

**SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (SCON)  
(PRAKRITI)**

**NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi 110 012**



**National E-Conference on**

**COVID 19 and National Lock Down:  
Impacts and Future Strategies in Agriculture and Environment**

**(July 20, 2020; 10.00-13.30 hrs)**

The recent outbreak of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) has threatened the world with no precedence in modern history. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it as a global pandemic. It has already affected more than 10.7 million and killed more than 0.5 million people worldwide till July 3, 2020). The number of affected people in nearly 205 countries of the world is increasing exponentially and more and more people in various countries are coming under the impact of this deadly disease with each passing day.

India is also very severely hit by the outbreak of COVID 19. Govt. of India resorted to an unprecedented national lockdown i.e., a state of isolation and restricted access instituted as a security measure of the entire country. This is an essential step to fight against the disease but has distressed agriculture and other sectors of the economy. Shut down of the activities has endangered food, health and livelihood security of millions. Farmers and agricultural labourers are those among people who are already poor, marginalized and vulnerable and facing the brunt of lockdown more seriously. Migration of people, farm labourers and other workers, became a very serious issue with lots of hardship or even losing life on the path of migration. The pandemic raised the pertinent question of 'life or livelihood' or 'life and livelihood'.

Besides the issue of life and livelihood, environment at global as well as local levels has witnessed several unprecedented changes due to the lockdown. Global assessment shows that 68% of CO<sub>2</sub> and more than 80% of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions have reduced leading to a cleaner environment. People could see the Himalayas from Chandigarh and Saharanpur, which was only a dream for the younger generations. Many birds and other animals, unseen for last many decades are now making their appearances. Wild animals have been seen to occupy city spaces during the lockdown. Some other reports, however, suggest that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has not declined as expected; due to burning of forests in some parts of the world. Many also argue that this cleaning of environment is only a short-term event and the world act more vigorously with industrial and other economic activities after the lockdown to make up the lost ground. The environment thus will revert back to as polluted as earlier, if not more.

The webinar on July 20, 2020 will discuss some of the above issues very closely. Specifically, it will address (1) impacts of COVID and national lockdown on environment, locally and globally; (2) impacts of COVID and national lockdown on agriculture and farm income; and (3) strategies in post-COVID situation to maintain and improve the environment and agriculture.

You are cordially invited to join the webinar and share your views and experiences on this pertinent and topical issue. The link to join the webinar will be communicated to you shortly.

## **COVID 19 and National Lock Down: Impacts and Future Strategies in Agriculture and Environment**

### **Tentative programme**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
10.00	Background and objectives	H Pathak, NIASM, Baramati
10.10	Opening remarks	N Raghuram, IPU, New Delhi
<b>Impacts of COVID 19 and national lock down on various sectors and future strategies</b>		
10.20	Agriculture	TK Adhya, KIITS, Bhubaneswar
10.35	Air pollution	U Kulshrestha, JNU, New Delhi
11.50	Water pollution	Shalini A Tandon, NEERI, Mumbai
11.05	Soil pollution	B Mondal, BCKV, Kalyani
11.20	Climate change	Sudip Mitra, IIT, Guwahati
12.35	Biodiversity	DK Sharma, IARI, New Delhi
12.50	Agricultural extension	GAK Kumar, NRRI, Cuttack
13.05	Economic impacts and policy	NP Singh, NIAP, New Delhi
13.20	Concluding remarks	YP Abrol, SCON, New Delhi
13.25	Vote of thanks	A Bhatia, IARI, New Delhi

MONDAY | JULY 20, 2020 | 10:00 TO 13:30 HRS

W E B L I N K

<https://zoom.us/j/7921688134?pwd=ZjQxT0NwTGZ2L1I5WUczK2NNNW5qZz09>

MEETING ID

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