

Papaya

Propagation

Propagation of papaya is mostly through seeds. However freshly extracted seeds show low germination due to presence of sarco testa. Storage of seeds at 10°C was found to be the best for retention of seed viability. Viability of papaya seed can be maintained for 9 months at room temperature when stored in air-tight containers.

Raising Seedlings in Nursery

Seedlings are grown in nursery on raised beds of size 1 x 2 m. Seeds are sown at a depth of 1 cm in rows spaced at 15 cm with 2.5 cm spacing within the row. Seedlings can also be raised in polythene bags of size 5x7cm. Before sowing seeds are treated with Thiourea (100-200 ppm) and Gibberellic acid (GA₃ at 200 ppm) for better germination. The beds/bags are immediately watered after sowing. Seeds germinate in 2-3 weeks after sowing. Seedlings are ready for transplanting within 45-60 days when they reach a height of 20-25cm.