Postharvest management to ensure food security and the critical role of capacity building

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The Postharvest Education Foundation,
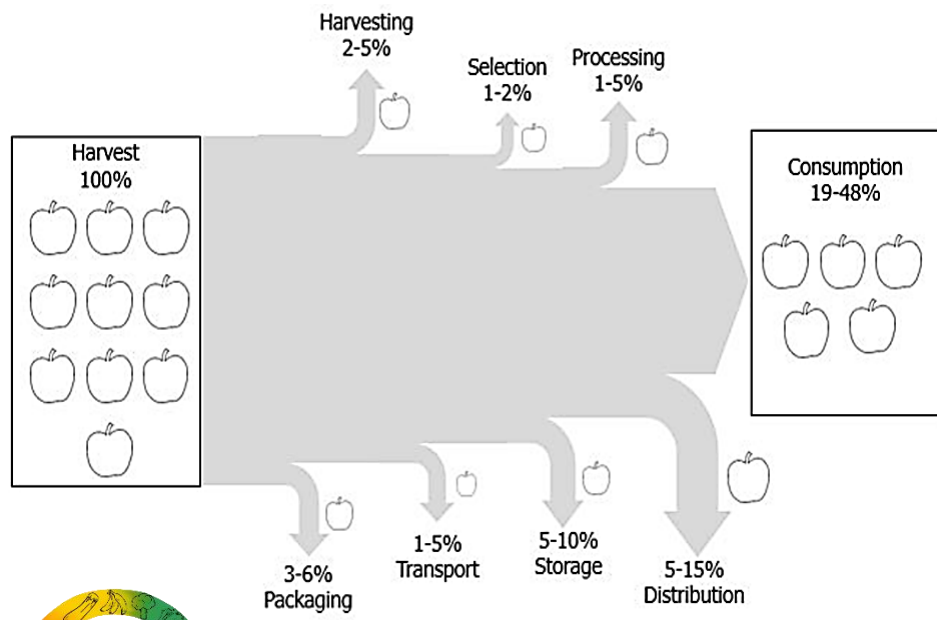La Pine, Oregon 97739, USA

www.postharvest.org
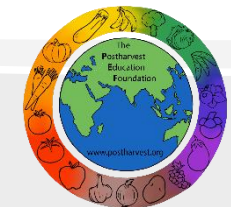
Empowering people to reduce food losses…

Postharvest Food Losses

- Significant and evident in **all parts of the world** and **at all stages of supply chain**.

- May constitute **up to 50 %** of total produce **or more** in fresh perishables.

- Food losses = loss of all **resources used to produce and handle** them.

Harvest
100%

Harvesting
2-5%

Selection
1-2%

Processing
1-5%

Consumption
19-48%

3-6%
Packaging

1-5%
Transport

5-10%
Storage

5-15%
Distribution

Postharvest Food Losses

- Reduction of losses is a sustainable means to increase **food availability** and ensure **global food security.**

- **Lack of infrastructure** and access to an affordable **uninterrupted cold chain** during different steps of value chain are main reasons for the losses in the perishable foods.

- Proper temperature management is **most effective option** to reduce losses.

- Several research programs presented **different sources of losses** and developed number of **innovations to reduce losses**.

Reducing Food Losses

Ways to reduce food losses at different stages

in value chain :

- Harvesting and Precooling

- Packhouse operations

- Processing

- Storage

- Transport and Market

- Household

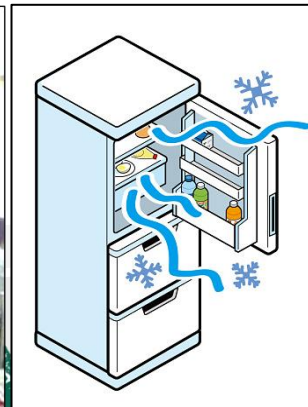Portable forced air cooling tunnel

Cold storage

Solar drying vegetables

Reefer vans
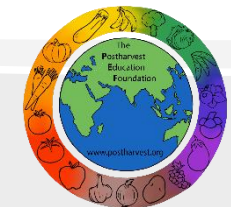

Refrigerated retail display

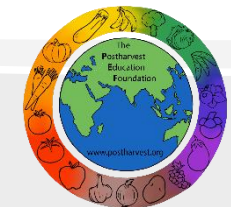Refrigerator

Postharvest Capacity Building

- Capacity building programs **create cadre** of well-trained postharvest professionals.

- To reduce losses **effective extension and training** about factors affecting food loss and wastage and suitable remedies is essential.

- The proper transfer of **knowledge** in postharvest handling of crops is still **critically lacking**, especially in low- and middle-income nations.
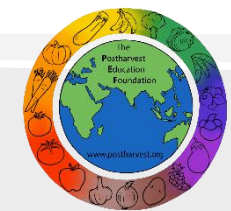
Capacity Building - Outreach methods

- Educational institutions – curriculum development

- Location-specific/ Crop-specific projects

- Information and communication technology (ICT)

- E-learning programs and online events

- Conferences and other public interaction events

- Public private partnerships

echo
Hope Against Hunger
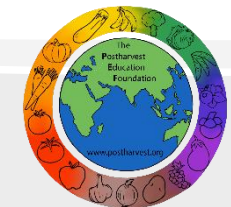
Postharvest Capacity Building

- Outreach activities range from **word-of-mouth** communication, **written materials**, **field visits**, and **e-learning** programs to using **information and communication technology (ICT)**.

- Identifying a suitable capacity building method and designing an effective program requires **complete understanding of different aspects of target issue**.

Discussion Question 1

- A technology successful in solving a problem in one location, may not be successful in other location.

- **What makes certain technology successful in a specific location?**

- How can we identify/decide if certain technology is suitable for the specific location?

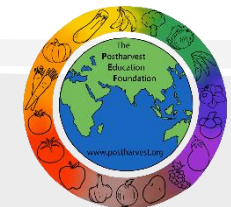- What are the factors to be considered? Any specific approach?

Discussion Question 2

- There are different outreach methods for capacity building.

- How can we choose the suitable outreach method(s)?

- What are the factors to be considered while deciding a outreach method?

- **Which outreach method is most effective in your location and why?**

Thank You..!!