

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: May 22,2020

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

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

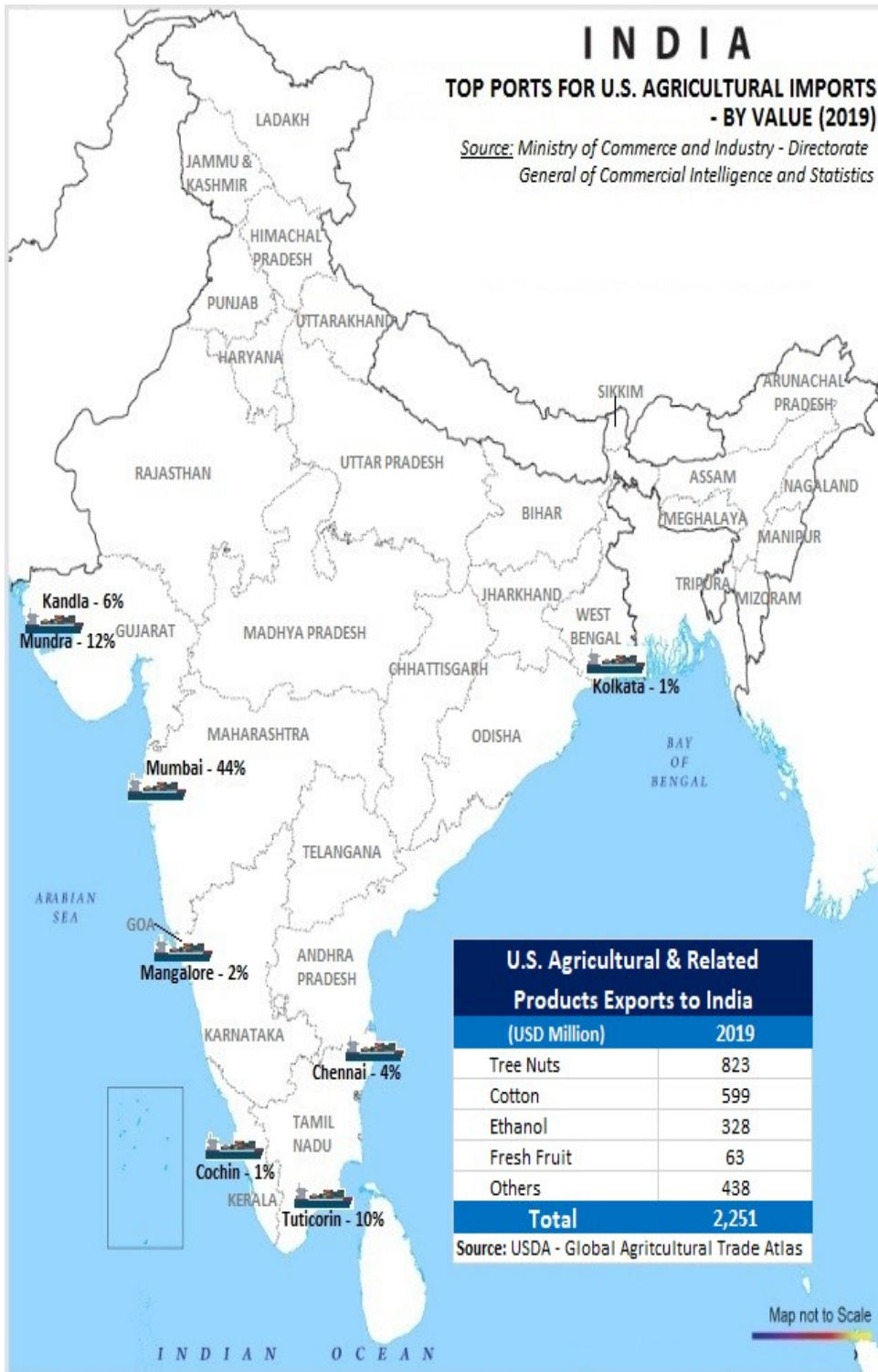
Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of May 22, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on Indian port operations.



India Port Situation Update as of Friday, May 22, 2020

1. Mumbai: Media reports that truck freight rates have increased by 15-20 percent due to a severe shortage of drivers. According to the India Transporters' Welfare Association, the utilization rate of commercial freight vehicles peaked at 40-45 percent a week ago, but has since fallen to 30 percent, with the potential for further decline. This could potentially lead to an additional increase in freight rates in the coming weeks. A recent advisory from the Container Freight Stations Association of India warned cargo firms and traders that a recent exodus of migrant labor, from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mundra, Surat, and other industrial hubs, may lead to further cargo processing delays. According to local reports, the Indian Sugar Mills Association has sought the support of JNPT authorities to ensure the seamless export of sugar amid the lack of labor. About 20-25 percent of India's sugar exports are shipped out of JNPT.

2. Mundra: No update available.

3. Tuticorin: No update available.

4. Kandla: According to local reports, workers at Mundra and Kandla ports are increasingly desperate to return to their native homes. As a result, employers are finding it increasingly more difficult to maintain operations. Due to the lack of labor, bagged cargo operations at the port are functioning at 10 percent capacity. Select employers are now looking into the possibility of contracting transportation, at their own expense, to bring back from workers from Northern and Eastern India.

5. Chennai: Chennai Port Trust reported its first case of COVID-19 on May 15. Since then, port authorities have been working to identify the source of the infection. The vessel where the infection was found has since been disinfected while the crew has been kept in isolation.

6. Mangalore: No update available.

7. Kolkata: In anticipation of the landfall of Cyclone Amphan, Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) suspended its operations on May 19 until May 22, to avoid any potential damage. In addition, the port directed 19 vessels to pick up their anchor and move into the Bay of Bengal to avoid the path of the storm. The port's Haldia Dock suffered some damage due to the cyclone, but Port authorities worked quickly on May 21 to clear the damage, so port operations could resume as quickly as possible.

8. Cochin: DP World-operated International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) processed over 50,000 twenty-foot equivalent containers, along with 53 vessels during the first 50 days of lockdown at Cochin port. Given the recent challenges with truck cargo movements due to the shortage of drivers, the firm is transporting more cargo via rail.

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

Attachments:

No Attachments.