

Rapid Assessment on Disaster and Response Report

Region: Cuddalore

State: Tamil Nadu

CUDDALORE REGION

As on 31st March 2020, 2056 most vulnerable people were home quarantined in the region. Preparedness for the lockdown Health department in the region ensured 75% of the total capacity of IP kept as vacant. Local administration employed in spraying the disinfectant on daily basis through the entire district.

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOOD

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is one of the major livelihoods in Cuddalore region. Most of the farmers are cultivating oilseeds, pulses. This is the harvesting season for oilseeds and pulses. Despite the farmers are cultivating their produce but marketing is the major issue. Pulses can be stored for two months without any damage, whereas in oil seeds farmers are at a huge financial loss. The delay of every week creates damage in the form of seed weight loss, shrinking of oil seeds and thereby depriving the seed oil content Marketing committee stopped procuring the produce, with the fear of loss as the lockdown is uncertain of its extension.

Paddy is one of the major crops cultivated in the Pondicherry and Keerapalayam block of Cuddalore district. Paddy farmers are also facing marketing problem. Nevertheless, private agencies are coming forward for procuring the produce at reduced rates, and farmers are selling their produce to support their families.

Livelihood Assessment of DHAN working area in Cuddalore region

AGRICULTURE

3000 farmers (1000 hectares) residing in Kurinjipadi, Parangipettai, Panruti and parts of Cuddalore and Keerapalayam were in financial crunch; 1000 farmers being subjected to acute financial losses

HORTICULTURE

Nearly 1500 horticulture farmers (300 hectares) from Sirpam, Cuddalore and Parangipettai were in losses

FISHERIES

Nearly 500 families of fishermen community in Sirpam, Cuddalore and Parangipettai federation affected badly amidst the lockdown.

DAILY WAGE LABORERS

Nearly 8000 members associated with DHAN Foundation in Cuddalore region are wage laborers. They are badly in financial crunch due to lockdown.

HORTICULTURE

Vegetable, Banana and watermelon are the major horticulture crops cultivated in the Cuddalore region. Most of the small vegetable farmers are marketing their produce in the local market with reduced price. Medium and big farmers are facing marketing problems. Despite government announced free movement for vegetable trucks, there is problem in the transportation facilities between states. Banana and watermelon farmers heavily affected due to lockdown.

LIVESTOCK

Due to the COVID-19 problem, there is a huge demand for livestock food products. The rumor spread in the WhatsApp about the positive sides of eating broiler chicken and egg increased the demand of backyard poultry meat and eggs and the price got hiked resulting in benefitting the retailers. Transportation of milk have been operated regularly and demand of milk has been increased. Some of the farmers are selling their milk locally rather in the market. Aavin and HAPL are procuring milk regularly and with punctual payments. This is supporting nearly 800-1000 members of Keerapalayam, Kullanchavadi and Sirpam federations.

FISHERIES

Though news channels broadcasted the hike in the fish prices, there fish price at the fish landing center drastically decreased. Nearly 50% of the fish catch in Tamil Nadu will be transported to Kerala, Karnataka and other states. Due to lockdown, fish marketing channel completely collapsed.

DAILY WAGE LABORERS

People working as daily wage laborers, agricultural laborers, petty shops have been financially affected due to the lockdown. Members employed as plumbers, carpenters, painters, electricians and masons lost their livelihood and fearing about the source of income in the post-lockdown period.

FEDERATION INITIATIVES

- Meetings conducted at group, cluster, federation and regional level creating awareness among members, about usage of masks and sanitizers
- Cluster based WhatsApp groups to keep in contact touch with regional team and members

EXPECTATIONS

- Common fund utilization to meet the daily needs
- Distribution of pass from district administration to market the agriculture produces
- Repayment of savings based on their bank balance and group FDs