

Challenges on Post-Harvest Management of Sri Lankan Multi-Day Fishing Boats and Their Implications on the National Security of the Country

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This study focused on the identification of factors leading to issues of post-harvest management of MDFB and its implication on the national security of the country. In particular, the study focused on identifying the knowledge gap of the affected community regarding the government-introduced advanced fish preservation RSW or CSW system under the regulation of the high seas. The second objective was to examine the facilities the government and other related stakeholders provided for installing the RSW or CSW system. The third objective was to explore why fishermen still depend on icing even though new technology has been introduced while they are facing considerable post-harvest losses and how those post-harvest losses affect the national security of the country. The final objective was to provide recommendations for improving post-harvest management of multiday fishing trawlers in order to strengthen national security. Importantly, the study has found that the main issue for the post-harvest losses is the lack of awareness about the new technology. Also, expertise and professional knowledge have not been transferred to the tactical level. Specifically, respondents that represented three target populations such as boat owners, boat captains and boat crew still depend on the icing method assuming that it is the best or cheapest or only method available. More importantly, the study found that post-harvest losses of MDFB are considerably high, and it is superseding the available information. Also, the study has found that the continuation of post-harvest losses affects national security of the country in terms of food security, economic security, health security and community security. In addition, financial losses may lead fishermen to engage in illegal activities to income generate while it is making huge impacts on national security. Finally, as an Island nation, it is very much required for Sri Lanka to enhance improved marine fishing post-harvest management.

Keywords: *post-harvest management, RSW or CSW System, icing, multiday fishing boats, post-harvest losses, awareness, fish preservation, national security*