



Ecologically Based Rodent Management 'EBRM'



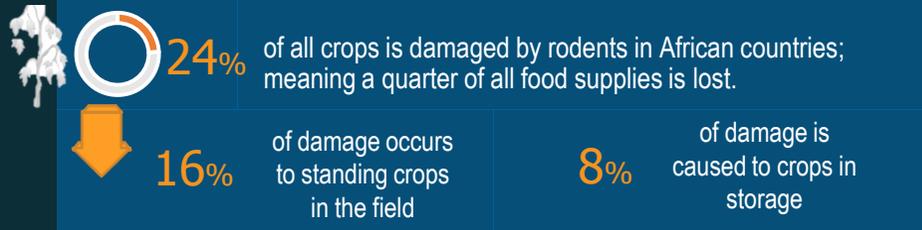
What is at stake?

The current COVID19 crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities of our food systems. There is genuine concern in many countries for food shortages and even worries that it will affect the most vulnerable the most severe.

To safeguard local food supplies an immediate priority is to control the loss of the current harvest by drastically reducing rodent damage. Both in the field and in storage. At the same time, it is essential to combat rodent vectored diseases, which amount to over 60 different diseases. For example the Lassa- and Hanta viruses are brought by rodents. With Ecologically Based Rodent Management (EBRM) we propose integrated control mechanisms that greatly improve agricultural production standards in quantity and quality, and improves healthy living conditions.



Rodents eat, destroy and contaminate food crops in the field and in storage.



Source: Swanepoel and other (2017). <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0174554>

Services and Accomplishments

We have successfully organized Ecologically Based Rodent Management Campaigns (EBRM) in Amhara, Ethiopia. In these campaigns communities applied a range of measures to reduce the rat population which resulted in substantial reduction of crop loss and the resurgence of grazing areas. The estimated benefit per farmer was a 10% increase of crop/pasture production, and fractional storage losses.

We are continuing this program and we are keen to share the experience and help others set up rodent management programs, tailored to each specific situation.

The Green Rodent Control team offers its services to assist with promotion and developing EBRM campaigns in each country.

Objectives

We aim to reduce crop losses through EBRM in times when food shortages are threatening.



Develop, improve and spread the knowledge on innovative ecological methods

Tailor control methods for each country to reduce harvest losses in target areas

Strengthen local value chains which are robust in times when global value chains falter



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The Overall Outcomes



Improved public health and reduced damage to property



Increased annual net crop production and improved farming conditions



Improved storage of food and reduction of food losses



Ensured sustainable use of resources

EBRM campaign



1



2



3



4

(1) Leaders by example; (2) Training on EBRM; (3) Community mobilization on EBRM; (4) open grass strips as a rodent control measure

How to set-up an EBRM campaign?

Successful methods:

1. Around the house one must keep it clean, store any food items airtight. Keep cats to chase after rats.
2. In the field there is a range of methods:
 - destroy rat habitats by flooding, burning, controlled free grazing, or deep ploughing.
 - do synchronized planting or intercropping
 - promote wild predators, for example: owls, mongoose, snakes
 - usage of communal trap barrier system

Farmers witness the positive impact, grazing land improved and crop loss reduced as a result.

EBRM campaigns are urgently needed to make farmers aware that rats can be controlled. And it equips them on the methods.

It should be led by a major agricultural extension service, either government or private. Starting with a 2-day training, after which the farming communities make an action plan.

The plan involves a wide range of measures, from household to field level.

Two essential aspects are **timing** (in the lean season) and **collective action**. Only then we will see immediate results.

We are keen to work together with you in increasing local food security. Please contact us.



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