



POSTHARVEST MANAGEMENT OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

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Postharvest management determines food quality and safety, competitiveness of products in the market, and the profits to producers. However, the postharvest management of fruit and vegetables in most developing countries in Asia is far from satisfactory.

The sector suffers greatly from postharvest losses and the huge losses result in diminished returns for producers. International markets reject fruit and vegetables that contain unauthorized pesticides and products with inadequate labeling and packaging. Concerns about food-borne diseases also are becoming more serious. The major constraints in the fruit and vegetable sector in the region include inefficient handling and transportation; poor technologies for storage, processing, and packaging; the involvement of too many actors; and poor infrastructure.

In response to this situation, the APO organized two seminars on the issue: Reduction of Postharvest Losses of Fruit and Vegetables in October 2004 in India and Marketing and Food Safety: Challenges in Postharvest Management of Agricultural/Horticultural Products in July 2005 in Iran. This publication, edited by Dr. Rosa Rolle of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, is a compilation of eight selected resource papers and 25 country papers on 16 nations presented at those two seminars. It also includes a summary of findings at the two seminars. The eight resource papers are:

- Recent Developments in Reducing Postharvest Losses in the Asia-Pacific Region by Dr. M. L. Choudhury, Commissioner (Horticulture), Ministry of Agriculture (India);
- Improving Postharvest Management and Marketing in the Asia-Pacific Region: Issues and Challenges and
- Processing of Fruits and Vegetables for Reducing Postharvest Losses and Adding Value by Dr. Rosa S. Rolle, Agricultural Industries Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Agricultural and Food Engineering Technologies Service;
- Packaging and Transportation of Fruits and Vegetables for Better Marketing by Dr. Somjate Sirivatanapa, Director, Chiangmai Taveekun Ltd. (Thailand);
- Linking Production and Marketing of Fruit and Vegetables for Better Farm Incomes in the Asia-Pacific Region by Grant Stephen Vinning, consultant (Australia), and Joann Young, Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar, and Land Resettlement (Fiji);
- New Roles of Government in Improving Fruit and Vegetable Marketing at National and Local Levels by Dr. Bahaeddin Najafi, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Shiraz University (Iran);
- Measures to Assure Better Food Safety, Marketing, and Consumer Satisfaction in Fruits and Vegetables by Cornelis Sonneveld, Consultant, Alesun Food Technology (Canada);
- Postharvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables for Better Food Quality and Safety by Dr. Majid Rahemi, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Shiraz University (Iran).

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