

Fig. 3 Screen shot of CIFT Training Mobile Application

contents, course fee, duration, eligibility course content, place (Kochi, Visakhapatnam, Mumbai & Veraval) and other facilities at fingertips. Apart from that the online registration form is provided for the interested candidate filling their information details and facilities for online payment.

Google play store link to access the CIFT Lab Test & CIFT Training Mobile Applications and leaflets were given below:

Google play store link

1. https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vcsecon.CIFT_Lab_Test
2. https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vcsecon.CIFT_Training_new

Leaflet link:

1. https://krishi.icar.gov.in/Technology/downloadpatent?action=download&fileName=mediaResourceUpload1575358598_CIFT%20Lab%20Test%20of%20nal.pdf
2. https://krishi.icar.gov.in/Technology/downloadpatent?action=download&fileName=mediaResourceUpload1575358554_CIFTTraining.pdf

Reference:

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Immediate impact of COVID-19 pandemic on seafood processing and exports

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As part of regulatory measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic lock down was enforced in

the country on 25 March 2020. The lock down was extended twice with the phase 3 being upto

17 May 2020. Fisheries and related activities was exempted from the lock down with effect from 10 April 2020, though it took several months for near normal activities to resume. This communication is a brief on the immediate impacts on the seafood sector.

The Indian seafood processing sector has been almost entirely oriented to export right from its infancy in the 1950s. Only in the very recent past has processed seafood found its way into the domestic supermarket chain, largely restricted to urban areas (Gopal et al., 2016). Availability and preference for fresh fish by the consumers; the profits that international seafood trade fetched; and the pro-active trade promotion policies of the government were the reasons for the export oriented approach of seafood industry in the country. Indian seafood exports reach about 106 countries in the world and it is one of the largest exporters of shrimp to countries like USA, Europe and Japan. Besides, it also exports cephalopods like squid, cuttlefish and octopus; crustaceans like lobsters and crabs; fish etc. in frozen or chilled forms and very small volumes in live form. In the year 2015-16 the export value of seafood had reached an all-time high of USD 6.84 billion. In 2019-20, the exports stood at USD 6.68 billion (table 1), with an export quantity of 12.89 lakh ton².

There are 613 processing plants in the country with a total installed capacity of 33,730.02 MT. The country also has 3.88 lakh MT of cold storage, 0.23 lakh MT of chilled storage, 0.3 lakh MT of dry fish storage and 0.31 lakh MT of other storage capacities. There are also 718 MPEDA

registered pre-processing units with a total capacity of 10,871.53 MT. The impact on the seafood processing factory will probably be felt in the months to come. Though till provisional figures in January 2020 (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI) revealed that the quantity exported in comparison to January 2019 has decreased by 22.32% (in value terms it is positive at 1.24%) (Fig. 1). However, it has been clear subsequently that there was a dip of about 16.75% when April-September 2020 data was taken over the same period the previous year (April-September 2019), indicating that the spread of the pandemic in importing countries has had an affect on Indian seafood exports. This was actually followed by the spread of the pandemic in India, which led to containment measures by the government. The dip in quantity exported was visible to several countries especially in SE Asia, EU, Japan and UAE (Fig. 2a & 2b).

Latest available information from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, reveals that the export during April-September 2020 was Rs. 18015 crore which indicates that the exports during the first six months of the year, which is just 30% of the total export of last year.

From primary data collected from processing factories it was observed that the percentage reduction in production was an average 46% in March 2020 and had further fallen by 74% in April 2020. The resultant losses stood at about Rs. 2 crore to 5 crore per unit. The total losses is expected to be about INR 2500 crore in March 2020 with about 30% fall in quantity and value over the previous year.

Table 1: Seafood exports from India (2017-20)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (till September 2020)*
Quantity in ton	1377244	1392559	1289651	432956
Value in Crore	45106.89	46589.37	46662.85	1,801,5.05
US\$ Million	7081.55	6728.5	6678.69	2403.00

Source: MPEDA & *Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI

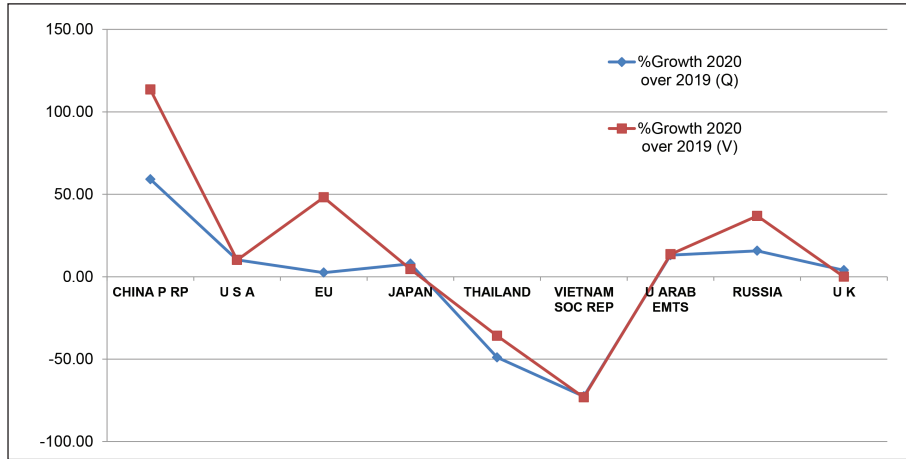


Fig. 1 Percent growth of seafood exports January 2020 over January 2019 Based on data from Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI

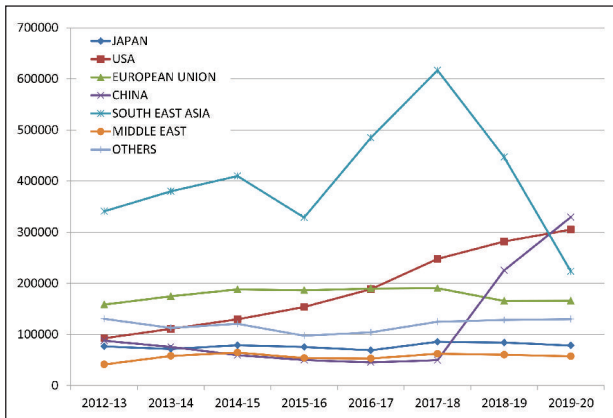


Fig. 2a Change in quantity (ton) of seafood exports to various importing countries

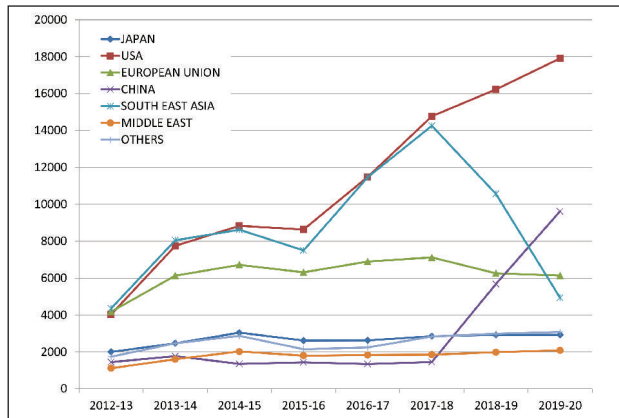


Fig. 2b Change in value (Rs. Crore) of seafood exports to various importing countries

The pending orders of export to different countries were cancelled by the buyers. Our 28 Purchase Orders were cancelled by the buyers from USA, China, Vietnam and Middle East.
Seafood exporter, Andhra Pradesh

The problems of the industry has been the difficulty in sourcing raw material due to restrictions on transportation. About 80% of production is based on material from aquaculture and movement of this was heavily restricted, as the raw material had to come from states like Andhra Pradesh. There was blockages in working capital flow for many units. During the lockdown firms could not send original documents to buyers, which is an important requirement for shipments to be off loaded, due to couriers not functioning. Though some buyers accepted electronic versions, this

caused delays. Factories have also been finding it difficult to get consignments tested with external laboratories as most of the labs are not operating due to lockdown. For compliance of drawn sample requirement, external lab representatives are not available on time to draw samples from the factory and in the process shipments were delayed.

There is low demand in the global market and some of the buyers cancelled orders and some renegotiated process, depressing the same. There was decrease of upto 1 USD in products. Payments for already shipped products were also held up with the buyers. Even after the lockdown is lifted the processors are unsure of whether required volumes will be demanded as the situation needs to improve in the importing countries as well.

Labour shortages were faced by several factories. Where there were in-house staff they were able to operate, but in most units the local staff were not able to reach work places. The direct labour costs were also very high considering very low raw material availability and low exports. When the migrant labour in the sector from Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka etc. will leave there is also a situation that there may be difficulty in bringing them back. As this may warrant testing and quarantine costs. Exports to countries like China are facing issues of virus detection on consignments. While this could be an issue of handling after the processing and packing, this needs to be sorted out as China is banning imports from such countries in the short term.

The initial days of the lockdown also opened up opportunities for online sale of fish. Owing to the inability of people to access markets and the general fear of the spread of the pandemic, there was a shift to online purchases. This could be a trend for the near future as the fear continues to persist and this offers an opportunity that can be exploited. Buying behavior is affected by several aspects, and this may be a short-time

panic response. But at least a small percentage of the consumers may continue with this for the convenience it offers.

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Technical guidelines for sustainable small-scale gillnet fishing in India

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Background

Gillnet is the most popular fishing gear in the small-scale fishing sector due to its simplicity in design, construction, operation and its low investment. The gear is highly versatile as it can be operated in marine as well as freshwater with or without the aid of a vessel. Besides, it can be operated in any area of the water column viz.,

surface, column or bottom layers as drift, set or encircling gillnets. Gillnets of varying mesh sizes, target a variety of fishes ranging from small anchovies to large fishes such as seer fish and tunas. The gillnet vessels constitute about 67% of the total fleet of the country, consisting of 19,850 mechanized, 61,873 motorised and 49,435 non-motorised vessels (Thomas *et al.*, 2020) and that gillnets constitute 83% of the 5.1