



# IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON INDIAN AGRICULTURE SECTOR-A STUDY

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## ABSTRACT

*Agriculture is the process of producing numerous products such as food, feed, and fiber by growing certain plants and raising domesticated animals. The agricultural sector provides fodder for domestic animals. The cow gives milk, which is a form of protective food. In addition, livestock also meets people's dietary requirements. Large quantities of agricultural products are transported by rail and road from the farm to the factories. Mainly, internal trade is in agricultural products. Furthermore, government revenue is largely dependent on the success of the agricultural sector. Since the population of India is mostly dependent on agriculture, the performance of this sector has a considerable effect on the economy. Agriculture contributes around 17-18% in the GDP. Agricultural production has a significant **impact on the economy**. "The effect of better yields could be nullified via the lower prices. Farmer earnings on an internet-to-internet foundation would remain the identical," said Harish Galipelli, head of commodities and currencies at India trade Derivatives & Commodities in Mumbai.*

**KEY WORDS:-**AGRICULTURE, MNERGA, KISAN YOJANA, PRIME MINISTER YOJANA, COVID-19.

## INTRODUCTION

### What is Agriculture?

**Agriculture** is the process of producing numerous products such as food, feed, and fiber by growing certain plants and raising domesticated animals (livestock). The practice of agriculture is additionally referred to as "**farming**".

### Primary Source of occupation

The primary source of occupation for many people is agriculture. Approximately 70% of people depend directly on agriculture for their livelihood.

### Contribution to national income

For most developing countries, agriculture is the main source of national income. However, for developed countries, agriculture contributes a minor percentage to their national income.

### Food and fodder supply

The agricultural sector provides fodder for domestic animals. The cow gives milk, which is a form of protective food. In addition, livestock also meets people's dietary requirements.

### International Trade

Agricultural products such as sugar, tea, rice, spices, tobacco, coffee, etc. are the main export items of the countries that depend on agriculture. If there is a smooth development in agriculture, imports decrease while exports increase considerably. This helps to reduce the unfavorable balance of payments of the countries, as well as to save currencies.

### Marketable Surplus

The growth of the agricultural sector contributes to the marketable surplus. Many people are engaged in manufacturing, mining, and other non-agricultural sectors as the nation develops. All of these individuals depend on the food products they could derive from the nation's marketable surplus. As the agricultural sector develops, production increases and this leads to the expansion of the marketable surplus. This can be exported to other nations.

### Source of Raw Material

**Agriculture** is the main source of raw materials for major industries such as cotton and jute cloth, sugar, tobacco, and edible and non-edible oils. In addition, many other industries, such as fruit and vegetable processing and rice husking, obtain their raw material mainly from agriculture.

### Transportation

Large quantities of agricultural products are transported by rail and road from the farm to the factories. Mainly, internal trade is in agricultural products. Furthermore, government revenue is largely dependent on the success of the agricultural sector.

### Currency exchange resources

The nation's export trade is highly dependent on the agricultural sector. For example, agricultural products such as jute, tobacco, spices, oilseeds, raw cotton, tea, and coffee account for about 18% of a country's total export value. This shows that agricultural products also continue to be an important source of foreign exchange for a country.

### Great job opportunities

The construction of irrigation schemes, drainage systems, and other similar activities in the agricultural sector is important as it provides greater employment opportunities. The agricultural sector provides more job opportunities for the workforce that reduce the high unemployment rate in developing countries caused by the growing population.

### Economic development

Since many people are involved in agriculture, the rate of development in the agricultural sector offers a progressive perspective for general economic development.

### Savings source

Development in agriculture can increase savings. The wealthy farmers we see today started saving, particularly after the green revolution. This surplus amount can be further invested in the agricultural sector to develop the sector.

### Food safety

A stable agricultural sector guarantees a nation of food security. The main requirement of any country is food security. Food security prevents malnutrition, which is traditionally considered one of the main problems facing developing countries.

## Importance of agriculture in India

- Since the population of India is mostly dependent on agriculture, the performance of this sector has a considerable effect on the economy. Agriculture contributes around 17-18% in the GDP. Agricultural production has a significant **impact on the economy**.
- Agriculture supports more than 50 percent of the Indian population directly. Hence the **employment** scenario is controlled by the agricultural production in India to that extent. In addition to working in the farms, sectors like animal husbandry and agricultural machinery which are connected to the performance of the agricultural sector since they provide support to this sector offer employment therein.
- India has had a past of famines and droughts that led to mass starving. Agriculture has been a focus sector since independence to **avoid tragedy**. India has come a very long way since then and has a high stock of food to suffice the entire population in time of need.
- It is also a source of **self-employment**. There are a lot of people in India who feed their families by selling various kinds of crops to other people.
- Agriculture has offered India **food independence**. Due to the immense hard work of farmers, we Indians don't have to rely on other countries to consume various kinds of vegetables and grains.
- When it comes to **fitness**, people who are in the agricultural field are always fitter than people in any other field because they perform much harder duties than anyone else in this world.
- Since agriculture has been given an important status in the economy, the Green Revolution has been a success, and the story has been replicated for other grains. India is now a net exporter of agricultural products and fetches the much needed **foreign exchange**.
- **Indian culture** is ingrained in agriculture, where the traditional music, folklore and folk dances all revolve around This was even the case in films until a couple of decades ago and recent ones like Lagaan.
- **Indian literature** highly revolved around agriculture with authors like Munshi Premchand basing their books like Godan and others on a rural and particularly agricultural background.
- Agriculturists provide various kinds of **raw materials** to various industries and sectors due to which other sectors of India is doing quite well as well.
- Many of the **Indian festivals** are primarily established around the agricultural activities particularly Makar Sankranti, Lodhi, Baisakhi, Vishu, Onam are among them.

- The much talked of the **rural-urban divide** is partly because of the agriculture and dependent. If agriculture develops, sufficiently this divide will narrow down.

Costs for key plants like corn, soybeans, cotton and onions have plunged as a good deal as 50 per cent just as farmers prepare for harvest, setting paid to potentialities for a rural monetary rebound.

"The effect of better yields could be nullified via the lower prices. Farmer earnings on an internet-to-internet foundation would remain the identical," said Harish Galipelli, head of commodities and currencies at Inditrade Derivatives & Commodities in Mumbai.

## False Hopes

Higher monsoon rains all through June-September improved soil moisture and reservoir tiers and spurred farmers to reinforce the wintry weather crop planted vicinity by way of 10 in line with cent from a year in the past to 66.21 million hectares.

Farmers like Ramnaryan Mandloi from Sehore in Madhya Pradesh spent greater on seeds and fertilizers as marketplace expenses and the weather both regarded correct.

"I have started harvesting wheat and expenses are falling. I have already spent on seeds and fertilizers," stated Mr Mandloi.

He has additionally been hurt by using a 22 per cent fall in soybean expenses this yr, as fowl farmers slashed purchases of the animal feed.

Chook sales have plunged in the previous few weeks after rumors circulated on social media that chickens had been spreading corona virus, stated Uddhav Ahire, chairman of Anand Agro group, a chicken employer.

Falling hen demand has compelled loss-making chicken farmers to cut corn and soy meal purchases, Mr Ahire said.

Generally charges of summer-sown plants start improving after supplies dwindle from February onward, but this 12 months they have got sunk as export demand plunged, said a Mumbai-based supplier of an international trading firm.

"After the recent sell-off in international costs, Indian farm commodities have emerge as high priced for overseas buyers. Exports may not pick up unless local fees fall in addition," he said.

To make things worse, heavy rain fell in lots of parts of India inside the beyond weeks, which can damage yields.

"I should have harvested corn on 3 acres subsequent week. But this week's rainfall has completely broken the crop," said Prashant greater, a farmer from Dhule district in Maharashtra.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an acute impact at the Indian agricultural zone. The primary recorded case of COVID-19 in India become on January 30 and for the reason that then, critical and nation governments have applied a selection of different alleviation packages to ease the financial burden of the outbreak within the us of a. At the same time as it could be too early to notice the comprehensive consequences of relief measures placed into location, early signs and symptoms display that an aggregate of governmental assistance and NGO help has ensured rather equitable guide for populations in urban localities, particularly in principal metropolises like New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru.

Government guidelines have provided needed incentives for personal banks to put in force mortgage "excursion" projects, and positive employers have furnished partial wages, which has quite sheltered sections of India's burgeoning urban middle elegance from the disaster. Pharmacies and pick grocery centers have been made available via town and kingdom mandates, again ensuring a modicum of shelter for the center elegance. For the city terrible, towns like Delhi and Mumbai created networks to provide ordinary meals and shelter. Moreover, mission Used, upward thrust against hunger, Feeding Chennai, and diverse other NGOs have taken up the mantle to help and accommodate the needs of India's city slums. Though the global pandemic has adversely impacted India's city communities, there are numerous lively efforts to offer equitable remedy.

The identical cannot be said for India's most vulnerable, its rural poor. Especially, in terms of farmers, for the reason that COVID lockdowns, India has skilled a decreasing of demand for agricultural merchandise. In step with The Hindu business Line, in Maharashtra, dairy farmers have seen a 20 to 50% discount in charges losing from ₹30–35 per liter to ₹20–22 and dipping to ₹12₹ according to liter in a few regions. The price of greens has additionally fallen with tomato, green capsicum, and okra seeing as much as 80% decline in sure regions.

Compounding this hassle of low demand is a great harvest and deliver chain issues. Many Rabi plants and other products together with pineapples, and mangos have not been appreciably impacted in output because the spring harvest turned into almost completed when the lockdown turned into imposed. For those products, the deliver chains have broken down, leading to products that can't be bought or are offered at a below production price. In line

with a document from The wire, discern 1 beneath shows how the supply chains to the Azadpur marketplace in Delhi have faltered with the imposition of the COVID lockdowns.

Low demand and breakdown of deliver chains have lowered the fee of products and left produce in the fingers of farmers with nowhere to promote them. The market rate negatively affects farmers as they fail to recoup the fees of production. Recent charges and harvests have recommended farmers to rent more land and take heavier money owed and even with the modern loan reimbursement vacations, farmers hold to struggle.

The economic effect of India's shutdown has already debilitated those regions and the mass exodus of migrants from Indian towns to rural states which include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Kerala exacerbates those economic issues. Hundreds of thousands go back home penniless to their rural communities and are left with a tightly confined, unprofitable market. Imperative and nation governments have implemented sure applications to relieve rural India's financial burdens, of which remarkable examples have been the revitalization of the centrally-funded **PM-KISAN** application to offer crucial agricultural support and the recently introduced **NYAY** scheme in Chhattisgarh, providing 10,000 rupees to workers inside the country's agricultural region.

To correctly help India's huge agricultural quarter and daily wage earners, country wide and country governments will should substantially boom the scale and scope of alleviation measures. Estimates display that the modern stages of countrywide-level monetary guide best have the capability to sustain the average farmer for a total of 37 days and that state-degree efforts are frequently sporadic and inconsistent. To bolster the agricultural quarter, the principal government will need to continue imparting sustainable month-to-month bills to households. **MGNREGA** has been harnessed to offer work in lots of states within the united states, but the contracts of many **MGNREGA** initiatives are set to expire in the coming months, and all through a time of economic disaster, **MGNREGA** and similar nation paintings initiatives will want to be prolonged in the coming months to retain sustaining the rural enterprise, as well as to create much wished public fitness centers to quarantine sufferers.

To mend deliver chain gaps, farmers ought to be enabled to directly promote their items to consumers. The Alphonso mango farmers inside the Konkan region of Maharashtra had been issued unique journey passes by way of the state authorities enabling them to tour to different parts of the nation to promote their goods. This has ended in farmers netting 125% of pre Covid profit tiers through the exclusion of middlemen and customers receiving lower prices. This change could permit for a extra sustained agriculture area thru this disaster and supply enough returns on funding in order that farmers will pay returned extra of their loans and build a monetary basis for future plants. But, extended mobility of human beings may also exacerbate this contemporary **COVID-19** crisis. Modern trying out suggests that rural India has not but been tormented by **COVID-19**, but lackluster checking out tiers, the cutting-edge migrant disaster, and insufficient scientific centers acutely endanger those regions for destiny outbreaks.

Important and kingdom coverage inside the coming months will must adapt to and put together for unexpected destiny crises and effects of their economic comfort plans inside the agricultural area. A cautious public health method will be important while considering present day reopening plans. As markets reopen and deliver chains start to be reinvigorated, governments will need to maintain subsidizing and assisting the agricultural sector, at the same time as growing **COVID** checking out a good way to preserve supply and support India's farmers.

All through destiny coverage debates, the outcomes of the pandemic and shutdown on the rural area have to be placed in context of its present disaster. This is a moment for India to check and enforce new measures to rejuvenate traditional farming groups beyond this pandemic. **MGNREGA** and similar applications will permit for brief-term employment and balance if elevated, and seriously, as instances preserve to growth in India, these work projects can be used to enlarge basic public fitness infrastructure, which include quarantine centers and fundamental healthcare facilities. This pandemic is in all likelihood to have a sustained effect on the Indian economy and the country calls for an equitable and entire reaction to the worsening agrarian disaster as it plans to reopen to the world.

A lockdown has been imposed within the whole united states to save you the outbreak of the radical Corona virus. Human beings have welcomed this choice as they keep in mind that determined times call for strict measures. The producing for all product categories has been stopped, until similarly note, apart from the ones indexed below critical items.

**COVID-19** has struck deep into the worldwide economy and India is no exception. In the close to future, there can be limitations like weak financial quarters, job losses, profits cuts, and decrease earnings margins. However, this section too shall bypass.

Nowadays, every person is talking about the effect of COVID-19, however simplest from a countrywide attitude or city centric angle. Sadly, no longer a whole lot has been spoken about the impact of COVID-19 on the rural quarter, which constitutes a big part of the economic system and overall intake across product categories in the us of a.

For the document, as per a United nations report published in 2019, 69% of India's populace is living in rural regions, which constitutes to extra than seven hundred million human beings comprising farmers, housewives, SME's, government servants and teenagers.

## Impact

**The first** visible impact of **COVID-19** inside the rural zone is on the agricultural deliver-chain. At the same time as the government has issued allows to vans allowing them to deliver groceries, fruits, and cereals, a huge wide variety of transporters are yet to acquire their permits. This has accelerated the time taken for the farm produce to attain the market. Then again, there may be a moderate impact at the call for side because the eating places have been ordered to close down for the period in-between period. That is inflicting a giant sales loss to many farmers throughout states. As in keeping with a published report, the railway ministry suggests that freight loading has dipped from a common 10,000 shipment rakes in line with day to pretty much three-four,000 now. As a result, the farmer has to promote his crop at a cheaper price, settle with a lower profit.

**The second** one effect of **COVID-19** is the postpone in sowing and harvesting of vegetation because of the unavailability of merchandise along with seeds, tractors, ancillary help, drug treatments for crop safety. Traditionally, that is the satisfactory time for manufacturers from the above-cited sectors to marketplace their merchandise to the farmers. Even the e-trade brands in agriculture have been impacted because the transportation of these merchandise have stopped and there is no inventory.

**The third** effect of **COVID-19** is the anticipated task cuts inside the agricultural sector. As per the authorities, there are nearly nine crore farmers together with a similar range (if not greater) landless agricultural hard work. Whilst the farmer can be receiving remedy from the authorities at once, the latter is placed in a tough function at this time.

**The fourth** big effect is the complete shutdown of exports. India has been a chief exporter of plants and as consistent with **APEDA**, India's normal agri-exports in 2018-19 had been to the music of Rs 685 billion. Currently, all the ports were locked and massive inventory has piled up with the traders and farmers.

**The fifth** impact is on the MSME & SME's. These encompass small industry units, companies/traders, and stores that control a first rate length inventory and appoint numerous direct and indirect employees. Put up lockdown, their corporations are shut down and facing a sales hit. They'll have to allow cross of their employees for a ramification of reasons together with economic viability, migration, health and different. People stand to lose jobs without a clear concept of when the situation is going to stabilize.

**The 6th** effect is the prediction of a susceptible intake fashion post COVID-19. Once matters go back to ordinary, the number one recognition of people would be to secure jobs and get their companies going. During such time both households and companies may be keeping stringent exams on their spending patterns. This fashion will also be an impediment to the enlargement plans of the global/country wide manufacturers giants in this place. They'll take a while before reconsidering their access to this market.

It's far nearly not possible to even placed a ballpark discern to the kind of financial hit rural areas might take because of the COVID-19.

## Way ahead

These are testing instances and both Union and state Governments are working to their full ability in fighting the novel COVID-19. It has made fitness as its pinnacle precedence.

It is extremely critical to provide same priority to rural regions as put up COVID-19, the place will play a large position in bringing the consumption trend and financial system back heading in the right direction.

The principal government has began by means of announcing a comfort package deal for the farmers, publish **COVID-19**, to even the hit they've taken all through this time. Authorities had announced Rs 2,000 to farmers within the first week of April below present **PM Kishan Yojana**. They have got reduced the burden of EMI's for next three months on the human beings because it will provide respiration space to many in the place. In another landmark announcement, the government has multiplied the day by day wages of **MGNREGA** workers inside the area that will advantage about five Cr households across the India ..

**As in step** with published reports, India's farming market changed into well worth INR 16,587 Billion in 2018 and turned into projected to reach INR 30,675 Billion through 2024, developing at a **CAGR** of 10.8% during 2019-2024. The comfort package will supply farmers the necessary help to get again on target.

The state governments are intently running on the Tehsil tiers to make sure that the farmers get the agri-inputs and logistic assist to send the produce to the market. But, each country is running with their own guidelines at Tehsil degree and a uniform united states of america-extensive policy on this, which is well defined, is the want of the hour.

**Secondly**, there aren't any community meetings or BTL sports; hence there must be an alternative plan to conscious farmers of such selections and rules. On this state of affairs, e-trade players running in the agricultural zone may be a large recreation changer. They've a centered base of farmers that may be immediately leveraged by using the government, thereby decreasing the time gap and increasing effectiveness in accomplishing out to them.

E-commerce can assist in making sure that the agri-enter wishes of the farmers are met efficaciously. Given the good enough assist, those e-commerce gamers can deliver the goods to the farmers at their doorstep, sanitized on the warehouse stage, thereby reducing the woes and assisting in a better yield.

And, subsequently, it's miles very essential to urge the **MSME** and **SME's** to maintain their personnel to lessen the task cuts. This can help boost the intake, once we leave COVID-19 at the back of. For the file, the agricultural region drives big intake across categories. As an example, annual FMCG intake in rural regions become around \$24 bn and is projected to attain a hundred billion through 2025.

The Covid-19 pandemic and governments' policy responses to deal with its effects and aftershocks have jolted the worldwide financial system. Agriculture and food structures aren't insulated from the dramatic impact the fitness crisis has had at the wider economy. The measures adopted on the onset of the crisis did lead to intense disruptions in international meals supply chains exposing their weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

Some governments took recourse to export-restricting rules as a way to assuring domestic resources of essential goods and foodstuffs. **WTO** contributors in addition to worldwide groups known as, early on, for open international markets, functioning supply chains of critical items and food products and required transparency in admire of all **Covid-19** policy responses. Early analysis and normal marketplace monitoring reports by using the Agriculture marketplace information gadget (AMIS) have shown that international meals markets remain nicely furnished, and inventory levels of vital crops and cereals are at record high tiers, hence assuaging worldwide meals deliver related concerns.

**WTO** participants first mentioned the Covid-19 pandemic and governmental responses at a unique assembly of the general Council on 15 may 2020. They later engaged at a unique assembly of the **Committee on Agriculture** (CoA) on 18 June 2020 to together evaluation the impact of Covid-19 on worldwide agriculture and food structures within the framework of the agreement on Agriculture.

In anticipation of the capability challenges to worldwide change and supply chains, some of participants, individually as well in numerous agencies, have pledged and entreated others to workout restraint in applying export regulations on important objects and foodstuffs. Participants additionally stated throughout the June special meeting of the **CoA**, the limited use of export restrictions on agricultural goods at some point of the Covid-19 pandemic, possibly a lesson learned from the 2007-08 worldwide meals crisis.

The significance of transparency and of the monitoring of Covid-19 agriculture measures has also been emphasized through members. At the June special assembly of the CoA, it become agreed that Covid-19 and agriculture could be a status item on the time table of destiny meetings of the Committee if you want to facilitate a collective evaluation and records exchange on agricultural measures installed area by means of individuals in reaction to Covid-19.

**WTO** participants also expressed an hobby to invite specialists from other worldwide groups and benefit from their work at the monitoring and evaluation of Covid-19 agricultural measures. The Secretariat accordingly prepared an data session on 28 July within the margins of the July CoA meeting and invited the meals and **Agriculture company** (FAO), the **INTERNATIONAL MEALS COVERAGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE** (IFRPI), the **GLOBAL GRAINS COUNCIL** (GGC) and the **INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE** (ITC) to give their Covid19-associated paintings.

### **The implications of COVID-19 for rural India**

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the complete nation to a halt. Fitness officials and scientific professionals are struggling with containing the ailment, and checking out and treating affected human beings. Closing night time, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** introduced a **three-week**, kingdom-extensive, complete lockdown to include the unfold of this virus, because the quantity of mentioned high quality instances in India crossed 500. In mild of this, it's miles pertinent to take inventory of our rural areas.

The threat of unfold in rural regions is heightened. That is due to a range of of things, inclusive of lack of knowledge, a limited deliver of easy water, low tiers of nutrition, and most importantly, sick-gearred up and insufficient public fitness facilities and district hospitals.

Bogged down monetary hobby in city areas has an impact on rural regions as properly. Severa research and enjoy from the sector imply that a huge share of rural family incomes comes from migration and daily-salary people. The

informal industry in towns being badly affected has resulted in lack of rural profits. What's greater, massive layoffs and absence of relief measures are pushing migrants to go back to their villages, which could growth the risk of the unfold of the virus.

**The dreaded consequences on rural populations have already started out to materialize. Take as an example:**

1. Poultry manufacturers in Jharkhand are bearing the brunt of the lowering demand for broiler chickens, with quotes falling as little as INR 20 in line with kg, from the ordinary fee of INR 90 consistent with kg.

2. There are rotting vegetables in some regions of Tamil Nadu as a result of the transport system partially breaking down, as found via the field body of workers of the Tamil Nadu state Rural Livelihoods venture.

3. Rural hats in Odisha, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh, and mandis in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are being closed down, as discovered by using our group individuals at the floor, making it hard for smallholder farmers in these areas to promote their produce.

To address the hassle, country governments have despatched advisories to rural areas thru the district management, which then passes it down—to spread data about the way to address the virus affected cases as well as approximately a way to lessen the hazard of it spreading.

### **The social sector reaction to COVID-19**

As an instance, in Odisha, **Self-Help-Groups** (SHGs) are actually generating masks that may be worn, and neighborhood **ASHA** employees are disseminating understanding among community participants. Additionally, some civil society companies, including PRADAN, have developed and are distributing **Information education, and communication** (IEC) fabric, and developing recognition a number of the SHG individuals.

But, proactive measures are wished at the part of the government and civil society to shield rural populations from the financial fallout of this pandemic. Those should include:

1. Persevering with the supply chain of midday meals and Anganwadi meals, and handing over them to the families' doorsteps (like Kerala has carried out), in order that youngsters and pregnant mothers get at the least one meal an afternoon.

2. Offering free ration to rural families through the public distribution gadget.

3. Supporting rural families with 30-50 days' really worth of labor wages, from the **MGNREGA** budget.

4. Leveraging the SHG network and ASHA people to disseminate IEC cloth.

5. Extending Village Organizations (VOs) to provide gentle loans to families that lose wage days and/or incur COVID-19-associated health fees country Rural Livelihood Missions can also bear in mind extending the use of the Vulnerability relief Fund (VRF) to the VOs for this cause.

6. Rescheduling bank mortgage reimbursement cycles for SHGs and man or woman agricultural debtors.

The current crisis is one that we are not completely prepared for, nor realize enough about. Making ready and empowering the rural populace might cross an extended manner in this combat.

### **Conclusion**

That agriculture is vital for India can hardly be stressed enough. Entire villages depend upon the farm work and farming seasons. Migration is also dependant on the farming seasons as even the hired labor for harvesting. Indian population still connects with the vagaries of the weather affecting the crop. The food, music and almost all folk culture are so deeply rooted in the various aspects of agriculture that to separate the two becomes inconceivable.

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