

Role of mechanical harvesting on production efficiency and reduction of postharvest losses of olive

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The proposed plan by ministry of agriculture in Iran for the large-scale cultivation and production of olive has necessitated the study and evaluation of different production methods and their possible effects on production efficiency and prevention of losses of olive in this country. Lack of speed, high cost of production and large labour inputs are generally associated with traditional methods. In comparison the mechanised methods are very efficient (*Shaker harvesting productivity is about 6-9 times higher than of hand picking*) and hence suitable for large-scale cultivation and production of olive. Considering that in harvesting (hand picking) of olive, share of labour used is about 70 percent. Harvesting is major cost factor in olive production, and therefore an effort is made to evaluate different kinds of mechanical harvesting equipments, such as; trunk and limb shakers, collecting devices (including catching frames), handling and primary processing machineries. This paper also has discussed the effect of proper harvest and postharvest cares on quantity and quality of extracted oil during processing of olive.