



IPMWORKS

a European network
of pioneer farmers
engaged to demonstrate
cost-effective
IPM-based strategies
with low pesticide use

Program H2020 (2020-2024)

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Hearing at the European Parliament – 23 May 2023



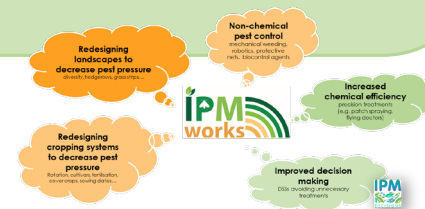
THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM
THE EUROPEAN UNION' HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME
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Objectives of IPMWORKS



Demonstrate (with 'pioneer' farmers) that

- Reducing drastically pesticide use and impact is possible...
- ...is cost-effective...
- ... and does not impair food security in EU



“Holistic” Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- **IPMWORKS supports a holistic view of IPM**

emphasizing measures able to reduce pesticide use and impact

An orange thought bubble with a white outline and three smaller orange circles leading to it from the bottom right.


Redesigning landscapes to decrease pest pressure

diversity, hedgerows, grass strips...

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Non-chemical pest control

mechanical weeding,
robotics, protective
nets, biocontrol agents

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Increased chemical efficiency

precision treatments
(e.g. patch spraying,
flying doctors)

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Redesigning cropping systems to decrease pest pressure

Rotation, cultivars, fertilisation,
cover crops, sowing dates...

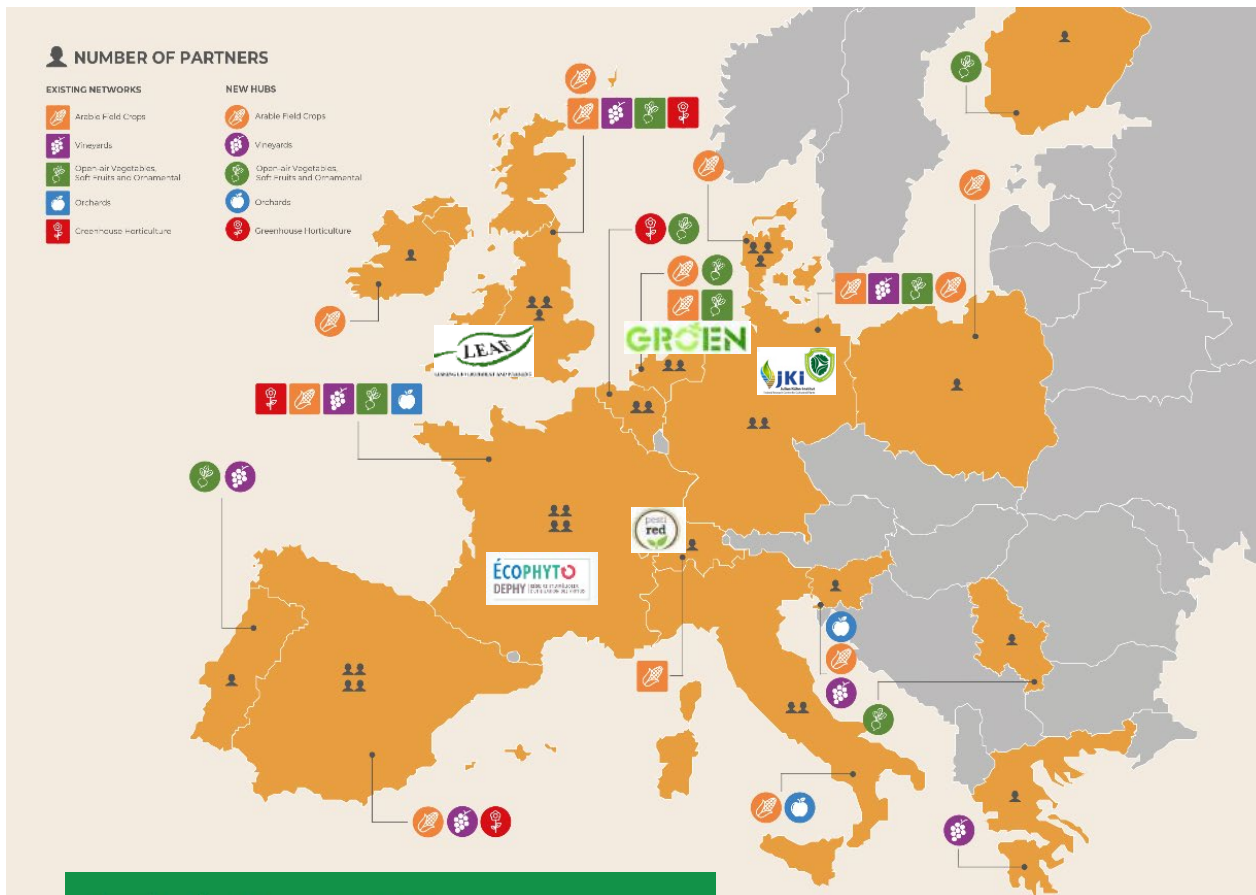
A green thought bubble with a white outline and three smaller green circles leading to it from the bottom left.

Improved decision making

DSSs avoiding unnecessary
treatments



The network of IPMWORKS demo farms



5 Pre-existing national networks

22 New hubs of demonstration farms
Each led by a «Hub Coach»



31

Partners



16

Countries

22

Hub coaches

246

Demo Farmers

264

Demo events planned

The network of IPMWORKS demo farms



- 5 agricultural sectors



+ a few organic farms involved in most IPMWORKS hubs

A specific methodology for fostering IPM adoption

Based on peer-to-peer knowledge exchange... and facilitation

22 Hub coaches

with a specific Role

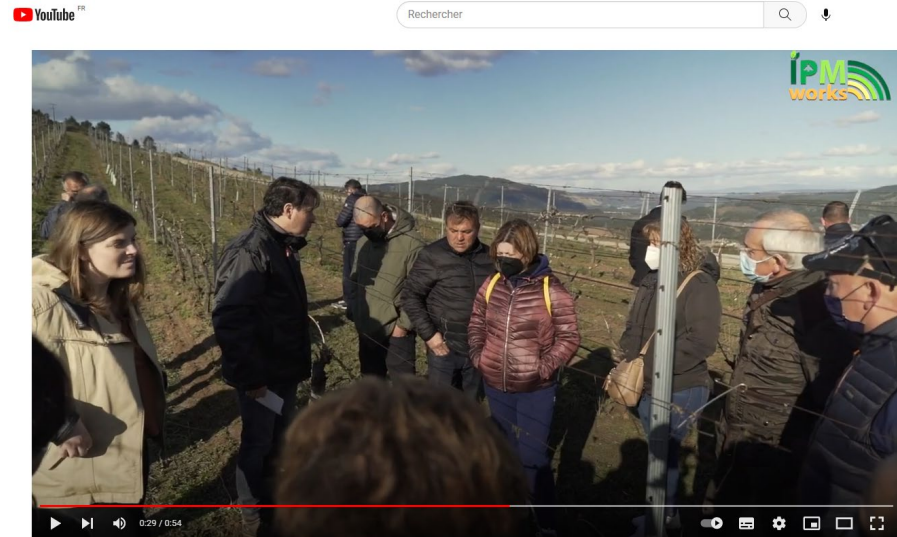
'IPMWORKS hubs are guided by a hub coach. Do you want to know how they work? Check it out in this video!'
Jolien Claerbout, Hub Coach at INAGRO, Belgium
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zLqCKrjD7U>



- 1 **Individual advice to farmers** help them « think holistic »...
...and find non-chemical solutions
- 2 **Collective coaching of the group**
facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange
- 3 **Organisation of open Demo events** >> hit other farmers, enlarge the audience
- 4 **Share information with other Hub Coaches**
Technical skills of IPM & soft skills for facilitation IPM adoption
- 5 **+ collect data** describing IPM-strategies
>> demonstrate to farmers
 - decrease in pesticide use
 - cost-efficiency

A specific methodology for fostering IPM adoption

Based on peer-to-peer knowledge exchange... and facilitation



5 Main messages of IPMWORKS to MEPs

1 Halving pesticide use & impact might be possible but...

- This target requires an extensive re-design of farming practices
**Adopting IPM is not only reducing pesticide applications,
but also adopting several prevention strategies and non-chemical solutions to reduce pest
pressure**

e.g. more diverse crop rotations, less specialised farms

- Re-designing farming systems takes time!

5 Main messages of IPMWORKS to MEPs

2 Reducing pesticide use does not endanger food security in Europe !

because non-chemical and preventive methods/strategies are efficient when properly combined...

...and pesticide still can be used, in case of strong pest pressure

“IPM indeed works”
i.e. is efficient to control pests & is cost-effective !

See quantitative results in the next speech !

3 IPM solutions are highly site-specific

A mixed farm (cereals and dairy cows)

reducing pesticide use thanks to holistic IPM

The farm

- Region : Normandie (North-Western France)
- Area : 85 ha
- 90 dairy cows
- Specificity : on-farm marketing

The strategy for pest/disease/weed management

- Crop rotation including temporary grass lands + maize and wheat
- Mechanical weeding (harrow + hoe) in maize
- Mixture of wheat cultivars, resistant to diseases
- Delayed sowing of wheat (escape weeds and diseases)

Low and decreasing pesticide use



A specialised farm (potatoes)

reducing pesticide use thanks to technology

The farm

- Region : Dutch polders
- Area : 135 ha
- Main crop : potatoes (+sugar beet, wheat, onions...)
- Specificity : on-farm marketing

The strategy for pest/disease/weed management

- Resistant cultivars
- Decision Support Systems for optimizing decision making
- High technology for treatments of seeds (more water, less PPP)
- High technology for foliar treatments fungicides on potatoe leaves herbicides on patches of perennial weeds

Soils are too wet here for mechanical weeding

Objective of halving pesticide reached



Not relevant to set mandatory non-chemical technics

An IPM-adoption index – based on a list of non-chemical options – could be more relevant

5 Main messages of IPMWORKS to MEPs

4 Changes in farming strategies requires training and facilitation

- ❖ *IPMWORKS builds on a specific methodology for promoting IPM adoption and reduction of the reliance on pesticides...*

...based on peer-to-peer learning in groups of farmers from the same area, sharing the same crops and pest problems.

- ❖ **Efficient facilitation involves changes in advisory skills for facilitation, counselling and support brought to farmers**

Policies should support the expansion of IPM hubs and Farm Demo networks

5 Main messages of IPMWORKS to MEPs

5 Farmers cannot be made responsible alone of reducing pesticide use !

Reaching the challenging target of halving pesticide use requires the whole value chain (**cooperatives, pesticides sellers, markets**)

e.g. to help farmers find markets for crop diversification

- How to involve **Consumers and food chains ?** to produce premium prices to farmers reducing pesticides

Information on pesticide use should be brought to consumers
toward a mandatory 'pesticide' label?



What is next for IPMWorks?

Preparing the future

- **IPMWORKS H2020 funding will stop in October 2024**
- Current concern : find solutions for
 - **Maintaining the network beyond the H2020 program**
 - **Expanding the network (include more hubs and farmers in partner countries)**
 - **Expanding geographically (all EU MSs)**

**To continue helping farmers to decrease pesticide use
through IPM adoption
with the approach of peer-to-peer knowledge exchange**

THANKS for your attention!



The IPM**WORKS** Hub Coach 'Capacity building', May 2022, Toulouse, France



HORIZON 2020
N. 101000339

IPMWORKS is a FarmDemo aligned project and is
partnered with the IPM Decisions Project

