Economic evaluation of post harvest losses in tomato in Latur district of Maharashtra State

R.B. CHANGULE, R.D. SHELKE AND B.B. MANE

ABSTRACT
Investigation was carried out during the year 2009-10 in Latur district of Maharashtra. In all sixty farmers were selected for the study on tomato production, marketing practices and losses incurred by farmers at the farm level and during transportation to markets. To study the post harvest losses in the marketing channels of tomato, two varieties was selected for the present study. The results revealed that the respondents were in the group of middle age, education level was of Primary level and the majority of respondents were medium farmers. At the farm level, the post harvest losses occurred during collection, sorting, packing and transportation. These losses occurred at farm level due to lack of storage facilities and improper handling. Storage of tomato was practiced neither at farm level nor at the trader level over a period of time. The overall post harvest losses were estimated to 35 kg per quintal of tomato. The post harvest losses in the market network were observed in each and every stage of handling. Plastic crates were used for long distant transportation and the packing losses were found minimum in the packing materials like plastic crates.

Key words: Tomato, Processor, Post harvest losses, Gross return, Net profit