



## SWISS NATIONAL WORKSHOP REPORT

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### **IPMWORKS National Workshop Switzerland**

**Date:** 21/03/2024

**Place:** IP-SUISSE, Molkereistrasse 21, 3052 Zollikofen

**Type:** face-to-face

**National Focal Point for Switzerland:** Sandie Masson, Agroscope

**Reporting person for this meeting:** Sandie Masson, Agroscope

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#### ***Participants:***

- Michel Fischler, PestiRed Project Director, mf k&p
- Vanessa Ménétrier, Head of advisory services for PestiRed in the canton of Vaud, Prometerre
- Aurélie Heinis, PestiRed financial project manager for the canton of Vaud, DGAV
- Urs Kilchenmann, PestiRed financial project manager for the canton of Solothurn, Solothurn Agricultural Office
- Gaetano Mori, Head of advisory services for PestiRed in the canton of Solothurn, Wallierhof Education Center
- Jérémy Rossi, PestiRed financial project manager for the canton of Geneva, OCAN
- René Humbel, Finance & Sales Manager, IP-SUISSE
- Mirjam Lüthi, Farmer and head of arable sector, IP-SUISSE
- Joël Scheidegger, Farmer and President of IP-SUISSE Romandie, IP-SUISSE
- Philippe Jeanneret, Senior Scientist and Research coordinator for PestiRed, Agroscope
- Judith Wirth, Weed science research group leader, Agroscope
- Alexander Zorn, Scientist in Sustainability Assessment and Agricultural Management, Agroscope
- Sandie Masson, Scientist in Weed science, Agroscope

- Léa Lötscher, PestiRed technical scientist canton of Solothurn, Agroscope
- Sonia Demal, PestiRed technical scientist canton of Geneva, Agroscope
- Adrien Delavallade, PestiRed technical scientist canton of Vaud, Agroscope

## **1. Agenda**

- a) Introduction of IPMWORKS network and methodology.**
- b) Save the date – IPM Conference 2024, Holistic IPM: Reducing Pesticide Use.**
- 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.

- 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.

- e) Open forum for questions and discussions.**

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

After the presentation of “Recommendations for scaling IPM adoption through IPM demo networks in the AKIS” to the participants, they were divided into three groups and asked three questions using flipcharts. Participants were grouped according to their functions, so that each group included members of political authorities (cantons), members of consultancy and research organizations, and members of marketing organizations (IP-Suisse). The three groups rotated from one flipchart to the next to answer the three questions. Afterwards, they were able to share the elements they had noted on the flipcharts. They then used a grid to assess the experience of actors involved in IPM in Switzerland. They also noted the difficulty of implementing five IPM techniques. For this last activity, we didn't use the mentimeter, but printed out the evaluation grids on flipcharts. After deliberation, the participants marked together the score they felt was the most accurate for each actor and IPM technique.

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

Participants identified the following points:

- Demo events and hubs encourage exchanges and the sharing of experience on IPM between farmers and between farmers and advisors
  - Concrete, measurable information is transmitted in the field or in the accounting book
  - Successes and reasons for failure are presented and discussed
  - There is a special space to share failures without judgement
  - Exchanges of machines (e.g. for weed control) and tools (e.g. weather station information) are encouraged and facilitated
  - These hubs provide support for farmers who are innovating, giving them guidance and help to bring their innovations to fruition
  - Hub coaches enable collective organization of hubs and networking of farmers
  - This method allows for flexibility in implementation: those just starting out can begin their IPM experiments on a small area and then expand the implementation zone.
- **What are the main barriers you identify to scale up the IPMWORKS methodology?**
    - It's often farmers who are already convinced by IPM who take part, difficulty in reaching new farmers
    - The effects of IPM are not always immediate or visual, and it's not always easy to show them over a period of just 4 years
    - For the groups to work well, a close bond of trust needs to be created between the participants, farmers and advisors, and this takes time
    - Difficult to generalize successes because each farm situation is unique
    - Some obstacles are difficult to overcome without the involvement of other actors, such as outlets for crop combinations
  - **How should the HUBS be customized to address obstacles in your local context?**
    - Integration of market actors and consumer associations into hubs to promote continuity of IPM strategy on farms, especially to define higher selling prices for IPM products
    - Presentation from the hubs of the IPM principles to consumers to encourage them to buy IPM products (IP-Suisse label) (direct exchanges between farmers and consumers)
    - Mix experienced farmers with beginners in the hubs to promote knowledge transfer
    - At the same time, organize sessions with only experienced farmers to take innovations further
    - Using serious gaming methods to better record farmers' informal information

- Which AKIS actors are the most experienced in IPM in your country?

University/Research

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

Associations/Cooperatives (IPSuisse, BioSuisse)

0	1	2	3	4	5
					x

Private Companies

0	1	2	3	4	5
	x				

EU Project Institutions

0	1	2	3	4	5
			x		

EIP/CAP experts

0	1	2	3	4	5

Advisory Services

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

Innovation HUBs

0	1	2	3	4	5
					x

NGOs

0	1	2	3	4	5

- Which groups show a higher degree of interaction (networking) with other actors, fostering the exchange of information and knowledge on topics of common interest?

University/Research

0	1	2	3	4	5
		x			

Associations/Cooperatives

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

Private Companies

0	1	2	3	4	5
x					

EU Project Institutions

0	1	2	3	4	5

EIP/CAP experts

0	1	2	3	4	5

Advisory Services

0	1	2	3	4	5
					x

Innovation HUBs

0	1	2	3	4	5
			x		

NGOs

0	1	2	3	4	5

- Rate the perceived difficulty among five IPM practices.

Agricultural landscapes with diverse semi-natural habitats designed to manage pests, weeds, and diseases.

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

Cropping systems designed to manage pests, weeds, and diseases.

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

Optimized decision-making guiding operational and strategic IPM choices.

0	1	2	3	4	5
		x			

Preferential use of non-chemical control options.

0	1	2	3	4	5
		x			

Increased efficiency of treatments.

0	1	2	3	4	5
				x	

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

#### **Indications from CONSULAI:**

- **National/regional funding opportunities for Hub Coaches and for the national networks after September 2024**

The PestiRed network is one of five already in existence before the creation of IPMworks. The financing of this network is its own, and does not depend on European funds. It is financed by the Federal Office for Agriculture, the cantonal offices involved in the project, and the project leader IP-SUISSE. Funding began in 2020 and is guaranteed until 2028.

- **IPMWORKS demo farm visits for national stakeholders were organised during training events of 19/03/2024 in canton Vaud and 05/03/2024 in canton Geneva – see training events reports.**

### **4. Outcomes on open discussion**

No further questions were raised during the workshop.