

Poster

BEE COLONY FENCE: AN ECO FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE BIO FENCE FOR RESCUING AGRICULTURAL LANDS FROM RAIDING ELEPHANTS (*ELIPHAS MAXIMAS*)

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ABSTRACT

The elephant (*Eliphas maximas*) inspires animosity and fear as an agricultural pest among farming community especially in the dry zone areas. The frequent raidings of crops by elephants have become a serious problem which is difficult to control. Therefore, the present study was conducted with the objective of introducing an economically beneficial, environmentally friendly and easily applicable technique for protecting agricultural lands from elephants. The study was carried out at Sooriyawawa in Hambantota district using a farmer field which was an elephant corridor bordered by a natural habitat of elephants. In about 01 ha of land grown with different crop species was selected and a fence along the border was established with a strong aluminum wire at 1.5 m above the ground level attached with 15 bee colonies apart 9 m each other as a swinging fence when contacted or touched by elephants. An adjacent land was fenced only with just an aluminium fence and compared as the control.

Elephants came six times near the fence but get irritated even with buzzing of bees and did not reach to touch the fence whereas the adjacent land have frequently been raided by elephants . Bee colonies have produced 1-1.25 bottles of honey per colony worth Rs. 1,000 generating an additional income. Therefore, the bio fence attached with bee colonies is effective in protecting agricultural lands from wild elephant's damages. Hence, this fence could be identified as an effective, environmentally friendly and economical technique which can easily be adapted by farmers.