

**Title** Effect of packaging on quality of rambutan (*Nephellium lappaceum* L.) for export market

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### Abstract

Rambutan (*Nephellium lappaceum* L.) is one of popular tropical fruits in Malaysia. Rambutans are non-climacteric and are harvested when the peel started to turn red. Deterioration of rambutans after harvest occurred rapidly in the skin which caused browning and drying of the spintem. The normal packaging for rambutans is by using LDPE plastic bag because it can increase the storage life of the commodity. There is several export markets do not allowed LDPE plastic bag especially when the protocol involve irradiation. Usually palletization process had been use to make the handling process become easier. This study aimed to evaluate either palletization can help to maintain the storage life of rllmbutans. Rllmbutans was packed directly in boxes 1) corrugated fibre board CFB without wrapping as control and 2) corrugated fibre board CFB wrap with shrink film (palletization) as treatment. This study considered the real mode of transportation, transition and holding period, and during marketing from Malaysia to US. The fruit that had been harvested was preconditioned at 10°C followed by sorting and packing. Fruit was stored at 10°C for 1 night before transferred to 18°C for 2 days (the transportation period from Kuala Lumpur to New York + 8 hours storage and transition period). After 2 days, the fruit was transferred to 10°C and the evaluation was carried out at 0, 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 days. The quality was studied by evaluating the TSS, ITA pH, ascorbic acid, Lskinlflesh, hueskinlflesh, and chromaskinlflesh' Result showed that palletization did not significantly affect TSS, ITA, pH, ascorbic acid, Lskinlflesh. and chromaskinlflesh. Palletization significantly increased skin hue and significantly reduced flesh hue indicated that palletization maintain skin colour and reduced flesh browning. Palletization slightly helps to delay hair browning and drying of rambutans skin.