Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution   **Date:**   August 14,2020

Report Number: IN2020-0101

Report Name: COVID-19 in India - Weekly Food Retail Update

Country: India

Post: Mumbai

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation, Retail Foods

Prepared By: Lazaro Sandoval, Prashant Patil, Sharon Sonali Kalsi, Arundhati Sawant, and Uma Patil

Approved By: Lazaro Sandoval

Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of August 14, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.

INDIA

COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update

India Food Retail Update as of Friday, August 14, 2020

1. **Mumbai:** The wholesale price of onions has crashed to INR 1 (approximately USD $0.013) per kilogram (kg) due to low demand and higher supplies buoyed by heavy rain and greater arrivals. However, local media reports indicate this decline is not reflected in retail prices as consumers are still are paying between INR 20-30 per kg.

2. **Bhopal:** Truckers engaged in a three-day strike beginning August 10 across Madhya Pradesh state, demanding a reduction in diesel prices and taxes. As a result, markets around the state received no new vegetables, fruits, and grain supplies. While many retailers prepared ahead of time, there is a possibility that the strike may be extended, which could significantly hurt the supply of essential foodstuffs across the state.

3. **Kolkata:** Vegetable prices have increased by 30-40 percent across West Bengal, due to the extended lockdown which has resulted in low demand, supply chain disruptions and increased transport costs. According to local media reports, vendors do not foresee prices returning to normal soon.

4. **Chennai:** Municipal authorities urged residents to avoid purchasing fish and meat from wholesale markets, and instead procure supplies from local shops to curb market overcrowding.

5. **Cochin:** The ongoing lockdown in West Cochin (Fort Kochi and Thoppumpady) is leading to limited supplies and availability of essential foodstuffs due to movement restrictions and shop closures.

.

Attachments:

No Attachments.