

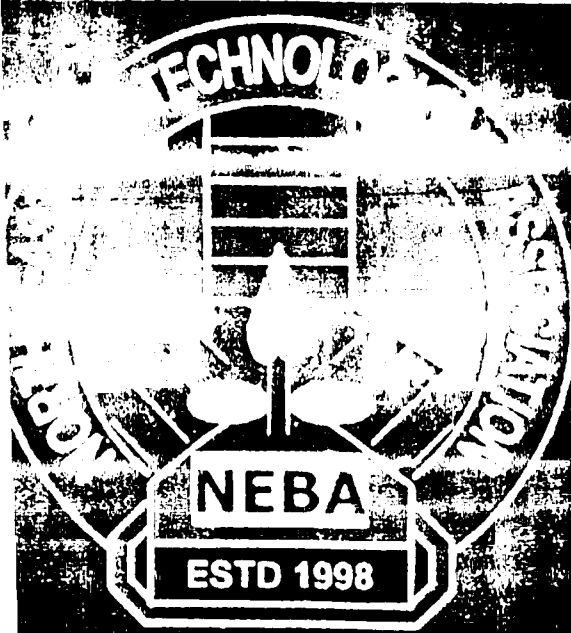
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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MAN-RHINO CONFLICTS IN ORANG NATIONAL PARK, DARRANG, ASSAM, INDIA

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A study on the certain aspects of Man-Rhino conflicts were conducted in Orang National Park, Darrang, Assam, during 2000-2003. Scan animal sampling method along with monthly visit were made to record movement patterns and damages done by rhinos. It was found that the villages Borsala, Kachari bheti, Phatasimalu, Gariapathar, Bejmani, Rangagara and Chars and Chaporis were located at a distance of 0.5 to 3 kms on the northern and southern side of the park, received crop depredation and other damages. Altogether, 90% of the cases were caused by adult males, stray out for crop depredation, but in all cases the depredation were occurred at night time. Occasionally, females with calf were also found to visit the human habitat areas. Among crops, the vegetative stage of wheat and black grams were the most preferred foods than paddy crops. The rhinos were also found to eat cabbage, cauliflower, brinjal, papaya and chilli from these areas. Similar behaviour was also recorded at Kaziranga NP and Pabitora WLS of Assam. The seasonality of crop depredation starts from the later part of the month of September and continued till December. A comprehensive strategy and action plan is therefore required to check the crop depredation and other damages to vegetables by rhino at Orang National Park.

Key words: Rhino, Orang, National Park, Crop Depredation.