
The status of Post-Harvest and Transport Technologies for Horticulture produces in Ethiopia



Overview of the sector

- Ethiopia covers 1.22 million sq. km land of which 80% is favorable for agricultural development
- Currently land developed under private commercial horticulture is approx. 3000 ha,
- Amount of flower exported was 16 million stems in 2002/03,
- Whereas in case of veg-fru it was 25.3 thousand tones,

Overview..

- 1.3 billion stems of flower was exported in 2008/09,
- Same year 44.3 thousand tones of veg-fru was exported,
- In 2002/03, horticulture earns only 12.5 million US dollar,
- Six years after, it earns 130.5 million US dollar,
- It constitutes 10% of the Agriculture export

Overview..

- Main exportable vegetables: Peas, Beans, Fine beans, Garlic, tomato, and chili...
- Where as fruits,: strawberry, banana, avocado, melon, grape, orange...
- Main destinations of vegetables are UAE, UK, Saudi Arabia, Belgium , Djibouti & Netherlands,
- Fruits case: UAE, UK, Russia Federation, Netherlands, Yemen, Sudan & Djibouti



Status of post harvest handling

- **Harvesting and handling**
- **Field pre-cooling**
- **In farm Transport**
- **Grading, packing and final cooling in the pack house**
- **Transporting to the export point**
- **Handling at the export point**



Harvesting and handling

- Harvesting method

- Small Holders – Lack of Established Criteria
- Commercial Farms – Modern and standardized



Field pre-cooling

- Small Holders - Open field storage exposed to sun and damage
- Commercial Farms – Use of appropriate shade

In farm Transport

- Small Holders – Manual Labour and Animal Carts
- Commercial Farms – Tractors and Trucks

Grading, packing and final cooling in the pack house

- Small Holders – Limited Practice
- Commercial Farms – Standard Criteria and Quality Oriented

Transporting to the export point

- Refrigerated trucks
 - No organized cold trucks service provider
 - All commercial farms own cold trucks
 - There are over 96 cold trucks engaged in the sector
 - Their carrying capacity is 150 to 800 boxes,
- Dry truck for transporting the products
 - This is used mainly by small holders and private traders

Handling and Logistics at the export point

- Clearance Procedure
- One cold store at the cargo terminal, and another private owned cold store at the International Airport
- EAL to be build new modern cold store at the cargo terminal,
- Exporters to Djibouti via Dire Dawa do not have proper cold store,

Air freight

- Currently there are two freight forwarding companies,
- One new logistics company under establishment,
- Both provides chartered cargo plane,
- 6-12 flights a week,
- Passengers are also used with limited amount,

Sea freight

- Paramount importance as alternative mode of transport,
- Only one unsuccessful trial has been made on leafy vegetables,
- Study team has been formulated from EHDA, Shipping lines, One Veg-fru and flower farm,
- Reefer and PRS containers will be used,

Challenges

- Absence of specialized cold truck service provider companies
- Shortage of cold store at cargo terminal
- Knowledge gap about the importance of cool chain
- High Freight Cost
- Packaging not standardized,
- Lack of Cold Storage and Packing Facilities

Strategic Interventions

- Establishment of logistics companies specialized in cold trucks
- Establishment of cold stores at the point where products are exported to Djibouti
- Manufacturing of import-substitution materials
- Export of value-added horticulture produce
- Training centers
- Sea transport