

Vulnerabilities of agricultural producers during COVID-19 pandemic



Farmers— the worst sufferers

The rapid assessment was conducted to bring out the voice of the farmers and shed light on their vulnerabilities intensified by COVID-19 pandemic.

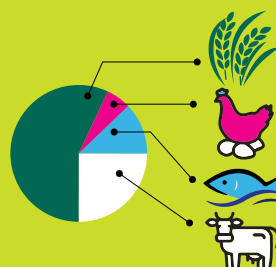
METHODOLOGY



A sample telephonic survey was conducted on **1,581** farmers.

Districts covered: **64**

Respondents



Crop and vegetable farmers: **57%**

Poultry farmers: **6%**

Fish farmers: **12%**

Dairy farmers: **25%**

KEY FINDINGS

Economic challenges were apparent due to disrupted market systems



88% faced economic losses due to the production and marketing distortions.



52% were unable to take their produces to the market.



66% had to sell produces at much lower price during pandemic.



45% reported higher production cost.

Farmers barely had any backup plan



42% reported that they had no means to cope with the losses.



22% had to liquidate savings and assets.



13% either reduced or stopped agro production.

KEY FINDINGS

Reduced confidence over market system



59% predicted that supply shortage of inputs will result in increasing production cost.



56% presumed that market demands of their products will drop further.



33% suspected syndicate might distort prices.

Alternative plans were also at bleak



19% expressed to opt for credit from NGOs and **15%** from banks.



18% had no plan.



5% would quit farming and try alternative professions.

Farmers' demand vs government's stimulus packages



68% required agricultural credit at easy terms.



56% required a guarantee of fair market prices of their products.



Formal banking channels are unpopular among farmers – only **20%** have ever taken credit from banks.



64% knew about the stimulus package – however only **21%** of them knew how to avail the funds.



MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS



Make farmer-friendly stimulus packages with easy disbursement procedures.



Prioritise innovation for inclusive targeting of farmers through partnership with the NGOs.



Introduce government procurement of products for restoring supply chain.