

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF WILDANIMAL PESTS IN FARMS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE PERMANENT SITE, ABEOKUTA

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Abstract

The ecological assessment of wild animal pests in farms in the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, was carried out using on-site field observations and structured questionnaire to elucidate the complex relationship between the pests and crops environment with a view to finding sustainable solution to crops loss by farmers arising from pest activities. Data obtained indicated that eight major wild fauna pests in the farms assessed damage crops during germination (pre and post emergence), flowering, maturation, harvest and in storage. The farmers lacked accurate record of the quantity of crops destroyed but estimated values varied from 3bags to 20 bags (150-100kg) of grains per farmer in a farming season from 150 to 3250kg overall output respectively. Control measures adopted by farmers, even though ineffective, includes hunting, trapping and use of scare crow. Other environmentally friendly control methods are recommended.