

Strategies of reducing post-harvest losses in vegetables and improving nutrition in Swaziland

PAUL SIFISO NGUBENI (ASSISTANT EXTENSION OFFICER) MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

RESPONSIBILITIES

 Promote agriculture development in the area to promote the life of rural communities

Provide technical information on production of farm products

 Developing and implementing a need assessment for communities and mobilize rural participation of recommendations

 Plan, implement, monitor and evaluate agriculture development in communities

Background Information

- Swaziland is a land-locked country
- Area 17 200 km² and population estimated at 1 419 623 (2014) with a growth rate of 1.4%.
- There are four agro climatic zones
- The climatic conditions of the zones have specific characteristics that are peculiar to each zone
- ♦ 80 % of the vegetables consumed in Swaziland are imported from South Africa
- About 20% vegetables are grown commercially

IMPORTANT TOPICS

- Biology of post-harvest in Vegetables
- Vegetable Value chain and analysis
- Nutrition



 Post harvest losses up to 50 % in developing countries in Africa including Swaziland (Masarirambi et al.; 2010)

Malnutrition

 Most vegetables are under utilized due to lack of information on nutritional value (indigenous)

Lack of processing

Lack of Knowledge on post-harvest handling techniques

OBJECTIVES

 Reduce post-harvest losses especially in the field before produce reaches the market.

Reducing field heat from vegetables to prolong shelf life

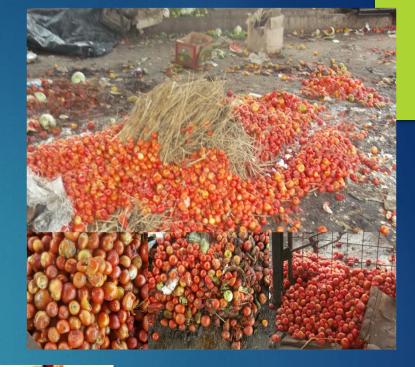
Promote utilization of indigenous Vegetables

 Provide information on nutrition values of vegetables especially with emphasis on indigenous vegetables

Promote processing of vegetables that did not make it to the market.

Introduce vegetable value chains to farmers







ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	TARGET AUDIENCE	TOPICS	TIME FRAME	RESOURCE PERSON
Capacity building	Horticulture officers	 Post-harvest technology Vegetable value chains and analysis Nutrition 	1 week	 Horticulture officer Nutrition council H.E officer
Training of officers	Extension Officers	Same as above	1 month	 Horticulture officer Nutrition council H.E officer
Message dissemination	Farmers/ women farmer groups	 Post-harvest value chains Nutrient values in vegetables Processing Grading Packaging Quality and standard 	3 months	 Home Economics officer Extension officers Agri-business officer Horticulture officer Namboard Department of information

ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

ACTIVITY	TARGET AUDIENCE	TOPICS	TIME FRAME	RESOURCE PERSON
Demonstrations Field days Food fairs	Farmers/ women farmer groups	 Removing field heat Preparation of vegetables Processing 	3 Months	 Home Economics officer Extension officers Agri-business officer Horticulture officer Namboard

CHALLENGES

- Transport
- ✤ Time
- Money
- Drought
- Lack of support
- Conflict of events

