

# A hydroponic farm reducing pesticide use through biological control and IPM



## The Farm

**Region:** West Sussex (South East England) and Extremadura (western Spain)

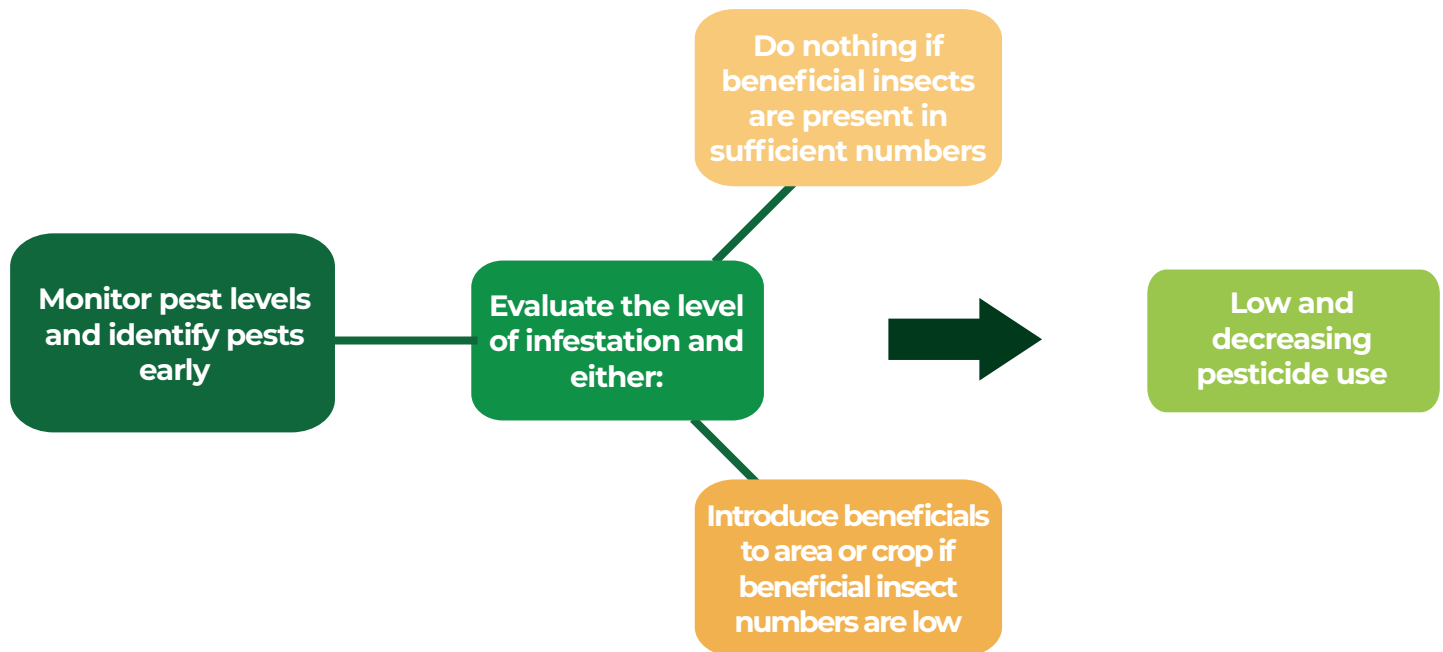
**Area:** 40 ha of state-of-the-art glasshouse facilities

**Specificity:** retail and wholesale of sweet peppers



## The strategy for pest management in horticulture

- Monitoring pest levels ensuring they do not exceed economically viable levels.
- Monitoring numbers of beneficial predators.
- Introducing beneficial predators where necessary.



“ We introduce the pest red spider mite and beneficial insect *Phytoseiulus* into the crop very early in the season, which means the pest cannot develop that fast. We then monitor the pest levels and make corrective application of beneficials, until we reach a point where there is a natural balance throughout the crop”. Mark Knight, technical manager