

# Rice

# PEST Trivia





# Philippine Rice Field Rat

**Scientific Name:** *Rattus tanezumi*

**Distribution:**

- Widely distributed in the Philippines' agricultural and urban areas
- Common pest of rice, coconut, corn, sugarcane, and other major crops

**Distinguishing Characteristics**

1. Single pair of chisel-like incisor teeth – it grows continually
2. Enamel on front but not on the back
3. Retain chisel shape when worn down
4. No canines – instead a gap or diastema



Photocredits: CABI, IRRI, ugduque

Source: CABI, IRRI, PhilRice



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## DID YOU KNOW?

An adult female *R. tanezumi* can produce 3 litters of rat in a single cropping season equal to **80 offspings.**



(A) Typical damage caused by rodent pests in the Philippines, in which highly structured damage pattern (stadium effect) is observed. Red arrow points on the damaged part of the field while blue arrow shows undamaged part at the edge of the field. (B) Close-up view of rodent pest damage. A 45 degree cut is caused by rodent pest (encircled).

## Why do we need to manage rodent pests in rice?

- Every year, rats in Asia consume/destroy food crops that could feed 200 million people for an entire year (Singleton, 2003).

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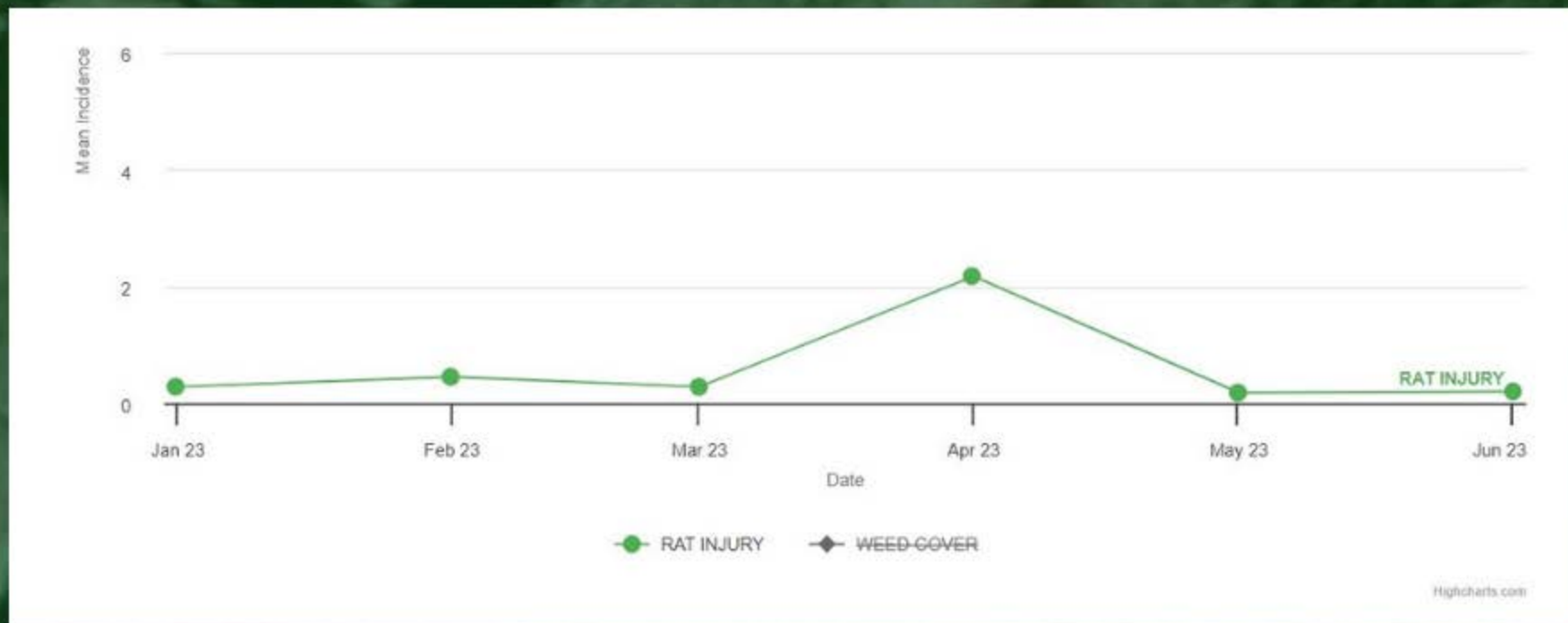








# National Trend of Rat Injury from January to June 2023 on PRIME Monitoring fields



Source: PRIME Data base



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