



**TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION
(TRIFED) MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**NCUI Building, Khel Gaon Marg, 3 Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas,
New Delhi, Delhi – 110016**

No. TFD/HO/MD/PK/Covid/2020

3rd April, 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, Covid19 has posed an unprecedented threat across the world. Almost all the States and UTs in India are affected by it, in varying degrees. This threat has cast its shadow on all sectors of trade and industry, at all levels, and all segments of society. The poor are the worst affected. The tribes are no exception. This is the peak season for NTFP in many regions. It is, therefore, necessary to think in advance about certain precautionary measures to be taken to protect all, especially tribal-gatherers. Key points in this regard are given in the Annexure to this letter. Please note that these points are illustrative and not exhaustive. There may be several State-specific and/or NTFP-specific points that you may like to include in this list. Please ensure that the points reach the persons at the cutting edge (tribal gatherers as also your field-level functionaries) at the earliest.

Warm regards,

Yours Sincerely,

[Pravir Krishna]

Encl: Annexure as above

To: All the Van Dhan Nodal and Implementing Agencies of States

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ANNEXURE

DO's and DON'Ts RELATING TO NTFP DURING COVID19 SCARE

- Unscrupulous market forces may try to exploit the tribal gatherers by pushing them to distress sale of NTFP. Hence, MFP scheme will need to be implemented with extra energy, especially in the most vulnerable areas.
- The NTFP gatherers must be advised regarding hygiene in NTFP collection work. They must sanitize their hands before and after collection work.
- Hand sanitizers must be placed at the entrance of all NTFP primary processing centres, including Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. Every processor must sanitize her hands before entering the centre and starting to work.
- The processors must not sit cluttered in the processing centres. They must be at least 2 meters away from each other. If the space in the centre is a constraint, they must be advised to work in different shifts, or work from home under clean conditions.
- Any person who has any form of cold or cough must not be allowed into the centre and all gatherers and processors must observe social distancing, especially from such persons.
- If a gatherer (or anybody in her house) shows the slightest signs of Covid19, they should be subjected to screening and, if necessary, quarantining.
- The packing material for NTFP must be clean and without damage so that the handlers do not come in contact with the NTFP.
- To the extent possible, cash transactions must be minimized and amounts must be credited into the bank accounts of the gatherers. The gatherers must be encouraged and supported to adopt cashless practices through Government platforms like RuPay.