

CALL TO ACTION

- ✓ Consider improving the rest of the poorly constructed farm-to-market roads and marketing facilities.
- ✓ Review policies and programs that ensure transparent and stable market prices.
- ✓ Ensure competition in wholesale trading areas. Ensure that policies and practices in the trading areas will sustain the easy entry of new marketing players to encourage increased competition between and among marketing players and between or among trading posts.
- ✓ Sustain policies and efforts to develop or empower farmers to supply niche and special markets.
- ✓ The University administration may consider including the output of the research in the Disaster Risk Reduction Management programs/ guidelines of the University ready for use during the health crises.

MAJOR REFERENCE

Launio, C.C., Altaki, M.J., Camfil-Talastas, M., and Longay, N. 2021. Highland Vegetable Value Chain Analysis for Policy Formulation and Future Impact Evaluation of Agricultural Trading Centers. Terminal Report submitted to DA-BAR.

Deomampo, N. (2005). A Logistical Evaluation of the Vegetables Sub-Sector. Consultancy Report Submitted to UNDP.

WorldBank. 2008. Agriculture for Development. World Development Report.

ABOUT THE MATERIAL

Informing Policy and Practice is published quarterly by the Institute of Social Research and Development and R & E Publications Office of Benguet State University. It synthesizes findings from research and development activities, or presents results of quick survey and opinion poll on social, economic, and policy issues and concerns affecting the Cordillera region. It also distills the key messages and provides recommendation for the information and consideration of relevant stakeholders and policymakers.

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(This issue was developed with the editorial and creative consultants of Pansigedan Advocacy Cooperative.)

Published by the Institute of Social Research and Development, Benguet State University | Distributed by the Research and Extension Publication Office, Benguet State University



INFORMING POLICY AND PRACTICE
Policy Brief Series No. 2022-6.7

Key Player Perceptions on Postharvest Losses in the Highland Vegetable Value Chain

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Estimated post-harvest loss is highest in the production area and then decreases in the hands of the disposer to the retailer.
- ✓ Aside from the percentage of maturity, farmers' basis in harvesting their crops depends on the prevailing price in the market/trading area.
- ✓ Terminal wholesaler incur higher loss than the wholesaler buyer.
- ✓ For wholesaler to retailer, primary value-adding activities highly contribute to the postharvest loss.

INTRODUCTION

The fruit and vegetable sector is one of the fastest-growing agricultural markets in developing countries, with production increasing by 3.6% a year for fruits and 5.5% for vegetables over 1980-2004 (World Bank, 2008). However, it still faces challenges for its wider and deeper expansion, participation of small farmers and landless people, and sustainability of the production system in which it spreads (Ali, 2006).

Compared with the green revolution, the need for low-cost production and marketing technologies and policies to reduce or curtail production and transport costs, cover market risk, and overcome postharvest losses is much more significant in sustaining the horticulture revolution for the poor.

They cited that in Asia-Pacific, the identified issues and problems of marketing vegetables include limited marketing information and lack of marketing strategies, inadequate market infrastructure, and inability to market productions in domestic and international markets.

DATA AND SOURCE

Data were extrapolated from post-harvest handling loss estimation. While post-harvest loss sampling of vegetable products was planned to be measured at various stages of the marketing process, time and personnel was limited so the information here was based only on farmer and trader estimates from the surveys conducted for the study, "Highland Vegetable Value Chain Analysis for Use in Policy Formulation and Future Impact Evaluation of Agricultural Trading Centers.

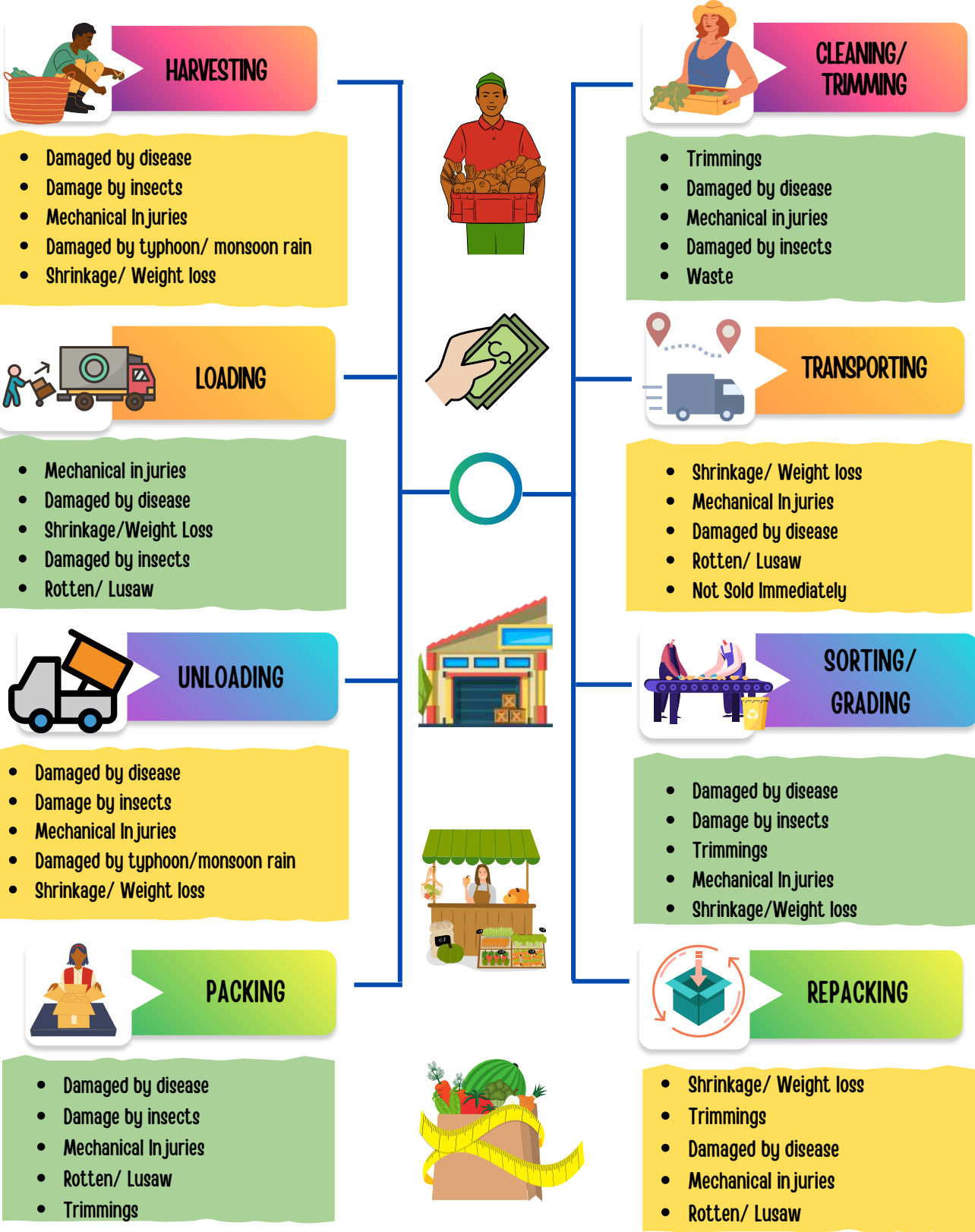
All opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this are those of the authors, not necessarily of Benguet State University

FINDINGS

POSTHARVEST PRACTICES

Each crop has its own basis, but the majority of the farmers are harvesting their crop based on maturity. Information on prevailing high prices at the market also affects their decision in setting the harvest and delivery of their produce. Other factors mentioned also are based on the suggestion of the farmers, disposers, and suppliers. These results suggest that accurate and real-time access to price information is paramount to farmers.

FACTORS AFFECTING POSTHARVEST LOSSES OF FARMERS



FINDINGS

Total Postharvest Losses by Key Players (kg/ton)



PRODUCTION TO DELIVERY TO TRADING AREA

The figures per crop present the total estimated loss by activity as estimated by the farmer-respondents. Chinese cabbage has the highest estimated lost or waste from harvesting to repacking of 400 kg per ton or about 40% of total harvest. The top five reasons for the loss or wastage during harvesting is damaged by diseases (67%) and insects (44%), shrinkage or weight loss (12%), and “babies” or very small sizes (10%). The estimated 5 kg loss during transportation by the farmer is similar to the calculation of disposers (Table 24). This estimate is much less than the estimated 20% of total volume handle loss incurred in the transportation of carrots from the farm to the trading post estimated by Deomampo (2005).

TRADING POST HANDLING TO RETAILER SHOPS

The tables per crop also presents the estimated post-harvest loss from the point when the farmer delivered the vegetable to the trading posts in the hand of the disposer to the retailer. For carrots, the disposer estimates 57 kg per ton loss, excluding the transportation loss similarly estimated by the farmers. For the wholesaler to the retailer, the total post-harvest loss per ton was estimated at 86 kg per ton or 8.6%. This estimate includes losses during transportation and primary value adding activities such as cleaning, weighing, packing, hauling, and storing. The largest loss was estimated during cleaning, weighing, packing, and hauling when handled in the wholesale markets in Metro Manila (terminal wholesaling), where as many as 42 kg per ton is lost due to shrinkage in weight and waste rotten, trimmings, and soil removal and will easily rot or “lusaw agad”. Given that the top marketing channel involves five players or more or less four loading and unloading, significant losses are incurred as mentioned by traders.