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Kulim's Experiences on the Rat (*Rattus tiomanicus*) Control in Oil Palm Plantation

CHUA CHIN KOK, ONG KIM PIN AND ZAINURIAH ABDULLAH

*EPA Management Sdn Bhd, Kulim Agrotech Centre, Research & Development Department, P O Box 141, 81900 Kota Tinggi,
Johor Darul Ta'zim*

*Five rat baiting treatments were studied by EPA Management Sdn Bhd three years ago. Seven-year-old oil palms in an estate in Kluang, Johore, were severely damaged by *Rattus tiomanicus*, resulting in severe crop loss. T4 (0.005 per cent flocoumafen) showed the highest palatability among the five types of baits at 3.23 baits per day followed by T3 (0.01 per cent difethialone) at 2.97 baits per day. Lethal feeding test showed that all five baits were effective against the rats, 100 per cent mortality was achieved within 6 to 11 days. Field application result showed that T3 (0.01 per cent difethialone) was the most effective rat bait in reducing the fresh damage percentage, 93 per cent of fresh damage reduction from 30 per cent fresh damage to 2 per cent fresh damage was observed after four rounds of baiting in this study. The palms with fresh damage for the non baited control (T6) remained high at 18 per cent. Generally, all baits at the tested rate were effective against the rat attack in oil palm plantation. Therefore, cost analysis will be the key in deciding which of these baits should be chosen.*

Keywords: *Oil palm, Rattus tiomanicus, difethialone, flocoumafen, brodifacoum.*