Attracting snails away from garden plants

Recognize the problem
Snails are pests that move very slowly and carry their house (a shell) on their back. They eat the leaves of many plants. They make holes in the leaves and often leave a trail of clear slime where they have moved over the leaf or ground.

Background
Because snails move very slowly, it is easy to catch them and remove them from plants. But they can be difficult to find during the daytime when the sun is shining. They like some types of plants more than other types. Snails find their food by smelling the air and moving towards the smells they like most. Snails like the smell of pawpaw leaves and cassava peels. People normally do not have a use for pawpaw leaves or cassava peels, so they just throw these away.

Management
When snails are a problem in the garden, make a trap to collect them. Gather at least 1 kg of fresh pawpaw leaves or cassava peels. If you have access to both, you can use a mix of pawpaw leaves and cassava peels for the best effect. In the evening, place these in a pile on the ground at the corner of the garden. The idea is to attract the snails away from the vegetable plants, so be sure to place the pawpaw leaves and cassava peels well away from the plants you want to protect.
In the early morning before the day becomes hot, you will find many snails gathered around the trap. Handpick all the snails around and under the pawpaw leaves and cassava peels. Destroy all the snails collected. This can be done by crushing them, burning them, eating them, or any other safe method. Refresh the trap with new pawpaw leaves when the old ones begin to wither and become dry.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Ghana, Sierra Leone