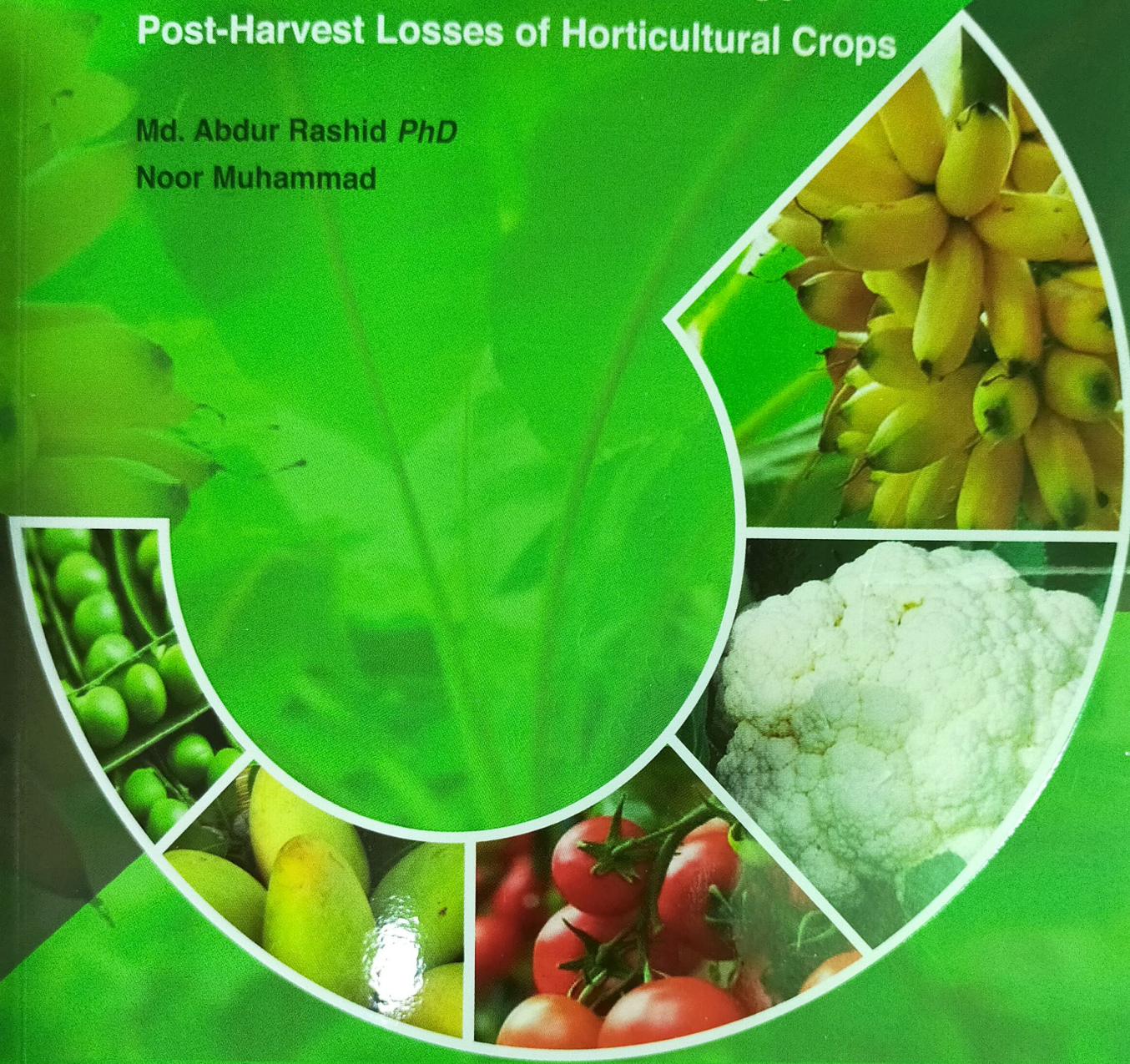


Reduction Mechanism of Post-Harvest Losses of Horticultural Crops

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Abstract

The overall objectives of the study were to reduce the post-harvest losses of horticultural crops. The specific objectives were to know the present harvesting and transportation storage mechanism of harvested horticultural products and to identify and develop a guide lines for reduction mechanism of post-harvest losses of horticultural crops. Five districts of northern Bangladesh namely Bogura, Gaibandha, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Rajshahi were selected purposively as the location of the study. Among the farmers who are involved in production of major horticultural crops 525 were selected as the population of the study from which 105 were randomly selected (21 from each districts) and taken as a sample of the research. In case of harvesting bananas, more than half 52.38 percent of farmers practice traditional methods while 47.62 percent of farmers practice improved harvesting operations. For harvesting of mango majority of the farmers (63.81 percent) practice traditional methods while 36.19 percent of farmers practice improved harvesting operations. In terms of harvesting cauliflower majority of the farmers (71.43 percent) practice traditional methods while 28.57 percent of farmers practice improved harvesting operations. In terms of harvesting of snap bean, 64.76 percent of the farmers practiced traditional methods while 35.24 percent farmers practice improved harvesting operations. For harvesting of tomatoes majority (61.9 percent) of the farmers practice traditional methods while 38.1 percent of farmers practice improved harvesting operations. The majority of the farmers used improved packaging and transportation operations rather than traditional methods. The major causes of post-harvest losses were found as poor harvesting techniques, careless handling, poor packaging, mechanical damage, harvesting at immature or over-mature stages and unfavorable transport conditions. There has an ample scope to reduce post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables. Coordination among producers and consumers may create an opportunity to minimize the losses.