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**Effect of different harvesting methods of flower bud on subsequent yields of clove  
(*Syzygium aromaticum* L.)**

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The economically important component of clove is the flower bud which originates at the end of each small branch of an inflorescence. Since the leaf arrangement of clove is opposite and alternative, flower buds are harvested with one pair of leaves. However the harvesting method varies with the farmer and the area. Farmers believe that the method of harvesting has an effect on the subsequent yield. Some farmers harvest with two or three pairs of leaves whilst others harvest only the inflorescence without any leaves. Therefore, a study was conducted with the objective of investigating the effects of different harvesting methods on subsequent yields of clove.

Four treatments, i.e., harvesting only the inflorescence (T1), inflorescence with one pair of leaves (T2), inflorescence with two pairs of leaves (T3) and inflorescence with three pairs of leaves (T4) were tested in this study. Treatments were studied at three different experimental fields located at three different altitudes of 516, 620 and 712 MSL. A count of the number of dead branches and number of shoots with flowers were taken at the next harvesting season. The results revealed that different methods of harvesting did not have any effect on the number of dead shoots in cloves. But harvesting flower buds with three pairs of leaves had increased the percentage of dead branches at the highest altitude (712 AMSL). The number of flowered shoots was not significantly different among all harvesting methods at all three locations. Therefore, it can be concluded that the different harvesting methods tested do not affect the subsequent yields of clove and hence farmers can harvest the inflorescence with one pairs of leaves as practiced by most farmers.