# Good handling of tomatoes

Once you harvest, the quality of tomatoes decreases. Good handling during harvest and transport means a better profit.

Quality tomatoes, start with good pickers. Pick in the morning when it is still cool to control deterioration. When you harvest, pick carefully and place in baskets. Do not throw the tomatoes. Store tomatoes in the shade after picking.

## Transport tomatoes

Preferably use plastic crates for transport and cover them when you using baskets to avoid damage. Avoid stacking tomatoes to save the lowest ones. Store in the shade, don‘t drop the containers on the ground and avoid contact of tomatoes with soil.

Sort them before transport to remove damaged and cracked tomatoes. Then pack them carefully. Transport at night or early morning when temperatures are low.

## Harvesting time

Depends on if tomatoes are for immediate market or for distant sale. For the immediate market, harvest when they are red. For the distant market, mix both red and those that are starting to turn red.