

## **Summary of Session 1 : Main priorities and constraints of postharvest technology in Asia**

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The main priorities and constraints of postharvest technology in five Asian countries, namely China, India, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines can be outlined as follows: China and India are large countries which focus their attention on raising food production to feed their population. Therefore, the reduction and prevention of postharvest losses through the adaptation of modern technology are important issues. China is faced with a shrinkage of farmland and a lack of investment in postharvest technology, along with an inadequate policy in conjunction with technological measures. In India, there is a prevalence of small-scale processing and the postharvest technology system is inefficient.

Since Thailand and Vietnam are exporting agricultural commodities, such as rice, they must make utmost efforts to increase the quantity and upgrade the quality of the products. In Thailand, however, since grade standards in the domestic market are inadequate, there is no incentive for quality. In Vietnam, the operation of processing industries is characterized by a small scale and the country must overcome problems of policy development as well as pesticide residues.

The Philippines is actually not self-sufficient in food production and must import about 4 to 5% of staple food, due to the occurrence of natural disasters, such as typhoons. In addition, the infrastructure is inadequate and farmers' organizations are underdeveloped.

