

Preface

Being perishable in nature, the annual postharvest loss in fruits considering quality and quantity is very high ranging from 30 to 40 % of the total production. Moreover, the absence of proper postharvest handling practices and value addition exaggerates the postharvest losses. This book entitled *Postharvest Quality Assurance of Fruits: Practical Approaches for Developing Countries* is written by the experienced authors; it contains 14 chapters related to postharvest quality descriptions, marketing, factors affecting quality of fruits during postharvest handling, quality testing procedure on commercial scale, harvesting season, etc.

The first chapter is introduction describing general modes of marketing, producer's share in consumer's rupee, changing scenario of fruit business, and quality for organized retailing. The second chapter describes major factors affecting the quality of fruits/fresh produce after harvesting until final consumption. The third chapter includes the factors that affect demand and market value of the crops. The fourth chapter deals with the growing belt and harvesting season of major and commercially important fruits. Fifth and sixth chapters describe overall quality prerequisites for domestic and international markets. Seventh chapter comprehensively discusses all the important operations in order to preserve the quality of fresh fruits during postharvest conditions. Chapter 8 is about packaging of fruits. This chapter describes objectives, and commercially used traditional and modern packaging systems including active, smart, and shrink packaging. Chapter 9 summarizes different types of storage systems starting from low cost on farm storage to most sophisticated Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage. Chapter 10 describes almost all marketing channels prevailing in fruit business in developing countries including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Chapter 11 nicely discusses about the supply chain and marketing channels of fruits. Similarly, Chap. 12 highlights and discusses different modes of transportation during supply chain of fresh fruits. Chapter 13 describes the testing procedure for quality assurance of fruits during postharvest storage and marketing. The last chapter, i.e., Chap. 14, summarizes the important nondestructive quality assessment methods along with some case studies including illustrations.

The authors are well confident that the book will be of great importance for the professionals and industries involved in the handling of fresh fruits worldwide. The book is also an important and useful venture for the graduate and doctorate students to have practical knowledge about the subject. The authors welcome the suggestions from the readers and professionals for the betterment and enrichment of the book.

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