



NATIONAL WORKSHOPS REPORT TEMPLATE

IPMWORKS National Workshop

Date: 18/04/2024

Place: Video conference

Type: videoconference

National Focal Point for Portugal

Reporting person for this meeting: Beatriz Cardoso (CONSULAI)

Participants:

List with Name, position and affiliation of each participant

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.

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.

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.

The aim of this session is to refine the strategies for expanding the adoption of IPM within IPM demonstration networks operating within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS).

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.

The aim is 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 project.

NFPs will include an invitation to national stakeholders to visit an IPMWORKS demo farm before the end of the summer 2024 (if this type of visit has not already taken place at the national level). **Please, note that we will request feedback from you if the invitation was accepted by the stakeholders.**

e) Open forum for questions and discussions.

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

This report presents the information gathered from the discussion among Portuguese stakeholders on the IPMWORKS recommendations for each question asked during the open discussion.

How can demo events and HUBs further drive the adoption of IPM practices?

- Since the demo events have a bottom-up approach and the hub coach promotes that the farmers share their main obstacles to plant protection and IPM, the practices demonstrated in the demo events are highly directed at the hub members and their needs.
- In demo events, time is always given for networking among hub members, which contributes to knowledge/experience sharing. Farmers from Portuguese hubs sometimes communicate with each other to clarify doubts regarding implementing a particular practice that one of them already uses.
- Most practices demonstrated are applicable in different scales of production.
- In many demo events, the hub coach gives time for testimonies on certain practices, which contributes to a more realistic perspective of the practice.

What are the main barriers you identify to scale up the IPMWORKS methodology?

- It is not easy to attract farmers willing to take time from their work in the field to participate in demonstration events because they do not see the advantages in attending these types of events and in the networking they can establish in them.
- It is not easy to attract proactive farmers who are willing to share their experiences and motivated to test and start using holistic IPM strategies.
- The practices demonstrated different levels of success for all farmers.

How should the HUBS be customized to address obstacles in your local context?

In Portugal, there are other demonstration networks with objectives similar to those of IPMWORKS. Many of these networks do not focus solely on crop protection but aim to promote and demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices, including IPM and holistic IPM practices.

In Portugal, many farmers who are motivated to attend these types of meetings and desire to experiment and learn more about sustainable agricultural practices are already involved in many demonstration projects and networks. This means that most farmers have even less free time to attend IPMWORKS demonstration events.

Therefore, one strategy to address the difficulties could be to integrate IPMWORKS hubs into national demonstration networks, thus reducing the number of events they are invited to and increasing the uptake of demonstration events.

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: Portugal

Date of meeting: 18/04/2024

Number of attendees: 11

Typology of attendees: Policy, Regulatory & Science

Level of action of attendees: National organisations

The Portuguese hubs were both created for the project, meaning they don't have funding to keep their activities on their own. Nevertheless, the Portuguese stakeholders consider it essential to continue the work developed in IPMWORKS.

In Portugal, there are many projects and initiatives that aim to disseminate sustainable agricultural practices to farmers, including the sustainable use of pesticides. For this reason, the exclusive finance of the IPMWORKS hubs is not considered a viable solution for the Portuguese case in the long term.

Therefore, the Portuguese stakeholders consider integrating the IPMWORKS hubs into existing demonstration networks and projects, with guaranteed financing and similar objectives and methodology, the most strategic and effective solution.

As CONSULAI (the hub coach for both IPMWORKS hubs) has been leading the AdvisoryNetPEST project since the beginning of 2024, the most successful strategy for the Portuguese stakeholders would be for these hubs to be integrated into the new project and added to the new network.

Visits to IPMWORKS demo farms

In Portugal, no specific visit was organized for the NFT to attend an IPMWORKS demo farm. Instead, NFT members were invited to all IPMWORKS demo events, and their participation depended on their availability for participation.

NFT members attended the following demo events:

Date	Hub	Demo Event Title
07/09/2021	Outdoor vegetables	Methods for reduced use of pesticides - how to prevent and control powdery scab
07/09/2021	Outdoor vegetables	Methods for reduced use of pesticides - monitoring pests using biotechnical tools
11/10/2023	Outdoor vegetables	Organic Fertilisation and Soil Microbiology
09/04/2024	Viticulture	Reducing the Use and Risk of Plant Protection Products

During these events, NFT members had the opportunity to hear firsthand from farmers about their experiences with IPM practices and strategies. They also took part in discussions on farmers' challenges, successes, and future plans related to IPM practices.