

## **Post-Harvest Management: Key to Reducing Agricultural Waste**

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Effective post-harvest management is critical for reducing agricultural waste and ensuring food security. In India, nearly 30% of agricultural produce is lost due to poor storage, handling, and transportation practices. Addressing these challenges is essential for boosting farmer incomes and ensuring the availability of fresh produce for consumers.

Modern post-harvest technologies, such as cold storage facilities, vacuum packaging, and controlled atmosphere storage, have proven effective in extending the shelf life of perishable commodities. Innovations like mobile cold storage units and solar-powered drying systems are making advanced solutions accessible even to small-scale farmers.

Government schemes such as the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) provide financial assistance for post-harvest infrastructure development. Collaborative efforts between government bodies, private companies, and research institutions are essential to developing a robust supply chain that minimizes losses and maximizes the value of agricultural produce.