

### **3.4: Postharvest Technology, Processing and Food Analysis**

The Postharvest Management System of agriculture in Ethiopia is in dire condition characterized by poor quality products and huge loss (up to 50%). Research in the postharvest management system shall focus on minimization of the high level loss through adopting/developing improved handling, transporting, processing and storage systems and marketing facilities. Attention should also be given to quality improvement and value addition of the produce through minor processing and efficient utilization of the agricultural output as input to the growing food industry to generate more valuable products destined for local and international markets. On the other hand, the young food industry is in poor shape producing very limited number of low quality products targeted for local market. Research at the University should help tackle these chronic problems through new product development, improving quality level of existing products to increase competitiveness in international market, and searching for alternative local raw materials. Efforts shall also be made to environmental aspect by way of works on byproduct utilization, food waste minimization and management. Priority shall also be given to develop the rich and diverse cultural and traditional food processing towards modern cottage industry to increase its role in the national economy and to free the large number of women attached to home cooking. Thus, researches shall focus on the following lines:

- Minimization of postharvest losses and increase value addition of agricultural products;
- Improvement of quality standards of agricultural and processed products;
- Development of new food products, processing technologies and preservation methods;
- Agricultural byproduct utilization and food waste minimization;
- Improvement of traditional food processing methods.