



Enhancing Post-Harvest Handling to Mitigate Fruit and Vegetable Losses in Côte d'Ivoire: An Agronomic Perspective

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Abstract

The agro-industrial sector in Côte d'Ivoire is facing significant challenges related to post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables, which can be attributed to inadequate handling practices. A mixed-method approach was employed, combining quantitative data from surveys with qualitative observations during field visits. Statistical analysis tools were used to assess the impact of interventions on post-harvest losses. An analysis of fruit and vegetable samples revealed a reduction in spoilage by 15% when employing recommended handling practices, indicating significant potential for loss mitigation. The findings suggest that improved post-harvest handling can substantially reduce losses, thereby improving the economic viability of agricultural production in Côte d'Ivoire. Based on the study's outcomes, recommendations include investing in infrastructure improvements and training farmers in best practices for post-harvest management. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *African agroecosystems, Post-harvest management, Value chain analysis, Quality preservation techniques, Sustainable agricultural practices, Food safety protocols, Cold chain logistics*

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