

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: COVID19 in India - Weekly Port Situation Update

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

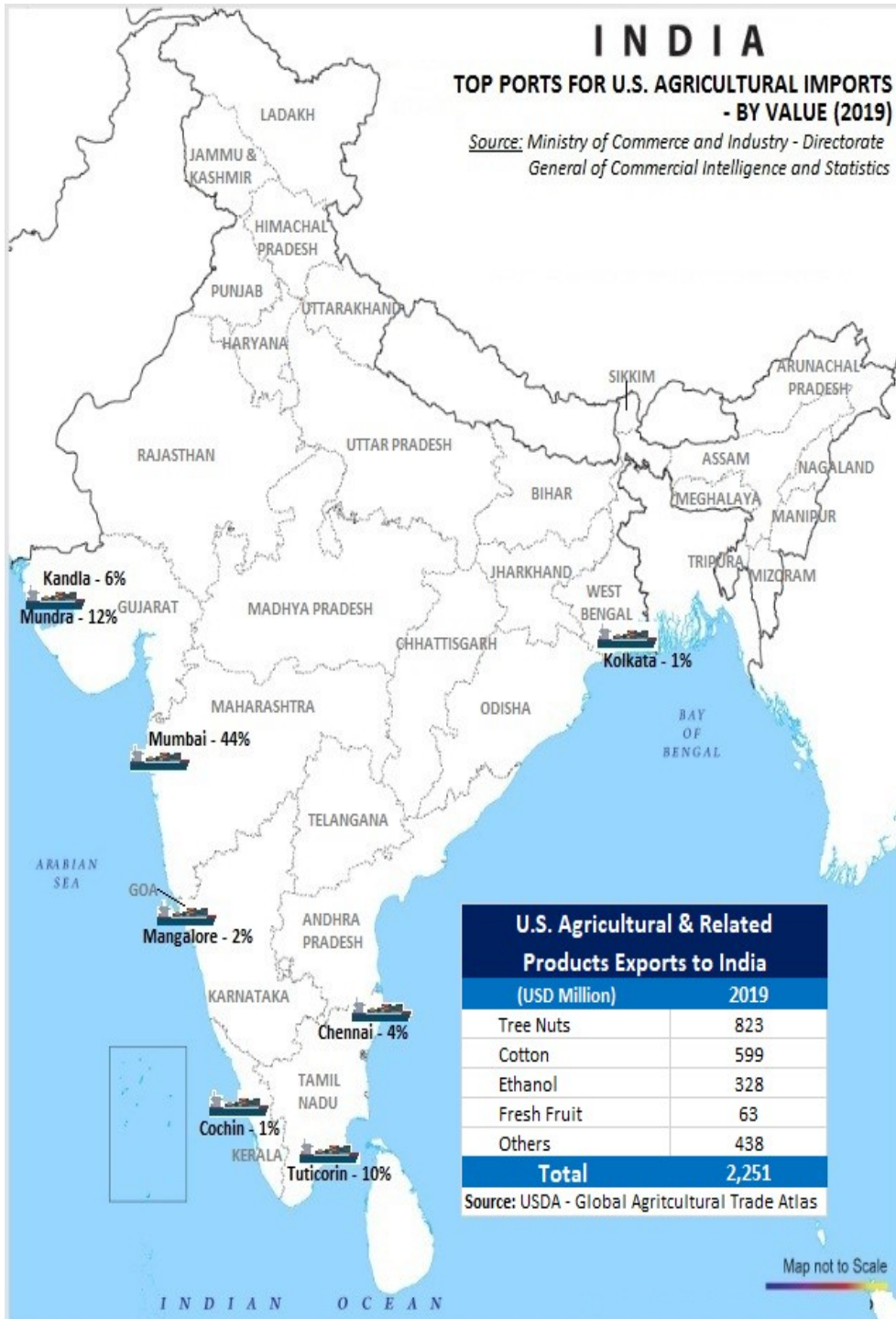
Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of April 17, 2020, of COVID19 impact on Indian port operations.



India Port Situation Update as of Friday, April 17, 2020

1. Mumbai: Shipment congestion persists at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) and Mumbai Port Trust. Media reports that approximately 89,000 containers are waiting to be cleared in 34 container freight stations (CFS) that service JNPT. Customs and port authorities are busy finding new space in nearby areas to park containers in order to minimize the backlog. According to local reports, CFSs, private container terminals, and shipping lines are in disagreement with the Ministry of Shipping's advisory to waive demurrage and ground rent charges on exporters and importers which is also causing disruptions. The Customs Department has asked for the cooperation of CFSs after receiving complaints from port users that they were insisting on full payment of charges. CFS operators claim that these fees are a significant part of their revenue and are necessary as expenses are increasing. JNPT is also on alert after a port township resident was recently detected with COVID-19 on April 13.

2. Mundra: Truck movements and vessel berthing operations have been significantly disrupted. Importers who planned on receiving cargo from the port are now rescheduling their arrivals or diverting cargo to nearby ports such as Kandla.

3. Tuticorin: V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust is considering the exemption/remission of demurrage charges levied on any port-user for any delay in loading/unloading operations caused by the lockdown on a case-by-case basis.

4. Kandla: Deendayal Port Trust has carried out a major sanitization effort in all of its facilities to bring the port back to normal after a slump in operations due to a dock employee testing positive for COVID-19 on April 4.

5. Chennai: Chennai customs is issuing passes to vehicles and stakeholders to facilitate the movement of cargo as the port continues to be affected by the lack of enough containers and workers. On April 15, Chennai Customs admonished area CFSs after receiving complaints from traders about the charging of demurrage fees.

6. Mangalore: No update available.

7. Kolkata: According to Kolkata Port Trust officials, the port's current cargo handling capacity is at 70 percent, with items such as pharmaceuticals, edible oil, petroleum and LPG, and coal prioritized for clearance. Clearing agents and port workers continue to face difficulties in reaching the port due to the lack of public transportation.

8. Cochin: The Cochin Port Trust has restricted its functions to essential core activities such as vessel movements and cargo handling with minimal staff, leading to a slowdown in clearances. Media reports indicate the port is prioritizing food cargo clearances.

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

Attachments:

No Attachments.