

ABSTRACT

First, through a situational analysis, the current status of the tourist and agricultural sectors and the importance of each to the economy of St. Kitts-Nevis were determined. Then, the study examined the quality requirements of the hotel sector for cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, sweet peppers and peas and beans. To do so, opinions were sought from all eighteen hoteliers operating in the country.

The market created by hotels for fruits and vegetables is conservatively examined at 0.3 million East Caribbean dollars.

The vegetables most used in this sector can be classified as exotic (e.g. cabbages, carrots etc.) and low energy yielders. Farmers, however, grow very little of the above and large acreages of starchy staples.

For the five commodities under review, the primary quality requirements were as follows:-

cabbage: freedom from pest damage

carrots: medium to large sizes

tomato: medium sizes

sweet pepper: medium sizes

peas/beans: snap beans.

The overall consideration was one of size, therefore farmers are advised to grade their produce before offering them for sale. Nonetheless, general satisfaction was expressed about the quality of local fruits and vegetables. The greatest concern of hoteliers was over the quantity and reliability of supply.