

Title Post -harvest management of fresh fruits and vegetables - A study in Karnataka, India
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Abstract

India produces a large variety of food crops including cereals, pulses and oilseeds. Diversified agriculture is the priority of the Central Government, and technical and financial support is being extended to farmers to encourage diversification especially in the areas of horticulture, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants, apiculture (beekeeping) and sericulture. The government is continuously working towards the development of the agribusiness sector through considerable emphasis on infrastructure and food processing. However, there still is scope for further development and up gradation of technology and agri-infrastructure to attain world-class standards. The main emphasis is on quality enhancement, infrastructure development and the use of modern technology. Even though India is a major producer of fruits and vegetables less than 2% of the total output is being processed. The contribution of processing industry in the country is pathetically low as compared to other developing countries. The dismal performance of the processing industry and the factors that hinder the growth of the processing industry in the country can be attributed to lack of adequate and proper post harvest management practices and infrastructure. The State of Karnataka is no exception to this. In India, the total losses on account of wastage & spoilage are estimated to be around 25 % of total production of fruits and vegetables. Considering the economy of the country, this wastage is enormous and efforts have to be geared up immediately to arrest it. The fruits and vegetables sector in India is marked by extensive inefficiency with high level of wastage and value distortion (Mc Kinsey & Co report - 1997). The paper highlights the post- harvest management of horticultural crops with special consternation given in this paper is for fresh fruits and vegetables. The two fruits such as mango and grapes and two vegetables like onion and potato were selected for the study. The SPSS was adopted in the study to know the fruits and vegetables producers opinion on post harvest infrastructure and management aspects in Karnataka.