

## **Integrated Pest Management**

### **Cultural**

Rats are commonly introduced from and found around human populations. Therefore, keeping environments clean and tidy and storing food resources tightly can help reduce rat populations.

Preventing rats from invading new areas is highly important as it can be difficult to eradicate them at early stages of invasion.

Rat-proofing storage places can help reduce products being destroyed. Putting metal trunk banding or plastic sheets around the coconut palm trunk can help deter rats and stop them from reaching the crown. Electric fences (lethal and non-lethal) and other enclosures have been successful.

### **Rat-Proofing**

Since it is not practical to remove all food from stores and households, it is necessary to restrict access by rats. This is accomplished by proofing buildings or keeping food in -rat proof containers.

When rodent-proofing a building only materials which they cannot chew through should be used. Also, it should be remembered that they are good climbers and jumpers, and most can squeeze through surprisingly small holes.

Hard metal strips should be fitted to the bottom edges of all wooden doors and their frames, and windows should be protected with tight wire netting screens. Floors and walls should be kept in good repair.

Although rats are active mainly after dark, they will move about during day as well. Therefore doors should stay tightly shut during the day as well, when the store is not in use.

References:

<http://coconutpests.org/pests-and-diseases-of-coconut/rats>

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/T1838E/T1838E1l.htm>

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/use-sheet-metal-around-trees-97284.html>