

International Conference on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, IC-FANRes 2015

Influence of Secondary Packaging on Quality of Carrots During Transportation

Nurjanna Albaar¹, I Wayan Budiastra², Yadi Hariyadi^{2*}

¹Faculty of Agriculture, Khairun University, Indonesia

²Departement of Agritech, IPB, Indonesia

Abstract

The aim of this research is to know the influence of packaging on quality change of carrots during transportation. While this research specifically aims to (1) find out the influence of the type of secondary packaging on quality of carrots during transport, (2) know the influence of the type of secondary packaging on quality of carrots with different transport time. This research uses the packaging plastic baskets, wooden crates and plastic bag. The distance from the production center in Ciherang market to Bogor and later to Kramat Jati market in Jakarta which assumed 1 transport simulation per each is 1 hour and 2 hours. Furthermore from each taken sample then we evaluated the firmness, carrot losses and weight losses. The highest damage in 1 hour and 2 hour occur for samples used plastic bags (30.4% and 48.6%), then the highest weights losses for crate are 1 hour (1.3%), 2 hours (2.0%), the highest firmness found is (2 N) for 1 hour and 2 hours (3 N).

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Peer-review under responsibility of the organizing committee of IC-FANRes 2015

Keywords: Packaging, carrot, transportation

1. Introduction

Carrot (*Daucus carota*) is one of potential horticultural commodity which has opportunity to be expanded following the increasing of domestic and export demand. Carrots contain nutrients that are needed by the body, especially vitamins and minerals. Carrots has beta-carotene as an important chemical compound to form vitamin A

* Corresponding author.

E-mail: hamidirasulu@yahoo.com

or provitamin A. Carrot production from 1997 to 2002 is fluctuative per each year but since 2003 is increased steadily and in 2006 it reach about 440.002 tonnes (CPM 2006) and for export was 369.280 tonnes.

The carrots that have been harvested is still need further treatment before it reach the consumer. Post harvest management is including activities such as cleaning, washing, sorting, grading, packing, storage, transportation and marketing. Like other vegetable commodities, carrot is easily damaged because of after harvested, this plant still doing respiration. The damage occurred during post harvest is unavoidable. Therefore, the possibly efforts can be made by giving them the proper packaging. Good packaging is the packaging that can protect the wrapped product from damage, weight losses and firmness changes during the transportation time. Damage can cause by the Physiological process, mechanical and biological factors.

Purwadaria (1992), stated that shaking during the carriage can lead to small damage and weight losses. Weight losses of carrots in post harvested is between 30-35%. One of the causes of weight losses on the carrot is caused by the transportation activities. Generally, in carrot marketing, this product is being transported by only using minimum packaging standard that sometimes is not securely enough. Therefore, need of the appropriate packaging for carrot has to be done accordingly. Soedibyo (1992) mentioned, imperfect treatment during transportation can cause the damage of the commodity at the time it reach the market destination which approximately 30-50%. In General, this research aims to know the influence of packaging toward change of carrot's quality during transport. While this research specifically aims to (1) find out the influence of the type of secondary packaging toward quality of carrots during transport, (2) know the influence of the type of secondary packaging toward quality of carrots with different transport time.

2. Research Methodology

2.1. Supply and equipment

Main supply used in this research is carrot (local variety) from the farmers in Ciherang, Cianjur District, West Jawa. Carrot is harvested at the age of 90 days after planted. Other supplies used are wooden crate 41 cm x 30 cm x 18 cm, plastic box 38 cm x 25 cm x 15 cm and plastic bag. While equipments used are penetrometer to measure firmness, digital camera, scales mettler PM-4800 and transport simulation tool table shakes with the compressor design by Purwadaria (1992).

2.2. Research Phases

Research phases in this research is started from determining the best outer packaging used for carrot transportation. Initially, carrot is selected and cleaned then weigh it for 10 kg per each plastic baskets, wooden crates and plastic bag packagings. Then do the transportation by putting each package on the table vibrate with a frequency that corresponds to the condition of the road traveled. Transportation time counted from production center in Ciherang, Cianjur District to Anyar market, Bogor and to Kramat Jatimarket, in Jakarta, which we assumed per each trip taken for 1 hour and 2 hour. Then from the sample taken in each treatment, we further evaluate the carrot quality that including level of damage, weight losses and change of firmness. Package with the smallest level of damage, weight losses and change of firmness is categorized as the best packaging sample.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Determining the best secondary packaging

3.1.1. Level of damage

Measuring the mechanical level of damage done after simulation of transportation by seeing the number of broken carrot in each packaging. Figure 1 shows the highest level of damage after 1 hour transported for plastic bag packaging is 30.4%, whereas for wooden crate were 23.3% and the smallest one were for plastic basket (19.3%). Meanwhile, for the two hour showed that, plastic bag has the highest damage which about 48.6%. Pantastico (1989), stated the good packaging will able to protect product from the damage as caused by its handling process and

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