

Title Postharvest handling systems of agricultural produce in Myanmar
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Abstract

Myanmar is a predominantly agricultural country and is in need of comprehensive and appropriate postharvest handling system to minimize the product losses throughout the postproduction chain to the market. The study was mainly based on the handling system of some agricultural produces especially horticulture crops during the year 2007 to 2009. The study sites were various local farms and market in lower and upper Myanmar. All horticultural crops are still harvested manually. Postharvest handling practices for horticultural crops greatly varied with commodity, farm size and market. To enhance fruit ripening, ethylene treatment is carried out for some fruits such as banana, mango, papaya and mandarin according to market demand. Almost no special postharvest chemical treatment to control disease and pest is employed. Packaging is not special practiced for vegetables except indigenous materials such as banana leaf, bamboo basket, and wooden box are commonly used. Polyethylene net bag, cushion net sack, styrofoam tray with cellophane wrappers are currently used for some fruits. In handling of cut flowers, only traditional methods are employed. While waiting for transport and sale, the flowers are kept dry as dewatering, covering with plastic sheet, air drying by switching on the fan and kept wet as spraying water, covering with wet clothes, placing in the water bucket. Refrigerated transport or cooling truck is not employed.