

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

The postharvest management system of the Ethiopian agriculture is in dire condition characterized by poor quality products and huge loss. The young food industry is in poor shape producing very limited number of low quality products targeted for local market. Research in the postharvest management must focus on minimization of losses, quality improvement and value addition, efficient conversion of the agricultural output to more valuable products destined for local and international markets. Researches in food science and technology must focus on import substitution and export items that meet the requirements of the competitive international market. Priority shall also be given to develop the rich and diverse cultural and traditional food processing techniques to increase their role in the national economy.

Thus researches shall focus on the following lines.

- Minimization of postharvest losses and promotion of value addition.
- Improvement of quality levels of agricultural and processed products.
- Development of new food products, processing techniques and preservation methods.
- Agricultural byproduct utilization and food waste minimization.
- Improvement of traditional food processing methods.