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# Postharvest Technology and Food Process Engineering

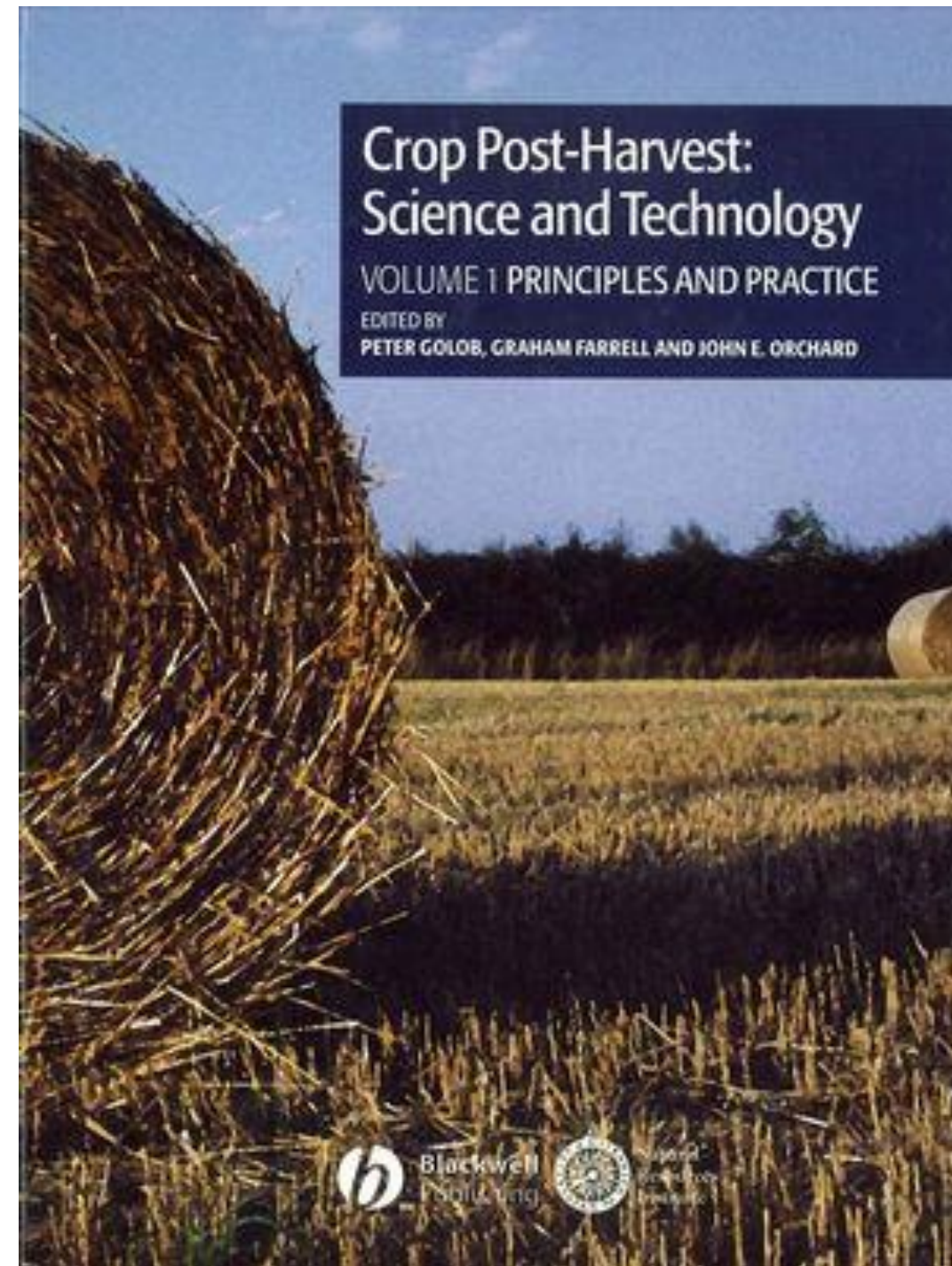
Amalendu Chakraverty  
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## Crop Post-Harvest: Science and Technology

VOLUME 1 PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

EDITED BY  
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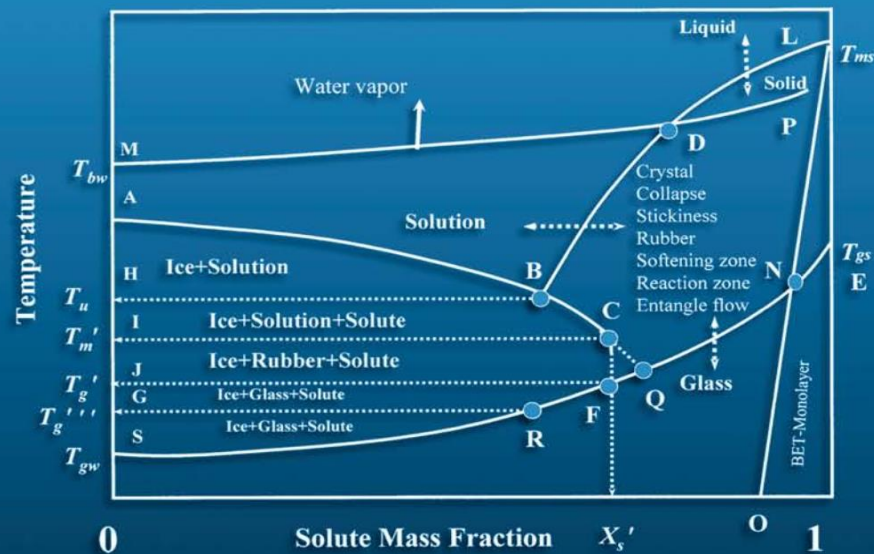


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# Handbook of Food Preservation

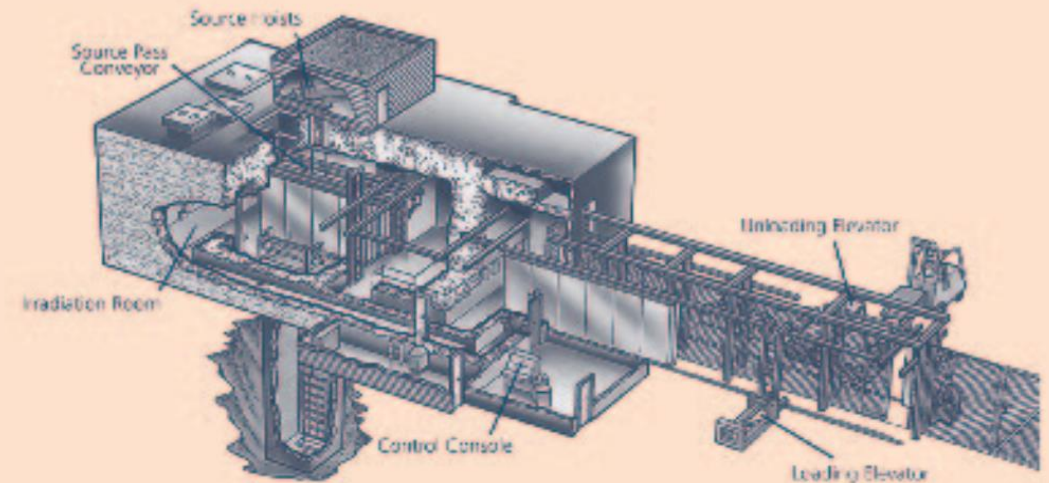
Second Edition



edited by  
M. Shafiur Rahman

# Handbook of Postharvest Technology

Cereals, Fruits, Vegetables,  
Tea, and Spices



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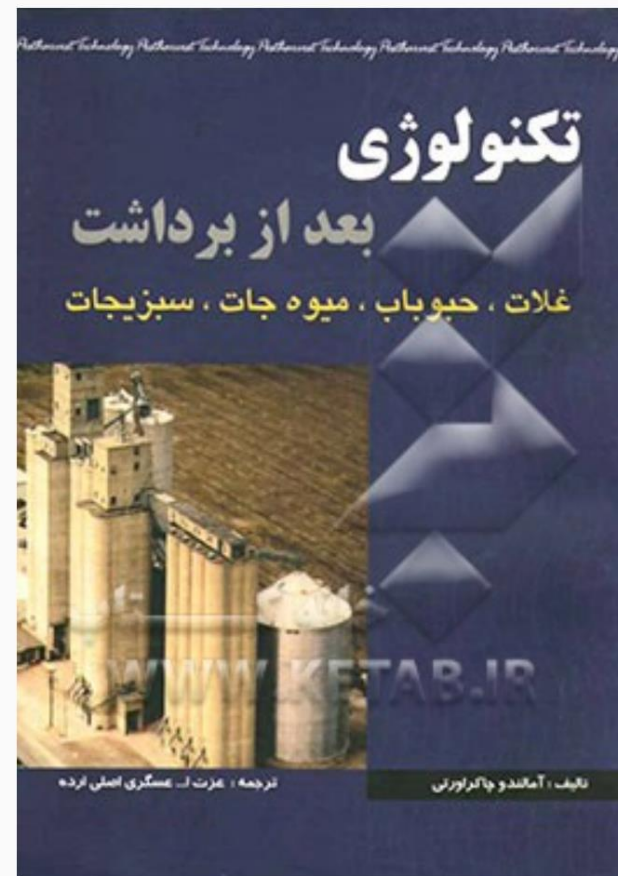
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, "در کتاب حاضر، موضوعاتی از این دست بیان گردیده است: فنون خشك کردن محصولات کشاورزی، معرفی انواع خشك كن های دانه، تکنولوژی ذخیره و نگهداری محصولات کشاورزی، فرآیند نیمز کردن و مشروط سازی دانه، تکنولوژی تبدیل دانه ی غلات و حبوبات شامل روش های مختلف پوست گیری، سفیدکنی و آسیاب کنی، تکنولوژی استفاده از محصولات فرعی تبدیل از قبیل سبوس برنج و بیوماس، و مدیریت پس از برداشت میوه جات و سبزیجات نظیر خنك سازی، بسته بندی، و نگهداری."

## Post-harvest (Technology / Processing / Handling)

- ❑ Cereals, pulses, fruits, and vegetables are the important food crops in the world as these are the bulk sources of calories, proteins, and nutrients
- ❑ The supply an adequate quantity of grains and other food to the expanding world population is a challenge to mankind
- ❑ The supply of grains and other food crops can be augmented by increasing production as well as by reducing postharvest losses
- ❑ **Definition:** All activities that occur after production of agricultural commodities, including transportation, cooling, cleaning, sorting, storage, packaging, processing and marketing of agricultural products from the farmgate to the distributors, either for domestic consumption or export
- ❑ After the **on-farm** *post-harvest* operations the products find ready markets to consumers and/or the *agro-processing* industry

# Agro-processing Industry (Agroindustry)

- Agro-processing activities comprise two major categories: **Primary** and **Secondary** operations.
- *Primary processing operations* involve activities such as crop shelling/threshing, drying, cleaning, grading, storage, packaging etc.
- These activities are mainly carried out at the farm and only transform the commodity into a slightly different form prior to marketing or further processing
- ❖ *Secondary processing operations* involve increasing **nutritional** or **market value** of the commodity. The physical form or appearance of the commodity is often totally changed from the original.
- ❖ Some **examples of secondary processing** are **milling** grain into flour, **grinding** groundnuts into peanut butter, **pressing oil** out of oil seeds, pressing **juice** out of fruit, making **cheese** out of milk and manufacturing of mince meat.
- ❖ Depending on the type of commodity, equipment needed for **primary processing** is completely different from that used in **secondary processing** or major adjustments/modifications need to be done to suit either.

# The Importance of Post-harvest Technology

## ➤ In poorer countries

- Provide the **first step** for the development of manufacturing
- Processed products can generate **export earnings** ①
- Can help to ensure a **safe and sufficient food supply** in growing cities
- Can contribute toward **environmental sustainability** by minimizing unnecessary production, thereby saving on scarce **land and water resources**, and by providing alternatives to the heavy application of **chemical inputs** with potentially harmful side-effects
- Can engender **rural development**
- Can utilise **surplus labour**, thereby slowing rural–urban **migration**
- Postharvest development in rural areas can result in **increased demand** for agricultural raw materials for processing

## □ In richer countries

- Ensuring food safety and quality
- Significant source of employment
- In the context of **globalisation**, companies in developed countries are becoming enmeshed with those in developing countries



## The overall potential of agro-processing

- ❖ Increase the value of crops of poor farmers and thus yield higher returns
- ❖ Expand marketing opportunities
- ❖ Improve livelihoods of people
- ❖ Extend shelf-life of commodities
- ❖ Overcome seasonality and perishability limitations
- ❖ Contribution to GDP, exports and employment
- ❖ Contribution to food security

Improved storage technologies such as **biological pest control** or **controlled atmosphere** storage reduce post-harvest **losses**, thereby increasing the amount of **food** available for consumption! 🚫

- ❖ Contribution to living standards

# Storage Life of Some Fresh Foods at Normal Atmospheric Conditions

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Food	Terminology	Storage Life
Meat, fish, and milk	Perishable	1–2 days
Fruits and vegetables	Semiperishable	1–2 weeks
Root crops	Semiperishable	3–4 weeks
Grains, pulses, seeds, and nuts	Nonperishable (Durable)	12 Months

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## Differences between durable and perishable commodities

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### Durables

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Designed for preservation  
Low moisture content, usually 10–15%  
Small unit size, less than 1 g  
Often symmetrical in shape  
Hard texture  
Stable – inherent storage life of years  
Losses mainly caused by external factors,  
e.g. mould, insects and rodents

### Perishables

Not designed for preservation  
High moisture content, usually 50–90%  
Large unit size, typically 5 g to 6 kg  
Often asymmetrical in shape  
Soft texture  
Perishable – natural storage life of a few  
days to months depending on type  
Losses caused by external factors,  
mainly moulds and bacteria, and  
internal factors, e.g. respiration,  
sprouting, ripening, etc.

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# Losses and Causes

- ❖ **Hunger** and **malnutrition** can exist in spite of adequate food production
- ❖ These can be the result of uneven distribution, **losses**, and deterioration of available food resources
- ❖ Hence, maximum utilization of available food and minimization of postharvest food **losses** are absolutely essential
- ❖ Losses vary by crop variety, year, pest, storage period, methods of threshing, drying, handling, storage, processing, transportation, and distribution according to both the climate and the culture in which the food is produced and consumed
- ❖ With such an enormous **variability**, it is not surprising that **reliable statistics** of postharvest food losses are not available
- ❖ It is also very difficult to determine the exact **magnitude of losses**

- ❑ Fortunately, **research and development** and **education** activities related to postharvest technology of crops have been growing
- ❑ For each postharvest operation there is a **possibility of some losses** either in quantity or in quality of crop product
- ❑ For **cereals**, the overall **postharvest losses** are usually estimated to be in the range of **5–20%**
- ❑ For **fruits and vegetables** it may vary from **20% to 50%**
- ❑ If these losses can be minimized, many countries of the world may become **self-sufficient** in food
- ❖ Mechanical, physical, chemical, and microbial effects are the leading **causes** of food deterioration and spoilage *(Table 15)*
- ❖ **Damage** can start at the initial point by mishandling of foods during **harvesting, post-harvest, processing, and distribution**; this may lead to ultimate reduction of **shelf life**

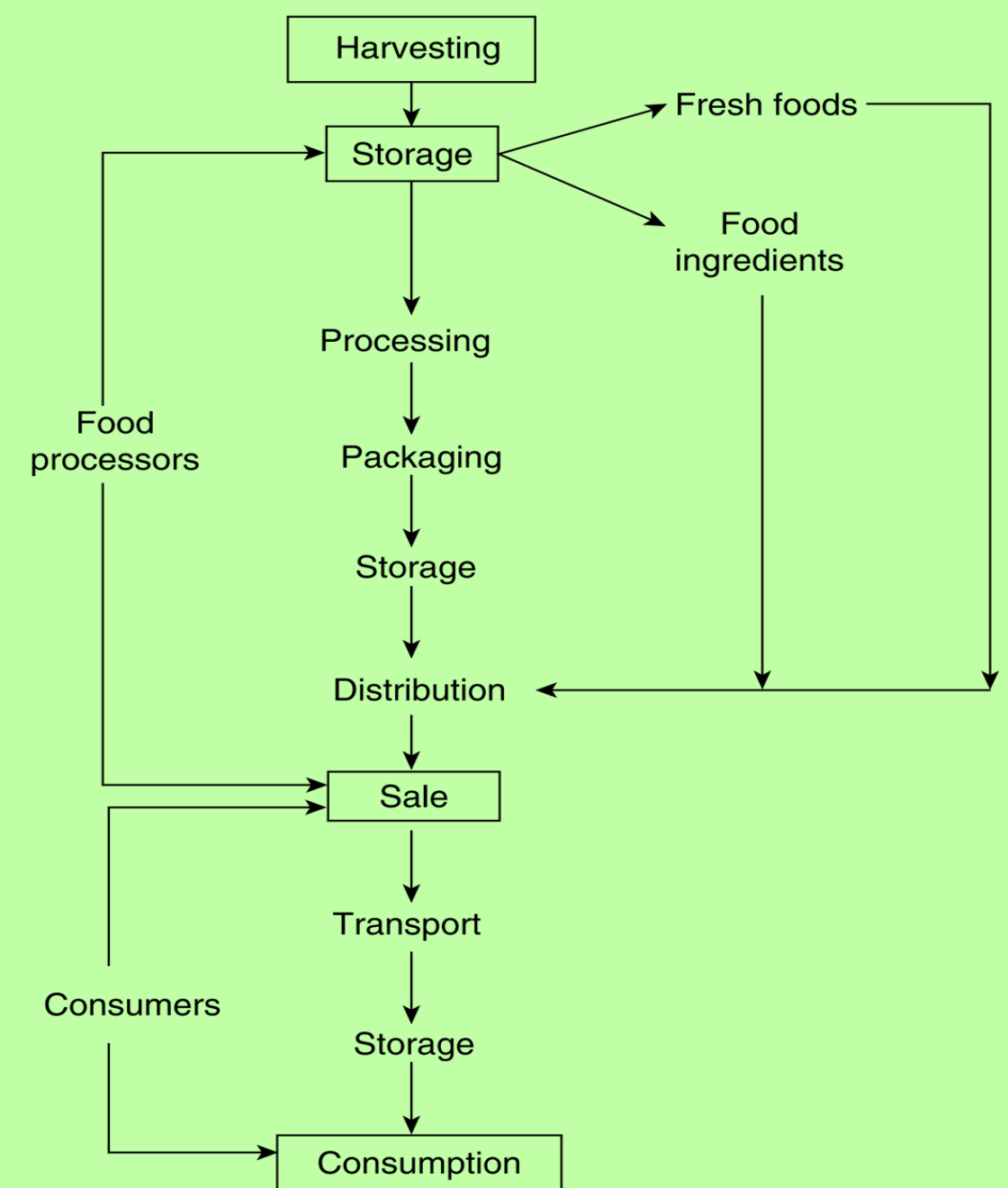


- ✓ After storage for a certain period, one or more **quality attributes** of a food may reach an undesirable state. At that time, the food is considered unsuitable for consumption and is said to have reached the end of its **shelf life**
- ✓ **Best-before date** is set shorter than the shelf life with a good margin
- ✓ Hence, it is usually safe and palatable to consume a product a long time after the **best-before date**, provided the product has been stored at the recommended conditions (It may just lose its freshness, taste, aroma or nutrients)
- ✓ Products may be marketed with the production date “**pack date**” and “**best-before date**.” Alternative markings are **use-by date** or **expiration date**, which may be **closer to shelf life** than best-before
- ✓ The product quality can be defined using many factors, including appearance, yield, eating characteristics, and microbial characteristics, but ultimately the final use must provide a pleasurable experience for the consumer
- ✓ The **best-before date** gives you an idea of how long the food will last *before* it loses quality
- ✓ “**Best before**” dates are about quality, not safety - When the date is passed, it doesn't mean that the food will be harmful, but it might begin to lose its flavour and texture
- ✓ **Expiration dates** tell consumers the last day a product is safe to consume

- **Quality loss** can be minimized at any stage and thus quality depends on the **overall control of the processing chain**.

### Some examples of deterioration:

- (i) **Bruising** of fruits and vegetables during harvesting and postharvest handling, leading to the development of **rot**
- (ii) **Tuberous and leafy vegetables** lose water when kept in atmospheres with low humidity and, subsequently, **wilt**
- (iii) **Dried foods** kept in high humidity may pick up moisture and become **soggy (wet)**



**FIGURE 1.1** Various stages of food production, manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale.

# Major Quality-Loss Mechanisms

Microbiological	Enzymatic	Chemical	Physical	Mechanical
Microorganism growth	Browning	Color loss	Collapse	Bruising due to vibration
Off-flavor	Color change	Flavor loss	Controlled release	Cracking
Toxin production	Off-flavor	Nonenzymatic browning Nutrient loss Oxidation–reduction Rancidity	Crystallization  Flavor encapsulation Phase changes Recrystallization Shrinkage Transport of component	Damage due to pressure



- ❑ The **four sources** of microbial contaminants are **soil**, **water**, **air**, and **animals** (insects, rodents, and humans)

## Organisms That Spoil Foods

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1. Microorganisms
    - a. Fungi: mold and yeast
    - b. Bacteria
    - c. Phages
    - d. Protozoa
  2. Insects and mites
    - a. Directly by eating (infestation)
    - b. Indirectly by spreading diseases (fruitfly, housefly)
  3. Rodents
    - a. Directly by consuming food
    - b. Indirectly by spreading diseases
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