A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF DEMONSTRATION FARMS
PROMOTING LOW PESTICIDE USE AND ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Irish Hub: A mixture of arable farms that are reducing pesticide use thanks to IPM practices

The Farmers

Various establishment systems including plough, min-till and direct drill

Crops include: winter & spring cereals, beans, peas, oilseed rape, potatoes and cover crops

Key issues: grass weed control, Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV), disease control

Willingness to adopt & showcase IPM practices

Strategies used for pest/disease/weed management in Irish crops

- Crop rotation - to give alternative methods of control
- Cover cropping – to compete with weeds
- Aphid monitoring - to establish risk
- Delayed sowing time for winter cereals – to reduce BYDV risk and grass weed germination
- Variety mixes in wheat – to reduce Septoria pressure
- Grass margins - can help to reduce infestation of certain grass weeds
- Stale seedbeds - weed control
- Increased seed rates - increases crop competition

Pest monitoring

- Can reduce the need for pesticide use
- Reduces the risk to the environment
- Helps to protect beneficials and pollinators
- Can reduce cost to the farmer

“We’ve got on well with both cover crops and beans in recent years. They are good for sustainability but also fit very well in our rotation.”