

## Papaya farming in a greenhouse that is unique in the world

**LOCATION:** Níjar (Almería)

**DURATION:** 1'52 "

**SUMMARY:** Researchers from the University of Almería and Las Palmerillas Experimental Station of the Cajamar Foundation have developed a papaya production model that is unique in the world. Almost four years of research have resulted in a model based on an early plant sexing technique used to select the plants that have the qualities demanded by the market.

**VTR:**

It looks like a regular papaya greenhouse but, in fact, it is unique.

**ASENSIO NAVARRO**  
**Manager of Vitalplant**  
**nursery**

*"It is a pioneering model that combines new technologies that had never been applied on a large scale."*

This project was started four years ago by the University of Almería, along with Las Palmerillas Experimental Station of Cajamar and the Vitalplant nursery. This greenhouse is the first in the world to apply an early plant sexing technique for commercial purposes. And what does this mean? That, in the seedbed, once the germination of the seed is completed, they use molecular techniques to select the plants that have the qualities demanded by the market.

**ASENSIO NAVARRO**  
**Manager of the Vitalplant**  
**nursery**

*"The major advantage it offers, as it has a thousand advantages, is that even farmers with no experience in the cultivation of papayas, can grow them. According to the traditional system, they had to grow four papaya plants and handle them in a very specific way."*

There are more papaya greenhouses in the South-East Coast of Spain, but none of them is as optimized as this. To set it up...

**FRANCISCO CAMACHO**  
**University of Almería professor**

*"We need high greenhouses and, if possible, which don't let almost any water in, even during rain season."*

Spain is the only European country that produces papayas, but the demand is low here. That's why most of the production is exported to Germany, France and Holland. The number of farmers that cultivate this fruit is growing.

**JOAQUÍN SEGURA**  
**Papaya producer**

*"I decided to grow papaya plants because I think that it is an interesting product, innovative for Almería's agriculture, as well as for the area of Níjar. I think that it is good."*

Innovation to diversify the offer of Almerian agriculture. The next step will be the in vitro production of papaya so that all the seeds become formidable plants that produce a high amount of fruits.

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