



# drishti

## Threat of Food Shortage: UN, FAO and WTO

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### Why in News

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Recently, global agencies like the **United Nations (UN)**, **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** have warned the world of **food shortage risk** worldwide if authorities fail to manage the **Covid-19 pandemic** properly.

### Key Points

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- **Major Reasons**
  - **Lockdowns:** Many governments around the world have put their populations on **lockdown** causing severe slow-downs in international trade and food supply chains.
  - **Travel restrictions:** Confinement orders and travel restrictions cause disruptions in agricultural production due to the unavailability of agricultural labour and the inability to get food to markets.  
Such disruptions result in the **spoilage of perishables** and **increasing food waste**.
  - **Food Availability:** Uncertainty about food availability can create a shortage on the global market.
  - **Fragile Supply Chains:** Panic buying by people for social isolation has already demonstrated the fragility of supply chains.

- **Suggestions**

- Every effort must be made to **ensure free trade flows** amidst this crisis to avoid food shortage(s) from developing.
- When acting to protect the health and well-being of their citizens, countries should ensure that any **trade-related measures** do not disrupt the food supply chain.
- There is a need to **protect employees** engaged in food production, processing and distribution, both for their own health and that of others, as well as to maintain food supply chains.
- Efforts should be made for the **betterment of international cooperation.**

**Source: TH**