

Title Improving the value chain and linking the market for fruit growers in quality management of postharvest systems in Bangladesh

Author M.A. Rahim, M. M. Hossain, K.S. Islam, N. A. Nahar, N. Naher, M.H. Rhaman, K. Fatema, M.M. Rahman, M.S. Alam, F. Islam, M.A. Hossain

Citation Abstracts of 7th International Postharvest Symposium 2012 (IPS2012). 25-29 June, 2012. Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 238 pages.

Keywords Postharvest loss; marketing; food chain; fresh produces; transportation

Abstract

The demand for food in Bangladesh and around the world is changing rapidly. Driven by economic growth, rising incomes, and urbanization, demand is shifting away from traditional staples toward high-value fruit commodities. In Bangladesh, additional demand for these commodities is projected to be worth about \$10 billion by 2020. However, more than 80% of people living on less than \$2 a day in Bangladesh in rural areas. This spatial distribution of poverty makes capitalizing on the opportunities afforded by high value fruit production and value additions an important strategic priority for those seeking to reduce poverty in the country. Insufficient processing capacity, the lack of cold storage facilities or a functioning cold chain, and the persistence of transport bottlenecks are significant constraints to produce, less postharvest loss and value additions of high value fruits in Bangladesh. The promise of generating higher income and increased export revenues by accessing international markets is matched by the challenges of meeting the exacting quality and safety standards that apply in those markets and by the prospect of having to compete with high quality imports from those markets. Some of the major fruits of Bangladesh have limited processing leading to value addition but most of the minor fruits do not have any processing or value addition. Recently, a number of agroprocessing industries are processing Bangladeshi fruits in various forms for marketing in the home and to some extent for export. However, most of the farmers do not have adequate knowledge on value addition as well as processing facilities. This paper mainly deals with the fruit status, value addition, processing and marketing of fruits in Bangladesh. Suggestions are also made on the improvement of the fruits value chain, market access and house hold income.