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Development of manually operated sapota harvester

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■ **ABSTRACT :** The manually operated PVC made citrus harvester is usually used by the sapota growers in Konkan region for harvesting the sapota fruits. It is very light in weight and easy to fix with bamboo or pipe. Though the penetration of the harvester in the plant canopy is better, finding and plucking out the fruit through it is difficult due to its visibility issue. As the harvester is made up of opaque PVC material, the fruits can not be seen through it when used beyond some angle of inclination with the ground. The fruits may get popped up out of the harvester at particular inclination. Due to this restrictions of the inclinations, the picker (person) may develop some strains in neck and shoulder. Considering this, a sapota harvester made up of 6 mm circular MS rod was developed with better visibility through it and to have better angle of inclination with horizontal (0 to 90^{o}) for harvesting the fruits without letting it popped out of the harvester. A. The developed sapota harvester met the requirements and found comfortable for sapota harvesting. The picker (person) can operate the harvester at wide range of angle of inclination with the horizontal.

■ **KEY WORDS :** Sapota harvester, Bamboo, Metal pipes, MS rod

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