
Azim Premji University

COVID-19 Livelihoods Survey



Farmers

Azim Premji University along with 10 civil society organizations conducted a detailed phone survey of 5000 respondents to gauge the impact of the COVID19 lockdown on employment, livelihoods, and access to government relief schemes.

The respondents were selected through a purposive sampling method to ensure diversity in location and type of work done. The sample is not representative of the country or the states in which interviews were conducted.

Respondents across 12 major states of India were interviewed. The data presented here was collected between 13th April 2020 and 20th May 2020. This brief is part of a series prepared based on the survey findings. A dashboard with detailed information is available at cse.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in



Key Findings

46%

farmers could not work in their farms during the lockdown.

40%

farmers had to sell at reduced prices.

7 in 10

farmer households reduced their food intake during the lockdown.

7 in 10

farmer households did not receive the PM Kisan transfer.



Profile of migrant workers

- * 30% of our respondents were farmers, the majority (79%) located in rural areas.
- * 54% of the farmers were women.
- * 35% of farmers belonged to the OBC community, 30% were ST and 19% were SC.

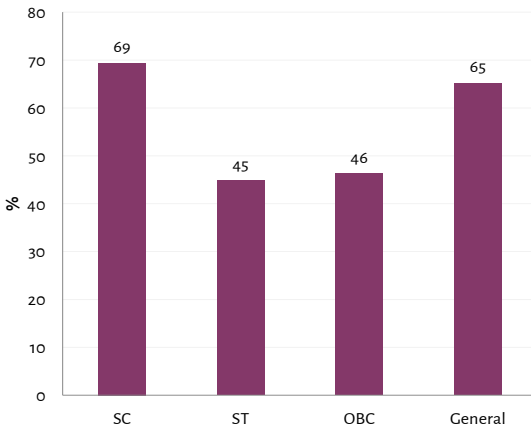
"If government will provide subsidies for seeds for agriculture, then I will be benefited."

(Male, 35)



Impact on livelihoods

Figure 1: Employment loss of farmers by social group (%)



46% of rural farmers could not work during the lockdown.

The worst hit were farmers from the SC community.

40% of farmers had to sell at reduced prices, and 46% reported earning less than half what they expected.

54% of farmers could not sell produce because they were unable to go to the market.

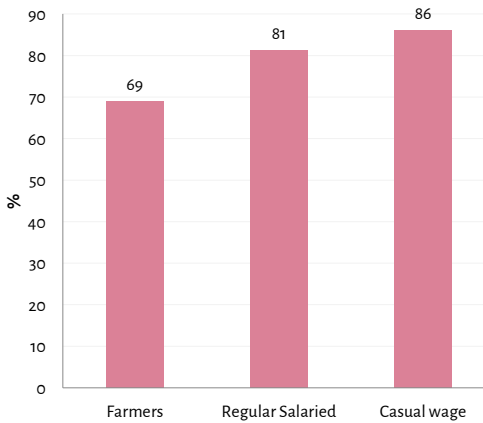
"Government should buy our Crops at Minimum Support Price."

(Male, 31)



Impact on households

Figure 2: Consuming less food than before (%)



4 out of 10 farmer households had money for no more than a week's worth of essentials.

7 out of 10 farmer households reported reduction in food intake. But farmer households are least likely to reduce consumption compared to other workers.



Access to relief measures

75% farmers received rations compared to 71% non-farmers.

Only 3 out of 10 farmers received the PM Kisan transfer.

55% farmer households received at least one transfer compared to 46% non-farmer households.

Figure 3: Non-farmer and farmer households receiving at least one transfer (%)

