

Assessment of Mango Post-Harvest Losses in Mwala Sub-County

Koima J. Agness,

Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Machakos University. P.O Box 136-90100 Machakos, Kenya. Email-jerutokoima@gmail.com,
Telephone number-0712209151.

ABSTRACT

Fruits are the second largest horticultural crops grown in Kenya (FAO, 2009), after vegetables and accounts for about 29.6% of the total horticultural produce. This study is about the assessment of the post-harvest losses of mango fruits in Mwala Sub-county in Machakos County, an area with favorable climatic condition for mango production. Many mango farmers engage in mango production as their main agricultural activity from which they earn a living and improve their living standards. This study is motivated by continuous wastage of mango fruits especially during the peak harvesting seasons. Despite the growing economic importance of mangoes in the area, the sector is faced with challenges along the post-harvest chain. One hundred and twenty (120) farmers were sampled using a simple random technique. Questionnaires were used to collect data. The analysis of the data collected was done using descriptive analysis. The study found that inappropriate harvesting, poor handling and transport techniques are the major causes of post-harvest losses. The study recommends creation of awareness to the farmers on proper harvesting, handling and storage methods so as to reduce poverty and post-harvest losses.

Keywords: Post-Harvest Loss, Mango Value Chain, Machakos County, Peak Season, Food Security.