***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

**Online Seminar : IMPACT OF COVID ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN**

In last few months, since India announced lockdown, to stop Covid-19 virus from spreading, immediate impact was felt on food supply chain which completely disrupted. The disruption forced government to come out with major reforms like allowing farmers to sell their produce outside the market yard to fetch better returns. Essential commodities act relaxed for seven commodities and use of electronic market platform for farmers to see that they receive better price. To deliberate on these issues, IMC in association with Business Standard organized Online seminar on IMPACT OF COVID ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN on Thursday, July 2, 2020.

IMC President Mr. Ashish Vaid presided over the meeting and stated that the reforms initiated by the government currently will provide an impetus for the agriculture sector while in the long run it will ensure India’s food security and supply chain in a self-sufficient manner. It will lead to the Prime Minister’s vision of Aatmnirbhar Bharat or ‘self-reliant’ country.

Mr. Rajesh Bhayani, Associate Editor, Business Standard moderated the panel discussion. The following speaker participated Mr. G. Chandrashekhar, Economic Advisor, IMC and Director, IMC-ERTF; Mr. Amith Agarwal, Co-Founder and ED, StarAgri Warehousing and Collateral Management Ltd; Mr. Atul Chaturvedi, Executive Chairman, Renuka Sugars Ltd; Mr. Rajendra Barwale, Chairman, MAHYCO and Dr. V. Shunmugam Ex-Head (Research and Index Administration), MCX India.

Speaker emphasised on different aspects of the food supply chain challenges including post-harvest logistics, marketing, retailing, technology infusion, innovation, and business promotion. They were of the view that more reforms are needed to smoothen the food supply chain.

Mr. Atul Chaturvedi, Executive Chairman, Renuka Sugars Ltd said that to make India self-reliant on edible oil front, national oilseeds mission should be revived. He advised north India farmers to diversify part of the sowing from grains to oilseeds.

Mr. Rajendra Barwale, Chairman, MAHYCO, emphasised the need for conducive government policy which encourages innovation in the seed technology. Policy should honour and promote new technology and intellectual property rights.

Dr. V. Shunmugam Ex-Head (Research and Index Administration), MCX India explained the challenges in doubling farmers income and suggested we should roll out further reforms such as extending the reach of WDRA to all agri warehouse/service providers, connecting finance to e-NWRs, a trading platform for e-NWRs, simplifying and strengthening the standards/grades/testing/certification and enhance its access and affordability to the farmers and increasing warehousing capacities.

Mr. Amith Agrawal, Co-founder and ED, StarAgri Warehousing & Agribazar discussed measures for promoting electronic market and how agricultural information systems, transparent price information and access to electronic platforms can enhance the decision-making capability of the farmers. He suggested need to set up small silos near farms to help farmers store goods to sell at right price and allow those providing electronic trading platforms with e-Nam.

Mr. G. Chandrashekhar, Economic Advisor, IMC and Director IMC ERTF discussed about the regulations for promoting electronic trading, higher degree of automation by all in the food supply chain at a time when globally the government policies are tilting towards protecting local interests.

The seminar ended with Vote of thanks.