

Training report

Vegetables postharvest management: handling practices and conditions affecting postharvest losses, quality and safety



Wednesday, 7th April 2021, Mbalmayo

Prepared by

Dr Regine Kamga

1. Introduction

The purpose of the training session was to sensitize vegetables value chain actors on the common handling practices and conditions affecting vegetable postharvest losses, quality and safety. These practices were shared with participants through a presentations and discussions to help them change their attitudes and successfully sensitized their fellows in the future. The improvement of postharvest management will improve the quality and safety of vegetables available to consumers and farmers' incomes.

The aim of the training session was to contribute to reducing vegetable post-harvest by improving the quality of vegetables and increasing farmers income.

Specifically, the training intends to:

- Sensitize vegetables value chain actors on the common handling practices for vegetables.
- Sensitize vegetables value chain actors on conditions affecting vegetable postharvest losses, quality and safety.

After attending the training, participants were expected to take stock of what has been happening in term of post-harvest losses and make decisions about what they can do to reduce the losses.

2. Participants

About 30 actors including farmers, transporters, retailers and consumers of the vegetable's value chain-based innovation platform of Mbamayo participated in the training. The list of participants is attached in annex 1.

3. Training curriculum and activities

The training was conducted at the ODEFKOM (Organisation pour le Développement des Femmes et des Communautés) hall, an organization promoting the development of women and communities which also host the Mbalmayo Innovation Platform (IP). The training activities consisted of theoretical presentations concomitantly with opened discussion to ensure all participants are at the same level and fully understand the shared knowledge.

The presentation was prepared by Dr Regine Kamga and made by Mr. Ashu Tambe Augustine, coordinator of the Center for Assistance to Sustainable Development (CASD), specialized in scaling. The presentation emphasis (1) The principal causes of postharvest losses for vegetables (2) The common handling practices and conditions affecting Postharvest losses, quality and food safety and (3) Some simple cooling storage systems to reduce post-harvest such as ZECC, Hessian walled, Grass straw wall and Charcoal evaporative wall. From the presentation, participants discovered that they are contributing to increasing their post-harvest losses with bad handling practices. Some bad handling practices were identified and recorded as action plan to reduce post-harvest losses. These bad handling practices were:

- Packhouse do not exist which means there is no cleaning and sorting before transport, produce move directly from farm to market. Farmers consent to start cleaning their produce before sending them to market.
- Packaging also increase the postharvest. The packaging pattern is adapted to the mode of transport and not to the produce. While overloading allow farmers and retailers to save cost, it increases the benefit of transporters especially with the poor status of road. Farmers and retailers understood that, what they considered as a saving during transport is lost when they arrived at the market because the quality of the overloaded produces has decreased thus their value. They agreed to adjust the packaging as per the types of produces and make consensus with transporters within the innovation platform for equitable distribution of added value along the chain as this will be difficult with others transporters who not members of the IP.
- Cooling of produce is done by soaking the leafy vegetables into fresh water which allow to store vegetable at most for 2 days while the simple cooling storage systems presented can increase the shelf life of the produce.

Finally, a Commodity System Assessment was conducted for traditional African leafy vegetables (Amaranth, Jute mallow and African nightshade).

Conclusion

Participants attested that their expectation which was to improve their knowledge in the postharvest management of vegetable crops was fully met. Participants agreed that the content level of the training and the explanations were appropriate to the audience and well-structured. Participants who expressed their gratitude for the useful learning were congratulated for their active participation in this training and were awarded certificates of attendance.

Recommendation

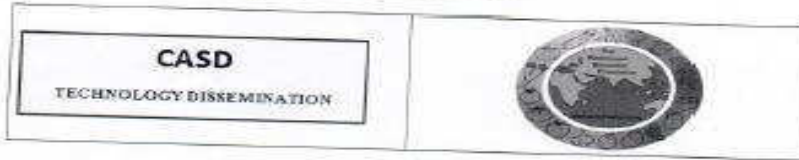
The training duration was short. This type of training need to be conducted for at least two days to allow field visit, more interactivities with participants and practical demonstrations.

Acknowledgements

This training course on "Vegetables postharvest management: handling practices and conditions affecting postharvest losses, quality and safety" was organized and effectively carried out as part of the Cooperative Ventures Award funded by the Post-Harvest Education Foundation (PEF).

Our gratitude goes to Mr. Ashu Tambe Augustine, Coordinator of the Center for Assistance to Sustainable Development (CASD) who played a key role in the planning, organization and implementation of the course; ODEFOM (Organisation pour le Développement des Femmes et des Communautés) who hosted the training and the participants for their active participation.

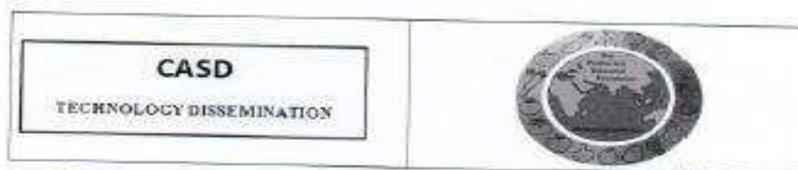
Mbal Mayo
7 Avril 2022



Liste de présence

Atelier de formation sur la gestion post récolte des légumes: pratiques et conditions de manutention affectant les pertes, la qualité et la sécurité alimentaire.

No	Noms	Village/groupe	Contact	Signature
1	Ondaa Joseph Z	NKolingui	677655620	[Signature]
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4	Touisa Sabary	Newa Town	653455751	[Signature]
5	EDITH AYABI	MBEKA	690276100	[Signature]
6	NGO PONTI SEANNE MBAL MAYO			
7	Clara Mougana Bambi	NKolingui	673726130	[Signature]
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25	DIE TCHOU PAOLO	Yaounde	690183134	[Signature]
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Group Photo



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Participants in the training hall



Regine (right) presenting certificate to a participant



Regine (left) and Mr Ashu given the presentation on post harvest losses management of vegetables