



NATIONAL WORKSHOPS REPORT TEMPLATE

IPMWORKS National Workshop

Date: 12/6/2024

Place: Agricultural Engineering Museum, Agricultural University of Athens

Type: In Person

National Focal Point for Greece

Reporting person for this meeting: Kalliopi Kounani

Participants:

Kalliopi Kounani, Project Manager of Smart Droplets HE Project

Georgia Nikolakopoulou, Agronomist

George Papadopoulos, Farmer

Katerina Kasimati, Project Manager of ICAERUS HE Project

Micahel Koutsiaras, Advisor

Sofia Stringa, Agronomist

Olga Kriezi, Agronomist

Alexandros Fournarakos, Agronomist

Vangelis Anastasiou, Agronomist

Vicky Inglezou, Coperative Member/ Policy Maker / Project manager of Agridata Value

Giorgos Tzeorginis, Farmer

Nikos Stathopoulos, Farmer

Giorgos Dimitroulas, Farmer

Ntinos Grivakis, Farmer

A. Agenda

- 10:50-11:05: Welcome
- 11:05-11:15: Participant Introduction
- 11:15-11:45: Presentation of the NILEAS Cooperative - Introduction to IPMWORKS and Explanation of the Workshop
- 11:45-12:40: Interactive Workshop
- 12:40-12:50: Discussion of Results

a) Introduction of IPMWORKS network and methodology.

The Workshop on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through the IPMWORKS Network took place at the Agricultural University of Athens. The primary focus of the workshop was to refine the strategies for scaling IPM adoption within demonstration networks in the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) and to present the strategy for the long-term sustainability of the IPMWORKS network.

The attendees represented a diverse range of stakeholders including policy makers, farmers, researchers, and members of various agricultural organizations. This diversity of backgrounds provided a fertile ground for an engaging and fruitful discussion on how to expand the adoption of IPM practices and ensure the longevity of the IPMWORKS initiative.



Figure 1: Vicky Inglezou presenting the work of their cooperative on organic farming

b) Session 1: Validation of the IPMWORKS recommendations for scaling IPM adoption through IPM demo networks in the AKIS.

Facilitator: Kalliopi Kounani

Objective:

The first session aimed to validate the recommendations for expanding the adoption of IPM across Europe through the IPM demonstration networks operating within AKIS. Task 1.5, focused on this validation process, provided a structure for refining the strategies developed so far and gathering direct feedback from the National Focal Points (NFPs).

Workshop Structure:

The session started with a brief presentation outlining the key recommendations for scaling IPM adoption. These recommendations were based on previous workshops and the experiences gathered from the existing IPM demo networks. Attendees were invited to participate in a group discussion and Mentimeter app questions aimed at refining these strategies further.

Key Discussion Points:

1. Adoption Barriers:

Participants highlighted several barriers to the widespread adoption of IPM, including:

- Limited access to resources and tools.
- Lack of financial incentives for farmers to switch to IPM practices.
- Insufficient training programs for both farmers and extension officers.
- Bureaucratic hurdles in securing funding for IPM initiatives.

2. Strategies for Expansion:

Ideas for scaling IPM adoption included:

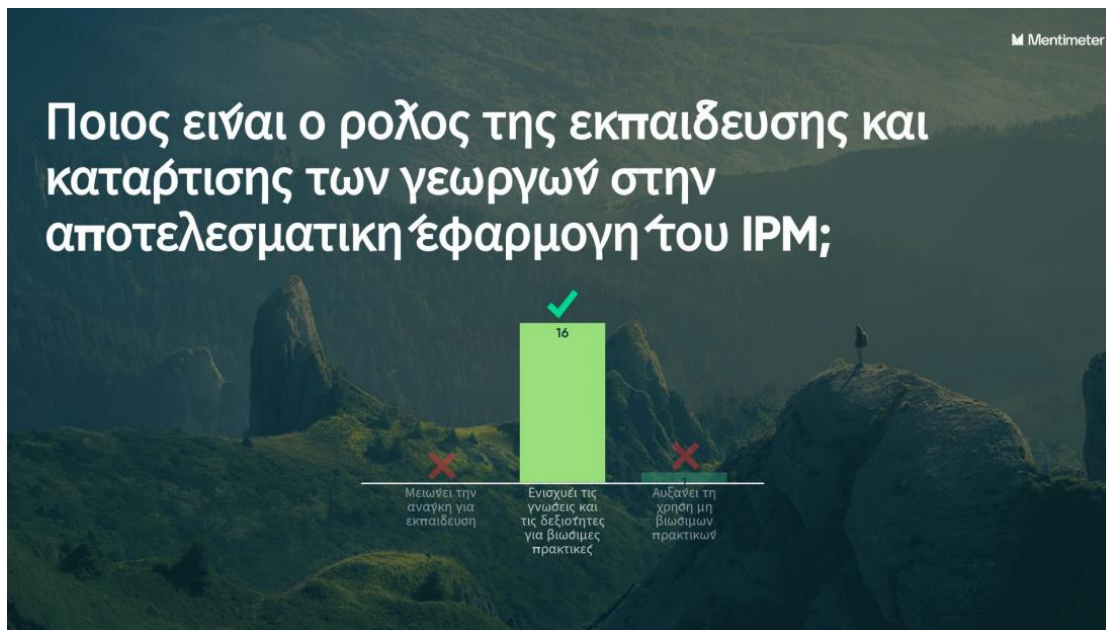
- Providing tailored financial support, such as subsidies or incentives, for farmers adopting IPM methods.
- Enhancing training programs focused on practical and real-world applications of IPM, with particular attention to the use of emerging technologies such as precision agriculture.
- Engaging local stakeholders, especially farmers, in the development of IPM policies and recommendations to ensure relevance and practical utility.
- Improving outreach efforts to demonstrate the benefits of IPM beyond cost savings, such as ecosystem preservation and long-term sustainability.

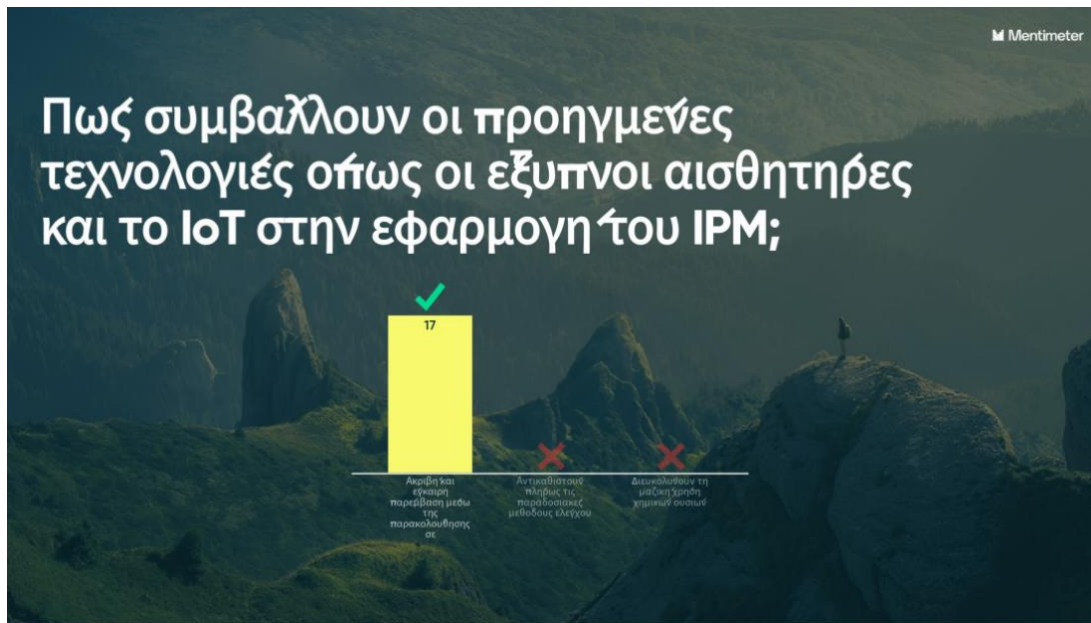
Facilitator Observations:

Kalliopi, paid special attention to the group dynamics, noting that participants were generally optimistic but emphasized the need for stronger political support and financial backing to drive widespread adoption. Some participants raised concerns about the feasibility of IPM in regions where farming practices were deeply entrenched in traditional methods.

The facilitator also observed that concerns around the cost of transitioning to IPM were a recurring theme, particularly in regions with small-scale farms.

The information were gathered through the mentimeter app. (images of the results in Greek bellow)





c) Session 2: IPMWORKS strategy for Long Term Sustainability.

Objective:

This session focused on presenting and refining the IPMWORKS strategy for long-term sustainability. The two key tasks under this session were Task 7.1 (establishing an IPM network of engaged policy makers across Europe) and Task 7.3 (self-sustainability of the networks post-project). The discussions aimed to address how IPMWORKS could continue to function

effectively beyond the end of the project by securing sustainable funding and stakeholder support.

Presentation of the Strategy:

The presentation opened with an overview of the IPMWORKS methodology and its achievements thus far. The network has established numerous demonstration farms, each serving as a hub for showcasing the benefits of IPM practices. The strategy for long-term sustainability emphasized the importance of creating self-sustaining networks, with local hubs acting as champions of IPM practices in their respective regions.

Key Discussion Points:

d) Engaging Policy Makers:

Participants agreed that policy makers need to be deeply engaged in the process to secure the necessary funding and legislative support for IPM. Ideas included:

- a. Developing a comprehensive engagement plan that outlines the benefits of IPM in terms of environmental and economic impact.
- b. Hosting regular workshops and meetings with policy makers to keep them informed about the progress of IPMWORKS and the outcomes of IPM implementation.
- c. Leveraging success stories from IPM demonstration farms as case studies to persuade policy makers of the practical benefits of IPM.

e) Self-Sustainability of the Networks:

Attendees discussed how the IPMWORKS networks could continue to operate after the conclusion of the project. Some key suggestions included:

- a. Exploring diverse funding sources such as public-private partnerships, EU grants, and national subsidies.
- b. Strengthening collaborations with academic institutions to provide ongoing research and development support for IPM initiatives.
- c. Encouraging regional hubs to become financially self-sufficient by offering consulting services, training programs, or other revenue-generating activities related to IPM.

f) Inviting National Stakeholders to Demo Farms:

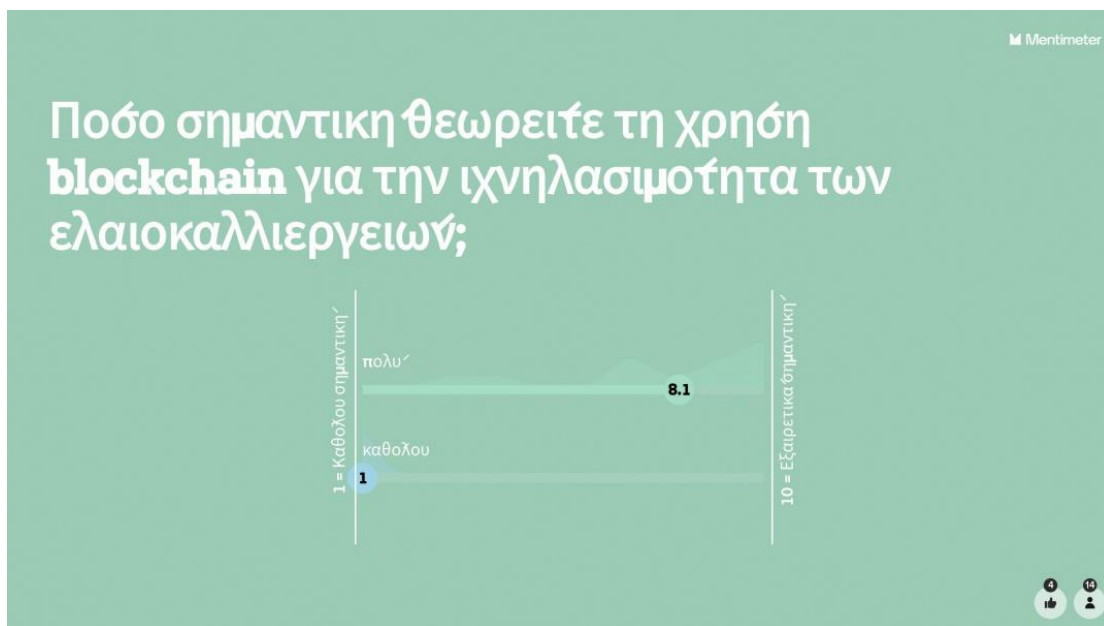
In the final segment of the session, the facilitators reminded the NFPs to extend invitations to their national stakeholders to visit an IPMWORKS demonstration farm by summer 2024. These visits are crucial for providing on-the-ground evidence of IPM's effectiveness and securing the long-term buy-in of local decision makers.

g) Open forum for questions and discussions.

The workshop concluded with an open forum, providing attendees an opportunity to ask questions and share additional insights. Key topics covered during the discussion included:

- The role of digital tools and technology in improving IPM adoption rates.
- Potential collaborations with other European networks and initiatives focused on sustainable agriculture.
- Further steps needed to enhance farmer engagement, particularly in regions where IPM is still relatively unknown.

The attendees appreciated the open and collaborative atmosphere of the workshop, with many expressing their willingness to continue contributing to the development of IPM practices within the framework of the IPMWORKS network.



h) Conclusion and Key Takeaways

The workshop successfully achieved its objectives, gathering valuable feedback on both the scaling of IPM adoption and the long-term sustainability of the IPMWORKS network. Key takeaways included:

- The need for stronger financial and legislative support to drive IPM adoption.
- The importance of continued engagement with both policy makers and farmers.

- A consensus that long-term sustainability will require innovative funding solutions and a greater emphasis on regional hubs becoming self-sufficient.

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

Indications from FEUGA:

- **What do we expect to get from the NFPs in this session?**

From this session we seek from the NFPs to collect the main ideas that arise during the discussion, especially in the Group Activity where we expect the facilitator to be attentive and vigilant to the ideas that arise and that may not be fully reflected in the answers of the post-its, as well as to note the attitude with which they face the dynamic.

Also, any other ideas that arise in the group that may contribute to the externalisation of the recommendations, a new idea or a common concern that the facilitator sees coming up repeatedly can be reflected in the report in the form of a free text.

- **Concepts to be reflected**

It is important that the answers to the questions asked during the group activities are well reflected. The facilitator can choose if he/she prefers the participants to answer the questions on post-its (in this case we need a translation of the post-its) or to collect the answers to each question in a document.

At the end of the presentation there is a final slide where the attendees' conclusions and final comments on all the information received should be collected by the facilitator in an open discussion.

- **Information to be provided**

On the other hand, we need a report from the facilitator with a description of the development of the workshop especially focused on the group activities, adding the answers to the questions and main comments of the session. There should be at least a detailed description of the discussion of each of the points exposed as well as a dedicated part for the Mentimeter activity.

- **Minimum number of words:** 1.500 words.

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

Indications from CONSULAI:

- **What do we expect to get from the NFPs in this session?**
- **Information to be provided**

Country

Date of meeting:

Number of attendees:

Typology of attendees: Policy, Regulatory & Science

Level of action of attendees: National organisations

In this section, The **NFPs** will also report to **IAMZ-CIHEAM** on the invitation to national stakeholders to **visit an IPMWORKS demo farm.**

D. Outcomes on open discussion

The NFPs will reflect in this section the issues raised during the open forum for questions and discussion.

Topic 1 –

Topic 2 –

Topic 3 –

Conclusion: