



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

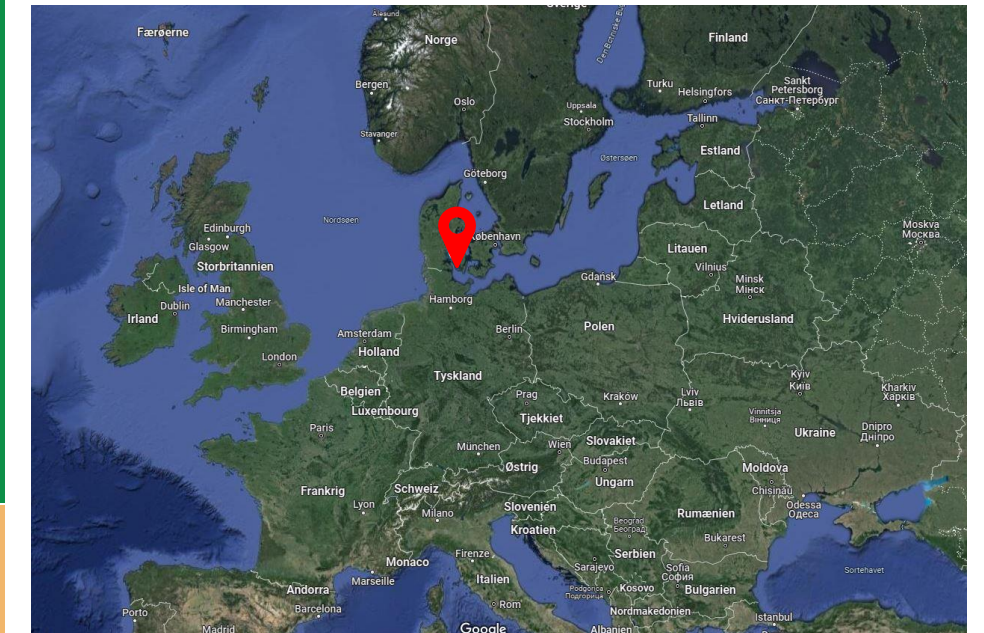
This hub is coordinated by Velas I/S, which is a consulting company for agriculture in Denmark.

The IPMWorks project is hosted by the department of arable crops.

THE HUB

Our hub consists of 7 arable crop farms, which are located in the Southern of Jutland and Fyn. The farmers cultivate crops such as wheat, rye, oilseed-rape, oat, barley, field bean, spinach for seed, rye grass for seed and red fescue for seed.

The hub focus is to reduce the amount of grass weeds without the use of additional herbicides.



OBJECTIVES AND MOTIVATIONS OF THE FARMERS

The main objective is to control grass weed without herbicides.

Our farmers are interested in alternative solutions to herbicide use, for example late sowing date, increasing spring seed, rotational ploughing, false seed bed etc.

The farmers are also working towards more effective use of technologies (e.g., the use of drones and decisions basis based on apps).

DRIVERS

Control of grass weeds (e.g., Italian ryegrass/*loium multiflorum* and Black Grass/*Alopecurus myosuroides*), in our arable crops as we don't have many herbicides available.

Furthermore, a high seed production in Denmark demands a clean grass seed product, which must not be contaminated with other grasses.

BARRIERS

The farmers mainly have winter crops where the weed grass thrive as their growing seasons are similar.

Furthermore, the grass has developed resistance to herbicides. Therefore, the farmers need to find other solutions than herbicides; IPM.



IPM challenges and results

IPM Challenges

What were the main IPM challenges?

The farmers have a strong focus on economic aspects (high yields and winter crops). It is a challenge to change the mind-set and the practice to more spring crops and lower yields due to increasing costs (inflation).

The hub's results

What progress has the hub made on these challenges ?

The farmers have a better understanding of the different IPM-tools and how to work with them. They have gained a lot of know-how and knowledge about management of the seed pool with rotational ploughing, false seed beds etc.

What issues still need to be addressed ?

We still need to work on more spring crops in the crop rotations on some of the farms and more knowledge and use of technologies, such as drones.

How are the hub farmers going to proceed ?

After the end of the project the group will most likely continue with Velas leading the hub coordination. The farmers are very interested in continuing the work with demos and exchange of experiences with IPM with one another.

Key conclusions

The contribution of 'soft skills' to the hub and issue management

During our demo-events and meetings during the season, we always discuss and exchange experiences on both machinery and crop management practice.

We meet in the field and the farmers take turns being the host. From meeting to meeting, we can see the improvement of the IPM-actions on the farms.

We also invite guests to come and speak during our meetings. It could be a professional from one of the herbicide corporations or a professor from a university. They tell and show the most up-to date knowledge of IPM and give inspiration to the farmers.





Facilitation approaches

What is the issue the hub work on more precisely?

The farmers have a strong focus on economic aspects. They aim for high yields and prefer winter crops. It is a challenge to change their mind-set and practices to more spring crops and lower yields due to increasing costs (inflation).

How did you proceed? What did you do?

We showed a lot of data on how we can bring down the amount of grass weed with spring crops and the other IPM-actions (as seen on the next slide). We also tested the grass weed for resistance and found that we have a limited use of herbicides.



Individual facilitation

Individual facilitation with hub members were conducted during farm visits field-monitoring of demos, setup of demos, data collection (surveys) and via emails and telephone conversation.

Importance of data and field-trips

What conclusions can you draw?

The group were willing to try other methods than herbicides. Especially when we took the test for resistance in the grass weed. It was an eye opener and a call, that we needed to do something different. We can no longer rely on the herbicides to control our problems.

My tips for making it work

Show your farmers that you need to do something different (e.g., with the resistance test). Keep an open dialogue and make sure that they get into the fields and see the problems and especially the solutions with their own eyes. Also, try to schedule the meetings outside of harvest and sowing-season.



Collective facilitation

Collective facilitation within the hubs was done during our hub-meetings and demo-events.



IPM adoption & pesticide use



The food pyramid aka. The IPM-pyramid!

“Farmer’s awareness of IPM adoption has increased during the project and IPM-tools are now used on all the farms. There is also a will to work with technologies such as the use of drones for weed recognition.”

“We use all the IPM-tools that make sense on the farms. It is going very well, as our farmers are very interested in reducing the grass weeds without the use of additional herbicides and they are very willing to make an effort in our demos.”

Astrid Møllebjerg