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Introduction to Postharvest Technology



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ROLE OF POSTHARVEST TECHNOLOGY

1. Reduction in post harvest losses:

Post harvest technology ensures reduction of losses in what has already been produced. So, reduction of post harvest losses is an alternative way of increasing production of agricultural and horticultural crops.

2. Reduction of cost of production:

Post harvest technology reduces cost of production, packaging, storage, transportation, marketing and distribution, lowers the price for the consumer and increases the farmer's income.

3. Reducing malnutrition:

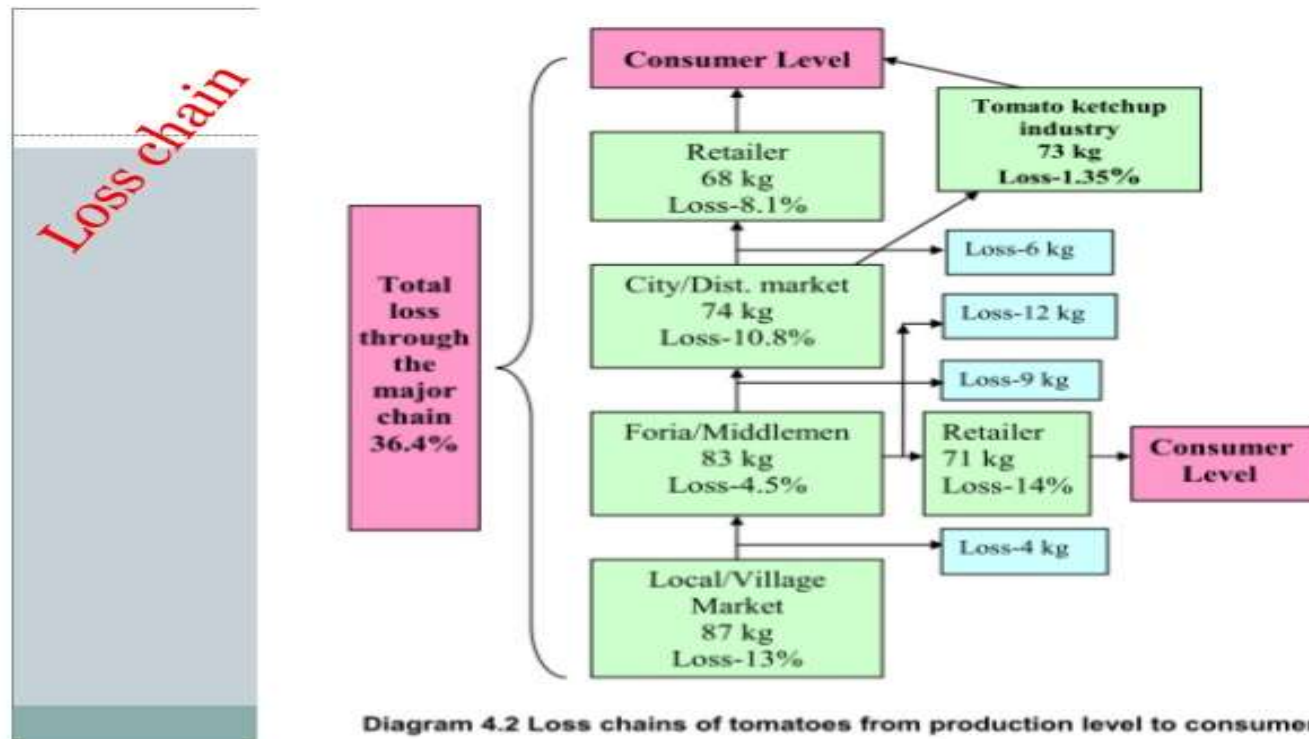
Proper post harvest technology ensures availability of sufficient food to all thus reducing malnutrition and ensuring healthy growth of the nation. It also extends the season of availability of a particular commodity.



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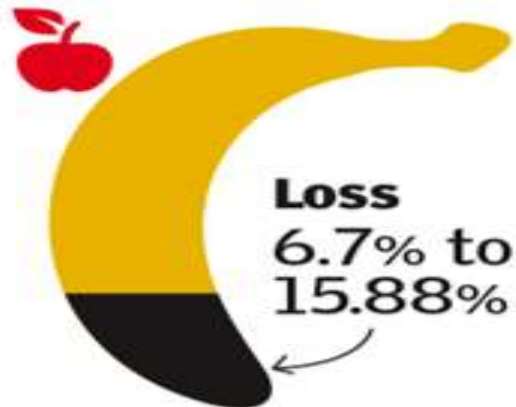
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Post harvest losses



Estimated post-harvest losses in major crops, agricultural products

Fruits



Vegetables





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Reducing malnutrition





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4. Economic loss reduction:

Reduces economic losses at grower level, during marketing and at consumers end.

5. Availability:

Had there been no knowledge of post harvest technology, apples would not have ever reached Kerala and Banana in H.P. or Kashmir today. Today we can get perishable commodities like Banana, tomato etc. throughout the year and in almost every place in the country. Apples can be made available throughout the year although the cropping season is just for 2-3 months. Thanks to the advancement made in the field of post harvest technology. The increasing exports of fruits and vegetables have become possible only by the interventions made in post harvest technology.



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6. Employment generation:

The food processing industry ranks first in terms of employment generation with approximately 15 lakhs persons employed. Employment potential in post harvest and value addition sector is considered to be very high. Every one crore rupee invested in fruit and vegetable processing in the organized sector generates 140 persons per year of employment as compared to just 1050 person days of employment per year in small scale investment (SSI) units. The SSI unit in food industry employs 4, 80,000 persons, contributing 13% of all SSI units employed.

7. Export earnings:

Export of fresh and processed horticultural commodities also attracts valuable foreign exchange.



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8. Defence and astronaut's requirements:

Defence forces posted in remote border areas as well as astronauts who travel into space have special requirements of ready to eat and high energy low volume food. The requirements are fulfilled by processing industries.

9. Infant and sports preparations:

To day special infant and sports drinks and other processed preparations are available for use especially by these people. These preparations are done especially to meet the specific nutritional requirements of their body.

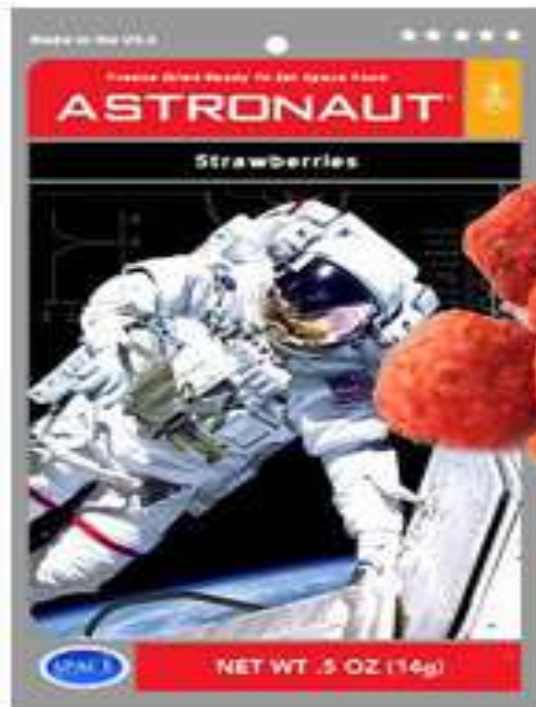


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Space
Fruits





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