

Street Market Food Waste in Hatcliffe, Zimbabwe

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While street markets play an important role in supplying affordable fresh produce to low-income households in Zimbabwe, food waste is a sustainability concern at these markets.

Introduction

Understanding the dynamics of food waste at street markets is important for establishing food waste reduction initiatives. This represents a crucial step towards sustainable food systems and advancing the goal of attaining food security.

Objectives

- Characterise and quantify the food waste generated at the street market
- Explore the determinants of street market food waste
- Examine temporal variations of food waste at the street market

Materials and Methods

- Data collection was conducted during the harvest (Apr-June) and lean (Oct-Nov) seasons of 2023 in Harare.
- Waste Composition Analyses ($n = \text{approx. } 80 \text{ stalls}$)
- Face-to-face questionnaire surveys ($n = 39$)

Preliminary Findings

- **83 %** of the food waste generated at the street market, is avoidable.
- Poor infrastructure, high temperatures, and low sales are some of the reasons that could explain food waste at the Hatcliffe Street Market.

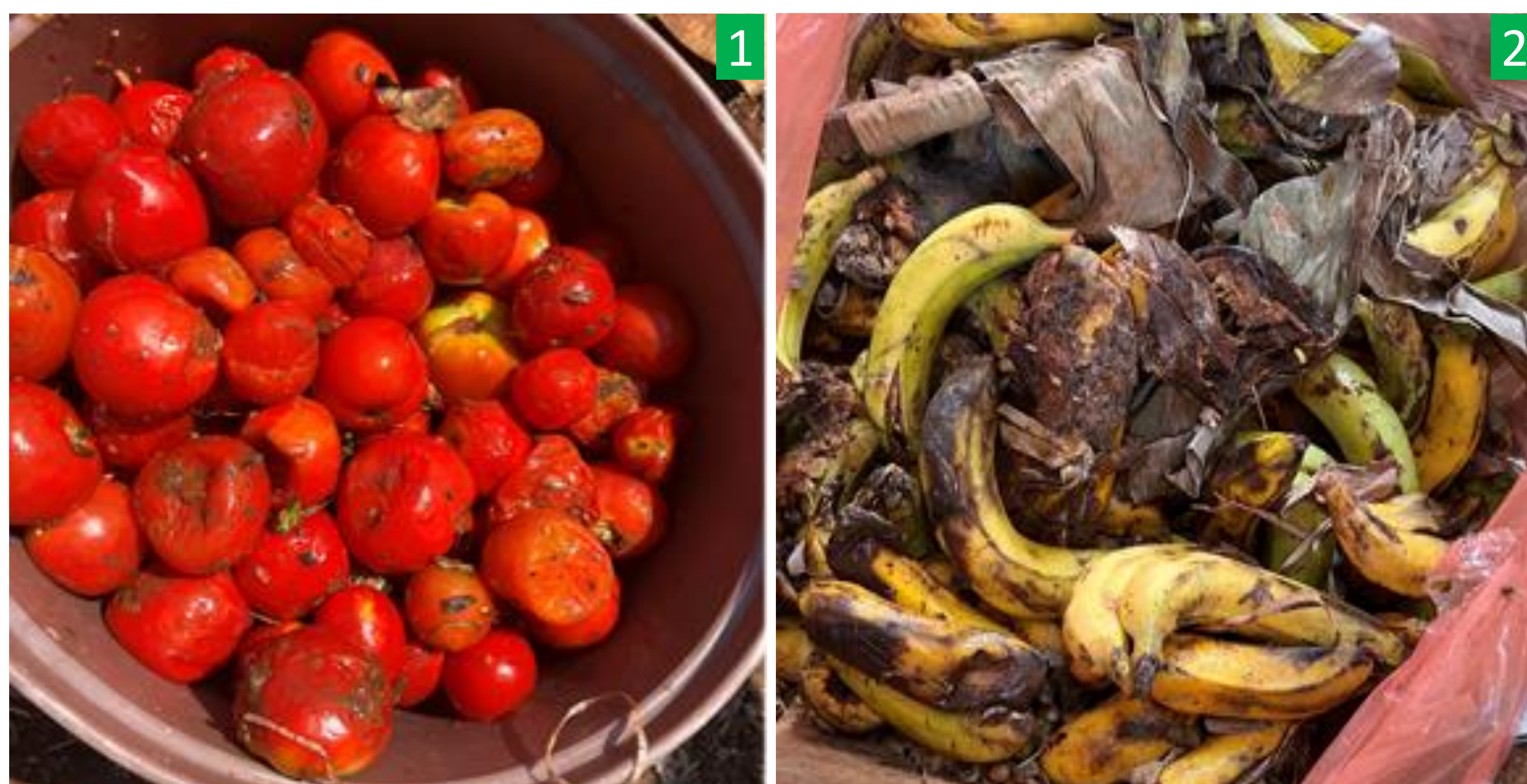


Fig 1: Food waste generated at the Hatcliffe street market: 1-Tomatoes, 2- Bananas

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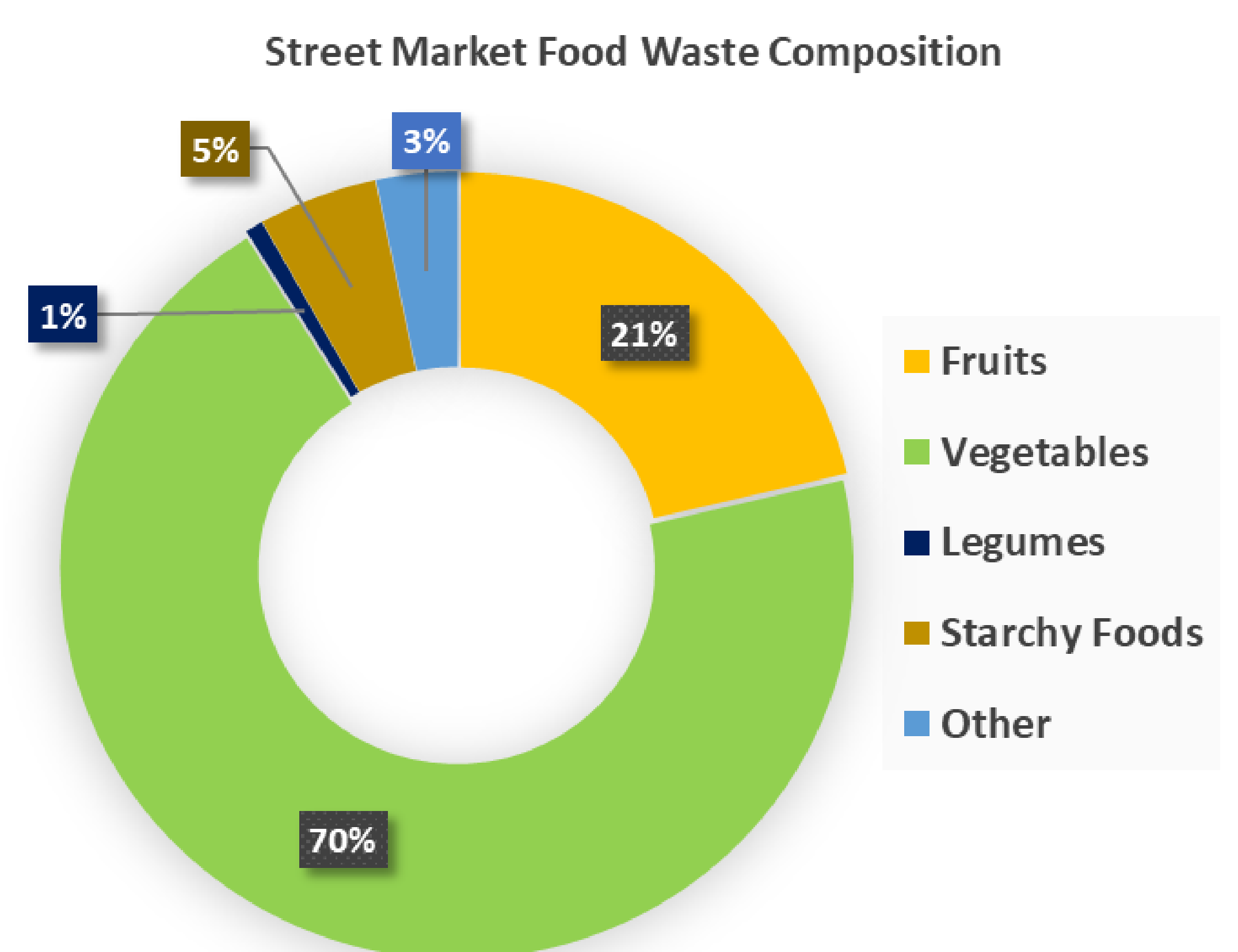


Fig. 2: Street Market Food Waste by Product Group (own data)

- **56%** of the waste recorded was generated during the lean season (Oct-Nov).
- Tomatoes, cucumbers, and bell peppers are the most wasted vegetables.
- **43%** of the fruit waste consists of bananas.

- The results of the study will be used to provide evidence-based initiatives for reducing street market food waste.

