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Agriculture Supply Chain Practices in Meghalaya State: A Study on Vegetable (Tomato)

By

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ABSTRACT

There has been increasing focus paying towards agricultural supply chain to ensure food safety and public health. Within the supply chain, proper activities and functioning of facilities plays major role in agri-food supply chain. Generally vegetables have short shelf-life hence get spoil easily over the time. Therefore, it requires consumption before it gets spoiled. Further, the producers (farmers) of the fresh fruits and vegetable get benefited on the quality of product of the producers. Hence preservation of vegetables till it is consumed, is very important. Throughout the supply chain, vegetable get spoil due to improper activities, improper packaging, handling and transport system. Including these, if it is not sold on the same day, creates issues. Spoilage of vegetable, not only cause loss to the farmers but also affect the food safety. Therefore, it is very essential to analyze different factors causing spoilage of vegetable. In this study tomato supply chain in the state Meghalaya, India taken as a case to highlight the different issues within a vegetable supply chain after post harvesting, particularly vegetable tomato taken as case, as it is highly perishable in nature. A questioner survey was conducted considering progressive farmer from different villages, agent (middle man) from different market, storage place owner (godown/cold storage) as the respondent to find out different issues and improper activities associated at the farmer end, agent side and in storage place. From the study it is found logistics complexity is the major problem. This leads other major problems for farmers which affects the total profit getting from sale of the produces. For the farmers it is very difficult to manage their field work and sell activities in same time due to transportation problem. Finding market to sale the produces is another major problem as unsold produces have to sell with low market price. When the market is fully dominated by the middle man then it is very difficult to get sufficient profit for the farmers. Further, based on the identified issues different solutions are proposed to enhance the supply chain activity and performance.