FAQs

Is IPM cost-effective?

Treatment Frequency Index (TFI) can be decreased by combining several management measures based on holistic IPM, and this decrease does not necessarily mean a loss in production. Based on experience from the French DEPHY network with more than 1000 farms, the results showed that the TFI decrease did not lead to a reduction in productivity or even increased it. Maintaining or even increasing productivity, together with savings in input costs due to a reduction in the number of treatments, ensures cost effectiveness.

Will IPM increase the risk of pests on my farm?

IPM strategies are specifically designed to reduce the risks associated with pest pressure on farms. Pests monitoring, diversification of crop rotation, adaptation of sowing dates and densities, selection of resistant cultivars, or moderation of fertilization, thus reducing weed and disease pressure, are some of the examples of practices within IPM principles which tend to reduce risks.

Does IPM reduce yields (as compared to business as usual)?

Combinations of non-chemical measures are efficient to control pests, diseases and weeds, hence avoiding yield losses. Non-chemical measures might affect the yield potential (e.g. delaying sowing dates in cereals, choosing cultivars based on the criteria of resistance to diseases -not yield potential-, moderating fertilization), but slightly lower yields can be compensated by lower input costs (pesticides, fertilizers).

Is IPM time consuming?

Some IPM strategies could be more time consuming than conventional practices, e.g. mechanical weeding compared with herbicide applications. But most of the other strategies within IPM principles such as crop rotation, selection of resistant cultivars, use of certified seeds, or moderation of fertilization are not time consuming.

Is IPM difficult to implement?

Holistic IPM increases the farming system complexity and requires learning new techniques. Diversifying crop productions requires finding new markets for introduced crops...
That's why it is important to help farmers adopt IPM, through DEMOs and peer-to-peer learning.

IPM works

www.ipmworks.net

IPMWORKS is a FarmDemo aligned project and is partnered with the IPM Decisions Project

FarmDemo IPM DECISIONS

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IPM works

IPMWORKS

IPMWORKS - *An EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective IPM strategies* - is a four-year project (2020-2024) financed by the **Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme of the EU**.

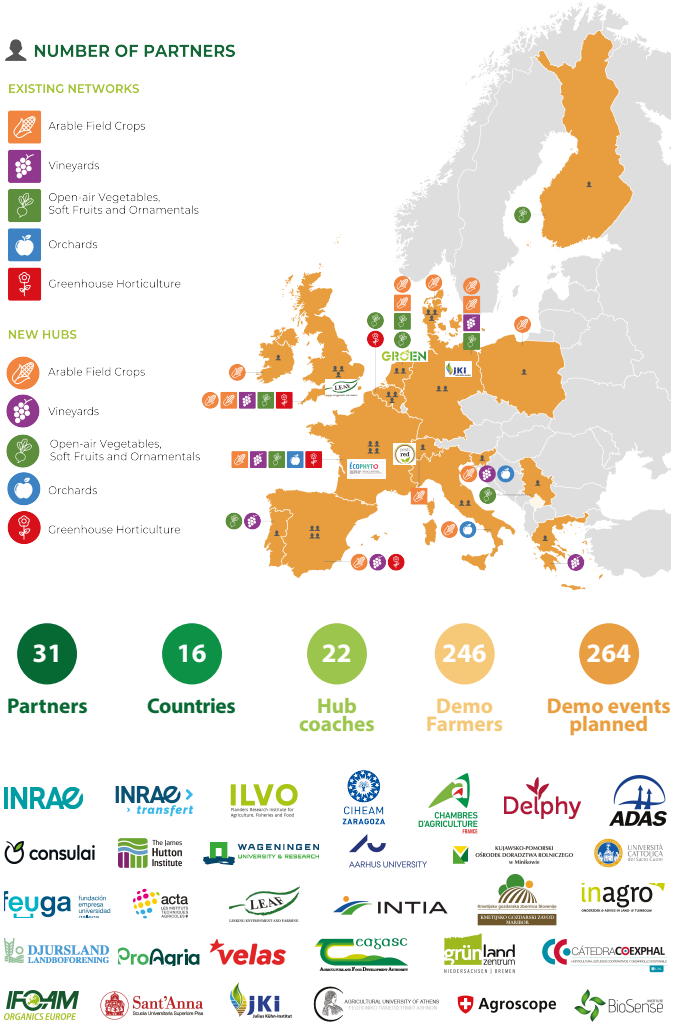
IPMWORKS is made up of a consortium of **31 partners from 16 European countries** assembled with various types of organizations covering the following roles: farmers organizations; applied research, advisory and extension services; academic research on social sciences; academic research on agronomy (*sensu lato*) and environmental science; and training organizations. The project is coordinated by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE).

The network

IPMWORKS is a **network of farms** actively engaged in **IPM (Integrated Pest Management)** practices throughout Europe, supported by the EU H2020 programme. On-site demonstrations are based on "**success stories**" of farmers implementing all or the vast majority of components of IPM which is at the centre of the SUD Directive[1] and which will increase its importance as the cornerstone of the forthcoming SUR – Sustainable Use Regulation[2].

[1] SUD –.Directive 2009/128/EC establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

[2] The proposed SUR – Proposal for a Regulation on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.



Why IPM?

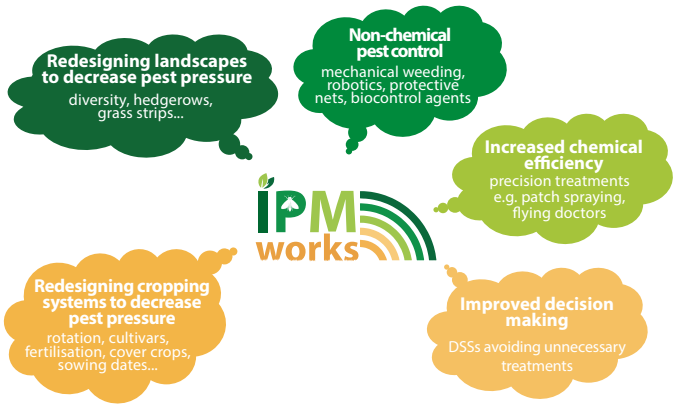
IPM is based on a **diversity of pest management measures** (prevention, non-chemical control, best practices for optimizing pesticide efficiency, etc.). These are combined at the farm level to enable reduced reliance on pesticides, and therefore a **decrease in the exposure of the environment and people to pesticides**. IPM strategies are based on a holistic view of agro-eco systems, creating pest and disease resilient cropping systems that primarily use non-chemical pest management measures (e.g. diversified crop rotations, resistant cultivars, mechanical weeding). Pesticides are applied only when other measures fail to give sufficient control.

IPM indeed works

IPMWORKS farmers are working together within small groups coordinated by advisors (so-called "**hub coaches**") to progress further in the adoption of **holistic IPM** (i.e. an integral approach to applying as broad a range of IPM interventions as possible on any set farm, crop or agricultural setting). Quantitative data are collected to support the demonstration that "**IPM indeed works, i.e. is efficient and cost-effective**" and does not undermine overall yield performance and agricultural productivity.

IPMWORKS network fosters **knowledge exchange among farmers** to help them progress further towards the adoption of holistic IPM, and organizes demonstration events, facilitating **peer-to-peer learning** to help farmers find their own site-specific IPM-based strategies and to convince other farmers of the added value of IPM. "IPMWORKS" project demonstrations are based on quantitative data collected in the **DEMO farms**. IPMWORKS is also developing an **IPM Resource Toolbox**, providing centralized access to all available digital resources that help farmers in their transition towards advanced IPM.

What is "Holistic IPM"?



- Each of the 5 pillars is included in the **farming system re-design**.
- **IPM is site-specific**. Farmers have to find their own individual solutions, combining available technical solutions most adapted to the farm context.
- **IPM is sector-specific**. Solutions are not the same in arable field crops and in vineyards or orchards.