



NATIONAL WORKSHOPS REPORT TEMPLATE

IPMWORKS National Workshop *Ireland*

Date: 27/3/2024

Place: Video conference

Type: videoconference...

National Focal Point for Shay Phelan

Reporting person for this meeting: Michael Hennessy

Participants:

List with Name, position and affiliation of each participant

- Michael Hennessy, Head of Crops Knowledge Transfer Teagasc
- John Spink Head of Crops, Environment and Land Use Policy Teagasc
- Ciaran Collins, Crops Specialist, Teagasc.
- Steven Kildea, Plant Pathologist , Teagasc.
- Anne Marie Dillon, Head of Pesticides Division, Department Of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.(DAFM)
- Donal Lynch, Pesticides Registration DAFM.
- Aidan Moody, Pesticide division, DAFM
- Dermot Callaghan, Head of Horticulture Teagasc
- Eoin Sweetman, horticultural advisor, Teagasc
- Declan Keely, Pesticide division, DAFM

A. Agenda

The NFPs will reflect the agenda of the National Workshop in this section.

The proposed agenda is reflected below. NFPs are free to adapt it according to local specificities, but it should at least include the following points:

a) Introduction of IPMWORKS network and methodology.

An introduction to IPMworks principles were introduced to participants. The details of the participants and the types of IPM techniques being practiced on the different farms

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. [\(Done, all participants were informed\)](#)

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

Task 1.5: Recommendations for scaling IPM adoption through IPM demo networks in the AKIS. - All Teagasc events will have IPM techniques demonstrated to control various pests. Many of these principles have been integrated into various research programmes e.g. BYDV monitoring. In this case DSS systems are being tested to assess their usefulness in an Irish context with a view to developing a prediction tool for Ireland.

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

Task 7.1: Establish an IPM Network of engaged policy makers across Europe.

Task 7.3: Self sustainability of the networks.

IPMworks branded events have been taking place on all our demo farms with many policy makers, stakeholders, industry partners and farmers all invited to attend. These events were designed to ensure that all parts of the chain were kept informed about the role of IPM on Irish farms. The events were also realistic on the impediments of IPM in controlling certain pests and the challenges agriculture faces in the future from both sustainability and food security. In Ireland we have integrated IPMworks into our own Signpost programme which promotes sustainability both for environment and the farm profitability (more details on Signpost farms below).

e) Open forum for questions and discussions.

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?**

Validation of IPMWorks is continuing in Teagasc with many different projects investigating the practicalities of the different techniques. Grass margins to prevent weeds encroachment, stale seed beds, BYDV monitoring are just some of the techniques that are or have been investigated to assess their suitability in an Irish context. However certain DSS tools have been found not to be refined enough to give accurate information to growers in Ireland. Climactic conditions can be slightly different here compared to countries where some of these DSS tools have been developed which in some cases makes them unsuitable, however, if amendments can be made to allow for the climactic conditions in Ireland then there is possibly more suitable DSS systems that we can use. For example tools to predict septoria are largely irrelevant in Ireland as the wet climate exposes the wheat crops to septoria every year, similarly with potato blight. We know that crops will be affected and reducing fungicide applications will expose the growers to unacceptable risk. In these cases IPMworks can demonstrate judicious use of pesticides to reduce risk while also ensuring financial sustainability for the grower.

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?**

In Ireland Teagasc along with many industry partners and stakeholders are running the Signpost Programme this 3 year programme is aimed at reducing emissions from agriculture while also promoting biodiversity. IPM forms an important part of the Signpost programme and the reduction in the use of pesticides is key to this. The 7 IPMworks farms are all participating in the Signpost along with three other tillage farms. <https://www.teagasc.ie/environment/climate-change--air-quality/signpost-programme/signpost-advisory-programme/>

The aim of the Signpost programme is to empower farm families to adopt new and existing technologies and production systems that will allow agriculture to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030 while maintaining farm profitability.

The Signpost Programme combines the network of demonstration farms with a dedicated advisory campaign to maximise the reach of the Signpost Programme. The launch of this advisory programme is the realisation of that original objective. The network of 120 demonstration farmers will play two critical roles in this programme:

1. They will be amongst the first to adopt climate mitigation and adaptation technologies, supported by their advisors and
2. They will be central to farmer-to-farmer learning, sharing their experiences with other farmers through farm walks, events, articles, videos, media etc.

Teagasc has employed 21 Signpost advisors to interact with each of the demonstration farms who provide a free service with the aim of recruiting 50,000 farmers by the end of the programme. DSS tools are being developed to assist farmers to reduce their emissions and to improve biodiversity.

AKIS is key to the success of the programme and is delivered by way of farm walks, newsletters, podcasts, farmer profiles on the Signpost website <https://www.teagasc.ie/environment/climate-change--air-quality/signpost-programme/demonstration-farmers/tillage-farmers/>, research update, and regular contributions in national newspapers.

The findings on these farms will help to assist policy makers to influence Irish agriculture over the coming years. Funding for the project is provided by the associated partners including state agencies DAFM and Bord Bia and over 30 other industry partners. As the current IPMworks demonstration farmers are part of the project they many of the IPM tools and techniques that they employ will continue to be supported through the project

- **Information to be provided**

Country Ireland

Date of meeting: 27/3/2024

Number of attendees: 11

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**.

In 2023 national stakeholder as well as some MEP's were invited to the first of our farm walks on one of the IPMworks demo farms i.e. Vincent Macken's which took place on February 8. Further IPMworks events were held on March 27th where a sitting Irish MEP attended visited Tom Tierney's farm in Prosperous while another farm demo was held on another farm on March 28th. This event focussed on using organic manures to help to improve crop health.

Other events were held on May 8 in Wexford on John Crowley's farm looking at reducing chemical inputs on malting barley. This was followed by a cross visit from Denmark in June with a return visit by members of the Irish to Denmark in July.

In January 2024 a cover crop demo was held in Wexford looking at how to destroy crops without the need for chemicals and this was followed by training for all the hub members at the Teagasc research institute in Oak Park Carlow. Other crop walks were held on March 7th again focussing on organic manures and in June on Will Stokes' farm looking at potato blight prevention using IPM.

Over the period of the

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 – Role of SUD in Ireland

Conclusion:

Some changes re digital recording of pesticide usage on farm due in 2026. Farmers and advisors will have to be trained in the necessary software to enable this recording to be completed.

Topic 2 – Update on SUR

Conclusion:

Steven Kildea, Teagasc, gave an update on recent work on the role of pesticides in Ireland and the role of IPM.

Topic 3 – Non renewal of pesticides and the IPM techniques required to replace them

Conclusion:

The removal of certain pesticides will require the adoption of various IPM techniques and tools to prevent certain pests. Different techniques and examples were discussed.