



# Improving Post-Harvest Handling Systems to Minimise Fruit and Vegetable Losses in Côte d'Ivoire

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## Abstract

Fruits and vegetables are critical components of diets in Côte d'Ivoire, yet post-harvest losses often exceed 50% due to inadequate handling systems. A mixed-methods approach combining surveys, interviews, and on-site assessments was used to identify bottlenecks in current practices and propose solutions. Survey data indicated post-harvest losses of 58% for mangoes and 42% for tomatoes. Proposed interventions showed promise in reducing these losses by an average of 15%. Improved handling systems were effective in lowering fruit and vegetable losses, with significant reductions noted in mangoes (30%) and tomatoes (20%). Implementing the recommended interventions will require collaboration between government agencies, farmers' cooperatives, and private sector entities. The empirical specification follows  $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{-1} p X + \text{varepsilon}$ , and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

**Keywords:** *African geography, post-harvest loss management, cold-chain logistics, agro-processing, farm-to-market roads, value chain analysis, sustainability practices*

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