



# REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

Fruits and vegetables make a significant contribution to food security, nutrition and poverty reduction, as well as to generating economic development in South Asian countries. However, poor quality, questionable safety and high levels of post-harvest losses are major bottlenecks faced in traditional fruit and vegetable supply chains in the region. The project aimed to pilot the implementation of good post-harvest management practices to manage quality, assure safety and reduce losses in prioritized traditional fruit and vegetable supply chains with stakeholders, in order to generate evidence to support the uptake of the improved practices.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The capacities of a core of technical personnel from across the region were considerably strengthened through training and through piloting of good practice in horticultural supply chains. The project introduced appropriate levels of technology, and improved the capacities of stakeholders in traditional fresh produce supply chains, to manage the quality, and enhance the shelf-life of their outputs. Policy-makers were sensitized by national counterpart institutions to the need to improve the bulk packaging of fresh produce, and took action to facilitate the use of plastic crates for the reduction of transport losses, through the provision of incentives and financial support.

## IMPACT

The project contributed to generating decent livelihoods and incomes for rural populations producing fruits and vegetables. The training courses organized for beneficiaries in good post-harvest management practice, and in the piloting of good practices created new local knowledge, which helped to substantially decrease qualitative and quantitative post-harvest losses, and to enhance the shelf-life of fresh produce. With better quality, reduced post-harvest losses, and enhanced shelf-life of fresh produce, stakeholders were able to diversify their market opportunities and improve their incomes.

## KEY FACTS

**Contribution**  
USD 493 000

**Duration**  
October 2014 – January 2017

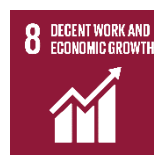
**Resource Partners**  
FAO

**Partners**  
Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh,  
Ministry of Agricultural Development  
of Nepal, Ministry of Agriculture  
of Sri Lanka

**Beneficiaries**  
Stakeholders in horticultural supply  
chains in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri  
Lanka; trainers from all SAARC countries;  
men and women engaged in harvesting  
and post-harvest operations; the private  
sector, including exporters of fresh  
produce; governments of the three  
target countries; scientists; research  
organizations; extension agents from  
Ministries of Agriculture, technical staff  
and extension agents of  
Non-governmental Organizations  
involved in development of fruit and  
vegetable sectors

## ACTIVITIES

- Over 200 supply-chain stakeholders in three target countries in the region (Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka) trained in principles of good post-harvest management practice in horticultural chains.
- 75 trainers trained during courses held in the three target countries.
- Six pilot demonstrations conducted in prioritized supply chains in the three target countries.
- Two regional Training of Trainers courses in good post-harvest management practice organized for 35 stakeholders from six countries in the region.
- A range of educational and awareness-raising materials, designed for a broad spectrum of stakeholders, was produced and disseminated to all countries, including extension brochures on the application of good practice; information sheets; case studies; and infographics on good post-harvest management.
- An evidence-based policy brief on reducing post-harvest losses in horticultural supply chains in South Asian countries was produced.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Project Code

TCP/RAS/3502

### Project Title

Reduction of post-harvest losses in horticultural chains in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries

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