

Advantage/s:

- Controls rats infesting not only the coconut but also the intercrops.
- Easy to apply.

Disadvantage/s:

- Cost more as other rats not infesting coconut also is attracted to the bait.
- Takes longer time to reduce infestation.
- Dangerous to domesticated animals.

III. *Banding*

- I. Clean the crowns of the coconut palm thoroughly before banding to destroy nests of rats. See to it that the leaves of banded and non-banded palms do not overlap. Trim portions of overlapping leaves to prevent transfer of rats from one palm to another.
- II. Number all the trees in the area.
- III. Measure 10 ft from the ground level and mark. Measure an additional 10 inches and mark.
- IV. Measure the lower and upper circumference of the 10 inches wide marked portion. Add one inch to the biggest circumference. This will be the length of the band. Take note of the individual number of trees while measuring and recording.
- V. Cut the desired length of the metal sheets for individual palms.
- VI. Install the metal sheet on the trunk. Make sure that the edge form a smooth overlap to prevent rats from climbing. To achieve this, the center nail should be fixed perpendicular to the trunk;

the upper nail, obliquely upward; and the lower nail, obliquely downward.

Advantage/s:

- Effective control.
- Easy to install.

Disadvantage/s:

- High initial cost.
- Cannot be applied on coconuts planted irregularly.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Call, write, or visit:

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**CONTROL RODENTS IN
COCONUT**



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SIGNS OF DAMAGE

On Seedlings:

Gnawed holes made on the base of seedlings. These holes predispose the seedling to disease infection.

On Seednuts:

Irregular gnawed holes on perianth lobe of immature nuts. Five-month old nuts are most often damaged, although 3-8 month-old nuts are susceptible. The damaged nuts prematurely fall.

Estimate of rat damage to coconut ranges from 2-23%.

CONTROL METHODS

Methods of controlling rats in coconut plantations which have been proven to be successful:

I. Cultural Control (Ring Weeding, Clean Culture and Cultural Practices)

These agricultural practices prevent the rodents to establish their habitat. Frequent plowing and harrowing under coconut drive away rodents from its nesting place which therefore inhibits breeding.

Advantage/s:

- Control is lasting

Disadvantage/s:

- High initial cost

II. Baiting

a. Crown Baiting

- I. Identify palms which has rodent infestation as shown by gnawed premature fallen nuts. This should represent at least 10% of the total plant population
- II. Assign one small plastic bag per identified palm. Place 150 g. of mixed anticoagulant-carrier in each bag. Anticoagulant-carrier ratio is 1:19.
- III. Place the rodenticide mixture at the center of the crown of each marked palm, using a climber or a plain bamboo pole.
- IV. Repeat the procedure every month until infestation disappear.

Advantage/s:

- Direct Control of rodent population
- Less rodenticide is needed

Disadvantage/s:

- It does not control rodent population infesting intercrops.
- Entails additional labor in application.

b. Ground Baiting

- I. For 1 hectare, prepare the following materials
 - 12 baiting stations, bamboo 12" long slightly slanted at both ends.
 - 72 pegs, each about 1 foot long.
 - 1 kg grated coconut or other carriers such as "binlid" or broken rice.
 - Bamboo or wooden spoon
 - Rodenticide

- II. Lay-out the baiting stations near ground thrashes and other areas frequented by rats. The distance of the baiting station from the other baiting stations is at least 20 meters. Place the baiting station along the coconut row so as not to hinder farm operation such as plowing and harvesting.
- III. Roast grated coconut slightly. Use other carriers attractive to rats.
- IV. Mix the rodenticide and carrier thoroughly at the rate of 1:19 using bamboo or wooden . Stir the mixture for about 20-30 min. to have an evenly uniform coating and impregnation.
- V. Place the bait mixture at the center of the baiting station using a calibrated bamboo or wooden spoon. This will hide the bait from domesticated animals.
- VI. Inspect the baiting stations daily. Replenish bait when necessary. Maintain only the recommended amount of bait per baiting station. Discard property other baits that have become moldy or wet. Install additional baiting stations if baits are readily consumed.
- VII. Continue baiting as long as there is still considerable bait consumption. Stop when there is no decrease in bait and no observable increase in rat infestation.

