

COVID-19, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND PLANT SCIENCE RESEARCH

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In the past year where covid-19 has changed the living style of the world, it has also affected research in various fields especially including the wet lab or field conditions. Plant scientists worldwide have always been shorthanded as far as labour demands are concerned resulting in natural social distancing in the fields but the appearance of covid conditions has posed serious challenges in front of the scientists. Many labs were shut down, movement of scientists and scholars was not allowed, material arriving late due to limited transportation that led to delay in the planting seasons in many areas and as in my particular case completely missing a planting season due

to restriction put by the different government agencies. Now when the movement has been allowed to certain extent there are new challenges emerging in front of scientists that include non-availability of labourers, plant materials and equipment; delay in the repair of damaged equipments or delivery of the equipments and one of the major and serious concern the availability of the budget with the parent institutes. Considering all these it will not be wrong to say that the last year has set major scientific activities on the back foot, to overcome which will take time in the coming years.