

POSTHARVEST CHALLENGES OF TROPICAL FRUITS IN ARID AND SEMIARID REGIONS**Hassan M. Ali-Dinar**

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The environmental diversity within the eco-zones of certain arid and semiarid regions of the world, often leads to successful cultivation and production of many tropical fruit crops. Considering regions that include countries like Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Egypt and certain parts of Sudan, key fruits such as mango thrive very well despite the limited resources, particularly water scarcity. However, many challenges and constraints encounter the production chain of these crops. Specifically, the key postharvest challenges in these regions include the extreme high temperatures, quality management of harvested fruits, transportation and handling, proper storage facilities, proper marketing channels, price volatility, and postharvest diseases. The dominant of all is the limited awareness and knowledge of fruit growers with the proper harvest and postharvest handling approaches. It is worth mentioning that these constraints often lead the fruit growers to the selection of certain varieties that have limited resilience to the harsh environmental conditions of these arid and semiarid regions.