Potential Sources and Types of Food Safety Hazards in Selected Tomato Supply Chain of Ethiopia

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Introduction

• Increased consumption of fresh (raw) fruit and vegetables is recommended for a healthy life.
• However, in countries where hygiene standards may be low, the chances of consuming contaminated fresh food, particularly vegetables, are high.
• The objective of this study was to assess the food safety risks of tomato supply chain from area of production of small-scale growers to central markets (Addis Ababa).

Methods

Description of study area

• Sampling
  - Producers, Wholesalers, Retailers, Transport operators

Sources of Data and Method of Collection

• primary sources
  - survey using a pre-tested structured questionnaire,
  - key informant interviews using checklists and
  - focus group discussions.
• secondary sources
  - Data from government & NGOs

Data analysis

Results

Food safety risks at pre-production stage

- Characteristics of the respondents
- Food safety risks at pre-production stage

Food safety risks at production stage

- Food safety risks at transportation stage
- 75% of the product is loaded with domestic good.
- Food safety risks at marketing stage
- 75% of product flow zones are not protected from contamination at the marketplace.

Conclusions

• The food safety systems in the tomato supply chain were found to be inadequate.
• The produce can easily be contaminated by animal feces and human domestic wastes.
• The excess application of pesticides contributes in the accumulation of pesticide residues in tomatoes.
• Awareness creation and training programs for all actors, establishing ethical code & standards, enforcing regulations of food safety is recommended.
• Microbial and chemical loads in tomato fruit need to be studied in the future.

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