

ABSTRACT

In the modern agricultural and cultivation systems, it has been identified that all the agricultural products tend to pass through several different channels and different market centers before reaching its way to the consumers from the producers. However, the collection and distribution process of vegetable must be effective and efficient to avoid losses in the entire supply chain process of vegetables. If this supply chain is not properly managed wastage would occur. According to the information Dambulla Dedicated Economic Center (DDEC) produces huge wastage and it is about 30 percent from the total daily receipt. Since DDEC is the main vegetable distribution center at present, it is required to have best supply chain practices in order to increase products quality while satisfying the customers by minimizing the wastages. Therefore, the objective of this research is to analyze the role of DDEC in collection and distribution of vegetables in Sri Lanka and check whether this center meets with best supply chain practices. In this research role of Dedicated Economic Center considered as dependent variable to observe and measure by manipulating independent variables such as collection and distribution. The factors such as transport, packing and packaging, role of middlemen, training and knowledge lead to collection process where as transport, packaging, storage and training and knowledge on handling vegetables lead to analysis of distribution process. In order to examine the theory, semi structured questioners were designed and collected data by interviews, records and articles. As per this research, important drawbacks of the current supply chain are high level of quality degradation, poor understanding of quality measures, poor storage facilities and maintenance, lack of training on collection and distribution process were identified. Therefore, Government has to implement policy level changes to improve the physical storage infrastructure, information sharing and the training required for quality improvement.

Keywords: Dedicated Economic Centers, Collection and Distribution, Vegetables, Supply Chain