

NEPAL

Principal Investigator: Dr. Kalyani Tripathi (Project I)

Internship Title: Postharvest handling in major horticultural crops

Time Period: August 2025

Project Background: Major horticultural crops like fruits and vegetables are perishable in nature having a very short shelf-life. Numerous studies have estimated that the postharvest loss of fresh produce in Nepal ranges from 20-30% and could exceed 50% under adverse conditions. Such losses result from harvesting at an improper stage, direct shipping, improper packaging, poor storage facilities and transportation, etc. Being a highly potential area of national economy, these horticultural crops require systematic extension intervention aimed at postharvest handling to ensure the quality. Thus, it is important to pave the path for further development regarding proper postharvest handling of major horticultural crops. So, Agriculture and Forestry University aims to help Nepalese farmers including women and youths build knowledge through a series of capacity building events to reduce the postharvest losses of horticultural crops.

| Research Question(s) or Specific Issues to be Addressed | Range of Acceptable Disciplines | Deliverables |
|---|---|--|
| The prospective intern will be chiefly involved in disseminating the latest technologies developed in the postharvest handling of major horticultural crops with major focus in South Asia. | Horticulture science with major focus in postharvest. | The intern will disseminate the latest information on proper postharvest handling of horticultural crops to a farmers' group living in semi-urban areas of project districts (Makwanpur, Kapilbastu, Chitwan, Kavrepalanchowk, and Palpa). In addition, the intern will also be responsible for sensitizing the undergraduate and graduate students of Department of Horticulture of Agriculture and Forestry University regarding the postharvest handling of horticultural crops through a one-day workshop. |

