

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: September 28,2020

Report Number: IN2020-0132

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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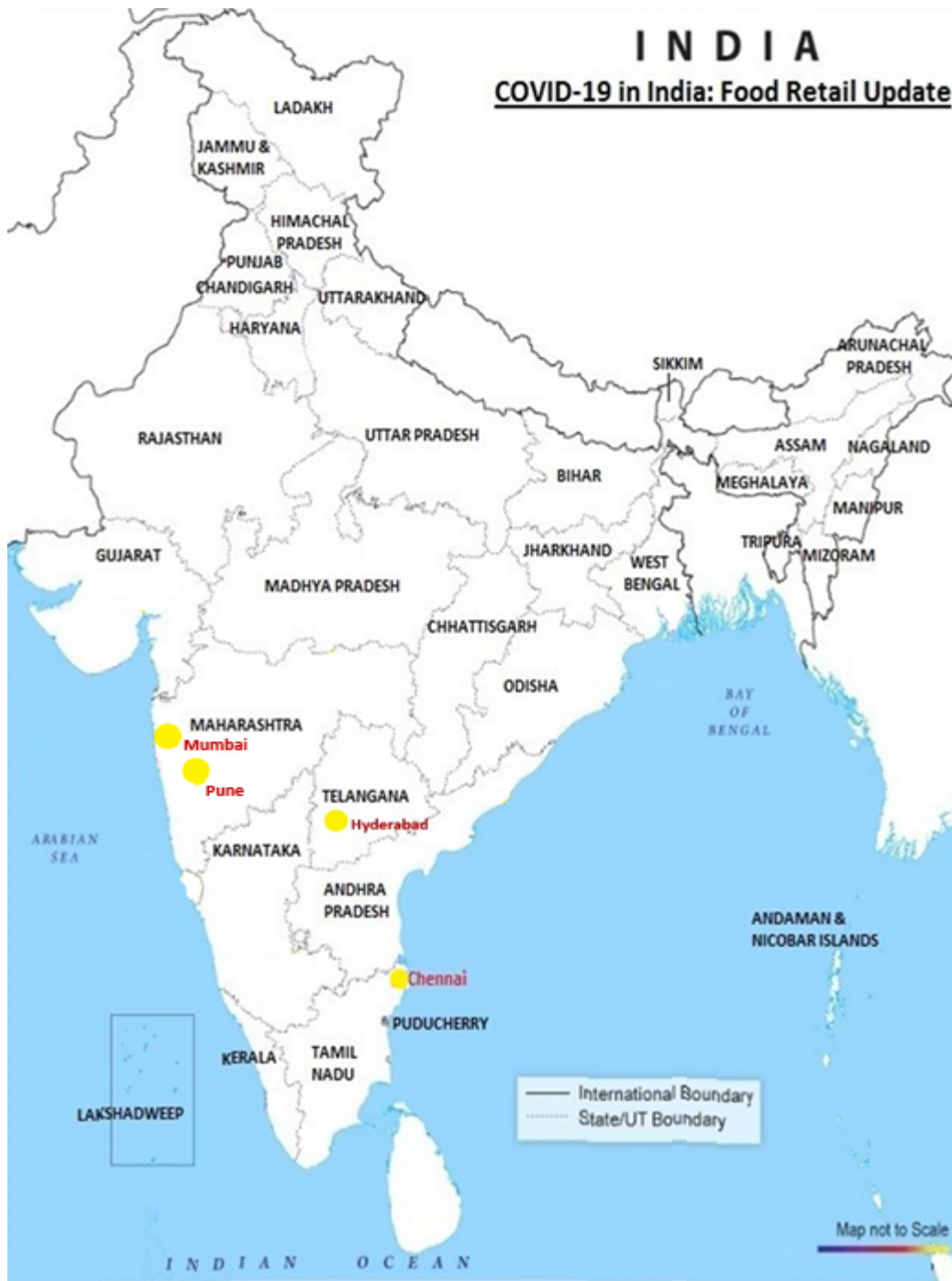
Approved By: Lazaro Sandoval

Report Highlights:

Weekly report as of September 25, 2020, of COVID-19 impact on India's food retail sector.

INDIA

COVID-19 in India: Food Retail Update



- Pune:** Over the past week, most grocery prices, especially pulses and edible oils, have increased 5-15 percent. Retailers cite an increase in demand and lower supplies due to crop damages from excessive rain.
- Mumbai:** Vegetable prices increased significantly due to reduced supplies at the Navi Mumbai Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) market. Onion and potato prices have seen increases due to rain damage and lower yields. Excessive rainfall has deteriorated vegetable quality, which can only be stored at markets for a day before spoiling. As such, traders are charging additional premiums.
- Hyderabad:** Fruit and vegetable prices experienced a steep rise during the past week as traders and producers are facing difficulties in transporting product due to constant, heavy rains. On average, product arrivals have declined by 50 percent in local markets. Tomatoes and green chilies have experienced higher price increases compared to other fruits and vegetables.
- Chennai:** A retail contact reports that many stores are operating under limited operating hours with 60-70 percent staff. The remaining 30-40 percent of staff remain in their homes or villages and have not returned to work. All stores have implemented strict sanitization and social distancing measures to control the spread of COVID-19. The retail contact reports no product shortages, in fact, essential products like local fruits and vegetables are available in excess volumes. The price of imported products, especially fruits, has slightly increased, but has not impacted sales. Tree nuts and dry fruit sales have declined as corporate and holiday gifting has deteriorated. Online orders during the initial phases of the lockdown grew significantly but have returned to pre-COVID levels as consumers prefer to shop in-person. While consumers are making less trips to grocery stores, revenue remains growing for retailers.

Attachments:

No Attachments.