

## Conclusions

1. Demand for fresh fruit and vegetables, both domestic and for export is high. If a good system can be arranged for the production, transportation, postharvest handling and marketing, the fruit and vegetable industry will be of great economic importance.
2. Export oriented production will not be realized until the farmer understands that larger farm revenues are due to export-oriented production and farm specialization.
3. Climatic conditions in Thailand, especially in the mountainous regions, are suitable for the production of temperate vegetables. Tropical vegetables can be produced in the lowlands. The Thai government is promoting increasing vegetable and fruit growing areas to replace some of the paddy fields.
4. Fallow riceland nearby irrigation systems in Central and Northeast Thailand are being converted to vegetable growing areas.
5. Processing vegetables and fruits has a very bright future. The rapid development is illustrated by the pineapple industry.
6. Canada still remains an infant market to Thailand. The vegetable and fruit industry requires improvement in overseas transportation costs and quality.
7. A contradiction exists with the fruit and vegetable industry, and in the agro-industry as a whole. Thailand wants to export and develop agro-food processing and at the same time diminish imbalances in income and poverty. Yet, to do the former, one requires an increase in capital and investment which is impossible for the majority of the farmers to obtain.
8. The opportunity for investment in pre-harvest and post-harvest technology is dependent on the farmer's financial capabilities, his current land and his crop base.

## Recommendations

1. Post-Harvest Technology
  - introduce stackable, reusable plastic crates allowing for more efficient precooling and better sanitation between harvest and packing plant.
  - introduce bins and tractors to the industry to speed up product handling and reduce handling losses.
2. Food irradiation technology to extend shelf life.