



ECORAT

Development of Ecologically-Based Rodent Management for the Southern African Region



The impact of rodents on people's livelihoods is particularly high in developing countries through damaging crops, contaminating stored food and vectoring diseases to people and livestock. Despite this, rodent pests continue to be poorly managed problem.

The aim of the ECORAT project is to strengthen the generation of appropriate, cost-effective and sustainable rodent pest management technologies and strategies for small-scale farming communities in the SADC region.

Improved delivery of ecologically-based knowledge and tools for controlling rodent pests can be given to rural agricultural farming communities and can result in major livelihood improvements. But ecological knowledge about rodents and their damage in African countries is poorly understood.



Detailed information available at www.nri.org/ecorat

Trapping rodents in different habitats found around rural farming communities generates ecological data on rodent habitat utilisation and species diversity. This allows the seasonal and spatial differences found in rodent populations related to climate and breeding to be understood. This baseline data allows the development of ecologically-based rodent management strategies that are cost-effective for villagers and environmentally sustainable.



ECORAT scientists work together with rural communities to explain and demonstrate how community-based approaches using improved trapping technologies can lead to large reductions in the rat population and to real observed improvements to their livelihoods across agricultural production and the health of their families.



Institutions in Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and the United Kingdom work together within the ECORAT project to achieve the ICART programme goals for practical application throughout the Southern African Development Community.

