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Post-harvest Loss in Fruits and Vegetable: Impact on Farmers Income

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Abstract—*The present study was undertaken to estimate the post-harvest losses in selected fruits (mango and sapota) and vegetables (okra and tomato) at the farm level, as well as at the market level (both wholesale and retail) in South Gujarat region.The districts selected were Valsad and Navsari for mango and sapota; Valsad and Surat for tomato; and Surat and Tapi for okra. A total of 16 APMCs were selected for the study of marketing of fruits and vegetables. The sample consisted of 480 fruits and vegetables growers, 10 each in the categories of wholesalers, retailers and other agencies; and 80 consumers. The post-harvest losses at field level have been found to vary from 9.24 per cent in okra to 16.17 per cent in sapota. Themagnitudeof post-harvest losses in major fruits and vegetables in South Gujarat region at farm level were 3.71 lakhs tonnes which valued atRs.981 crore. The value of post-harvest losses varied from Rs. 81crore in sapota to Rs. 577crore in mango. Very high loss at farm level in case of tomato was due to high infestation of fruit borers as indicated by vegetable growers. The total post-harvest losses at wholesale level amounted to 21.29 lakh tonnes which was valued at Rs. 646.9 crore. The extent of post-harvest losses varied from Rs. 66.7 crore in sapota to as high as Rs. 580.8 crorein mango. At the retail level, the total quantity of post-harvest losses was found higher than at wholesale level. On an average, the magnitude of total post-harvest losses was worked out to be around 3.71 lakh tonnes which in monetary terms reached Rs. 981crore. This huge monetary loss emphasizes the need to take effective plant protection measures as well as develop of suitable market technology and infrastructure in the region.*