



## Study on the profile of papaya growers in Bidar and Gulbarga districts of Karnataka

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### ARTICLE INFO :

**Received** : 24.03.2012  
**Revised** : 09.08.2012  
**Accepted** : 10.09.2012

### KEY WORDS :

Knowledge, Innovativeness, Papaya cultivation

### HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Basanayak, Rajashekhar T., Manjunath, L., Salunke, Renuka, Agasimani Somanath and Jahagirdar, K.A. (2012). Study on the profile of papaya growers in Bidar and Gulbarga districts of Karnataka, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 3 (2): 125-128.

### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out in Bidar and Gulbarga districts of Karnataka State. The profile analysis of respondents revealed that, they belonged to all the three age groups, one fourth of them had education up to middle school and above; majority of them belonged to medium extension participation, medium farming experience, low papaya farming experience, medium economic orientation, and high annual income. The results indicated that, majority of the respondents belonged to medium knowledge level with respect to papaya cultivation practices.

## INTRODUCTION

Indian agriculture, the backbone of economy, dictates the livelihood system of farmers and millions of people, as it influences industries too. An agrarian structure has transformed owing to the production process, but the sector is presently at cross roads, with the advent of new forces in policy and trade sector. India has achieved self-sufficiency in food grain production but not in fruit production.

In recent years, greater attention is being paid to horticulture for better utilization and development of waste lands, which are not suitable for economic cultivation of field crops. (Agribusiness and Food Industry, February 2008).

Papaya (*Carica papaya* L.) belongs to the family *Caricaceae* and is commonly known as papaya, papaw or paw (Australia), Mamao (Brazil) and tree melon. It is believed to be a native of southern Mexico and neighbouring Central America.

It is now being cultivated in every tropical and subtropical country. Papaya needs specific climatic requirements for vigorous growth and fruit production. In general papaya needs warm climate throughout the year and will be damaged by light frosts. Brief exposure to 32° F is damaging and prolonged cold without overhead sprinkling will kill the plants. Cold, wet soil is almost always lethal and may lead to altered fruit flavour. Papaya makes excellent container and greenhouse specimens where soil moisture and temperature will be moderate.

Karnataka is a progressive state in the field of modern horticulture in the country. The diverse agro-ecological conditions prevailing in Karnataka has made it possible to grow different types of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, plantation crops, root and tuber crops, medicinal and aromatic crops etc. The vividity with respect to agro-climatic setting in the state can be a boon for planned horticultural development.