

WILDLIFE-DAMAGE PROBLEMS IN THE DEMONSTRATION FARMS OF OGUN OSUN RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS, ABEOKUTA

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ABSTRACT

The damage problems attributed to wildlife species at the Ogun Osun River Basin Development Headquarters demonstration farms was investigated. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and on site farm observation. Twenty species of wild animals were recorded as pests of crops. Prominent among them were Cane rat (*Thrynomys swinderianus*), Giant forest squirrel (*Protoxerus stangeri*), Mana monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*), Duiker (*Cephalophus sp*), Bush buck (*Traagelaphus scriptus*), Giant rat (*Cricetomys gambianus*), Guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*), Hare (*Pselagus majorita*), Francolin (*Francolinus bicalcaratus*) Flying squirrel (*Episcerus epii*) and Tree pangilin (*Manis tricuspis*). The affected crops include maize (*Zea mays*), Cassava (*manihot esculenta*), *Amaranthus*. (*Amaranthus cudatus*), Yam (*Dioscorea sp.*) plantain (*Musa sp*) Pepper (*Piper nigeran*), Okro (*Hisbicus esculentus*), Melon (*Citrillus vulgaris*) and Tomato (*Lycopercion esculentus*]. Attacks on farm crop occurred at four different stages, during planting, immediately after growing, before harvest and at storage. Losses incurred by farmers ranged from about N500.00 (Five hundred Naira) to over N10,000 (Ten thousand Naira) per year. Control methods employed by farmers included trappings, group hunting, crop staining etc. Alternative management methods such as creation of buffer zone with the area maintenance of good sanitation with the farm and understanding the biology and ecology of the species were recommended.

Keywords: Damage; Wildlife; Pests; losses; Problems; Farms