

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, Retail Foods

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Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of July 3, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.



- 1. Mumbai:** Labor shortages, caused by the return of laborers to their home states, have forced grocery retailers around the city to scale down the availability of food supplies. Local media reports that over 1.1 million migrant workers have left Maharashtra since the national lockdown was implemented on March 25. This has limited the number of trips grocery retailers and produce vendors make to regional wholesale markets to replenish stocks. Suppliers at these wholesale markets are also constrained, as processing plants, traders, and farmers are facing issues in delivering goods due to driver shortages.
- 2. Bhopal:** Media reports that municipal authorities have come under criticism for imposing different operating rules for wholesale and retail merchants. Grocery stores are allowed to operate for the entirety of the week, while wholesale markets are only allowed to operate for five days a week. Wholesale traders complain that this plan is not reasonable and may lead to a shortage of goods at retail outlets, due to interruptions in the supply chain.
- 3. Hyderabad:** Grocery shops in Malkajgiri are closing earlier every day due to low customer footfall. Consumers in this area are scared of venturing outside to shop due to recent COVID-19 related deaths.
- 4. Chennai:** Supply chain disruptions caused by the city's lockdown and fuel price increases have led to a sharp rise in vegetable prices by 10-20 percent. Wholesale traders have seen fewer arrivals due to long check points, where supply trucks have had to wait 6-7 hours. Moreover, the city's largest wholesale market, Koyambedu, continues to be closed, which hinders retailers' ability to procure new supplies.
- 5. Ahmedabad:** Authorities are contemplating reopening the Jetalpur agricultural produce market committee (APMC), after its closure on June 27, due to social distancing considerations. Farmers and traders complain that this has forced them to sell their products on nearby roads, leading to financial losses and supply chain disruptions.
- 6. Bengaluru:** Amazon India announced the expansion of its grocery service, *Amazon Pantry*, to over 300 cities across the country. This will facilitate the acquisition of essential food products for consumers at home.
- 7. Kolkata:** Bijoygarh Bazar was shut down for three days beginning on June 30, after two traders tested positive for COVID-19.

Attachments:

No Attachments.