

Impact of Rodents on Rice Field in Relation to Yield Losses in Ein-te Village and Central Farm, Hpa-an Township

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Abstract

Estimate population of rat species, damage at all stages of growth and yield loss were studied in Ein-te village (Site I) for a dry season crop and Central Farm (Site II) for a wet season crop.

A total of 87 rats in Site I and 76 rats in Site II were captured by two kinds of live traps. Four murid species of *Bandicota indica*, *B.savilei*, *Rattus rattus* and *R.exulans* in Site I and three murid species; *B. indica*, *R. rattus* and *Mus cervicolor* in Site II were observed.

Relative estimates of population of the recorded species were calculated by trap success percentage. Damage assessment and yield loss were conducted by the experimental plots (the open plot and the exclusion plot). Total damage percentage of a wet season rice crop (4.8 %) was higher than that of a dry season rice crop (3.58%) in the open plot while minimum damage (0.12%- 0.42%) were observed in the exclusion plot with trap barrier plastic sheet of the two study sites. More yield losses were found in the dry season rice field (Ein-te village). Damage and yield loss were compared and discussed between the two study sites.

Key words: Murid species, trap success, population abundance and damage

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