



SEMINAR ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC  
ASPECTS OF RODENT CONTROL

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RODENTS AND THEIR DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN SOMALIA  
AND THE  
METHODS USED FOR THEIR CONTROL

by

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Somalia before the Revolution was not a well-developed country agriculturally. No control or survey of rodents was carried out, neither was any laboratory identification performed. However there were large numbers of rodents which could be observed in all kinds of food stores, store products and warehouses. Maize, sorghum and wheat stores were particularly prone to rodent attack. Sometimes many rats could be seen even in living in quarters during winter when they could not obtain enough food in the fields. They have done great damage to all agricultural products in Somalia.

At present the Department of Plant Protection carries out control of rodents as of other economic pests and diseases. Rodent control is performed annually. The following pesticides are used:-

1. Racumin 57 mixed with maize or wheat as bait.
2. Phosotoxin gas - tablets used in store products for fumigation only.
3. Anticoagulant used for dusting along rat tracks.

Only a plant protection officer or trained personnel is allowed to use these pesticides, in order to avoid contamination of man or animals. The work is considered very successful. Many thousands of dead rats have been found in the treated areas, although so far the actual number of rats killed has not been estimated, nor the damage to crops. However, it is hoped to do this in due course. No report of contamination of man or animals has so far been received.

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