

ABSTRACT

The farmers and whole sellers are the key elements of food supply chain in a country. Farmers are the first channel member in the food supply chain in any country. The role of the farmer is admirable when considering the whole food manufacturing industry. The food is one of the most important needs of human being. The quality of harvesting make matters not only to the farmers but also to the entire world. But the intolerable thing is the great losses which take place from the hands of farmers in harvesting known as pre-harvest losses and the losses take place after the harvesting known as post-harvest losses. This study expected to find out the factors affecting on pre harvesting losses and post harvesting losses. Even the literature supports pre harvesting losses cannot be managed or controlled but there is a possibility that post harvesting losses can be controlled. The information was received from the sample of 420 farmers selected on stratified disproportionate sampling method in Damubulla and Keppetipola areas. Semi-structured questionnaire was set to get the information from farmers. In addition to questionnaire, Interview method was also used to collect the descriptive and exploratory information from 05 selected farmers, agricultural specialists/consultants and few of Academics in order to identify the breadth and the depth information using judgmental sampling method. As the method of data analysis, univariate analysis, bivariate analysis and multivariate analysis were conducted, and as a statistical test factor analysis goodness of fitness, model fit, reliability and validity were estimated and the test figures up to the satisfaction as per the normal standards. At the end of the study the study found; pre harvesting losses comes in the aspect of; losses due to rain, losses due to lack of water, losses due to pest, losses due to high wind, losses due to overheat, losses due to improper handling techniques, losses due to animal attack on the land and losses due to insects. Further post harvesting losses come; due to the factor motivation, due to low price, losses due to primary packing, losses due to weight loss, losses due to secondary and sorting losses, losses due to movement, loss unsafe unloading and loading, losses due to frequent packing and unpacking, losses due to piecing, losses due to poor time-to-market, losses due to forced de-coloring and de-shaping, losses due to poor ventilation, losses due to any initial spoilage.