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Identification of determinants of postharvest losses in Zimbabwean tomato supply chains as basis for dedicated interventions

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

- 1 Identification of determinants of postharvest losses in Zimbabwean tomato supply
- 2 chains as basis for dedicated interventions

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21 Abstract

- Postharvest losses (PHL) are a major problem in tomato supply chains, especially in tropical
- climates, as up to 40% of harvested fruits are estimated to decay along the chain. The study
- 24 aimed at identifying which farmers' context characteristics, logistics and quality control
- 25 activities relate with the generation of PHL in tomato supply chains, particularly in
- 26 Zimbabwe. Commercial and subsistence tomato farmers (n=197) from five major tomato-
- 27 growing areas were analysed using a diagnostic tool to assess the status of logistics and
- 28 quality control activities, the vulnerability of farmers' context, and the actual PHL.
- 29 Hierarchical cluster analysis resulted in three clusters of farmers grouped based on similarities
- on context vulnerability and status of logistics and quality control activities. Spearman's rank
- 31 correlation analysis and multiple linear regression analyses revealed that more advanced
- 32 logistics and control activities, and context characteristics with a lower vulnerability to PHL

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