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## Assessment of Postharvest Loss along Potato Value Chain: The Case of Sheka Zone, Southwest Ethiopia

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Ethiopia has possibly the highest potential for potato production than any country in Africa. Postharvest loss (20–25%) is one of the major problems in the potato production. Therefore, this study was conducted with the objective of assessing postharvest losses along potato value chain actors and identifying its determinants in the study area. The descriptive result indicated that the quantity of postharvest losses at producer, local trader, and whole saler and retailer level was 21.724, 1.838, 3.406 and 4.07 kg/qt, respectively. The average gross margin with loss of producer's local traders, wholesalers and retailers was 6464.70, 282,169.89, 219,644.61 and 345,826.36 Birr, respectively, which is less than the average gross margin without loss (10,146.12, 284,015.83, 221,274.69 and 352,986.62 Birr, respectively). Distance to the nearest market, area allocated for potato and total output determine postharvest loss positively, and sex, experience, family size of working age, selling price and access to credit determine postharvest loss negatively. In the study area, lack of storage facilities for potato was raised by farmers and other actors as a priority problem. Intervention of government from input supply until the end consumers is paramount and preparing storage mechanism is a must.

**Keywords:** Gross margin, multiple linear regressions, Postharvest loss, Potato

### Biography:

Benyam Tadesse born on 02-12-87. Benyam Tadesse graduated from Hawassa University from the department of Agricultural resource economics and management. Then Benyam Tadesse joined Jimma University to attend MSc in Agribusiness and value chain management and successfully accomplished. Know Benyam Tadesse Lecturer, Researcher and director at Mizan Tepi University. Benyam Tadesse published 5 manuscripts & happy to participate on the occasion.