



NATIONAL WORKSHOPS REPORT

IPMWORKS National Workshop *Finland*

Date: 13. 3. 2024

Place: Teams

Type: videoconference

National Focal Point for *Finland*: Marja Kallela

Reporting person for this meeting: Tiina Heinonen

Participants:

- Sari Autio, Senior Specialist Chemicals/ Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)
- Maria Kalliola, Senior Officer, Chemicals/ Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)
- Marika Päällysaho, Senior Officer, Chemicals/ Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)
- Virpi Virtanen, Senior Officer, Chemicals/ Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency (Tukes)
- Aino-Maija Alanko, special expert plant health/ Finnish Food Authority (Ruokavirasto)
- Katri Haavikko, Head of department Agricultural chemicals/ agricultural store and service chain Hankkija
- Anne Nissinen, Senior Scientist entomology/ Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
- Ari Ronkainen, Research Scientist safety of machinery / Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
- Kati Räsänen, Doctoral researcher, IPM/ Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

- Terhi Suojala-Ahlfors, Senior Scientist outdoor vegetables/ Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
- Irene Vänninen Senior Scientist entomology, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
- Susanna Koivujärvi, Expert, environment/ Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency (Väylävirasto)
- Taavi Forssell, executive director/ The Finnish Association of Landscape Industries (Viherympäristöliitto) Advocacy
- Marja Kallela, special advisor horticulture, ProAgria Etelä-Suomi
- Tiina Heinonen, reporting person, ProAgria Etelä-Suomi

1. Agenda

a) Introduction of IPMWORKS network and methodology.

Marja Kallela presented the IPMWORKS project to participants. She said that the project has established an international IPM (Integrated Pest Management) observation farm network. IPMWORKS project is promoting the reduced use of pesticides and the use of economically viable alternative pest control methods. There are 16 countries and 31 organizations involved in the project. From Finland there is only one organization participating, ProAgria.

In the project the observation farm network covers different themes: field crops, vineyards, open-field vegetables, fruit orchards (olives and apples), and greenhouses. Finland has 11 farms participating, which grow a variety of crops. The farms benefiting from the project are those interested in IPM cultivation. The goal of the project is to support farmers in decision-making.

In Finland IPMWORKS project has organized field days for observation farms, as well as joint meetings, farm videos (for example demonstrating crop protection on an apple farm), international farmers knowledge exchange in Teams (zucchini in Belgium). There have been webinars on specific topics. Also, cross-visits have been made, for example, Belgians visited three farms in Finland, now a group of six Finns are going to Belgium to see strawberry and vegetable farms.

The IPMWORKS project has a website and electric project's event calendar. For example, an event on robotics has been organized, with Häme University of Applied Sciences

participating. The website also includes a toolbox where various methods can be chosen, such as forecasts for cabbage flies and carrot flies.

The use of PrestopMix was previously presented by the project in Strasbourg. E-learning videos have been produced in the project. And in connection with this, project stakeholders participated E-learning training together in Spain in the summer of 2023. Group work and farm visits have been conducted at the project's annual meetings.

b) Save the date – IPM Conference 2024, Holistic IPM: Reducing Pesticide Use.

Present the IPM Conference 2024, jointly organised by IPMWORKS and IPM Decisions in Brussels, 14th May 2024.

On May 14, 2024, there will be an IPM conference in Brussels, and the project will participate in the exhibition there as well.

- c) Session 1: Validation of the IPMWORKS recommendations for scaling IPM adoption through IPM demo networks in the AKIS.**
- d) Session 2: IPMWORKS strategy for Long Term Sustainability.**
- e) Open forum for questions and discussions.**

2. Outcomes on Session 1: Validation of the IPMWORKS recommendations

Indications from FEUGA:

Identifying hub members

The participating farmer should be interested in the topics of the hub. He is willing to be demo farm and ready to receive guests which are keen on farm's plant protection. Farmers must be interested in discussing with each other and sharing their own experiences. As a result of these discussions, they can apply some things to their own farm and do not see their conversation partners as competitors but as collaborators. No one can farm in exactly the same way as another because the location and conditions vary.

Hub coach

The hub coach should listen attentively to what the farmers are interested in during the growing season. Based on this, they should build an event program that is interesting to those farmers who should adopt IPM methods more widely. During the events, new research and experiences from others can be presented.

AKIS in Finland

Finnish AKIS is coordinated by AgriHubi -platform. AgriHubi is a network for gathering Finnish agriculture and horticulture operators such as farmers, advisors, educators and researchers to collaborate. The aim is to improve farmers profitability with the long term scope. The focus on stronger business management skills and to support smart farming uptake and better use of data sources and data reservoirs.

Building AgriHubi is in process. It is not yet known or used widely. At the moment there is very little IPM content presented.

Discussions

Marja Kallela mentioned that Gardeners' Association (Puutarhaliitto) and Fruit and Berry Growers' Association (Hedelmä- ja marjanviljelijäinliitto) conducted a survey for farmers about whether they are familiar with IPM (Integrated Pest Management). It turned out that the term "IPM" is unfamiliar, but many related practices are already being implemented.

Participants had a feeling that the term IPM is unfamiliar, but IPM actions are being taken, perhaps due to the agri-environmental support system. However, the overall understanding might be a bit unclear. So, many perform actions just for the sake of doing them. Sometimes it boils down to simply identifying the need for pest control.

IPM has a long history. Awareness of IPM really depends a lot on the type of production. In the horticultural sector, these issues have been prominent since the 1990s, and pesticide use is decreasing all the time. For greenhouse vegetables, biological control is already the norm. And IPM is talked about less nowadays because it's assumed that everyone is familiar with it and its principles are being followed already.

In Southern Europe, different crop protection agents are used compared to Northern Europe. This must be considered when planning actions.

Marja Kallela told that in the IPMWORKS project, we attempt to gain an understanding of how IPM has been implemented in different countries. In relation to this, the following questions for participants are:

Q: Adoption of IPM recommendations on a scale of 0-5:

A: The average of answers was three.

Q: Finnish AKIS is called AgriHubi. It is an agricultural and horticultural knowledge network. Is AgriHubi familiar to you and do you know are there any others?

A: For present stakeholders AgriHubi is not familiar in official use, it requires more introduction.

3. Outcomes on Session 2: IPMWORKS strategy for Long Term Sustainability

Indications from CONSULAI:

The IPMWORKS project will end in September 2024. A new LIFE project is in the planning stages. Continued funding is being sought for the administrative consortium's work.

In relation to this:

Q: How can the observation farm network be maintained in future?

A: Farm hubs like IPMWORKS hub are mentioned in Finnish NAP 3. In Finnish action plan project funding is recommended to continue the operation of hubs.

https://tukes.fi/documents/5470659/6372801/NAP_III_2023_en.pdf/61c50e83-64ab-f214-a2cc-55f3b5f3bb8d/NAP_III_2023_en.pdf?t=1702033777941

Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE) is planning regional project with ProAgria Etelä-Suomi and Häme University of Applied Sciences concerning polytunnel and greenhouse production of strawberries, raspberries and hop plant. IPM is included in the project. At least one hub farm continues in this project as a demo farm.

Invitation to national stakeholders to visit IPM demo farm:

Q: Do you want to participate farm visit in next summer? It will be in the Hämeenlinna region, focusing on peas, strawberries, and raspberries. Open field or tunnel.

A: Please send us an invitation.

4. *Outcomes on open discussion*

There are different target levels in IPM. Usually, it's not clear if we are talking about the minimum levels required by legislation. It's more difficult to determine the implementation of higher target levels on farms. Ministries are interested in what higher-level measures could be separately financed in agricultural subsidies.

Ten years ago, there was the IPM-APU project for berry growers, in which workshops were held to survey knowledge of IPM. The results are available to see at what level respondents' IPM knowledge was then. Now would be a good time to conduct the same survey again, with the same questions.

There will be an international event on the use of plant protection products in Jokioinen next autumn.

[https://www.lyyti.fi/p/The 3rd workshop on Pesticide Fate and Effects on Environment in Northern Zone 3490](https://www.lyyti.fi/p/The_3rd_workshop_on_Pesticide_Fate_and_Effects_on_Environment_in_Northern_Zone_3490)