

How is the hinterland unlocking? Findings from 2nd round of survey

A collaborative study by:

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India), Action for Social Advancement, Grameen Sahara, i-Saksham, PRADAN, SAATHI-UP, SeSTA, Seva Mandir and Transform Rural India Foundation

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Sincere gratitude

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Reconnecting with round-1 (1/2)

- Households have depended on Kharif stock more than Rabi – but that stock is now dwindling.
- Households are coping with the shock by eating less food and lesser number of times and with large dependence on PDS.
- **Need for food support through PDS and promotion for food crop cultivation in Kharif.**
- Preparedness for Kharif 2020 is low - **need for public support in terms of seed provision and credit for Kharif 2020.**
- Large chunk of migrants yet to return – but already the increased workload enhances the drudgery faced by the women.

Reconnecting with round-1 (2/2)

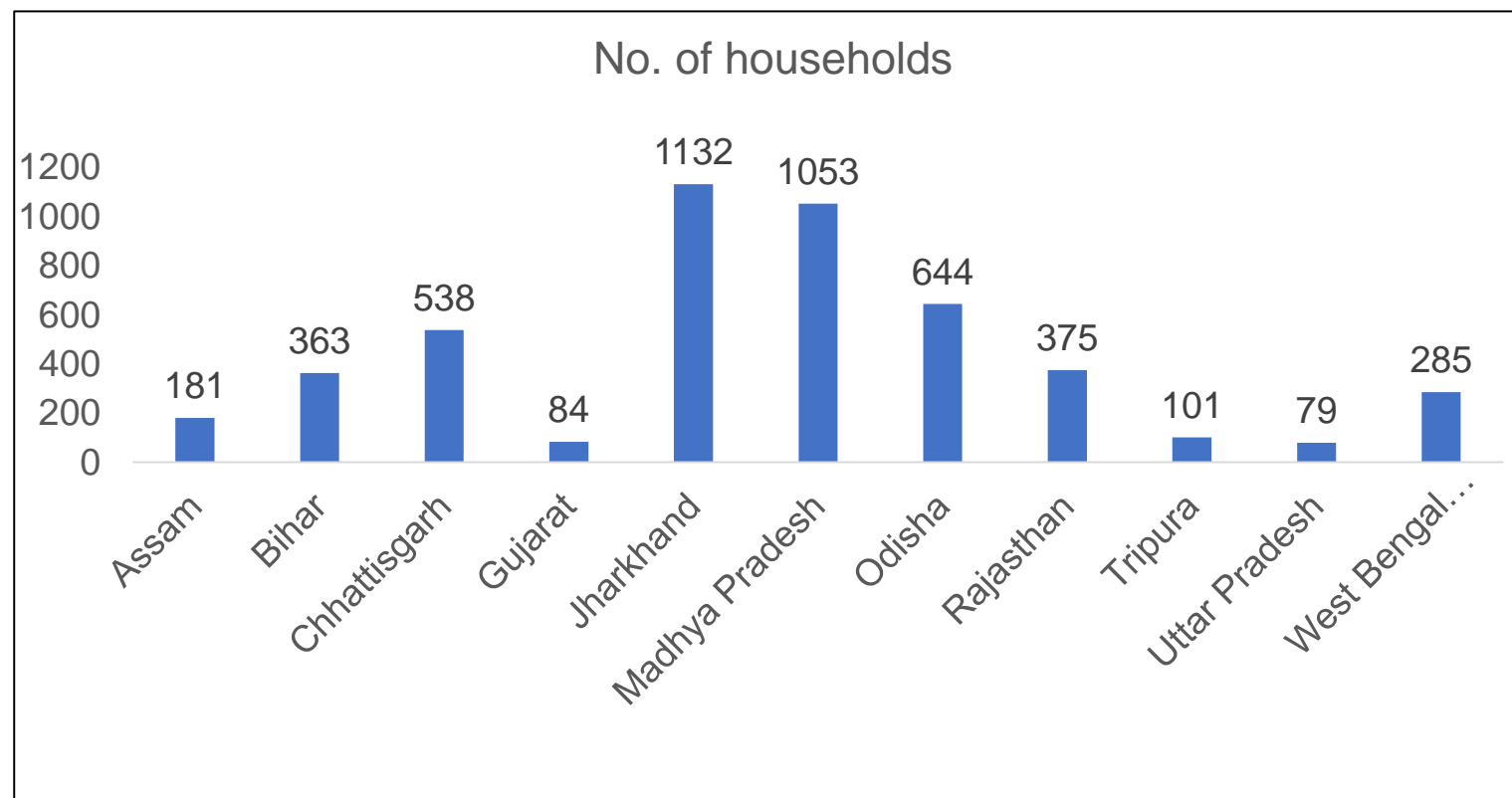
- Lockdown and rumors have indeed adversely affected income – dairy and poultry.
- Coping mechanisms mostly clustered around change in food habits and reduction in expenditures.
- Borrowing is taking place – indebtedness might increase if the effect of shock prevails.
- Asset sales still low - but already reported by a small fraction of respondents.
- Gives a snapshot – to understand how the hinterland is getting affected progressively – more rounds will be needed.

Objectives of the study (round 2)

- An assessment of the effect of the COVID-19 induced lockdown on the rural households
- Compared to 1st round in April 20 (lockdown), how the situation has changed in a month of unlock
- Assessment in 2nd round is focused on:
 - Reverse migration
 - Food security
 - Kharif season practices
 - Drudgery faced by the women in the household
 - Borrowing and asset sales etc.

Geographical spread

- 4835 Households, 11 States, 48 Districts
- Data collection took place between 24th June and 8th July

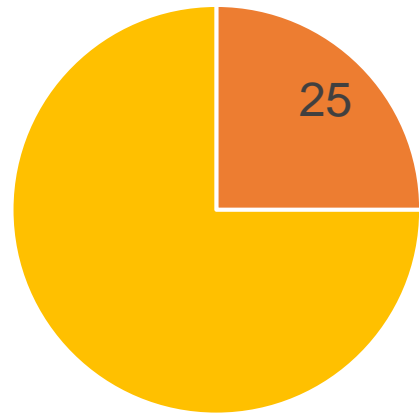


States	Districts
Assam	3
Bihar	4
Chhattisgarh	4
Gujarat	2
Jharkhand	10
Madhya Pradesh	10
Odisha	6
Rajasthan	3
Tripura	2
Uttar Pradesh	1
West Bengal	3

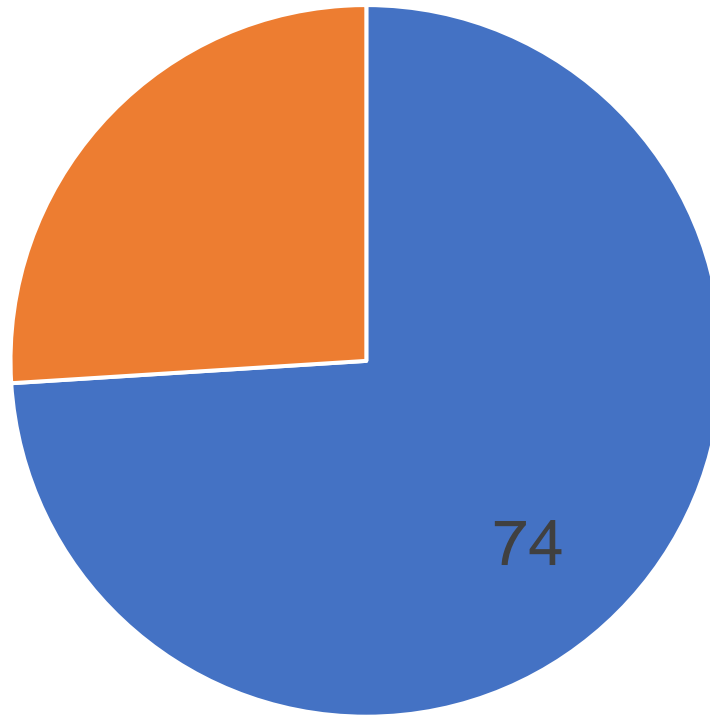
Reverse migration

Returned Migrants as % of outmigrants

Households with outmigrants as % of total households (n=4835)



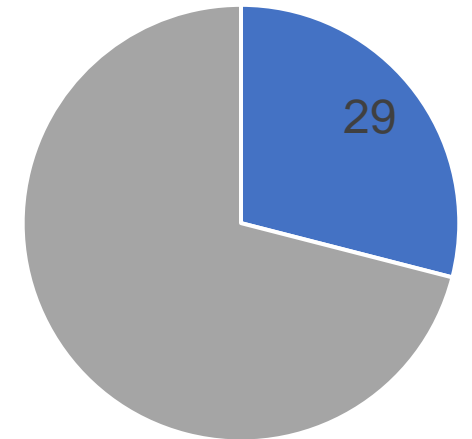
■ Outmigrant



■ Migrants who have returned

■ Outmigrants (n=1196)

% of returned migrants moved back to the town/city (n=882)

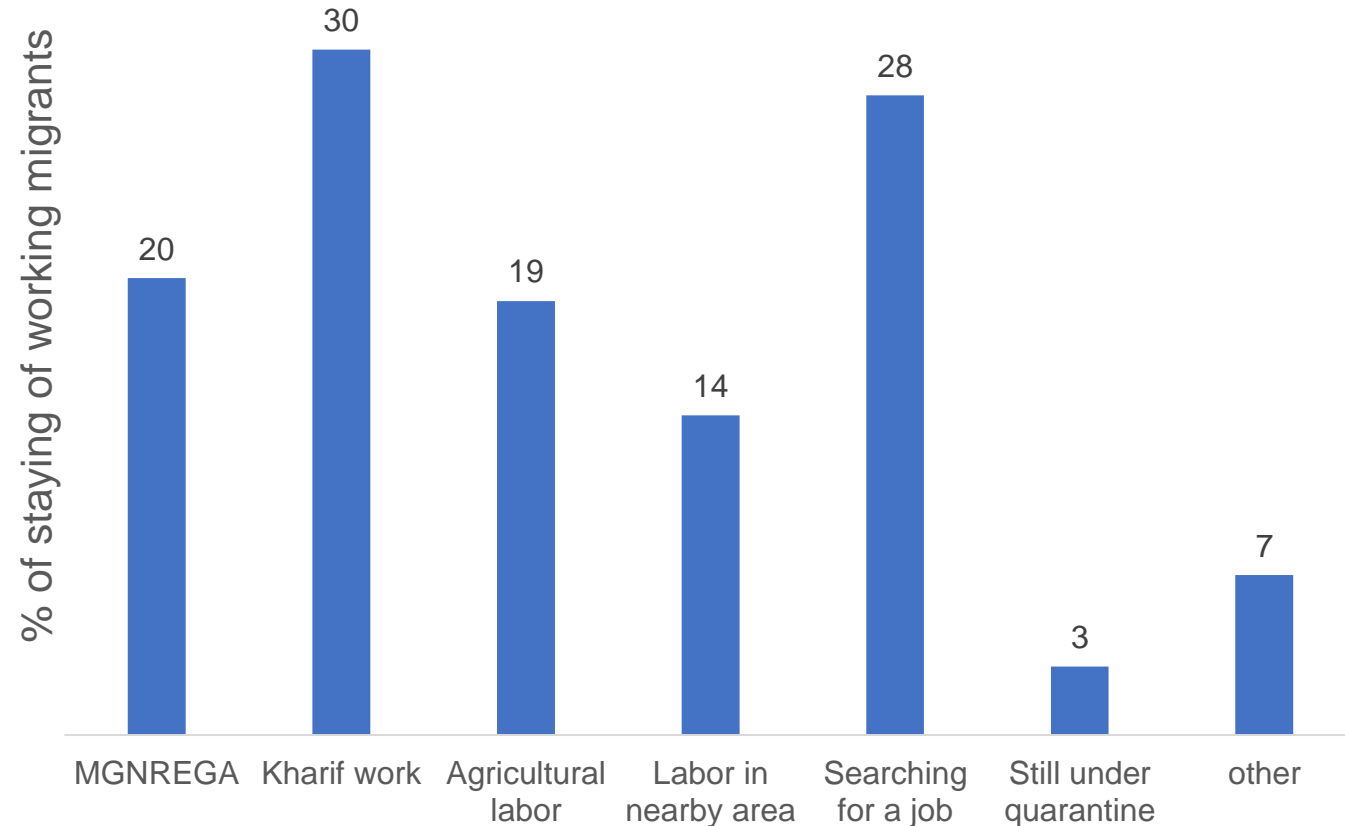


■ Returned migrants moved back to town/city

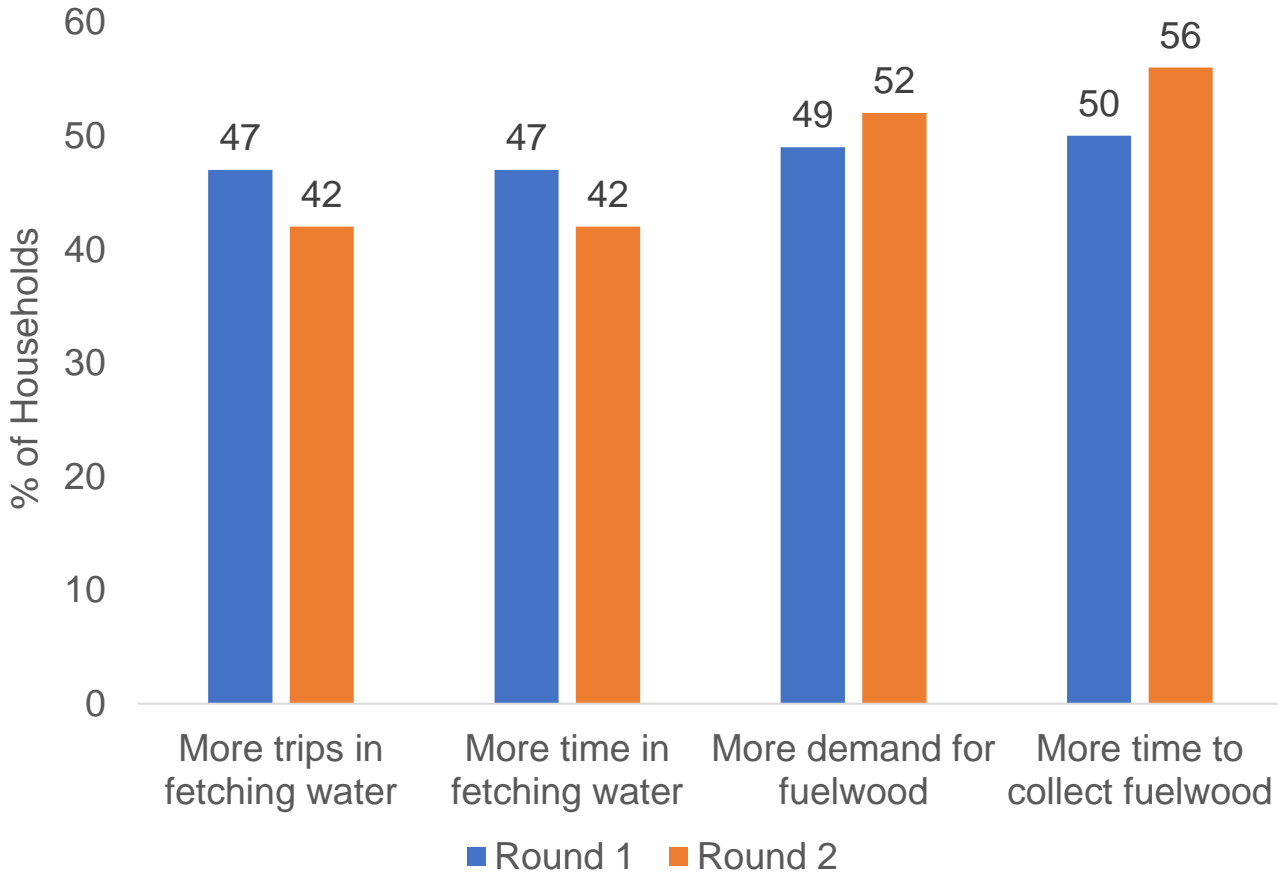
What returned migrants who are still in villages doing?

- Returned migrants are engaged mainly in labor work - more than 80% of them
- Reflects absence of skilled employment in villages
- More than 1/4th of them are still searching for work
- 45% of those still in village think they will move back to city
 - It varies according to their current engagement

Activities of returned migrant members in village (n=641)



Workload of female members of the household

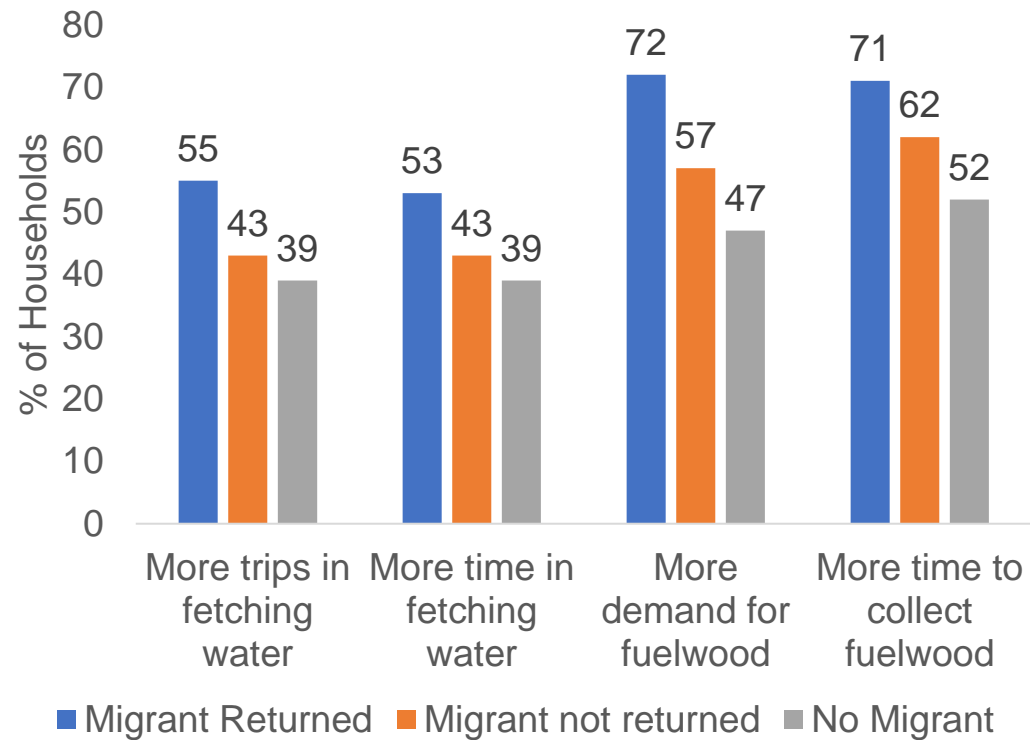


- **Marginal changes in drudgery**

- More or less similar situation as round 1.
- Changes likely to be induced by season.

Female members of households with returned migrants are worst-off

- **Drudgery and Migration status**

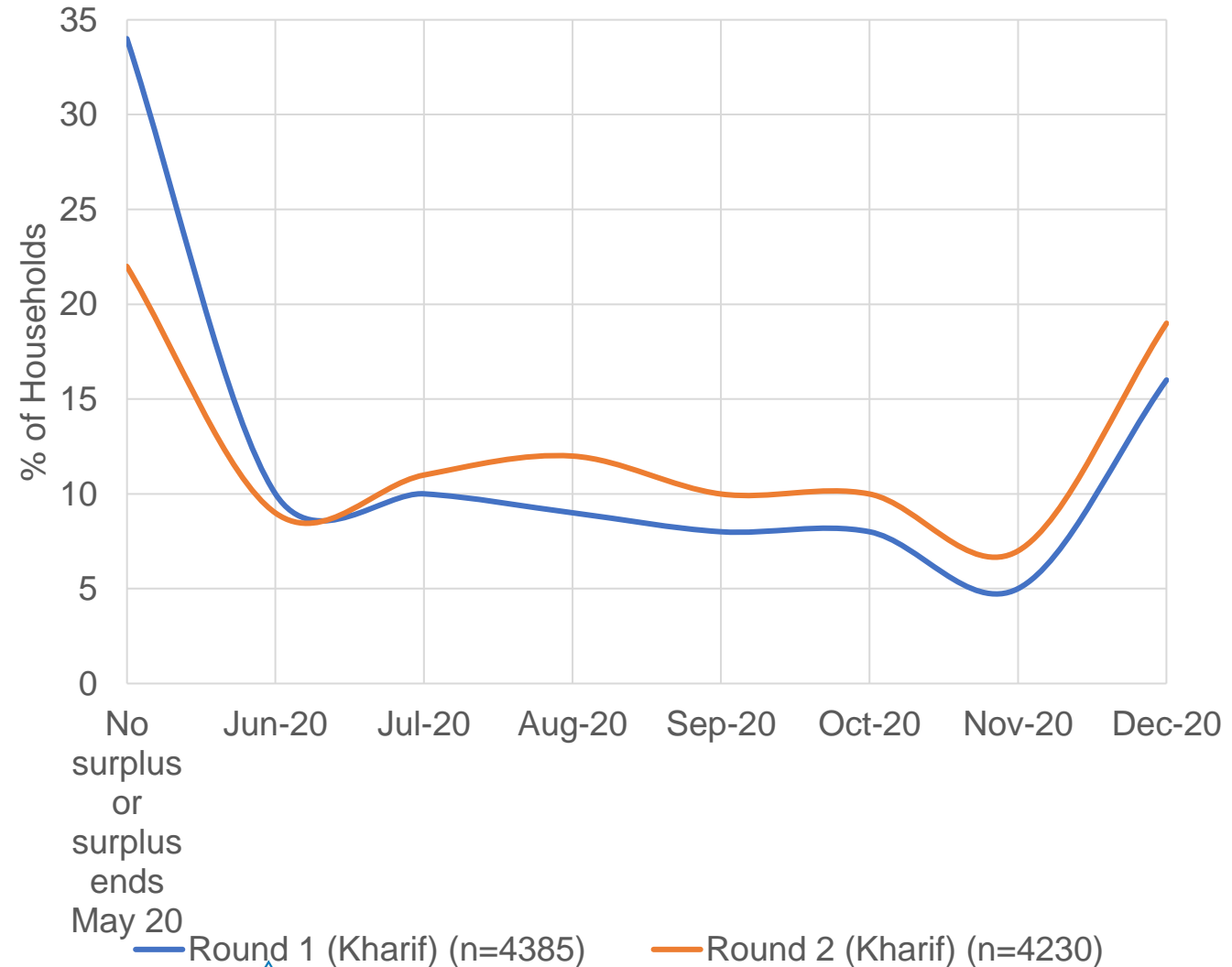


- **Same pattern has been observed during 1st round as well**

- **More members in the households where migrant has returned – median household size is 6 vis-à-vis 5 in those households where there are no migrants**

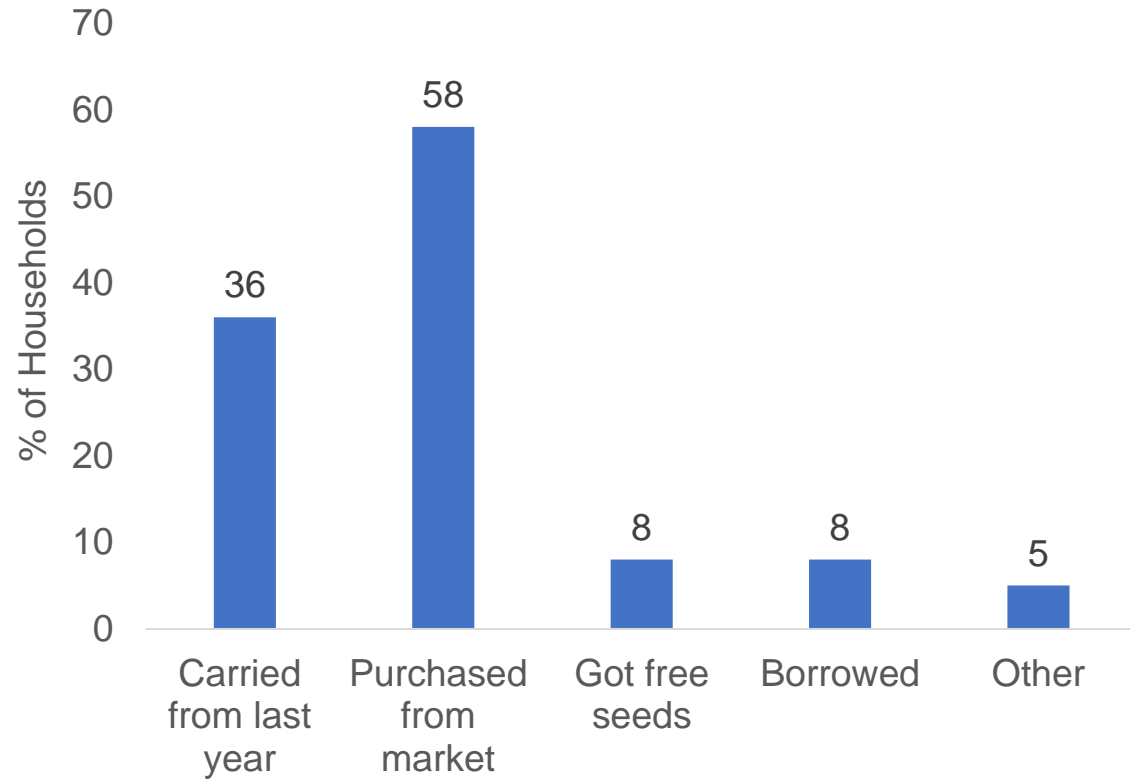
Status of Kharif 2019 food stock

- In round 1, 14% households reported no Kharif surplus and 20% reported to last it till May 20.
- If this would have been true assessment, 34% of households should have been without Kharif surplus.
- But reported % in round 2 is 22%, considerably lower, indicates that household were conservative in their assessment or their perspective was influenced by food scarcity.

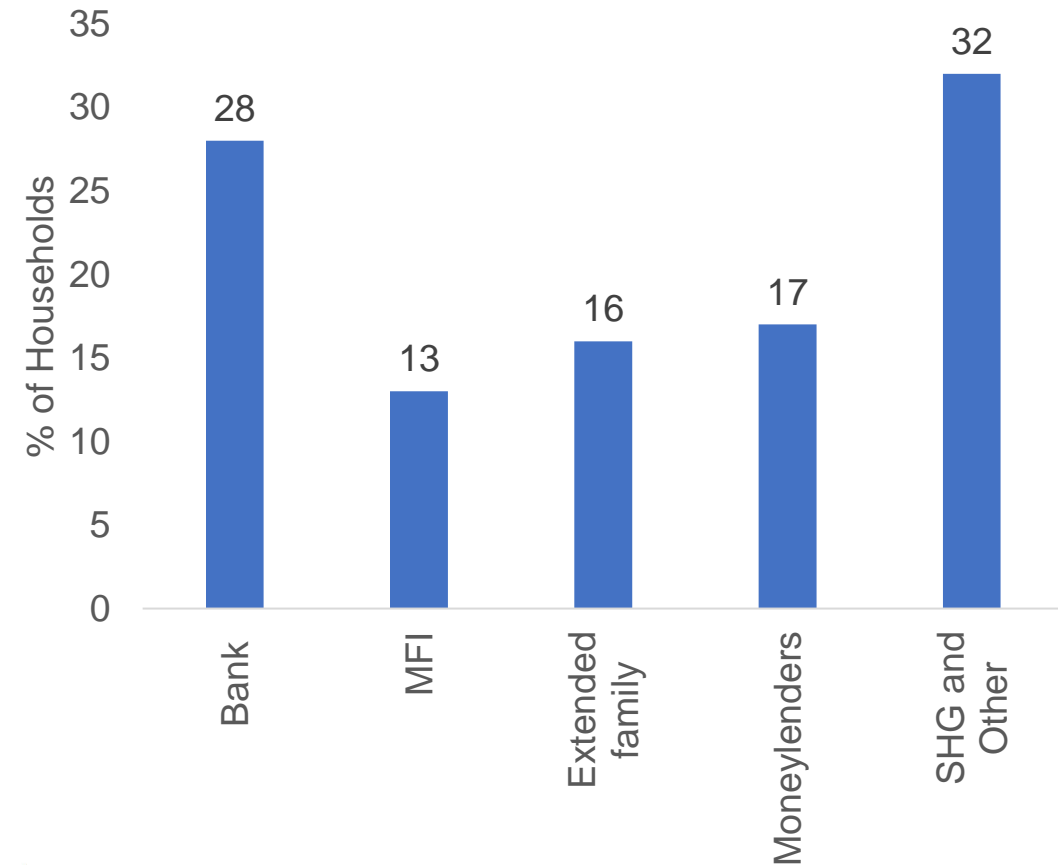


Kharif 2020 situation: Less uncertain than what was thought

Seed procurement Sources (n=4030)

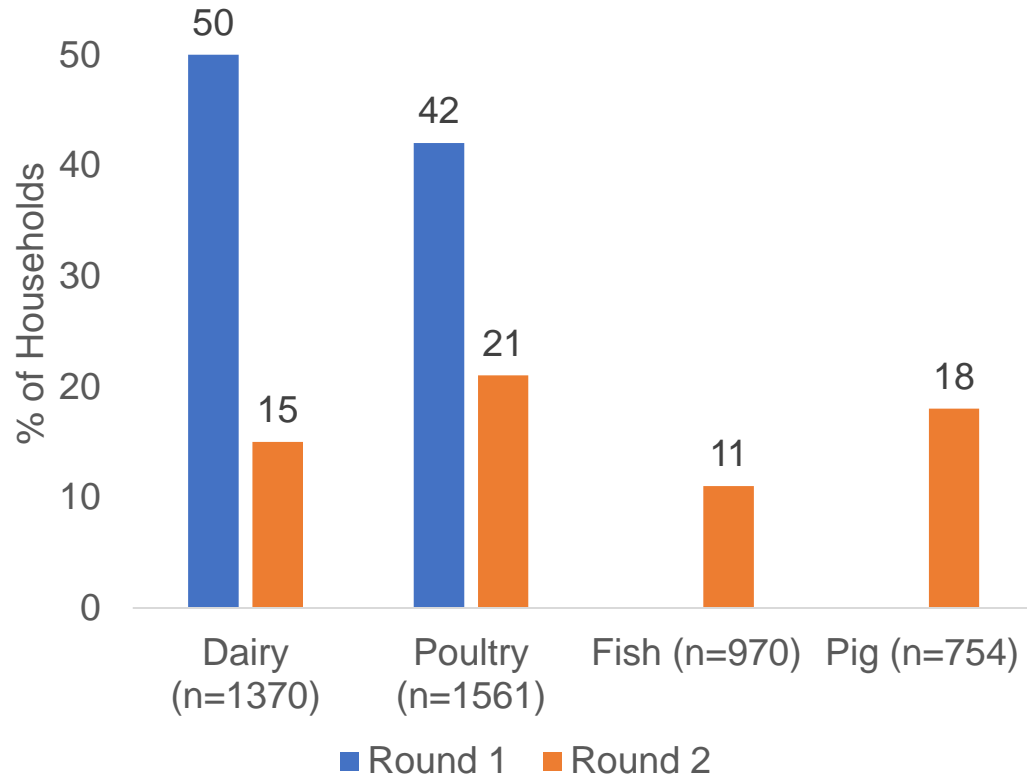


Crop Loan in last month - Sources (n=628)



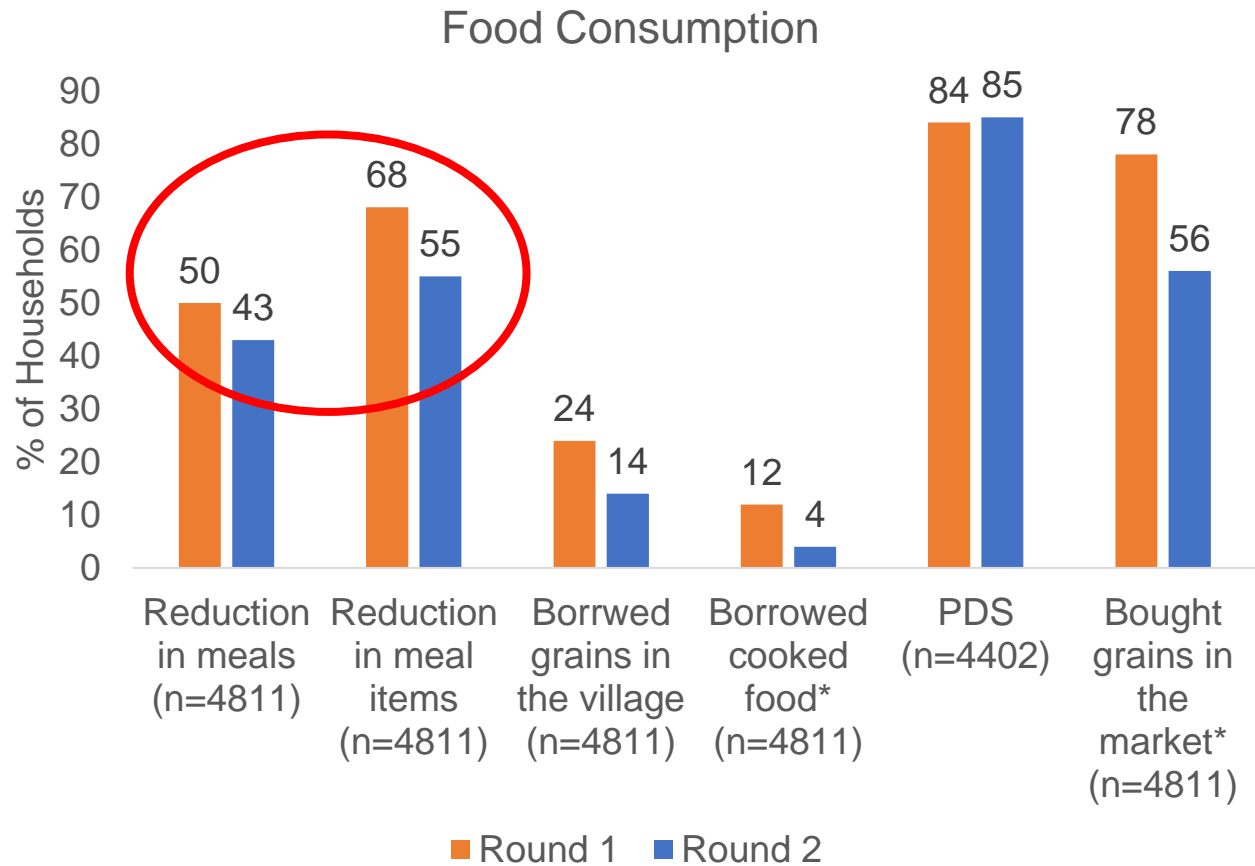
Key livelihood activities

Fall in Sales of Dairy, Poultry, Fish and Pigs



- **Considerable reduction in households reporting fall in sales for dairy and poultry**
- **Possible explanation is increase in urban economic activities during Unlock phase**

Coping: Immediate adjustments in Food consumption

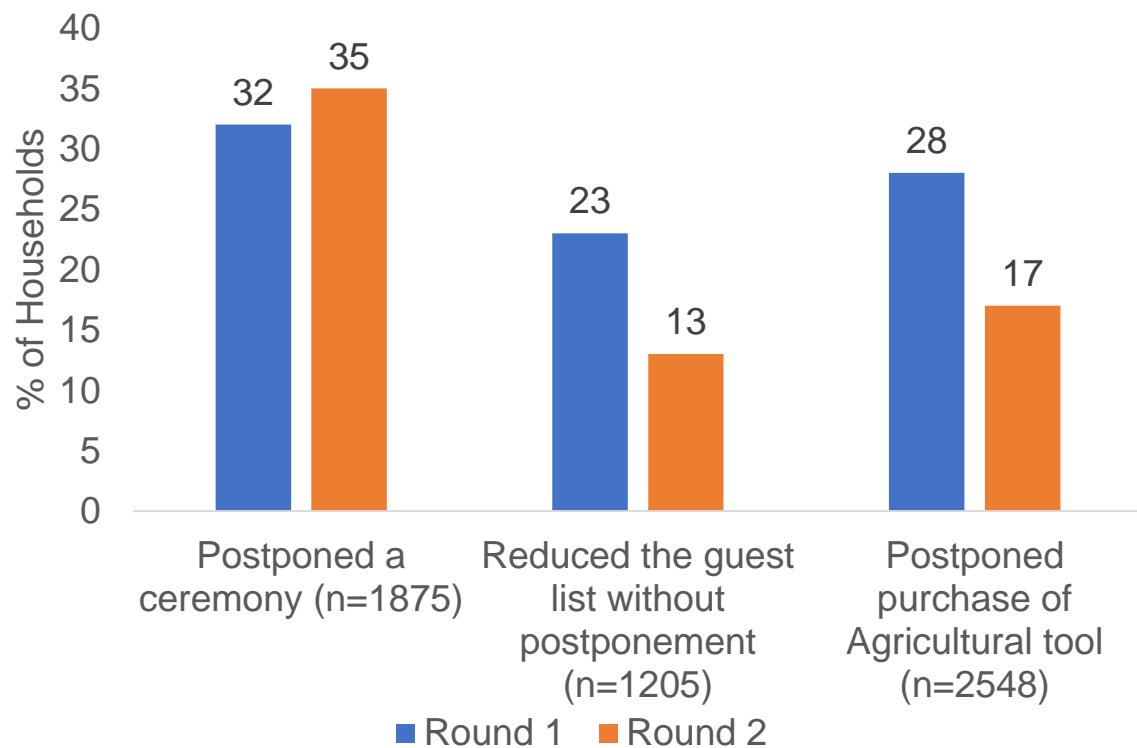


- **Considerable improvement**
- **PDS access remains high and similar**
- **Lower incidence of buying in the market can be attributed to sufficient grains from PDS**

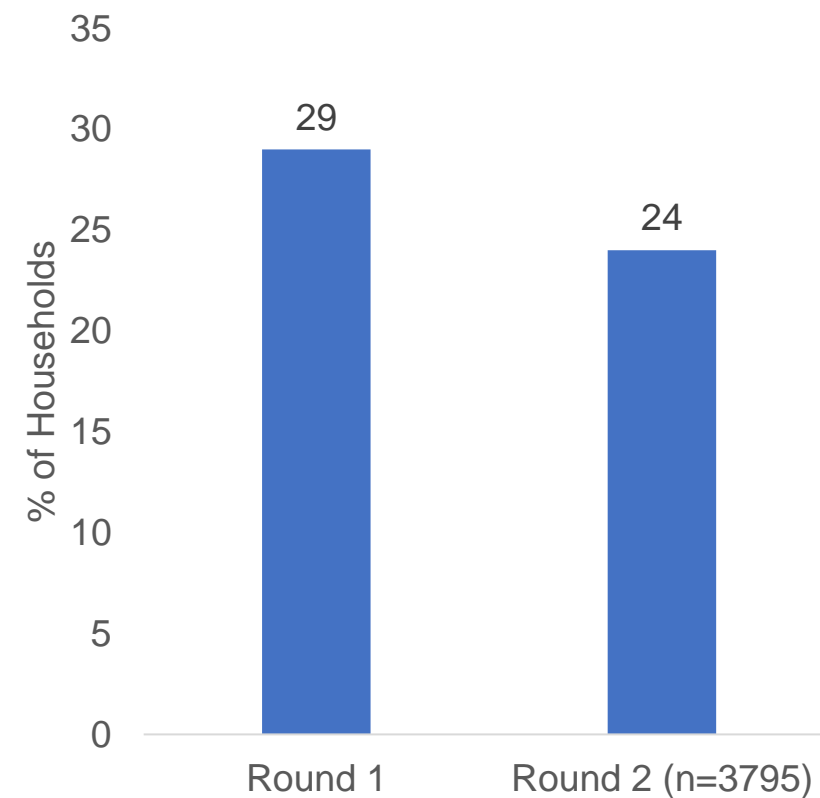
Coping: Changing the plans in near terms and long term

- Improvement in perceptions

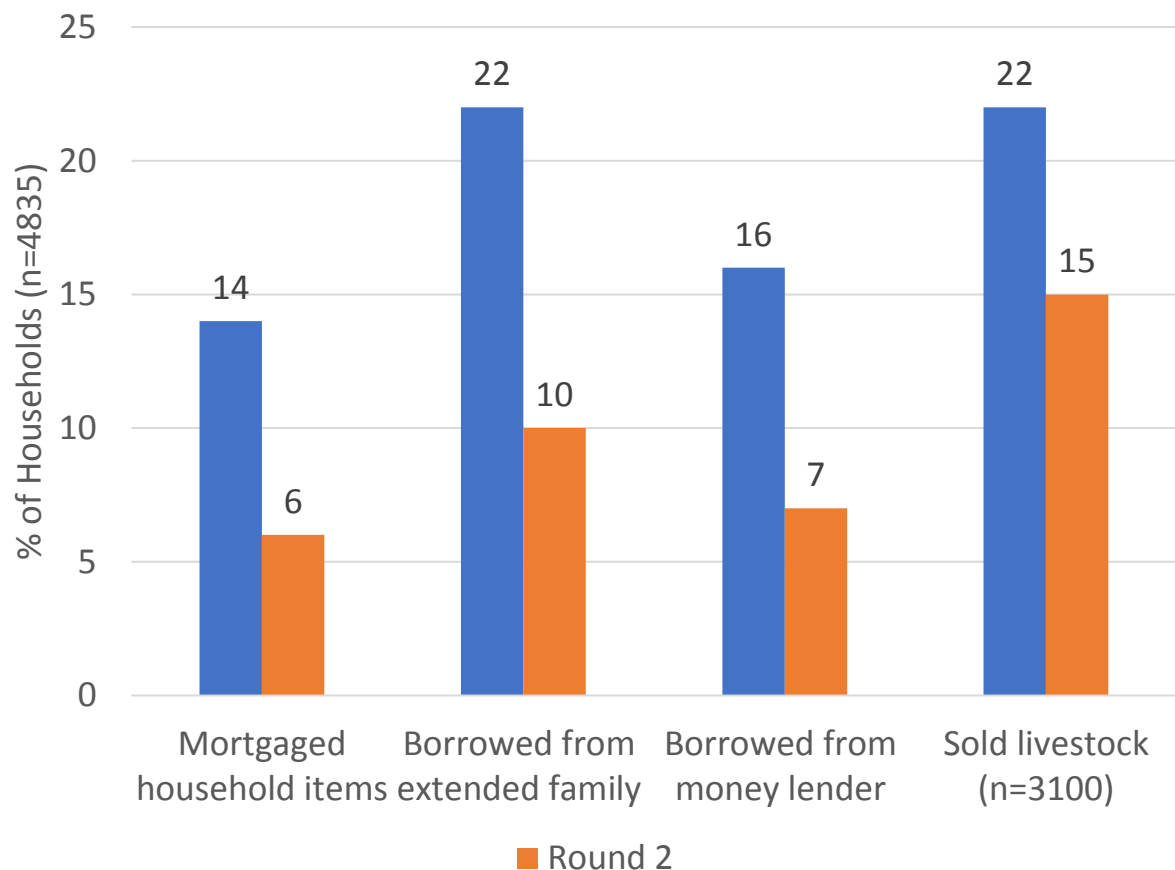
- Postponing the plans



- Possibility of children dropping out from school

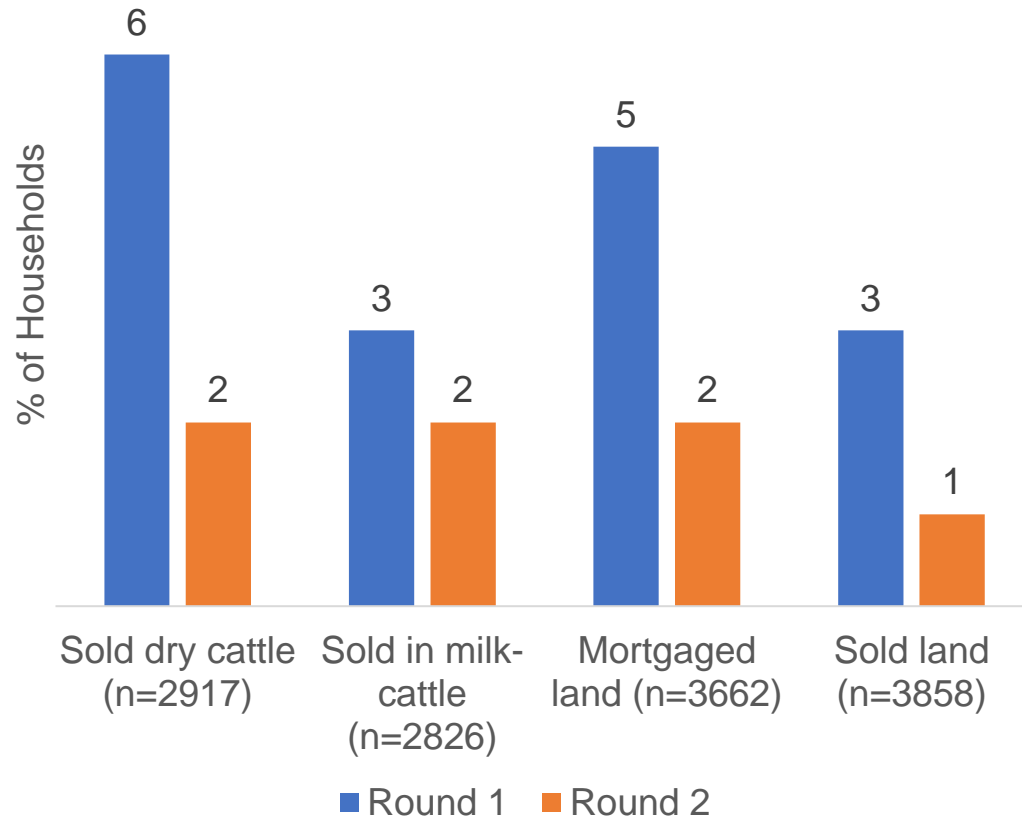


Coping: Mortgaging, borrowing and selling livestock



- **Fall in the incidence of borrowing as well as sell of livestock**
- **But it is difficult to ascertain whether it reflects improvement or further worsening across the rural households.**
- **Seen together with improvement in food consumption and fewer households reporting fall in sales of dairy and poultry, there is scope for optimistic interpretation.**

Coping: Sale of productive assets



- **Scope for cautious optimistic interpretation.**
- **More details, like seasonal patterns, will be required to interpret this evidence.**

Uptake of key government schemes

- 71% of households have LPG and 85% of those have it through Ujjwala Yojana.
- 80% of Ujjwala beneficiaries have received free refill in last month. (June 2020)
- 90% households are eligible for PM-KISAN and 38% of those have received the transfer of Rs. 2000.

To summarize (1/2)

- **Transient phenomenon of Reverse migration?**
 - Absence of skilled employment in the villages – reflected in the fact that nearly 2/3rd of returned migrants have either migrated again or wish to do so.
- **Female in household where migrant members have returned experiences more workload compared to other households.**
- **Improved perceptions of how long the food stocks from past Kharif season will last.**
- **Seed availability hints that Kharif situation has turned out to be better than what has been anticipated.**
- **Sales of dairy and poultry seems to have steadied or improved – reflects the nascent buoyancy in economy.**

To summarize (2/2)

- **Marked improvement in food intake – it is likely that grain availability through PDS has helped households to improve the consumption as well as reduced the need to buy from market.**
- **Yet distress incidence still high – sobriety check – 1 in 4 household thinks that they have take the child out of the school.**
- **Lower incidences of borrowing and asset sale – scope for optimistic interpretation though more needs to be known.**
- **Ujjwala Yojana seems to have reached to considerable section of beneficiaries, moderate outcome for frontloaded PM-KISAN transfer**

To conclude...

- **In a nutshell, unlocking of economy eases some of the distress in rural India.**
 - though distress is still considerable, structural changes are not yet visible and health risk of Covid-19 in rural India is rising.
- **Longitudinal analysis for households shall provide deeper understanding.**
- **Detailed micro studies of villages.**
- **End of the Kharif season study.**
 - Current Kharif cultivation is likely to be lower cost production process than usual practice.

THANK YOU