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Management of post harvest microbial decay of banana

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A study was conducted to check the efficacy of different post harvest treatments including sanitizers and bio agents on the quality and microbial load on banana fruits. Being a climacteric fruit crop, banana suffers with shorter shelf life with loss of appearance and microbial infections under ambient conditions. The fruits were subjected to washing treatments for 5 minutes using aqueous ozone, hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, Trichoderma and Pseudomonas solutions and then stored under ambient condition for 6 days. Significantly minimum physiological loss in weight was recorded in sodium hypochlorite and aqueous ozone (14.23 and 14.28 per cent), minimum total soluble solids was in sodium hypochlorite and calcium hypochlorite (22.38 and 22.630 B), minimum respiration

rate in sodium hypochlorite and calcium hypochlorite (62.23 and 60.40ml CO₂/kg/hr) and minimum titratable acidity in sodium hypochlorite and calcium hypochlorite (0.63 and 0.62 per cent) compared to untreated fruits. Significantly minimum microbial load for both fungi and bacteria are recorded in Pseudomonas and Trichoderma treated fruits. Highest sensory scores (7.00) were observed in the fruits treated with aqueous ozone.

Speaker Biography

Raghavendra K Mesta did his Ph.D. from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, India. He is presently serving as Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, India. He has published more than 50 papers in reputed journals.

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