

*Postharvest
Food Losses in
Sri Lanka*

REPORT OF A WORKSHOP
11-16 FEBRUARY 1980

National Science Council

POSTHARVEST FOOD LOSSES IN SRI LANKA

Report of a Workshop held 11 - 16 February 1980

Cosponsors:

National Science Council of Sri Lanka
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PREFACE

This is a report of a workshop on postharvest food losses in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop, held February 11-16, 1980, was sponsored by the National Science Council of Sri Lanka, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council (NAS/NRC), and Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. The broad objective was to make recommendations for reducing postharvest food losses in three general categories--food grains, perishables, and fish.

Reliable data on food losses in Sri Lanka are unavailable. It is known, however, that losses occur both in quantity and quality. Losses were not considered for meat, dairy foods, poultry, and plantation crops; preharvest losses, while extensive in some cases, were also outside the focus of this workshop. Nevertheless, the three categories discussed represent the major foods in the typical Sri Lankan diet. Further, Sri Lanka spends large amounts of foreign exchange importing food grains and fish, and reducing the losses would lessen the balance-of-payment deficits.

This publication is intended for policy makers, administrators, scientists, and technicians working to reduce postharvest food losses in the developing countries. Part A of this report contains recommendations by each of the joint NAS/NRC-Sri Lankan working groups for reducing losses. Some of the recommendations are general and may be applicable elsewhere. Others are unique to Sri Lanka because of the socioeconomic milieu in which losses occur. Part B contains the background reports prepared for the workshop.

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