

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: COVID-19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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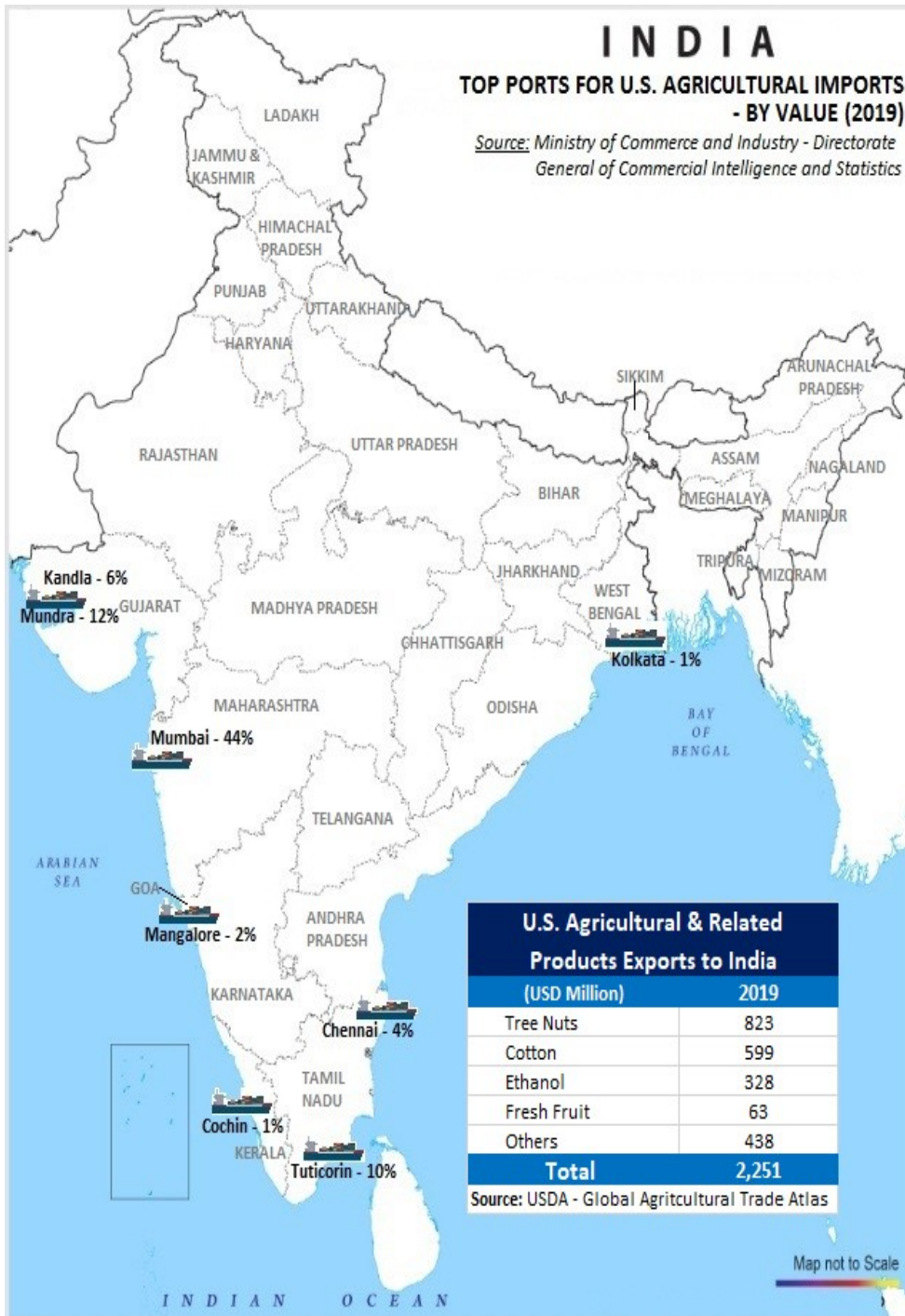
Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of May 8, 2020, of COVID19 impact on Indian port operations.

INDIA

TOP PORTS FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS - BY VALUE (2019)

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate
General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics



U.S. Agricultural & Related Products Exports to India	
(USD Million)	2019
Tree Nuts	823
Cotton	599
Ethanol	328
Fresh Fruit	63
Others	438
Total	2,251

Source: USDA - Global Agricultural Trade Atlas

Map not to Scale

Note: Each featured port includes air freight imports arriving at that city.

India Port Situation Update as of Friday, May 8, 2020

1. Mumbai: According to local reports, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) registered 283,802 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEUs) containers in April 2020, which represents 63 percent and 80 percent of the cargo and imports handled at JNPT during April 2019, respectively. Media also reports that across India, container volumes have declined by more than 12 percent since April, compared to the previous year. Due to the lack of trucks and drivers, rail is increasingly being used to move cargo to/from JNPT. In April, the port handled 499 container trains, the highest number of container trains handled in a month. The current share of rail volume at JNPT, as a percentage of the total container throughput, is less than 15 per cent. However, industry analysts expect that the current lockdown situation will encourage a longer-term increase in rail use. The Ministry of Home Affairs has opened a helpline for drivers to address their grievances and ensure uninterrupted movement of cargo. This is in response to continued difficulties drivers face in crossing state borders. Media reports that international container lines have had to significantly adjust their operations in India due to lower trade volumes, and financial losses due to the government's order to waive rent charges, which is a major revenue source for these private firms.

2. Mundra: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) plans to increase vessel-related charges at its Mundra port beginning on May 16. Media reports that Adani Ports, the country's largest private port operator, reported a 74 percent drop in net profit in January-March. In April, Mundra port, along with Adani's remaining ports in India, handled 20 percent less cargo compared to the same period last year due to the lockdown.

3. Tuticorin: Truck movement continues to be slow due to the lack of labor.

4. Kandla: The lack of labor and trucks continues to slow down operations. Deendayal Port Trust has halted all livestock exports, fearing these exports could spread COVID-19. According to local media, Adil Noor, Secretary of the Livestock Exporters Association, stated that the export permission was withdrawn "without any valid reason." Noor added that India usually exports 500,000-600,000 cattle every year, but these numbers have been cut in half due to uncertainty over the fulfillment of orders.

5. Chennai: On May 4, the Port of Chennai announced that it would extend for a year its 80 percent waiver of haulage and terminal handling charges for containers handled by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) via rail to its inland container depot at Tondiarpet.

6. Mangalore: Container movement continues to be affected by the lack of trucks and labor.

7. Kolkata: The port's Haldia dock system is operating at 80-90 percent capacity, while the Kolkata Dock system — that mainly deals with container cargo — is operating at 80 percent. There is a backlog of 3,000 containers destined for Nepal stuck at the port due to decreased truck movement which is occurring at only 10 percent of pre-lockdown movement levels. Vinit Kumar, chairman of Kolkata Port Trust, stated that the port may offer to waive ground rents for Nepal-bound cargo for an additional 15 days after the lockdown is lifted.

8. Cochin: Truck movement is currently very slow.

Attachments:

No Attachments.