

FARMER'S MANUAL



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Elephants

BY Yaw Osei-Owusu



CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL 2018



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[This Technical manual is adapted from the training manual developed by Yaw Osei-Owusu & Lonneke Bakker (2008)]



Why do **elephants visit farms** to destroy crops and sometimes attack people?



Cocoa farm close to boundary of forest reserve

Farmers make farms too close to boundaries of protected areas.

Cocoa pods

Farmers grow crops that are palatable for elephants e.g. maize, cocoa, etc. close to boundaries of forest reserves and National Parks.



Logging in a forest reserve.

Some people destroy the habitat of elephants by cutting down trees in forest where elephant live. In the process they destroy some of the trees that provide food for elephants and decrease the area where elephants can graze.

A wounded elephant.

Some people shoot to kill elephants in forest reserves. Elephants have a good memory and will become aggressive to people once they have been shot at.





Avoid

What can farmers do to PREVENT elephants from visiting their farms and attacking people?

A young chili pepper farm



Avoid making farms close to forest reserves and National Park boundaries.

Avoid growing crops eaten by elephants. Grow crops that are not eaten by elephants, such as pepper ginger and cotton and which can give you good returns if you have to grow crops near to a forest reserve boundary.

Settlements close to a forest reserve



Avoid cutting down trees in forest reserves and avoid destroying habitat of elephants.

Avoid settling close to forest reserve boundaries.

A hunter attacked by an Elephant



Avoid shooting to kill or wound elephants. A wounded elephant may attack and hurt or even kill you.



Be Alert

Use a combination of these old and new methods on your farm to drive away elephants.

Beating bark of tree to make noise



Use all the old or traditional Methods known in your community
Such as:

- beating the bark of trees,
- beating empty cans,
- bamboo blasters,
- night patrols, burning palm kernel.

A group of farmers preparing a fence.



Use a rope to fence off your farm.

Hang alarm bells on fence round your farms to warn you of the presence of elephants. The noise from bells can also drive the elephants away!

A colonized bee- hive



Use a bee-hive fence to drive away elephants from your farm. Elephants are highly irritated by the noise made by bees and would avoid any area which has bees. The bees will also improve pollination on the farm and increase yield. Finally the farmer will obtain honey which can support household nutrition or yield additional income when sold.



Chili Fence

Some new methods you may want to try on your farm are based upon using chili pepper. Elephants do not like the smell of pepper and their skin is sensitive to it as well. So using chili pepper to protect your farm is helpful to keep the elephants away!

A demonstrator mixing powdered chili and grease in a bowl.



- Grind chili into powder.
- Mix grease and the powdered chili.

A demonstrator smears the chili-grease mixture on a rag



- Smear the mixture on cotton rags.

A farmer hangs a piece of rag, smeared with chili and grease on a rope on a fence.



- Hang the chili- grease smeared rags on the rope around your farm.
- When the elephants smell the Chili, it will hurt their nose and they will not come closer to your farm.

D

Dung Bricks

The smoke of burning chili pepper goes far away, and elephants will not come close to your farm if you burn these chili dung bricks in your field. Prepare and burn chili-dung bricks at points around your farms when the crops are ripe!

1 Mix ground chili Pepper and dung



2 Compact mixed chili pepper and dung



3 Dry chili-dung bricks



4 Dry chili-dung brick at edge of farm.





Educate & Patrol

A young chili pepper farm



Form community patrol teams to assist with putting up the fence, guarding the fields and patrolling the boundary of forest reserves or conservation area to drive away elephants. See the Wildlife Officer nearest to you for assistance.

Farmers report at Wildlife Office



Report the presence of elephants in your area to the Wildlife Office closest to you.



Finally

Remember to follow the rules in driving away elephants from your farms:

A

Avoid

B

Be alert



Chili pepper



Dung bricks



Educate and Patrol

The materials you need are chili-pepper, used oil, rags, bee boxes and bells. They are easy to obtain and do not cost much. The methods are easy to give excellent results. It worked for farmers in Zimbabwe, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia and can work for you too!!

Go ahead and try it on your own farm and tell others about it today!



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