

### **Abstract**

This presentation will discuss the development of research and commercial use of modified (MA) and controlled (CA) atmospheres in Mexico during the last 4 decades, and their current status. MA and CA are extensively used in Mexico for storage, transport and packaging of different food items, including horticultural crops. CA for storage is strictly used for apples since 1980, but suffered significant increase and improvement in the last 10 years. Currently there is an approximate capacity to store about 120,000 tons of apples annually, equivalent to 24% of the apple produced in the country, and 42% of the total storage capacity for this fruit. The first sea shipments of horticultural crops (mango shipment to Japan) in MA was done from Mexico in 1974, and currently significant quantities of mango, avocado, limes, among other fruits, are shipped to Europe and Asia in MA and CA. The interesting changes in the evolution of the MA/CA technology/companies, especially in the last 2 decades, have been very clear in Mexico. Modified atmosphere packaging is used for different foods, but its application for horticultural crops is still very limited to small quantities of salads. Research activities in MA/CA that have taken place in the country, especially in MA, MAP, CA storage and insecticidal CA will be described.