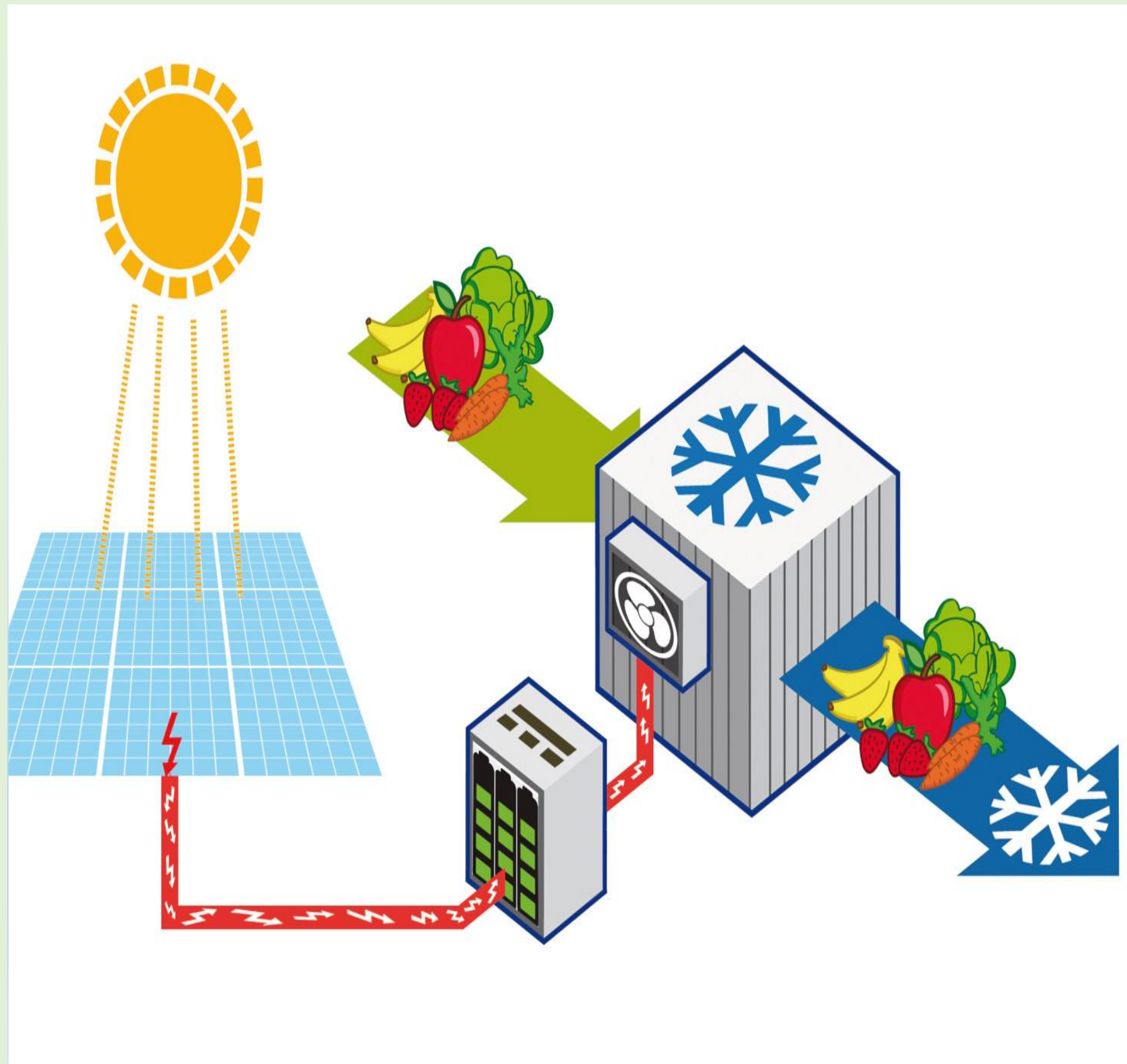


Introducing solar cooling chamber to reduce post harvest losses of tomatoes in Machakos town, Kenya

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Introduction

Agriculture is central to Kenya's economy accounting to 24% of GDP. Horticulture is vital source of income for small scale farmers especially vegetables and fruits. Tomato constitutes 14% of total vegetable production and 7% of horticultural crops. Tomatoes can be eaten fresh, added to salads, cooked as a vegetable or processed into tomato paste, jam, sauce, puree and juice. Tomato production in Machakos is through irrigation, rainfed, greenhouses. It's a short duration crop with high yield hence economically attractive.



Objectives

- ❑ Introducing solar cooling chambers to reduce post harvest losses
- To improve bargaining power of farmers and eliminate middlemen
- Aggregate and access common markets/inputs
- Increase farmers income



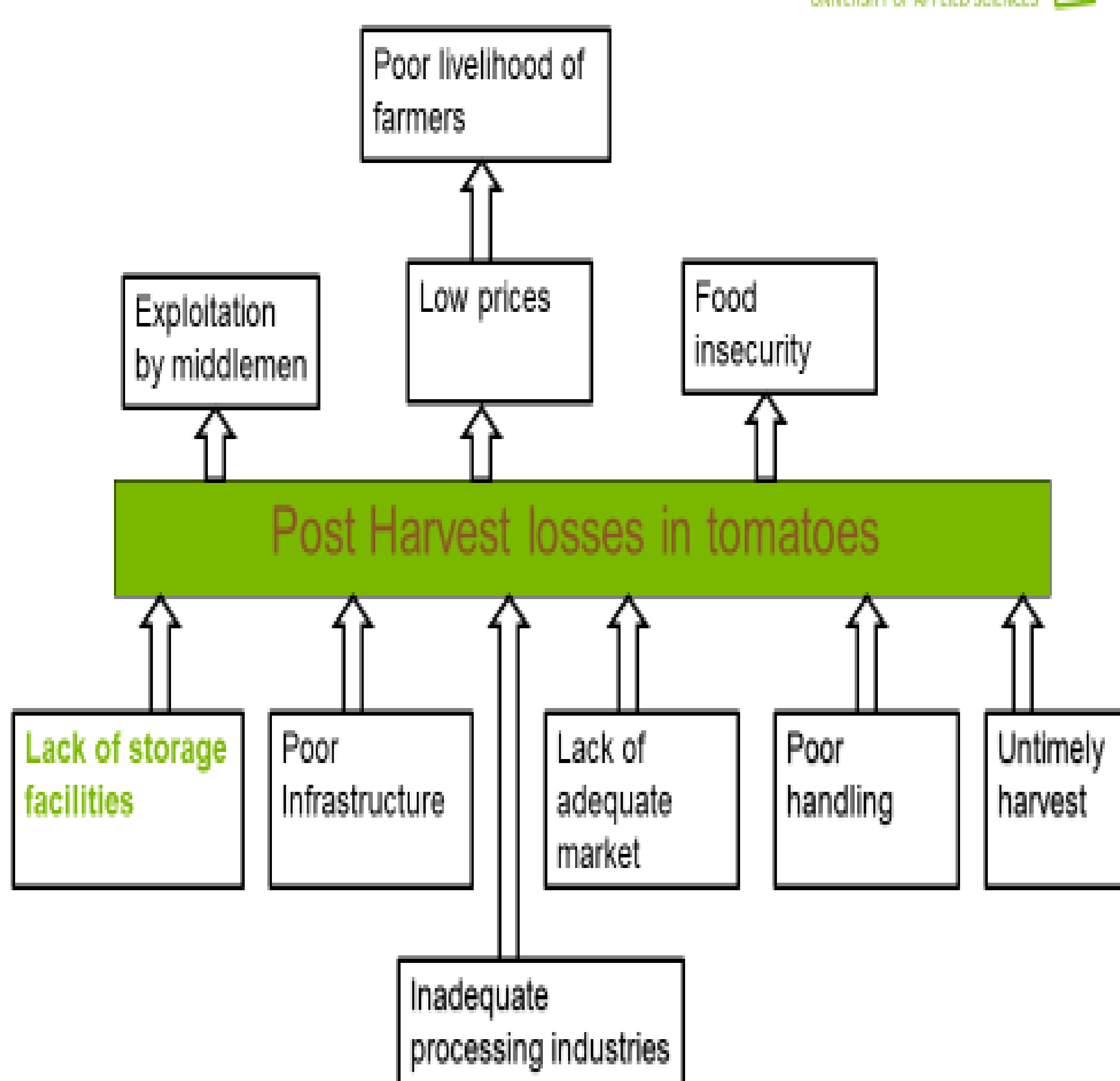
Why solar cooling chamber

- ❑ Offgrid hence can be installed anywhere
- ❑ Transported in individual parts and assembled easily
- ❑ Low operational costs after installation
- ❑ Protection from pests, rodents, rains
- ❑ Higher quality products can be marketed over a longer period

Problem statement

Combination of glut production and high perishability makes tomatoes more vulnerable to post harvest losses. There is also variation in demand and supply of tomatoes over the year. Farmers cannot wait for better prices in the market because they lack cooling facilities to store their produce.

Problem Tree



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