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PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON THE EFFECT OF WAX-EMULSION AND FUNGICIDE ON THE SHELF LIFE OF CERTAIN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Fruits and vegetables deteriorate in storage. The advent of wax-emulsion and fungicide has brought about new possibilities for adjustment of becterial development in fruits and vegetables and thus extending their storage life (Das and Das, 1968; Dar and Mukhopadhyay, 1976). The present studies were conducted at the District Agricultural Farm, Neriamangalam.

Wax-emulsion-waxcot-w-12 containing 12% solids and fungicide, safetry (SOPP-Sodium-0-Phenyl Phenate) were used in the experiment. Nentran and dwarf cavendish varieties of banana and the vegetables-bittergourd, snakegourd and watermelon were treated. They were dipped in the solutions of wax-emulsion and fungicide of different concentrations (vide-Table 1) for 30-60 seconds. The solutions were then drained and the fruits and vegetables were stored in wooden baskets. Untreated fruits and vegetables were kept as control. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Effect of wax-emulsion and fungicide on the storage life of fruits and vegetables

| | Concentration tried | | Total shelf life obtained | | Prolongation in shelf |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Type of fruits and vegetables. | wax-emul- sion% | Fungi- cide% | Control | Treated | life noticed (days) |
| i. Vegetables | | | | | |
| Bittergourd | 12 | 0.10 | 1-2 | 3-5 | 2—3 |
| Snakegourd | 12 | 0.10 | 2-3 | 15—17 | 13—14 |
| Watermelon | 6 | 1.00 | 4—5 | 11-13 | 7—8 |
| ii. Fruits | | | | | |
| Banana-Nendran | 6 | 0.50 | 5—8 | 9-13 | 4—5 |
| Banana-Dwarf cavendish 6 0.50 | | 5-8 | 9-13 | 4—5 | |

Fruits and vegetables which maintained the colour and freshness available at the time of harvest in store were treated unaffected in estimating the shelf life. The data indicates that dipping the fruits and vegetables in fungicidal wax-emulsion is effective in extending the shelflife.

സംഗ്രഹം

പച്ചക്കറിസാധനങ്ങളും പഴവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും വിളവെടുത്ത ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ ദിവസങ്ങഠംക്കുള്ളിൽ അവയുടെ സ്ഥായിയായ സവിശേഷതകഠംക്ക് മാററം വരുകയും, ക്രമേണ ഉപയോഗ ത്രൂന്യമാകകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാൽ വാക്സ് ഇമൽഷൻേറയും, ഫൻഗിസൈഡിൻേറയും പ്രയോഗം കായ്കറിസാധനങ്ങഠംക്ക് കേടുവരുത്തുന്ന അണുക്കളുടെ നിരന്തരമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തെ തടയുവാനും, അതിൻെറ ഫലമായി കൂടുതൽ കാലം കേടുകൂടാതെ സംരക്ഷിക്കവാനും ഉപകരിക്കുന്നുവേന്ന് നേരുമംഗലം ജില്ലാക്ഷിത്തോട്ടത്തിൽ നടത്തിയ നിരീക്ഷണങ്ങഠം തെളിയിക്കുന്നു.

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