

INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 ON AGRICULTURAL FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

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Abstract: the article deals with the influence of covid-19 on agricultural food supply chains. Nationwide blockages due to the spread of COVID-19 have forced most developed and developing countries to stop their economies. The agricultural food supply chain (AFSC) linking food production operations with “farming”, agribusiness, food processing and related food sectors is not protected from this slowdown.

Keywords: agricultural food supply chain (AFSC), COVID-19, farming, agribusiness.

ВЛИЯНИЕ COVID-19 НА АГРОПРОДОВОЛЬСТВЕННЫЕ ЦЕПОЧКИ ПОСТАВОК

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Аннотация: в статье рассматривается влияние COVID-19 на агропродовольственные цепочки поставок. Общациональные блокировки из-за распространения COVID-19 заставили большинство развитых и развивающихся стран остановить свою экономику. Агропродовольственные цепочки поставок (AFSC), связывающие операции по производству продуктов питания с «фермерским хозяйством», агропромышленным комплексом, переработкой пищевых продуктов и смежными пищевыми секторами, не защищены от этого замедления.

Ключевые слова: агропродовольственные цепочки поставок (AFSC), COVID-19, фермерское хозяйство, агропромышленный комплекс.

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Today, globalization has exacerbated the possibilities of cross-border trade, the interdependence of national economies, the production of high value-added products and individual products, the availability of goods, services and technologies in all sectors, including the agricultural food sector. However, given globalization, various pandemics have occurred in the 21st century, and the latest Coronavirus (COVID-19) has severely affected the economic and technological structure of organizations and disrupted global life.

The pandemic caused enormous uncertainty in demand and destroyed the agricultural food sector (Cappelli and Cini, 2020), and ensuring the safety and security of AFSC is a big problem (Hobbs, 2020). He emphasized that labor-free agricultural processes have affected production capacities, the accumulation of food products that have a whip effect, and the fragility of supply chains that contribute to unforeseen consequences for the economy as a whole.

Transportation restrictions have led to increased food losses due to delays in food supply chains, especially perishable ones. In addition, the task of satisfying consumer demand for food is determined by the prevailing situations that have arisen in connection with the use of COVID-19, which affects the overall food supply chain.

The agricultural food industry needs unprecedented policy measures to control the flow of products throughout the supply chain, especially in such pandemics. Somehow, if agricultural products still manage to complete their journey from the farm to the food industry, there are still many problems (Larue, 2020). The packaging industry is also reporting a decline due to customer avoidance of accepting ready-to-eat non-alcoholic food bags.

Transport restrictions primarily affect small and marginal agricultural food enterprises. Farmers in the perishable business also face repercussions due to falling demand and export volatility. The health of dairy animals, as well as the quality of dairy products are also hindered by the lack of appropriate equipment and facilities. The reduced consumption of meat and fish, as non-vegetarian products due to fear of infection, forced the closure of slaughter enterprises. Government agencies are proposing a common tactic for social panacea to cope with these situations. But, nevertheless, exciting and difficult questions arise: what will happen if even one

farmer suffers? How will the chain break in such a situation? Although still available stocks are used. However, due to turmoil in farming, industrial processing, and the supply chain, a recession and food shortage may occur after this disaster. A report by the food and agricultural organization quoted by grain analysts indicates that “the problem is not in supply, but in behavioral change on food safety and security”(UN News, 2020).

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic currently threaten the food security of billions of people around the world, and emerging food chain threats have raised issues of food distribution, increased demand, and food shortages (Zurayk, 2020).

Thus, in order to overcome such problems, the agricultural food industry must manage its logistics, retail, manufacturing, e-commerce, catering, etc. using very flexible supply chains. In addition, government, nongovernmental organizations and the food industry need partnerships to accelerate procurement and production, to deal with supply chain disruptions and market volatility.

Despite the fact that some companies successfully operate in response to failures due to the introduction of digital technologies, an efficient supply chain and the evolution of the business model. Food hygiene ethics training to eliminate the risk of localization of food surfaces and packaging materials (FAO, 2019; WHO, 2020).

From this point of view, managing the agricultural food industry, including the purchase, processing and distribution of food and catering, has become a priority industry, and applied research is needed to study the impact of COVID-19 on AFSC, taking into account future crises, identifying weaknesses and opportunities in the sector.

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