

5. Chain link fencing:

It is the simplest and most efficient method of fixing a more durable physical barrier. Chain link meshes of 3 feet height (galva-



nized or LLDPE-coated steel wire with a characteristic diamond pattern) can be fixed around the crop field by maintaining a distance of 1 feet away from the crop. This method can be used in seed production crops and also in various horticultural crops.



6. GI wire fencing: A simple GI wire can also be used to erect a physical barrier around the cropped fields which prevent intrusion of wild animals. The rows of GI wire can be fixed around

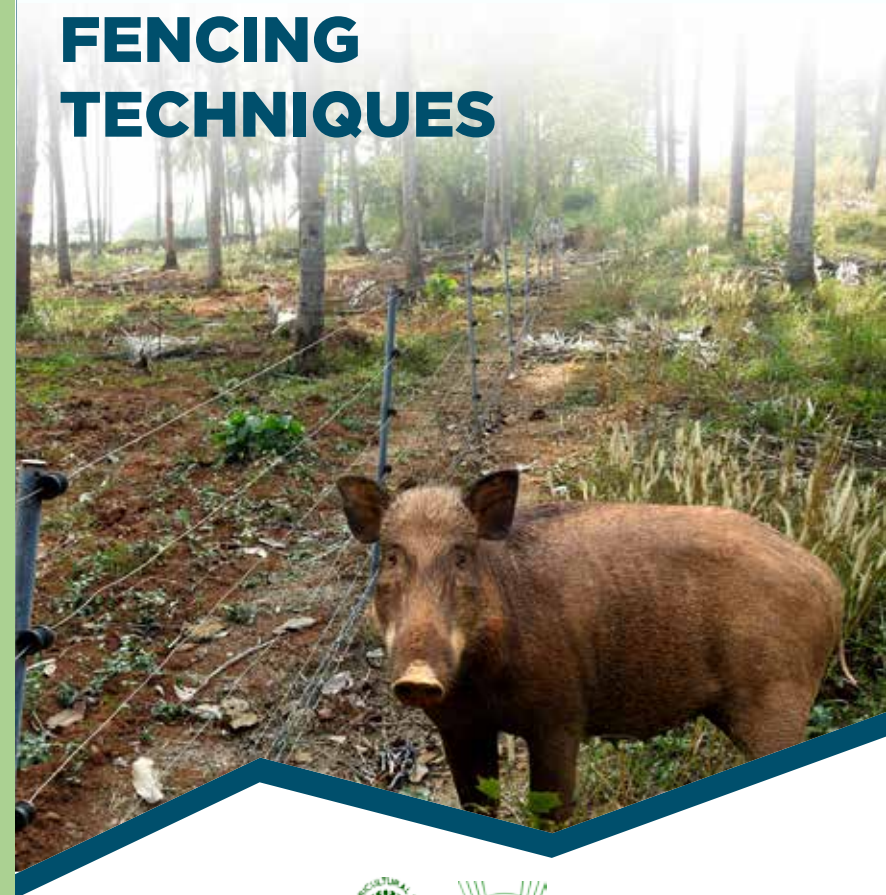
the crop with the help of poles with a height of 1 feet from the ground level. This method is comparatively simple and economical when compared to other barriers. The animals by coming in contact with GI wire feels threatened and gets scared away by confusing the GI wires with electric fences.

7. Solar based electric fencing: This method can be used to protect crops with high economic and market value. It is becoming more and more popular among the farmers nowadays as it is a permanent method. After tying the

iron wires around the crop field, it is connected to a solar powered battery, through which 12 V of electricity passes based on settings made in associated timer machine. Wild animals that come in contact with it are exposed to electric shocks and roar loudly, causing other members to move away from the area.



MANAGEMENT OF WILD ANIMALS THROUGH FENCING TECHNIQUES



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Management of wild animals through fencing techniques

The higher vertebrates, such as wild boar, deer, monkeys and so on, have become increasingly numerous in various regions of our country in the recent years, and crop raiding by these higher vertebrates has occasionally resulted in severe damage to agricultural crops. The indiscriminate destruction and fragmentation of their natural habitats, as well as the obstruction of migration routes, ease of encroachment, and encouragement of poaching due to human interventions a cause these species to congregate in confined regions, leading to major conflicts between humans and wildlife. Since, these wild animals are listed in various schedules of the Indian Wild Life Protection Act of 1972, any method that results in either intentional or unintentional death of these animal is punishable. In the light of such situations, sufficient precaution may be taken to suggest management strategies that do not endanger their life.

Human-wildlife conflict can be reduced if wild mammals can be effectively ward off from fields. Installation of fences around the crop fields act as a physical barrier which prevents the entry of wild animals, especially wild boar which possess poor sight and hearing abilities. Fencing with various materials viz., nylon nets, shade net, GI iron wires, barbed wires, chain link and solar-powered fences can be installed around the crop fields to exclude the wild animals and their subsequent damages. Though fencing fetches comparatively, a higher initial invest-

ment, these costs can be offset over the life time of the fence, making it cost effective over time. Various types of fencing that can be recommend to the farming communities are given hereunder.

1. Nylon net fencing:

Fencing with nylon net (HDP, UV stabilized, 2" mesh ; 1.5mm thickness; 5 feet width) around the crop field prevent the intrusion of wild animals and subsequent damages. Fix the wooden twigs of approximately 1m height at a distance of 3 m around the field. Tie the nylon net to the twigs so that it stands 3 feet above the ground level. Then spread remaining portion of nylon net (2 feet) in the ground and fix it with wooden pegs. Fasten the plastic rope through the nylon net straps at the top and at a height of 15 cm from the ground level.



2. Shade net fencing: Fencing with Shade nets around the cropped fields aids in providing protection from the intrusion of wild animals. It also possesses visual deterring effect. Fix the wooden poles at a distance of 3 meters around the fields. Tie the shade net (5 feet width)



on the poles at ground level and nail them to the ground using small pegs. Along with that, plastic rope should be tied to the proved support to shade nets at the both the top and bottom portions.

3. Barbed wire fencing:

One of the most effective physical barriers to keep wild animals like wild boars, deer and porcupines out of the cropped area is the installation of three rows of barbed wire surrounding the field, with the first-row laying at a height of 15 cm (1/2 feet) above the ground followed by the subsequent two rows at a distance of 30 cm (1 feet).



4. Circular razor fencing:



Fencing with circular ring made of the iron wire that is fastened with sharp razor blades at around the crop fields helps to drive away the intruding animals. The

blades cause serious injuries to the wild animals which tries to enter into the field. This not only prevents the animal to enter into the field but also scares away other animals. The entangled animal makes alarm calls which deter away the other wild boars thereby saving the entire crop without any damage.