**Present Status of Postharvest Practices of Guava (*Psidium guajava*), Bitter Gourd (*Momordica charantia*), and Long Bean (*Vigna unguiculata ssp. sesquipedalis*) in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala Districts.**

A.M.R.N. Bandara1\*, G.D.K.Kumara1, W.M.C.B.Wasala2

*1 Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences,Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya, Sri Lanka.*

2 *National Institute of Post-Harvest Management, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

*\*rashmibandara988@gmail.com*

Guava, bitter gourd, and long bean are economically important crops in Sri Lanka. Anuradhapura and Kurunegala districts, significantly contribute to commercial production of these commodities. Improper post-harvest management practices result qualitative and quantitative losses in the supply chain. The present study was conducted to investigate the causes of post-harvest losses in order to propose measures to minimize post-harvest losses of these commodities. Based on the cultivation extent and market size, sample size is 213 stakeholders including 148 from Anuradhapura and 65 from Kurunegala. Farmers were randomly selected from 3-4 divisional secretariat divisions of each district. Other stakeholders were selected randomly from major selling and economic centers in respective districts. According to the study, most guava and bitter gourd farmers in both districts consider maturity indices. The harvesting method and time of the day are more or less similar in each district. Some farmers transport their own commodities. Most of the collectors act as transporters as well. As the mean of transportation method closed trucks/lorries, open trucks, and three-wheelers are commonly used. Most commonly used packaging materials are net bags, plastic crates, and cardboard boxes. The usage of packaging materials among stakeholders in Anuradhapura is significantly different and Kurunegala is not. When compare two districts packaging materials used by farmers, wholesalers and retailers are significantly different there as that of collectors and transporters are significantly not different. Although, using plastic crates is a safe packaging method, most of the stakeholders do not use. Instead, they use net bags due to handling difficulties, no proper method to return, high purchasing cost and less availability of plastic crates. According to the study, need to conduct training and awareness programs about post-harvest handling, transporting and safe packaging, promote and facilitate the use of plastic crates and bring legislation to make the use of plastic crates mandatory.

**Keywords:** *maturity indices, post-harvest losses, stakeholder, safe packaging, supply chain*