

# ***Introduction to the workshop's goal and objectives***

***Dr. Majeed Mohammed***



# ***WORKSHOP RATIONALE***

- Creation of an enabling environment to boost production and postproduction activities of horticultural crops.
- Enhancement of employment opportunities and foreign exchange earning in agriculture sector.
- Focusing on innovative postharvest quality management strategies to compete effectively in all markets.
- Determination of relevant solutions to reduce postharvest losses and waste.

# SIGNIFICANCE OF POSTHARVEST TECHNOLOGY IN THE CARIBBEAN

- *Quality maintenance*
- *Reduce postharvest losses*
- *Add value to commodities*
- *Improve nutritional requirements*
- *Create market opportunities*
- *Generate employment*
- *Stimulate growth of other economic sectors*

# ***Workshop Goals and Objectives***

- a. To train extension officers, farmers, packinghouse operators, marketing officers and researchers on how to conduct an in-depth analysis of postharvest handling practices of selected tropical fruits, vegetables, root crops and bulbs.***
  
- b. To obtain a more complete understanding of the system-wide nature of quality deterioration and subsequent losses in order to formulate appropriate solutions for quality management and loss reduction strategies at various Critical Loss Points (CLPs) in the postharvest handling system.***

# ***Workshop Goals and Objectives***

***c. To analyse various crops and their value chains as items for food consumption, with quality attributes which must be protected and enhanced in various marketing channels.***

***d. To examine the significance of losses of both technological and socio-economic origins at each CLP.***

***e. To examine links between growers on the one hand and provisions for transferring relevant research information on identified problems at each CLP to producers, traders, processors on the other hand.***

# ***Workshop Goals and Objectives***

***f. To design and evaluate improved operations at each identified CLP within the handling system for all selected commodities.***

***g. To describe key factors affecting the logistics performance in the Bahamas with particular emphasis on logistics that affect the various crops selected.***

# ***OVERALL STRATEGIC GOALS***

- ***Communication-awareness, knowledge-innovation, alliances.***
- ***From those objectives we hope to construct plans with activities, goals, indicators, time and responsible actors.***

# ***SESSION THEMES***

- *Postharvest losses and food wastes in the Caribbean and Bahamas in particular.*
- *Horticultural crops and body functions.*
- *Perishable nature, field sanitation and food safety.*
- *Implications of cold chain gaps.*
- *Postharvest innovations.*
- *Field tours: Supermarket industry, Hotel industry, Bahamas food services.*