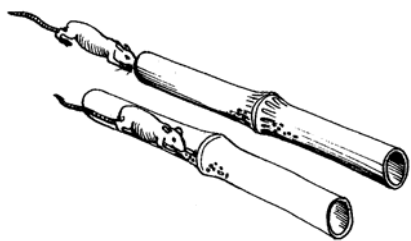
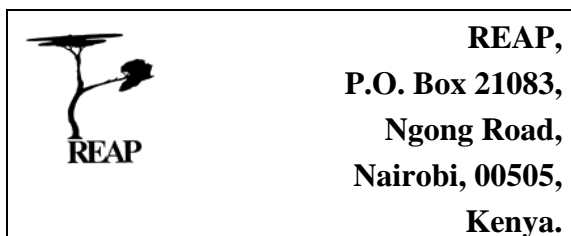


The rats are then attracted to the food on the corn cob. As they try to eat it they fall into the water and die. So each evening you will have to put more food on the cob, and each morning remove the drowned rats from the water and bury them. Every few days the pot or bucket should be dug up, cleaned thoroughly and moved to a new location.

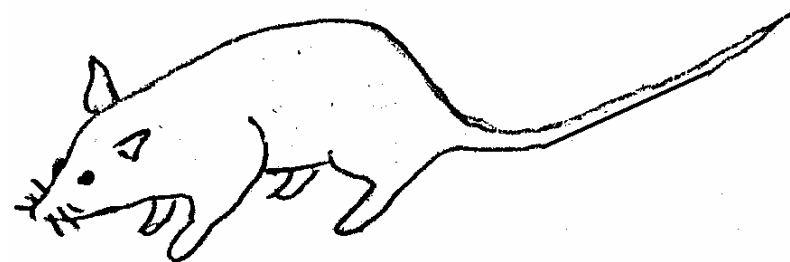
Another very simple rat trap can be made by inserting food into a hollowed out bamboo or a piece of pipe. The rats cannot turn to get out or move out backwards.



(idea from letters from Nick Dexter, Zimbabwe in Footsteps No. 33 and Frank Atitahene Donkot, Ghana in Footsteps No 35)



AN EFFECTIVE HOME MADE RAT TRAP

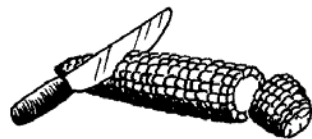


1. Rats and mice are often a problem in rural communities where people grow and store their own food.
2. The rats eat much of the stored food, spoil more of it and even spread disease through their droppings.
3. Rats and mice often make it so difficult for people to store grain that they sell their harvest cheaply at harvest time, and then have to buy back the food at a much higher price later.
4. Rat poison is both expensive and dangerous to use, and effective rat traps are not always easy to buy. Being able to make your own rat trap puts the control of rats into the hands of ordinary people at the local level.

HOW TO MAKE A RAT TRAP FROM A BUCKET OR POT

1. Chose a place near the store or where rats are moving. Dig a hole in the ground so that the bucket or pot can be buried with the top of it level with the ground. Put the bucket or pot into the hole and fill in the soil so that only the open top is exposed.

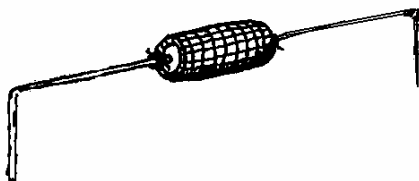
2. Take a dry corn cob and cut off the ends.



3. Push some wire through the centre of the cob so that it can rotate freely. Fasten the cob in position in the centre of the wire with either some small pieces of wire wrapped round the larger wire, or pieces of gum or resin. Make sure the cob can spin freely.



4. Bend the wire as shown in the diagram and push it firmly into the ground on either side of the bucket or pot.



5. Fill the bucket or pot about one quarter full of water.
6. Coat the corn cob with groundnut paste, maize porridge or some other food to attract the rats.

