



# Evaluation report on the policy engagement

Deliverable D7.5

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An EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective IPM strategies  
Coordination and Support Action (CSA)  
01 October 2020 – 31 March 2025 (54 months)

# Deliverable D7.5

## Evaluation report on the policy engagement

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**Author List:** Joaquín Balduque (IAMZ-CIHEAM)

Alun Jones (IAMZ-CIHEAM)

**Reviewed by:** Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE)

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>PU</b> | Public   |
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# A**bstract**

The deliverable at hand is entitled D7.5. “Evaluation report on the policy engagement”. This document is part of work package 7 IPM policy engagement and sustainability strategy (WP7). The main objectives of WP7 are to keep policy makers and key stakeholders in the agri-food chain informed about IPM, connect policy makers in charge of the implementation of the Directive SUD and the National Action Plans with the European demonstration network, interact with policy makers and stakeholders and encourage them to participate in demonstration activities and promote the sustainability of the structure and methods developed during the IPMWORKS project. D7.5 is framed within Task 7.1, entitled “Establish an IPM Network of engaged policy makers across Europe”, which aims to establish both European and national networks of policy makers actively engaged in IPM. The activities at the European level consist of a regular European Parliament (EP) technical dialogue in cooperation with Directorates-General (DG) AGRI/SANTE/ENV/RTD with the aim of creating synergies between the IPM Demo Network and the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC, in order to explain technical developments in IPM practices, and identify future areas for improvement. IPMWORKS policy dialogues have taken place at key strategic moments related to the EU policy debate and institutional decision-making on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) proposal which unfortunately was withdrawn on 22 November 2023. After this, the European institutions and key stakeholders began a period of reflection on the next steps in response to the rejection of the proposal, with the discussion focusing on which elements of the proposal could be salvaged in future legislative proposals. This whole scenario has meant that the policy dialogues held by IPMWORKS, their conclusions and the policy recommendations developed around them have been able to add great value to the Commission's on-going deliberations on the sustainable use of pesticides. A summary and description of the IPMWORKS policy engagement during its policy activities is provided in this deliverable.

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# 1. IPMWORKS: 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.

The objective of IPMWORKS is to promote the adoption of IPM strategies, based on a EU-wide network of farmers, who 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. IPMWORKS coordinates existing networks promoting IPM and launched new hubs of farms in regions or sectors where IPM pioneers were not yet engaged in a relevant network. Advisors coordinating hubs have a major role in facilitating knowledge sharing, coaching farmers to find their own IPM solutions, and organising local demonstration activities. IPMWORKS stimulates access to the ‘IPM Decisions’ platform and provides information on the IPM methods. It collects data for comparing IPM strategies, and shares results and dissemination material through channels widely used by farmers, broadcasting IPM success stories. It organises training, and produces 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.

The demonstration of cost-efficiency of IPM is based on data describing the details of cropping systems and pest management in farms involved in the network. IPMWORKS is also producing a range of data of various nature for dissemination and communication purpose: videos of farmers' testimonies, videos of demonstration events, leaflets describing cost-effective IPM-based strategies, etc.).

Project Acronym	IPMWORKS
<b>Project title</b>	An EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective IPM strategies
<b>Grant agreement No.</b>	101000339
<b>Project co-ordination</b>	Dr Nicolas MUNIER-JOLAIN, INRAE, Dijon
<b>Email</b>	nicolas.munier-jolain@inrae.fr

## 2. Introduction

This deliverable D7.5. “Evaluation report on the policy engagement” is part of work package 7 IPM policy engagement and sustainability strategy (WP7). The overall aim of WP7 was to actively engage policy-makers and stakeholders as expert advocates on IPM to strive for sustainability of the IPM Demo network beyond the project. The main objectives have been to:

- keep policy makers and key stakeholders in the agri-food chain informed about IPM,
- connect policy makers in charge of the implementation of the Directive SUD and the National Action Plans with the European demonstration network,
- interact with policy makers and stakeholders and encourage them to participate in demonstration activities,
- promote the sustainability of the structure and methods developed during the IPMWORKS project.

D7.5 is framed within Task 7.1, entitled “Establish an IPM Network of engaged policy makers across Europe”. This task aims to establish both European and national networks of policy makers actively engaged in IPM. The activities at the European level consist of a regular European Parliament (EP) technical dialogue in cooperation with Directorates-General (DG) AGRI/SANTE/ENV/RTD with the aim of creating synergies between the IPM Demo Network and the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC, in order to explain technical developments in IPM practices, and identify future areas for improvement. IPMWORKS policy dialogues have taken place at key strategic moments related to the EU policy debate and institutional decision-making on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) proposal which unfortunately was withdrawn on 22 November 2023. After this, the European institutions and key stakeholders began a period of reflection on the next steps in response to the rejection of the proposal, with the discussion focusing on which elements of the proposal could be salvaged in future legislative proposals. This whole scenario has meant that the policy dialogues held by IPMWORKS, their conclusions and the policy recommendations developed around them have been able to add great value to the Commission's on-going deliberations on the sustainable use of pesticides. A summary and description of the IPMWORKS policy engagement during its policy activities is provided in this deliverable.

The IPMWORKS European network of policy-makers for IPM began its work as reflected in D7.1 when the following was achieved “A European Network of Policy Makers established”. D7.1 reflected the achieved target of carrying out a regular European Parliament (EP) technical dialogue on IPM which was organised four times during the project: May 2022 (Farm Demo conference), February 2023 (EP exhibition), May 2023 (EP hearing) and January 2025 (EP policy seminar) - see below). In addition to those four technical dialogues at the European level, and until the end of the project, we also organised a European Policy and Stakeholders’ Seminar in





Brussels, the IPM Conference 2024 (final IPMWORKS conference), delivered a specialised training on IPM to EFSA and EU Commission. In addition, and similarly to the activities at the European level, IPMWORKS National Focal Points (NFPs) coordinated national stakeholder workshops in each of the consortium countries with the national entities related with Agriculture, Environment and Food and the implementation of the SUD Directive.

A summary and description of the IPMWORKS policy engagement during all these activities is provided in this deliverable.



## 3. IPM Policy Engagement

IPMWORKS has established a European Network of Policy Makers during its lifetime, as reflected in deliverable D7.1 ‘Establishment of a European Network of Policy Makers’. During the first two years of the project, it was a challenge to organise physical meetings with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and other policy makers, due to the in-person meeting constraints imposed by COVID restrictions. In addition, we have been heavily dependent on the EP calendar and MEPs’ willingness to engage, which has often been a significant challenge but one which we were able to overcome. In spite of these challenges, the CIHEAM Zaragoza team has been able to convince MEPs and EC policy-makers of the importance of engaging on this issue. We achieved our objectives with outstanding success in the end, engaging on four key occasions with key MEPs and on numerous times with other EC institutions and stakeholders (often unrivalled by many H2020 projects in terms of policy outreach). It should be noted that this is probably the first time that two EP committees have dedicated a hearing to an H2020 project, as was the case on 23 May 2023, as well as a remarkable debate in the form of a political seminar on 15 January 2025, with 70 persons in total present in the room and the active participation of 6 MEPs, European Commission members, as well as more than 140 registered online. The EP exhibition organised in February 2023 also attracted the attention of 60 MEPs, the EC AGRI Commissioner, the Head of Cabinet of the EC SANTE Commissioner and various stakeholders.

### 3.1. European Network of Policy-Makers for IPM

The IPMWORKS activities at the European level have consisted of a regular European Parliament (EP) technical dialogue in cooperation with Directorates-General (DG) AGRI/SANTE/ENV/RTD with the aim to create synergies between the IPM Demo Network and the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC, in order to explain technical developments in IPM practices, and identify future areas for improvement. Figure 1 reflects and summarises the total number of MEPs who have participated in the several IPMWORKS policy events.

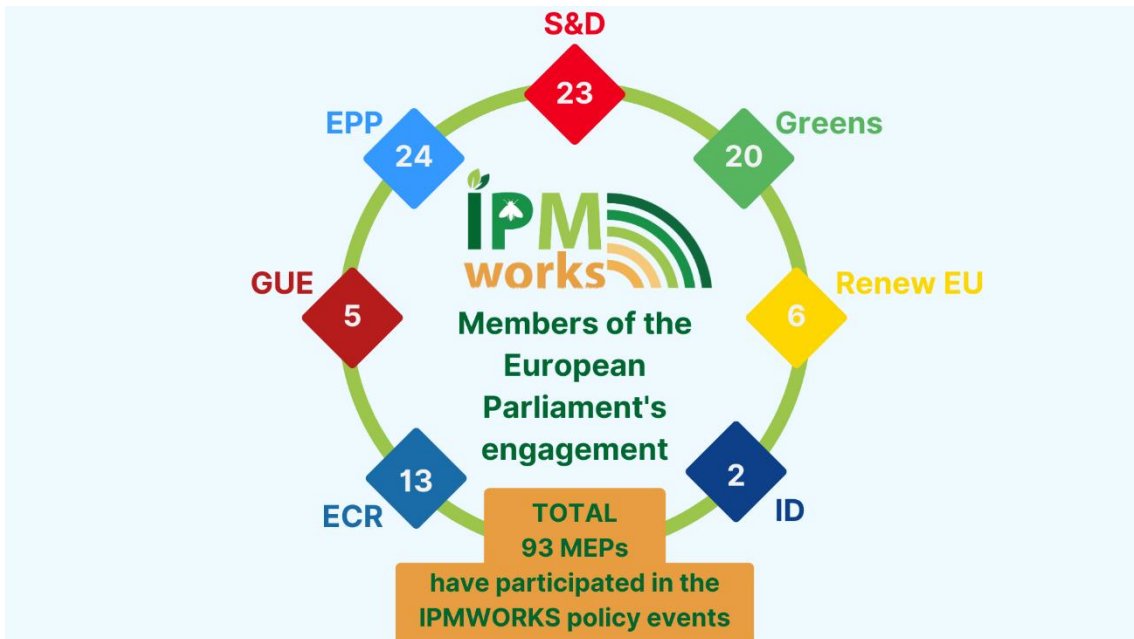


Figure 1. Total number of Members of the European Parliament participating in the IPMWORKS policy events.

In addition to this, Figure 2 shows the total number of participants in all policy events, showing the number of persons, institutions and countries, as well as the reference to the national stakeholder workshops performed in each of the 16 countries of the consortium (presented in section 3.9).

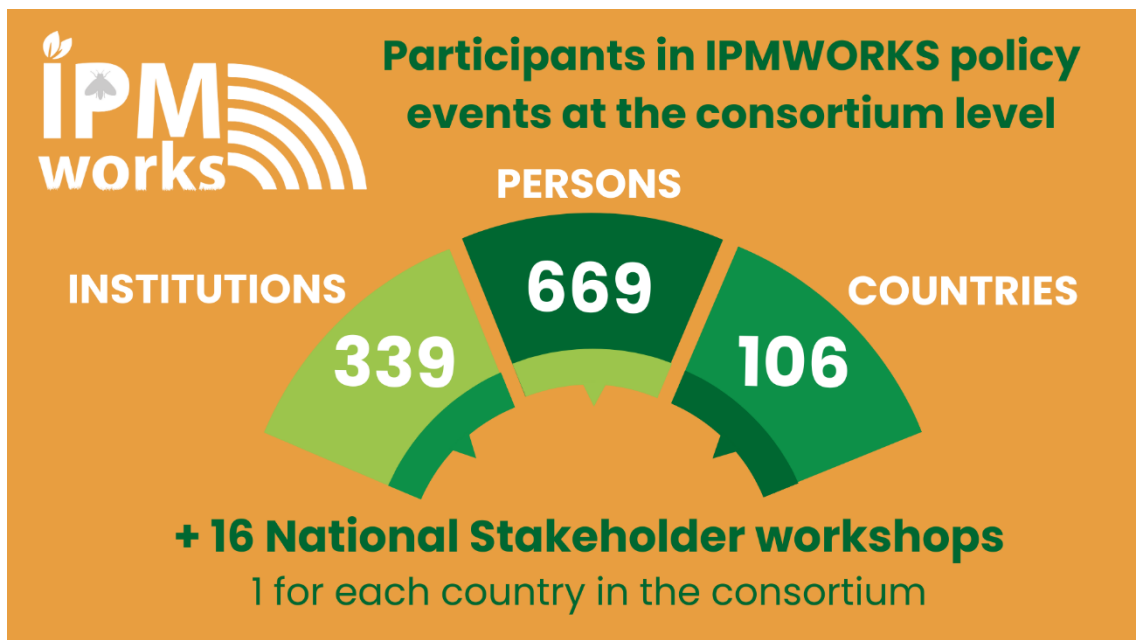


Figure 2. Total number of participants in all IPMWORKS policy events

A [webpage dedicated to this “European Network of Policy-Makers for IPM”](#) has been published and is available on IPMWORKS website. This dedicated page contains a user-friendly presentation of the activities carried out and includes the following: a description of the main IPMWORKS policy engagement activities; IPMWORKS information materials from WP6; project

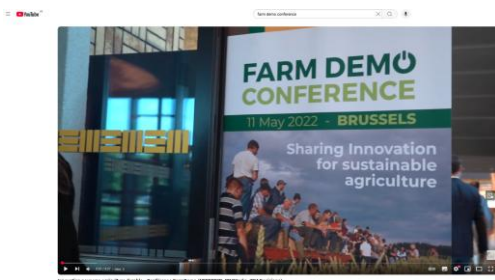
Booklets #1 and #2 (available in the national languages covered by the project); the project’s leaflets; and the IPMWORKS e-learning modules (with chapters in the national languages covered by the project). In addition to this, the user can access the IPMWORKS Policy recommendations (D7.4), the 16 national stakeholder workshops’ reports and the highlights section which includes updates on IPM.

### 3.2. First Policy Dialogue and Demo conference

The first Policy Dialogue and Demo conference under the IPMWORKS project were held (along with the two sister projects NEFERTITI and IPM Decisions), with the participation of Directorates-General AGRI, SANTE and RTD and one key MEP Clara Aguilera, at the time from the EP AGRI Committee (later EP rapporteur for the EP AGRI Committee on the SUR proposal), as well as a number of national policy-makers, in Brussels on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The activities also included a Farm Demo Conference ‘Sharing Innovation for sustainable agriculture’.

The aim of these events was to raise awareness of Policy Makers at EU, national and regional levels, about the significance of Farm Demo networks to support the general adoption of sustainable farming practises based on holistic IPM, and about the sustainability of our network and approaches beyond 2024. The objectives of this first Policy Dialogue event were (i) to inform relevant policy makers about the projects’ networks, methods, and tools, and (ii) to discuss the longer-term sustainability and possible extension of the Farm Demo networks (and tools). The results supported and provided input to the policy recommendation process of NEFERTITI WP6 and IPMWORKS WP7.

The Conference on ‘Farm Demo – Sharing Innovation for sustainable agriculture’ was open to farmers, advisory services, retailers, agro-industries, researcher and policy makers involved in the dissemination of more sustainable agricultural practices. The objectives were to showcase the networks of demo farms, the associated tools supporting the improvement of farming practices, and the specific approach to promote peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and experiences. More than 100 participants joined the Conference, which was organized as successive panels, also including a poster session and three successive workshops, designed and facilitated to let participants actively engage in the discussions and have a concrete vision of the methods and resources produced by the three projects. The Conference ended with a final panel about the future of sustainable farming.



See the video reportage of the Farm Demo Conference, from the IPMWORKS YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3DhEU9VOp0>



### 3.3. IPMWORKS Exhibition in the European Parliament in Strasbourg

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023, IPMWORKS organised the second face to face policy dialogue in the form of an exhibition at the European Parliament in Strasbourg “Towards a Europe without pesticides within the framework of the European Green Deal and the reform of the SUD/SUR directive”, with the support of Claude Gruffat MEP (Greens, France). During the exhibition, IPMWORKS agronomy experts and farmers from across Europe presented the project’s results and good IPM practices face to face and one to one to almost 60 MEPs for an average time of 15 minutes per MEP. MEPs from a wide range of countries and political groups, were represented, amongst which the majority from the AGRI and ENVI Committees. The Agricultural Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski, the Presidents of both European Parliament AGRI and ENVI Committees and a number the EP rapporteurs also visited the exhibition.

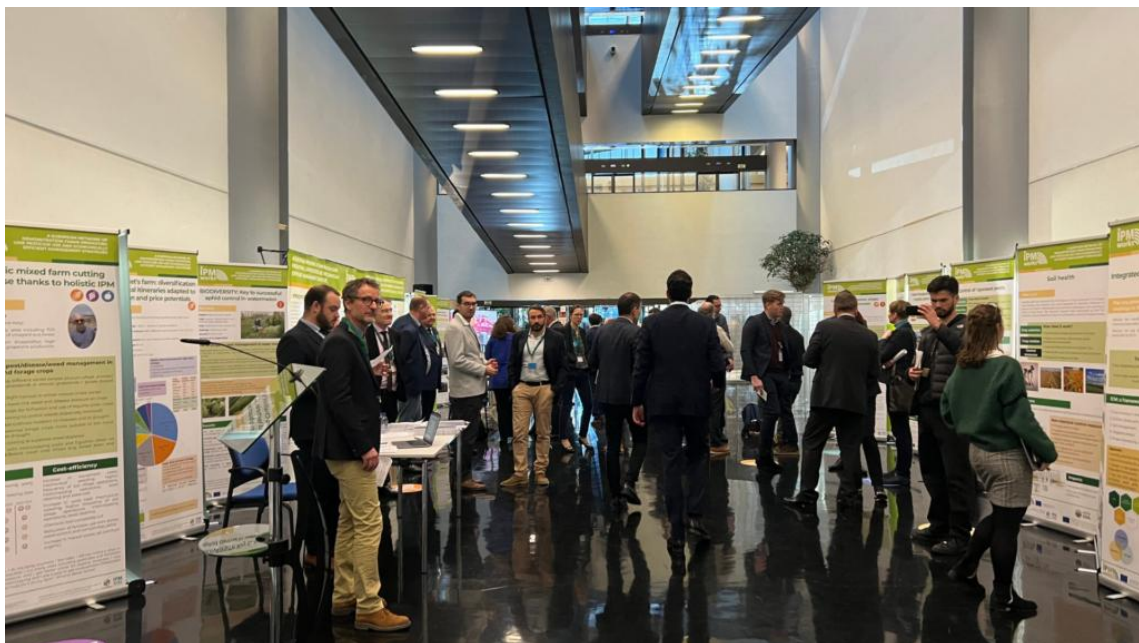


Figure 3. From 13 to 16 February 2023, IPMWORKS organised an exhibition at the European Parliament in Strasbourg “Towards a Europe without pesticides within the framework of the European Green Deal and the reform of the SUR”

The IPMWORKS exhibition included over 25 real case examples of how farmers are working to reduce or remove pesticides from their daily agricultural practices. Our exhibition was also joined by exhibitors and members from the IPMDecisions H2020 project, IBMA and IFOAM. The exhibition was visited by Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski and Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Kyriakides Giorgos Rossides, as well as by the MEPs listed below:

- Sarah Wiener, Greens AU
- Saskia Bricmont, Greens BE
- Tom Vandenkendelaere, EPP B
- Margrete Auken, Greens DK
- Clara Aguilera, S&D ES
- César Luena, S&D ES
- Maria Eugenia Rodriguez Palop, GUE ES



- Jordi Solé, Greens/EFA ES
- Herman Tertsch, ECR ES
- Petri Sarvamaa, EPP FI
- Eric Andrieu, S&D FR
- Benoit Biteau, Greens FR
- Karima Delli, Greens FR
- Claude Gruffat, Greens FR
- Yannick Jadot, Greens FR
- Michele Rivasi, Greens FR
- Pascal Canfin, Renew Europe FR
- Gabriele Bischoff, S&D GE
- Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg, Greens GE
- Norbert Lins, EPP GE
- Maria Noichl, S&D GE
- Jutta Paulus, Greens GE
- Manuela Ripa, Greens GE
- Christine Schneider, EPP GE
- Frances Fitzgerald, EPP IR
- Billy Kelleher, Renew IR
- Sean Kelly, EPP IR
- Chris MacManus, GUE IR
- Colm Markey, EPP IR
- Grace O’Sullivan, Greens IR
- Maria Walsh, EPP IR
- Herbert Dorfmann, EPP IT
- Elena Lizzi, ID IT
- Daniela Rondinelli, S&D IT
- Paolo De Santos, S&D IT
- Paolo Di Castro, S&D IT
- Charles Goerens, Renew LU
- Tilly Metz, Greens LU
- Jan Huitema, Renew Europe NL
- Bert-Jan Ruissen, ECR NL
- Marek Belka, S&D PL
- Robert Biedroń, S&D PL
- Anna Fotyga, ECR PL
- Elzbieta Kruk, ECR PL
- Patryk Jaki, ECR PL
- Krzysztof Jurgiel, ECR PL
- Zbigniew Kuzmiuk, ECR PL
- Bogusław Liberadzki, S&D PL
- Beata Mazurek, ECR PL



- Andzelika Anna Mozdzanowska, ECR PL
- Elżbieta Rafalska, ECR PL
- Bogdan Rzońca, ECR PL
- Sylwia Spurek, Greens PL
- Joao Albuquerque, S&D PT
- Alvaro Amaro, EPP PT
- Isabel Carvalhais, S&D PT
- Francisco Guerreiro, Greens PT
- Sandra Pereira, GUE PT
- Franc Bogovic, EPP SL
- Klemen Groselj, Renew SL

### 3.4. European Parliament Joint hearing of ENVI and AGRI Committees on IPMWORKS

CIHEAM Zaragoza also put forward a proposal to the EP AGRI and ENVI Committees to hold a dedicated hearing on the IPMWORKS project. This was well received by the Bureau of both AGRI and ENVI Committees resulting in a dedicated hearing of both Committees for the IPMWORKS project on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. At the time, the European Parliament was debating the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) and it was a great opportunity to make IPMWORKS better known to MEPs, and to explain how IPM is indeed working across over 22 demo hubs and 250 farms across Europe. Two farmers (a field vegetable producer in Portugal, and a strawberry producer in Flanders, Belgium) provided information on their motivations and solutions they were implementing to effectively reduce the use of pesticides. Eduardo Crisol told MEPs about his role as a Hub Coach/facilitator to promote biocontrol solutions and solutions to introduce auxiliary biodiversity in greenhouses in Andalusia. Two examples of farms, one in mixed farming in France and the other in field potato production in the Netherlands, were used to illustrate the diversity of strategic approaches to significantly reduce the use of pesticides in arable field crops.





Figure 4. Dedicated hearing of both AGRI and ENVI Committees for the IPMWORKS project on 23 May 2023.

Results were shown about estimates of pesticide use across IPMWORKS farms, and about self-assessment of farmers for (i) the quality of pest control, (ii) work load, and (iii) farm profitability. Finally, quantitative results were presented from the French IPMWORKS-affiliated DEPHY network (which has 12 years of experience in IPM promotion and data collection), to show that the adoption of strategies aimed at reducing dependence on pesticides does not necessarily result in a loss of agricultural productivity at the farm level.

### 3.5. IPMWORKS European Policy and Stakeholders' Seminar

On 13 May 2024, IPMWORKS held the European Policy Seminar “Boosting IPM implementation in the EU” at COPA COGECA premises in Brussels aiming to engage key agri-food stakeholders in identifying tools, methods and practices to increase the implementation of IPM and reduce pesticides use in the EU. The event, carried out in the framework of IPMWORKS WP7 ‘IPM policy engagement and sustainability strategy’ and organized by CIHEAM Zaragoza and ACTA aimed to contribute to boosting the implementation of IPM in the EU through an exchange session with various types of stakeholders.

The seminar was opened with a welcome from Paula de Vera of COPA COGECA and an Introduction to the IPMWORKS project by Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE), the IPMWORKS project coordinator, followed by the presentation “What now for future EU Plant Protection and IPM Policies?” by Natasha Foote, freelance journalist, specialised in EU agri-food policy.

The first session, chaired by Alun Jones (CIHEAM Zaragoza), IPMWORKS WP7 IPM Policy engagement Lead, was entitled ‘Overcoming obstacles to broadening the implementation of IPM’. This part of the seminar had the following presentations:





- Implementation of IPM in outdoor vegetable sector in Portugal (Bruno Neves – Farmer)
- Farmers and Producers organisations’ point of view (Paula de Vera – Copa Cogeca)
- The Role of Advisory Service Network in Knowledge Transfer (Urban Hrovatič – SEASN)
- Biocontrol solutions for plant protection (Isabelle Pinzauti, IBMA Biocontrol industry)
- The role of research, innovation, and knowledge exchange in promoting IPM implementation (Gisela Quaglia – DG AGRI)
- Policy recommendations for scaling IPM adoption through IPM demo networks (Laure Triste & Hilde Wustenberghs – ILVO)

Several key conclusions were highlighted. Firstly, peer-to-peer learning, as implemented in the IPMWORKS project with farmer groups (‘hubs’), enables farmers to give concrete meaning to IPM and adapt it to their own context. Regarding the central role of advisers and support needs, it is worth pointing out that, advisers, as facilitators of farmer groups, play a crucial role in disseminating IPM. While they generally have solid technical expertise, they also need support in developing their facilitation, communication and group management skills. Concerning the importance of political and financial support, one of the major challenges for the dissemination of IPM is the lack of adequate funding for advisory services, particularly in southern European countries. The commitment of public authorities is crucial to ensure sustainable financial support for advisory services and enable them to play their full role in the transition to more sustainable agriculture. In addition, if we want to reach the systemic and societal objective of sustainable agriculture on the long-term, IPM dissemination will require a multi-actor approach involving farmers, advisors, researchers, professional organisations, public authorities, distributors and consumers. In summary, the session highlighted the potential of peer-to-peer learning and the central role of advisers in disseminating IPM. However, for this approach to bear fruit, strong political and financial support is needed, as well as increased collaboration between the various players in the food chain.



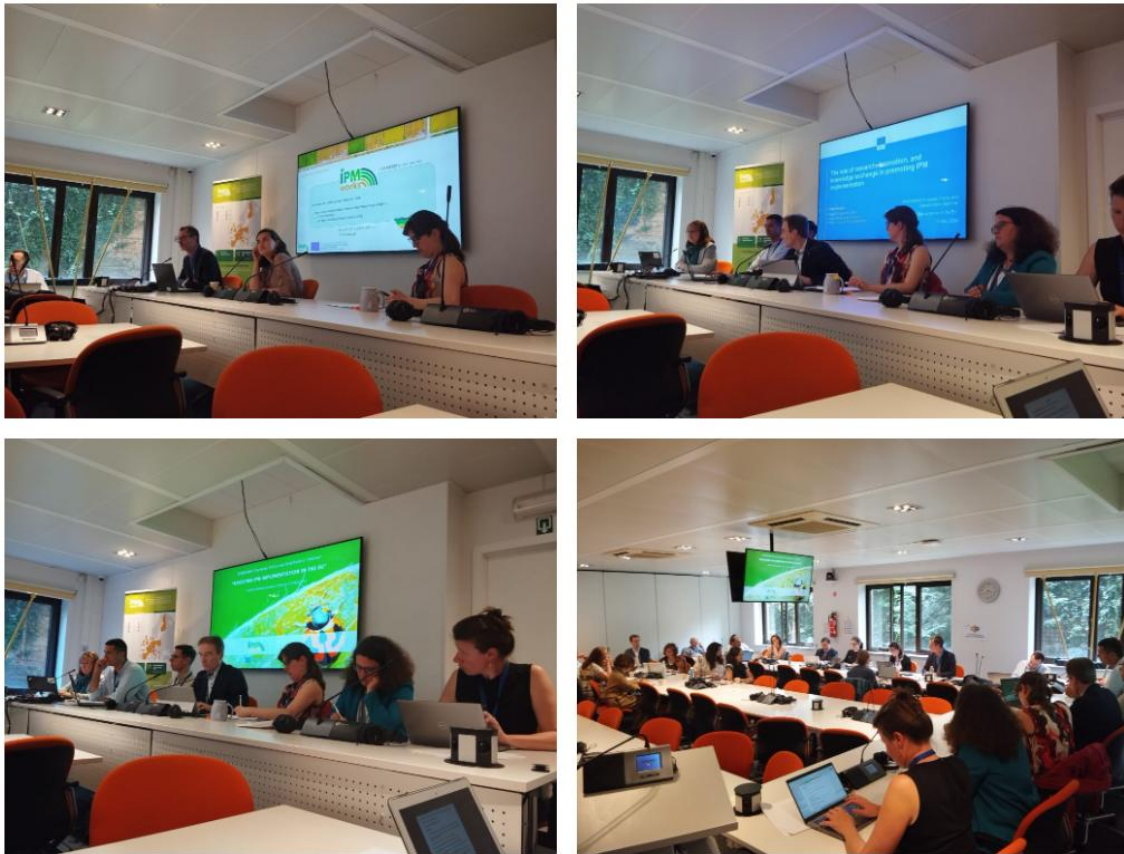


Figure 5. IPMWORKS European Policy and Stakeholders' Seminar on 13 May 2024

The second session, chaired by Adrien Guichaoua (ACTA, IPMWORKS WP7 IPM Policy-Engagement co-lead) was dedicated to “How to engage the food industry, consumers and civil society into IPM based products?”. This part of the seminar had the following interventions:

- IPM labelling: added value through sustainability in Switzerland (Sandie Masson – Agroscope)
- Engagement of Agri-food chain (Stefanie de Kool – SMK)
- Communicating with consumers about integrated pest management (Luigi Tozzi – Safe Food Advocacy Europe)
- Towards solutions that work for everyone, farmers & the planet (Arnaud Schwartz – European Economic and Social Committee, NAT Section)
- The role of crops protection sector to increase IPM practices (Anne Alix – CropLife Europe)
- Making IPM work for people and nature (Clara Bourgin – Friends of the Earth)

A number of conclusions were drawn on the challenge of involving agri-food chains, supermarkets, retailers and consumers in the promotion of integrated pest management. One of the main barriers to widespread adoption of IPM is the lack of economic incentives for farmers. IPM practices can represent additional costs for farmers, particularly in terms of labour, advice and biocontrol products. For IPM to become a reality for the majority of farmers, it is essential that farmers are able to derive an economic benefit from it. This implies that players in the food chain, and retailers in particular, recognise the added value of IPM products and are prepared to pay a higher price for them. Retailers have a crucial role to play in promoting IPM because of their market power. By demanding IPM-certified products, retailers can encourage



farmers to adopt these practices. This has been seen in the Netherlands with the ‘On the way to Planet Proof’ label. However, the proliferation of labels and the complexity of certification schemes can be problematic. Consumer’s risk being lost in the face of this diversity of labels and struggle to find their way around. On the other hand, promoting IPM cannot rely on market mechanisms alone. It also requires strong policy interventions to support the transition to more sustainable food systems. This includes better funding for advisory services, tighter regulations on pesticides and better remuneration for farmers for the ecosystem services they provide. Beyond labels, it is important to communicate transparently about farmers' practices and highlight the efforts they are making to produce more sustainably. Projects such as IPMWORKS, professional organisations and public authorities have a role to play in sharing IPM success stories and giving farmers a voice.

As a general conclusion, the seminar highlighted that the transition towards a more sustainable agriculture, based on IPM principles, is a major challenge that requires collective action. The seminar stressed the importance of an integrated approach, involving all actors in the food chain and supported by ambitious public policies.

### 3.6. IPM Conference 2024

The IPM Conference 2024, final IPMWORKS conference, was organised jointly by IPMWORKS and IPM Decisions, and took place on May 14th, 2024, in Brussels, i.e. a few months after the SUR proposal had been rejected by the European Parliament, and a few weeks after the protests of European farmers that drove the European Commission to withdraw the targets of halving the use and risk of chemical pesticides and halving the use of more hazardous pesticides.

The Conference was the opportunity to showcase the main outcomes of the projects, including testimonies of farmers reducing pesticide use thanks to a holistic approach to IPM, testimonies of IPMWORKS hub coaches about their role in facilitating peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and IPM adoption, and tools resources (IPM Decisions platform providing an easy access to a number of Decision Support Systems dedicated to IPM, the IPM resource Tool box, the IPMWORKS e-learning modules, etc.). The event was attended by about 150 participants from 25 countries, including quite a number of representatives of the European Commission interested in hearing about our activities and achievements in promoting more sustainable pest management on European farms.





Figure 6. IPM Conference 2024, final IPMWORKS conference on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The Conference was supported and introduced by the European Commission, through the introductory speech of Diego Canga Fano (Director at DG AGRI), who delivered messages from the Commission regarding the sustainable use of pesticides in the EU. The Conference session ‘IPM in action’ showed an excellent overview of holistic IPM, as implemented by IPMWORKS farmers, thanks to the testimony of farmers (either present on stage, or showcasing their motivations and technical IPM options through videos), Hub Coaches, and IPMWORKS experts. Several Hub Coaches explained the specific IPMWORKS methodology based on peer-to-peer learning, and the daily work of Hub Coaches with farmers, to help them find IPM solutions adapted to the farm specificities, and demonstrate to a wider audience that it is indeed efficient and cost-effective.

Parallel interactive workshops gave the opportunity to showcase some outcomes of the projects, including the IPM Resource Toolbox, the IPM Decisions platform, and the IPMWORKS e-learning modules, and to go deeper into some major aspects of IPM development.

### 3.7. Specialised training on IPM delivered to EFSA and EU Commission staff under IPMWORKS

On 6 June 2024, CIHEAM Zaragoza organised a specialised training on IPM for EFSA and EU Commission staff under IPMWORKS. The hybrid session had a high level of attendance, with 32 EFSA members attending in person at EFSA premises and 8 EU institution staff members remotely connected, including DG AGRI, DG SANTE, JRC and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament.





Figure 7. Specialised training on IPM delivered to EFSA and EU Commission staff under IPMWORKS, on 6 June 2024

The training was based on the IPMWORKS e-learning modules. The materials that make up these modules have been prepared based on successful experiences within the project network, including topics such as plant health risk challenges, different case studies, specific IPM tools and techniques as well as methods for coaching farmers towards the adoption of cost-effective IPM strategies.

After the opening and introduction by Alun Jones (CIHEAM Zaragoza), Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE) and Joaquín Balduque (CIHEAM Zaragoza), the training started with a first session about Hub Coaches, Risks and Challenges, SUD implementation with the presentations “The Hub Coach, an advisor in action to promote IPM” by Giovanni Pecchioni (SSSA), “Pest resurgence and emerging risks” by Joaquín Balduque (CIHEAM Zaragoza), “Can IPM help mitigating the risk of emerging plant pests? Some key examples” by Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA) and “How the SUD has been implemented in Denmark” by Per Kudsk (Aarhus University).

The second session focused on Integrated Weed Management, with Mette Sønderskov (Aarhus University) presenting “Introduction to IWM & Individual tactics” and Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE) sharing the case study “Integrated Weed Management - Arable crops”.

On the third part, Tito Caffi (UCSC) presented the materials for Integrated Disease Management with his presentations on “Applied epidemiology for disease control” and “Integrated Disease Management - Processing tomato”.

The last session was dedicated to Integrated Invertebrate Pest Management & Assessment of an IPM system. In this part, Eleanor Dearlove (ADAS) presented “Invertebrate Pest Management. Non-chemical options” and “Biocontrol of invertebrate pests”. In addition, Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE) presented “Measuring pesticide use and impact” and “Assessment of IPM-based cropping systems”.



The event concluded with a Round table on IPM near future, chaired by Alun Jones (CIHEAM Zaragoza) and with closing remarks from Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE), IPMWORKS project coordinator.

This event was an extraordinary opportunity to keep spreading the word about IPMWORKS and about how IPM allows a lower reliance on pesticides with better pest control, reduced costs and enhanced profitability. All attendees showed a deep interest and active engagement during the training with practically all attendees persevering through the intense programme and attending nearly all sessions despite their busy schedules.

### 3.8. IPMWORKS European Policy Seminar at the European Parliament

On 15 January 2025, IPMWORKS organised, together with Christophe Clergeau MEP, a European Policy Seminar on “Supporting farmers to reduce pesticides use through the effective implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)”. This event was yet another step forward within the framework of IPMWORKS’ policy engagement activities, led by CIHEAM Zaragoza, with 70 persons in total present in the room and the active participation of 6 MEPs, European Commission members, as well as more that 140 registered online participants. The event gave the opportunity to reinstantiate the debate on the topic of sustainable use of pesticides a few months after the rejection of the SUR proposal by the European Parliament.



Figure 8. IPMWORKS European Policy Seminar at the European Parliament, organised together with Christophe Clergeau MEP, on 15 January 2025

The seminar started with the opening of Christophe Clergeau MEP, addressing how IPM agricultural extension and management practices can be improved in order to reduce pesticides use in line with the sustainable use of pesticides Directive (SUD). IPMWORKS’ Project Coordinator Nicolas Munier-Jolain (INRAE) presented the holistic approach to IPM for pesticides reduction. The second session, chaired by Joaquín Balduque (CIHEAM Zaragoza), addressed how IPM can be boosted through basic IPM principles. Shay Phelan (TEAGASC) explained how to



deliver on IPM management practices for farmers through advisory and extension support. Mark Ramsden (ADAS) presented Improved digital decisions for improved crop protection (DSSs tools). A Round Table on the future of IPM, chaired by Alun Jones (CIHEAM Zaragoza) and with the participation of the MEPs, was held at the end of the seminar, assessing if SUD and its present IPM practices will be sufficient to reach the European Union's commitments on pesticides reduction.

The seminar was a great success in bringing pivotal actors and stakeholders together with EU policy makers in order to address support and incentives for farmers to make the sustainable use of pesticides a reality on all farms. The seminar highlighted that collaborative efforts are crucial, and that IPM has immense potential to enhance the sustainability of agriculture. The seminar also served to establish common ground between different stakeholder and political entities at the EU level while also identifying areas where more work would be necessary to build consensus on the reduction in pesticides use.

### 3.9. National stakeholder workshops

From October 2023 to October 2024, IPMWORKS National Focal Points (NFPs) coordinated national stakeholder workshops in each of the consortium countries with their national entities related with Agriculture, Environment and Food and the implementation of the SUD Directive. These sessions, which included an invitation to national stakeholders to visit an IPMWORKS demo farm, had two main objectives:

- the validation with national/regional/local stakeholders of the IPMWORKS recommendations for scaling IPM adoption through IPM demo networks within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS);
- the discussion of the IPMWORKS strategy for Long Term Sustainability with national/regional/local stakeholders, including Policy Makers, in order to make the IPMWORKS network and methodology better known by stakeholders, to present the strategy for Long Term Sustainability, and to discuss about funding solutions for supporting IPMWORKS hubs after the end of the H2020 project. All the national stakeholder workshops reports are available [here](#) and located in the dedicated webpage, available on IPMWORKS' website, called "European Network of Policy-Makers for IPM".

The conclusions of these sessions were of great importance for the elaboration of two of the IPMWORKS deliverables, where they were reflected. Firstly, D1.5 "Recommendations for successful exploitation of IPM networks to scale IPM adoption" and, secondly, D7.3 "A network self-sustainability strategy".

### 3.10. Other key activities organized

Nicolas Munier-Jolain also participated as an expert in the Study Group of the **NAT Section of the European Economic and Social Committee** in the preparation of their [opinion](#) on the SUR Regulation in July 2022. The participation of Mr. Munier-Jolain was the result of an active engagement by CIHEAM Zaragoza on the IPMWORKS project with the EESC.



Nicolas Munier-Jolain together with Harm Brinks (DELPHY), Calypso Picaud (APCA/CRAO), Giovanni Pecchioni (SSSA) and Per Kudsk (AU) joined the **EIP-Agri EU CAP Network workshop ‘Innovative arable crop protection - using pesticides sustainably’** held in Amsterdam in April 2023, with a number of representatives of the European Commission, contributing to the visibility of IPMWORKS network to European Policy Makers.



Figure 9. EIP-Agri EU CAP Network workshop ‘Innovative arable crop protection - using pesticides sustainably’ in April 2023

