

IPMWORKS - An EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective IPM strategies. Integrated Pest Management

Duration: From 1 October to 30 September 2024

Project summary

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is based on a diversity of pest management measures (prevention, non-chemical control, best practices for optimizing pesticide efficiency, etc.). These are combined at the farm level to enable reduced reliance on pesticides, and therefore a decrease in the exposure of the environment and people to pesticides. Rare pioneer farmers throughout Europe are testing such IPM strategies and are succeeding in achieving good outcomes with low pesticide inputs. However the majority of European farmers still rely heavily on pesticides, with major environmental and societal impacts, because most of them have not adopted a comprehensive, farm-level and holistic IPM strategy so far. IPMWORKS will coordinate existing networks promoting IPM and launch new hubs of farms in regions or sectors where IPM pioneers are not yet engaged in a relevant network. Advisors coordinating hubs will have a major role in facilitating knowledge sharing, coaching farmers to find their own IPM solutions, and organising local demonstration activities. IPMWORKS will stimulate access to the 'IPM Decisions' platform and provide information on the IPM methods. It will collect data for comparing IPM strategies, and share results and dissemination material through channels widely used by farmers, broadcasting IPM success stories. It will organise training, and produce training material, targeting both farmers outside the network and advisory services, in order to prepare for the future dissemination of the peer-to-peer learning approach and the general adoption of IPM throughout the EU.

Objectives

The objective of IPMWORKS is to promote the adoption of IPM strategies, based on a EU-wide network of farmers, who will both progress further in the adoption of IPM – through peer-to-peer learning and joint efforts – and demonstrate to other farmers that holistic IPM “works”; i.e. allows a low reliance on pesticides with better pest control, reduced costs and enhanced profitability.

Activities

The following activities will be developed:

- Coaching of farmers within hubs of Demo farms, along with the expected results of massive adoption of advanced holistic IPM by those farmers.
- Dissemination activities, including demonstration targeting other farmers and advisers, and the IPM Resource toolbox.
- Dissemination activities targeting stakeholders from the agri-food sector, and communication activities targeting the increased awareness of European consumers.
- Activities to prepare the continuation and future extension of the network.
- A significant adoption of 'advanced' holistic IPM by the networking farmers.
- A significant reduction of the reliance on pesticide within the network.
- An EU-wide community of partner advisers sharing an IPM-based advisory paradigm.
- Results demonstrating that 'IPM works'.

Results and project impact

- Extension of the IPM Farm Demo network, based on the proof of concept, the success stories, the training of trainers, and the specific work for network sustainability.
- Increased societal pressure on pesticide use.
- New market opportunities based on IPM.
- Awareness of consumers for profit sharing along the value chain.
- A general adoption of advanced holistic IPM allowing for a drastic reduction of pesticide use, and other beneficial consequences for European society.
- Significant decrease in pesticide use in the EU.
- Lower exposure of the environment, the animals and human beings.
- Less health hazards related with pesticides.
- Increased farm profitability.
- Reconciliation of farming industry with the rest of the society.
- Improved European self-sufficiency in safe products.

Role of CIHEAM Zaragoza in the project: communication and training activities, as well as lead of the national policy networks WP.

Webpage: <https://ipmworks.net/>

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Partners:

- Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (INRAE), France
- INRAE Transfert (IT), France
- Eigen Vermogen Van Het Instituut Voor Landbouw - En Visserijonderzoek / Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (EVILVO), Belgium
- Assemblée permanente des Chambres d'agriculture (APCA), France
- Delphy BV (DELPHY), the Netherlands
- RSK ADAS Ltd (ADAS), UK
- Consulai, Consultoria Agro-industrial Lda. (CONSULAI), Portugal
- Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza / Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ-CIHEAM), Spain
- Stichting Wageningen Research (WR), the Netherlands
- Aarhus Universitet (Aarhus University) (AU), Denmark
- Kujawsko-Pomorski Ośrodek Doradztwa Rolniczego (KPODR), Poland
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Italy
- The James Hutton Institute (JHI), UK
- Association de Coordination Technique Agricole (ACTA), France

- Linking Environment and Farming LBG (LEAF), UK
- Instituto Navarro de Tecnologías e Infraestructuras Agrolimentarias SA (INTIA), Spain
- Provinciaal Extern Verzelfstandigd Agentschap In Privaatrechtelijke Vorm Vzw (INAGRO), Belgium
- Kmetijsko Gozdarska Zbornica Slovenije Kmetijsko Gozdarski Zavod Maribor / Slovene Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry (KGZS MB), Slovenia
- Fundación Empresa-Universidad Gallega (FEUGA), Spain
- Djursland landboforening (DL), Denmark
- VELAS (VELAS), Denmark.
- ProAgria Etelä-Suomi ry (ProAgria), Finland
- TEAGASC Agriculture and Food Development Authority (TEAGASC), Ireland
- Grünlandzentrum Niedersachsen/Bremen E.V. (GLZ), Germany
- COEXPHAL Asociacion De Organizaciones De Productores De Frutas Y Hortalizas De Almeria (COEXPHAL), Spain
- IFOAM-EU International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements European Union Regional Group (IFOAM EU), Belgium
- Julius Kuhn-Institut Bundesforschungsinstitut Für Kulturpflanzen (JKI), Germany
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- Biosense Institute - Research and Development Institute for Information Technologies in Biosystems (BIOSENSE), Serbia