

# **Making Pawpaw farming profitable on small scale – Part 2**

In farming different challenges are encountered such as the common pests and diseases, change of climate and unexpected to attack by pests.

Pawpaw produces fruits continuously and has a life span of 4-5 years. Pawpaws can only be differentiated after flowering. Male plants will produce two hermaphrodites flowers and set fruits at the end of the branches but its fruits are of poor quality. Hermaphrodites produces flowers that are both male and female and are capable of self pollination. Their fruits are long and narrow and of good quality.

## **Uses of pawpaw**

Pawpaw can be used to make icecream, fresh juices, jam, jelly, wine, marmalade, candies and crystallized fruits.

Pawpaw produces latex which can be harvested and used in the production of papain. Papain is used in the breweries industries, canned meat and pharmaceuticals industry.

One can earn more through embracing value addition.

## **Water harvesting**

During the rainy season harvest water that will be used to irrigate the crops during the dry season. Avoid overhead irrigation by using drip irrigation to avoid wasting of water.

Practice crop rotation to enhance and enrich the soil. Mixed farming is profitable to the farmer since it allows you to harvest different crops all year round. Monitor the crops to

check for pest and diseases when its attacked spray them with chemicals and foliar.