

SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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Title: Post-harvest loss and its effect on the profit margin of wholesale vegetable marketers in Abuja, Nigeria



Marketers of farm produce in Nigeria, like in most developing countries, are faced with the challenge of meeting rising demands for high quality produce. Post-harvest losses which include loss of both quantity and quality of farm produce pose a threat to their ability to meet this challenge. Post-harvest losses do not only represent a waste of food but also a waste of human effort, farm inputs, livelihood, investments and scarce resources especially in Sub-Saharan Africa where estimates of loss are put at 37 percent against a global food loss of 32%. Post-harvest practices in Nigeria are mostly comprised of traditional techniques practiced by farmers, processors and traders resulting in considerable losses of physical and nutritional qualities of harvested crops. Due to their perishable nature and seasonality, losses are highest in fruits and vegetables with estimates of 20-50%. Consequently, this study aims at examining the effect of post harvest loss on the profitability of vegetable marketing in Abuja, Nigeria. Primary data for the study were obtained from the respondents using structured questionnaire. The result of the gross margin analysis revealed that pepper is the most profitable vegetable with marketing margin of N900 per basket. This could be attributed to the fact that pepper can be stored locally for a longer period of time thereby reducing post-harvest loss considerably compared to tomatoes which is highly perishable. The marketing margin of onion was also observed to be greater than that of tomatoes. The result further revealed that tomato marketing was the least efficient with efficiency level of 106%, followed by onions with 107%, and pepper with the highest efficiency level of 126%. The study identified poor storage facilities and inadequate capital as the most important constraints to vegetable marketing. It was observed that a major means of increasing the income of marketers is through provision of good storage facilities to reduce loss due to spoilage and also provision of loans to farmers to facilitate their marketing business. The marketers should also be encouraged to form cooperatives to enhance their chances of getting access to loans.