Comparative studies on existing and improved postharvest practices to ascertain the present status of the postharvest industry and to identify the areas for postharvest technology improvement.

Assessment of technical and economic feasibilities of adopting improved technologies in the postharvest system is important to improve the present postharvest practices in both perishables and non-perishables. On the basis of data and information collected from an island-wide questionnaire survey carried out in 2001 to assess postharvest losses, studies were conducted by comparing the existing and improved methods to ascertain the technical and economic feasibilities of adopting improved postharvest technologies in the postharvest system of maize, brinjal, cabbage, tomato and capsicum. The advantages of adopting improved technologies over the traditional practices, as revealed by the study, are summarized below:

Crop	Post Harvest Practice	Reduction in post harvest losses by adopting improved techniques %	Increase in income by adopting improved post harvest techniques (Rs. per Ha)
Maize	Harvesting	3.5	1375.00
	Drying	4.0	5000.00
	Threshing	5.3	4000.00
Brinjal	Harvesting	4.2	13700.00
	Transportation	10.1	9500.00
Cabbage	Harvesting	4.6	11300.00
	Transportation	15.0	8300.00
Bean	Harvesting	2.8	3300.00
	Transportation	11.0	1000.00
Tomato	Harvesting	3.5	9900.00
	Transportation	4.4	10000.00
Capsicum	Harvesting	7.6	12300.00
	Transportation	15.0	10000.00