Hunting Cutting Grass with nets and dogs

Recognize the problem
The cutting grass is an animal related to the mouse and rat, only much bigger. It destroys field crops like rice, cassava, and sweet potato.

Background
Cutting grass are afraid of noise. They are active at night and will become confused if frightened during the daytime. You can hunt them any time of the year, especially when the crops are in the field.

Management
Prepare for the hunt:
You will need 25 to 40 hunters, four to six trained dogs and 15 to 20 nets. The nets should be about 30 meters long and one meter tall. Use nets with square holes, of two or four centimetres (four fingers).

Feed the dogs before going to the hunt. The dogs will not do a good job if they are hungry.

Hunt in the morning when the cutting grass are resting. The hunters divide themselves into three groups. The first group enters the area where the cutting grass live, surrounding the area with the nets and the trained dogs. The second group stands outside the nets to catch the cutting grass.

The third group is the shouting group or noise makers. They hold sticks to flog the bush so that the animals will not escape.

Hunting with dogs:
During the hunt the dogs chase the animals towards the net. The shouters or noise makers flog the bush so that animals will not escape on their side as there is no net on their side.

At the end of the hunt the dead animals caught are shared among all the people. If someone allows the cutting grass to escape, he would not get his share.

Usually the net and dog owners get larger shares than the shouting groups or noise makers, but you should talk about this with everyone before starting the hunt.

Examine crops carefully for signs of cutting grass damage. They eat tender parts of plants, even the tubers.

Trained hunting dogs help drive the cutting grass into the net, where they can be killed.

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