (APMC) market. The market has been closed for the past four months to combat the spread of COVID-19. In the meantime, vegetable traders have been marketing their produce on roads outside the market, which is increasingly frustrating them. These traders met with Gujarat's Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on August 4 to express their concerns. They expect a decision will be made on the market's reopening this week.
- Chennai:** Vegetable, flower, and fruit traders will go on strike on August 10 to demand the reopening of whole wholesale markets across Tamil Nadu state, including the Koyambedu wholesale market complex in Chennai. According to the local traders' federation, if the government does not announce the reopening of markets, there are plans to continue the strike indefinitely. Local media reports indicate that 20,000 wholesale and retail shops are expected to shut down on August 10. These traders complain that authorities should focus less on setting up temporary markets in distant areas, and instead create a safer environment at established markets. Tamil Nadu has an estimated 150,000 fruit and vegetable traders across the state, and Koyambedu market, alone, supports the livelihoods of 50,000 families.
- Goa:** The Mapusa Municipal Council shut down the local fish market after a vendor tested positive for COVID-19. Fish vendors have been directed by local authorities to get tested for COVID-19. Until then, the market will remain closed.

Attachments:

No Attachments.