



RECORD OF PEACOCK: AS A PEST IN PAPAYA (*CARICA PAPAYA*) IN SOUTH GUJARAT

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INTRODUCTION

Papaya (*Carica papaya* Linn.) is an important fruit crop of tropical world and has long been known as wonder fruit of the tropics. Papaya is an important source of nutrition and income (http://www.ihc2014.org/symposium_34.html). It gives higher production of fruits per hectare and an income next only to banana (Tank et al., 2011). Papaya fruits are extremely valued for their nutritive value and are rich source of vitamin 'A' (1500-2020 IU/100g). Besides using fruits for table purpose, good products like sauce, squash, pickle, etc. are prepared. Fruits are also used in preparation of jam, tatty fruity, soft drinks, ice-cream, flavouring crystallized fruits and in syrup (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/441909/papaya>). The milky juice of the unripe papaya fruits which gives papain is used for the treatment of necrotic tissue, dyspepsia and other digestive disorders, ring worm and round worm infections. It also improves kidney disorders and tonsils infections. Green fruit is said to be mildly laxative and diuretic. The seeds are said to quench thirst and are also used as vermifuge. The papaya leaves are used as poultice for nervous pains and in the treatments of elephantoid growth. The roots are said to cure piles and act as a generative tonic. There is a great potential for the export of papaya fruits and its products (Bhalerao and Patel, 2012; Jadhav, 2013).

The major papaya producing belts are including in India as Andhara Pradesh 27.84% (Cuddapah, Medak, Kurnool, Rangareddy), Gujarat 22.36% (Kheda, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar), Maharashtra 7.65% (Sangli, Satara, Pune, Nasik, Sholapur, Nagpur, Amravati), Karnataka 9.63% (Shimoga, Chitradurga,

Mysore, Belgaum, Hassan), Madhya Pradesh 6.08% (Dhar, Khandwa, Bilaspur, Ratlam, Guna), West Bengal 6.98% (North 24 - Paraganas, Hoogly), Assam 3.61% (Nagaon, Darrang, Karbi Anglong), Chhattisgarh 6.66%, Tamil Nadu 2.74% and Kerala 2.08% as they have ideal climatic conditions for its growth and production (Anonymous, 2012).

An experiment on to study the effect of fertigation and mulching on growth, yield and quality of papaya cv. "Red lady" was carried out at Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS) Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari during 2011-2012.

When the seedlings were transplanted in field condition, it was observed that the bird, peacock damaged all the transplanted seedlings. All the plant parts were eaten or damaged (Table 1 and Figure 1) and thereby growth of plants was stunted. Moreover, it was found that all the birds approached the field in groups in the early morning and evening, then scattered in the field.

Table 1. Papaya plants damaged by peacock

S.No.	Weeks after transplanting	Damaged transplanted plants (%)
1	2	33
2	4	23
3	6	17
4	8	15
5	10	12

Based on the above observations, for management of peacock, the following methods may be suggested;

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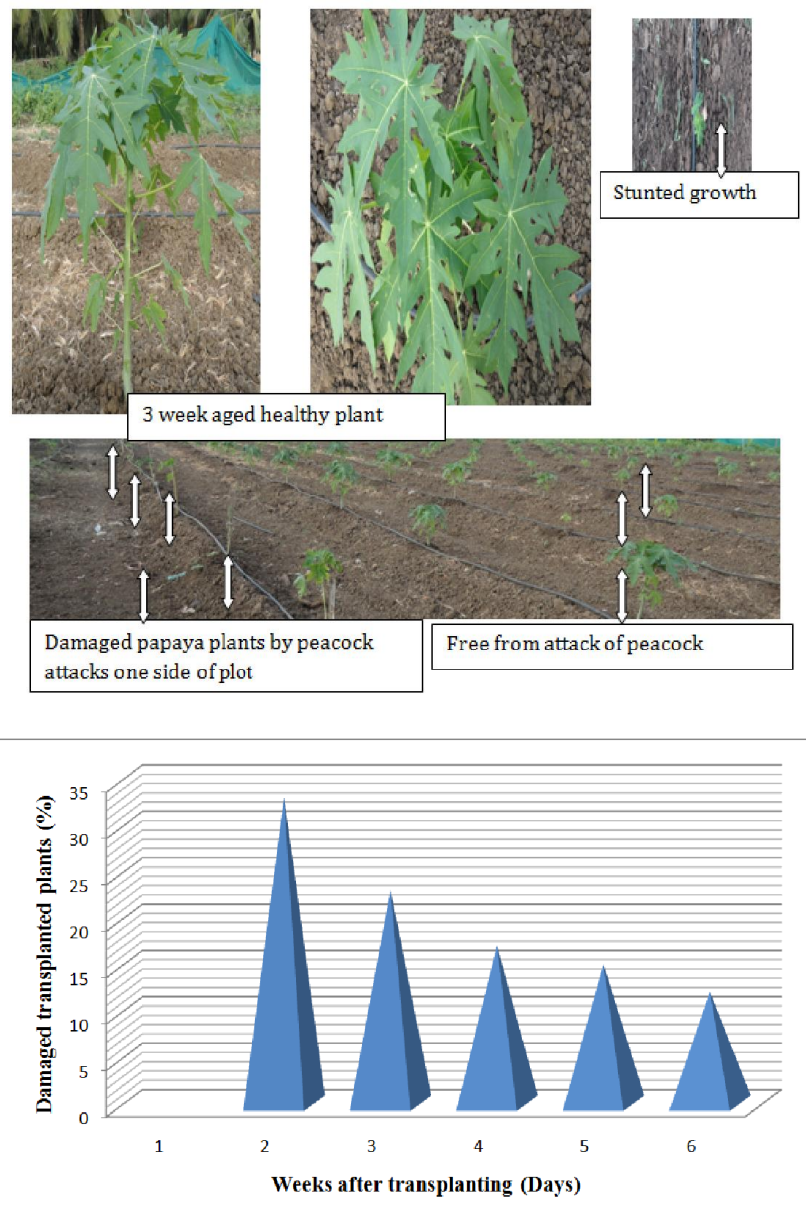


Figure 1. Damaged transplanted plants (%)

Several bird management methods

1. Nylon net
2. Use of air guns, Bird traps
3. Use reflective ribbon methods
4. Bird scaring tape device
5. Throw balls
6. By putting dummies
7. Alarm calls
8. Bioacoustics method, etc.

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