



## **USE OF BOXES AS AN ACCESSORY TO HARVEST VEGETABLES IN THE BRAZILIAN FEDERAL DISTRICT**

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Several types of boxes are being used as accessories to harvest vegetables in Brazil. This occurs not only among smallholders, whose family business is simultaneously cultivating several species of vegetables, while supporting an oppressive workload. To improve the yield and quality of vegetables and life, the concern to simplify and streamline procedures, to leverage the business, through the proper use of equipment, supplies and the family working capacity is a constant. In this study we made visits to farms and collect quantitative and qualitative information about the boxes and other accessories used to harvest by vegetables growers in the Federal District. The procedures used to monitor the harvest made by those growers included, among other aspects, records of time, distance traveled by the laborer, the number boxes and the type of packaging and transporter used as accessory for the vegetable collection. Accessories harvest of vegetables used in this study included a new platform for harvest, buckets, plastic boxes, wheelbarrows and baskets. It is concluded that it is possible to improve harvesting yield and to reduce postharvest losses, while improving the freshness of vegetables up to their marketing, by making use of new minimal handling procedures, using arrays of boxes, and classification procedures, over a low cost movable harvest platform.