

Minutes of Webinar
“Post-harvest Management, Logistics, and Storage of Potato”
Held on 05-4-2023

In pursuance of annual Work Plan for the year 2022-23, PHDEC planned to hold a series of product specific and capacity building webinars. In this context, a webinar on “Post-harvest Management, Logistics, and Storage of Potato” was conducted on 05th April, 2023. The primary aim of the webinar was to bring the maximum of the stakeholders on board to discuss harvesting, postharvest handling, transportation, bagging, loading, unloading, storages issues of potato to minimize the postharvest losses and availability of premium quality potato in domestic and high-end-market.

A large number of stakeholders from potato sector joined the webinar through Zoom link. 4 keynote speakers were invited by PHDEC to give presentation to the stakeholders of the potato. Speakers of webinar are as under;

Speakers Name	Organization	Designation
Dr. Nayyar Iqbal	Hazara Agriculture Research Station	Director
Dr. Syed Ijaz-Ul-Hasan	Potato Research Institute, Sahiwal	Director
Ch. Maqsood Ahmed Jatt	Potato Grower Co-operative Society, Okara	Vice President
Ch. Masood Ahmed Pansota		Progressive Grower

Mr. Athar Hussain Khokhar (CEO-PHDEC) was invited for the opening remarks who introduced himself and briefed about the mandate and scope of PHDEC. After introduction, he welcomed all participants of webinar (growers, processors, exporters and academic circles) and extended the thanks for attending the webinar. Mr. Athar Hussain Khokhar briefed that purpose of the webinar is to address the issues related to post harvest losses and seek out the guidance from technical experts to resolves these issues.

Major points discussed during Webinar;

- **Dr. Nayyar Iqbal** from Hazara Agriculture Research Station emphasized that farmers may avoid post-harvest losses if they would manage proper transportation and effective storage after harvesting of potatoes. He further added that potato production is surplus as compared to consumption in Pakistan, while in remote areas cold storages are very less as compared to production. He emphasized that cold storages would be constructed in remote areas order to avoid transportation cost.

- **Dr. Syed Ijaz-Ul-Hasan** from Potato Research Institute, Sahiwal provided a detailed overview of pre & post-harvest issues, drying and curing of potatoes, packaging, storage, sorting & grading and transportation of potatoes and explained how improper cold storage facilities causing sweetness of potatoes. He further explicated the supply chain of potato in Punjab.
- **Ch. Maqsood Ahmed Jatt** added that there should be Potato Export Board in place, so that all export and production related issues of potato could be taken on board and resolved promptly. He said that PHDEC should help to replace the conventional bags with small packing bags. He further suggested that issuing authority of the Certificate of Origin (COO) should be Potato Grower Co-operative Society rather than chambers. He emphasized that PHDEC should conduct a few seminars on the topic, “How to Export Potatoes” in Okara and that PHDEC should take up the issue of delayed clearance of remittances to the exporters with SBP. He concluded with the appreciation to the PHDEC’s initiative of preparing product manual for potato and organizing such kind of capacity building webinars/workshops.

CEO-PHDEC Athar Hussain Khokhar while responded to Ch. Maqsood Ahmed Jatt, said that PHDEC is going to formulate a “Potato Council” to resolve all the issues related to potato exports. He further added that PHDEC will organize a seminar on “Exports of Potato” after Eid-ul-fiter in Okara, where exporters may speak about their issues related to exports and PHDEC will intervene to resolve these issues.

A large number of participants from growers, processors, exporters, R&D and academia participated in the webinar and appreciated the PHDEC’s initiative of conducting the webinar on an important topic of post-harvest management. Participants during question and answer session, suggested that organizing physical activities would be more fruitful for stakeholders.

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