



IPM adoption in my hub

Facilitation approach and progress made in IPM adoption



My group



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PRESENTATION OF THE HUB COACH ORGANISATION

The hub coach MSc Cand. Agro, working as Hub Coach and Farm adviser.

The hub consists of 10 fulltime farmers, and one parttime farmer, who is also a GPS and precision farming manager salesman at New Holland.

THE HUB

The hub consists of eleven farmers with between 100 and 480 ha. The crop rotations include winter cereals (wheat, rye, barley, triticale), spring cereals (barley, oat), winter oilseed rape, potatoes and grass for seeds. The hub is located in an area with large populations of Italian ryegrass, and grass weed management is the focus of the hub. Most of the farms in the hub have resistant ryegrass issues and many of the farmers have previously participated in a national project on grass weed management.

OBJECTIVES AND MOTIVATIONS OF THE FARMERS

The farmers are highly motivated to reduce pesticide use in order to reduce the financial expenses and environmental impact.

DRIVERS

Technical, environmental, economical.

BARRIERS

Funding for new technology
The weather can in some seasons be an obstacle of the best IPM approach.

Farmers that are IPM reluctant can have a hard time seeing the direct and indirect benefit of the IPM approach, in relation to the finance of a quick fix.





IPM challenges and results

IPM Challenges

Most of the farms in the hub have issues with resistance in ryegrass. IPM is already a well-known concept to the farmers and most of them use several tactics to manage ryegrass problems. The expectation of this project has been to optimize the strategies and increase the knowledge of the seed bank placement and management through soil tillage strategies, conservation agriculture and crop rotations that suppress grass weed emergence. Other tactics used are delayed sowing of winter wheat and competitive varieties.



The hub's results

**The main result of this project is that IPM is not a quick fix, it is simply the way forward!
IPM is the only sustainable long-term strategy of farming.**

What issues still need to be addressed ?

- How can herbicide usage be reduced using row cleaners?
- Improved/updated thresholds for pests, so insecticides only are used when it is strictly necessary.
- The experiences from this hub needs to be spread to other field groups/hubs in the local area.

How are the hub farmers going to proceed ?

The farmers are all part of other fields groups and will remain in those. IPM strategies and experiences will be discussed, integrated and further developed.

Key conclusions

Long-term strategies, regarding crop rotation and plant protection.

Quick-fix pesticides strategies won't last, you need long-term strategies with a broad perspective.



Facilitation approaches

What is the specific issue the hub will work on?

The future work for this group is how to distribute the new know-how to other farmers.

How did you proceed? What did you do?

Every event starts with an email invitation. The invitation always contains a program, clearly stating the take-home messages. The meeting usually includes time for coffee and cake, to ensure a low-key atmosphere so that everyone can have time for Q&A's. Trusting that good and bad experiences won't be used against you at a later point.



Facilitation

What conclusions can you draw?

Establishing trust.

Mutual respect between the farmer and advisors.

Making jokes, and a relaxed atmosphere.

My tips for making it work:

A friendly atmosphere is very important, to make room for all types of Q&A's, when we discuss the issues in the field.

Interactive questions, or question polls to start a discussion.

Hands-on learning.

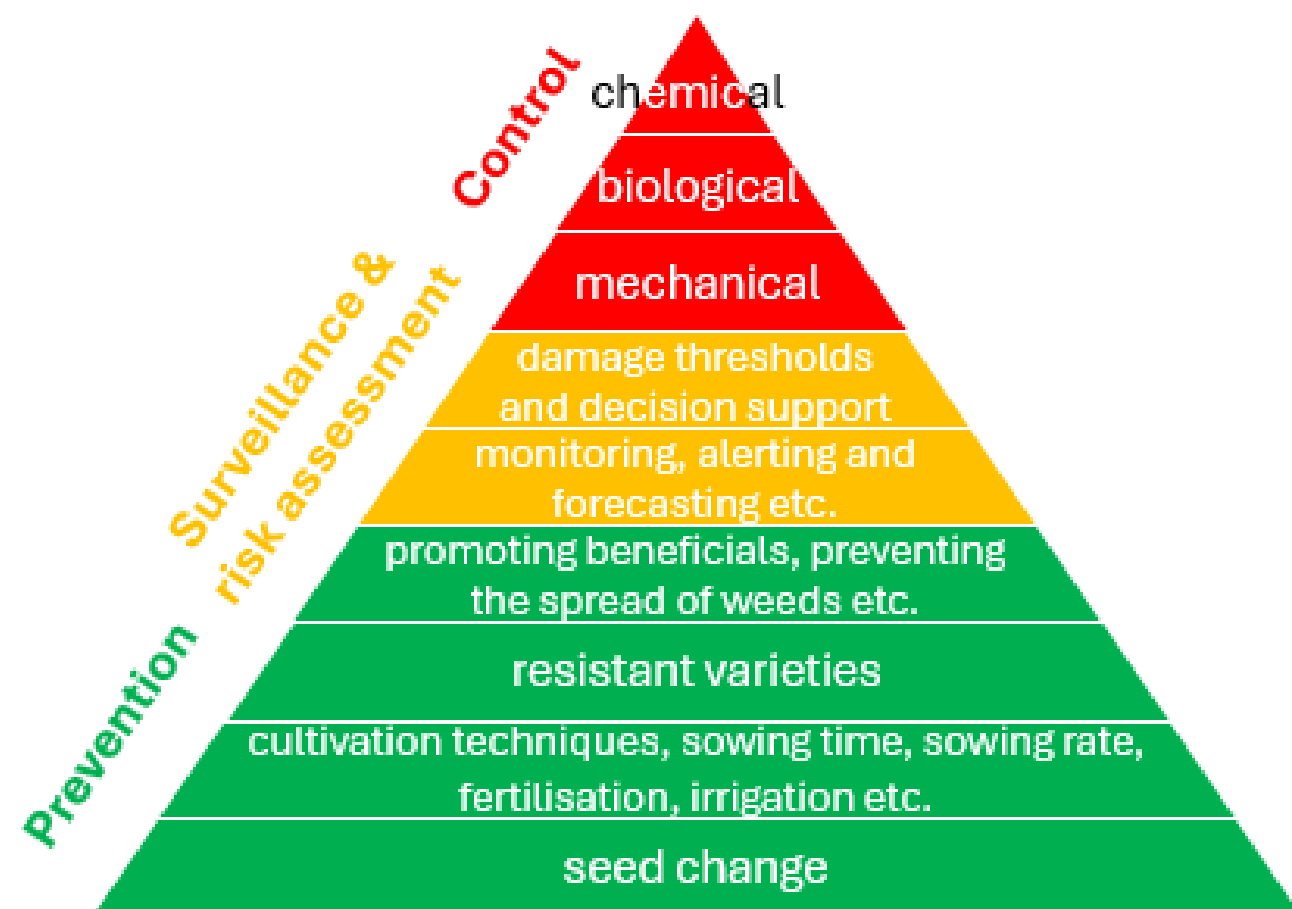
Individual facilitation

Invitation Program
Make it easy and available for the farmer

Collective facilitation

Be responsive to the group's wishes regarding new knowledge.

IPM adoption & pesticide use



The IPM have to be thought in this way – Bottom up. It is an easy tool to understand, and implementation of elements in the farms is achievable.

1. Crop rotation. 2. Field management. 3. Variety choices.
4. Prevention of spreading of weed and 5. Integration of useful animals.

These considerations are useful before using chemical control. Also, it is a more cost-effective way of thinking. Prevention, Prevention, Prevention.



“ A reduction in the pesticide usage is necessary, to maintain their efficiency towards weeds, when truly a problem, and to counter resistance.

Mikkel Møller Østerhaab (HUB Coach)



“ The use of IPM principles is today already highly used in the danish farming system.