

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Goal	Use the IPM approach to reduce the input of pesticides and enhance wildlife at farm level
Target group	All farmers
Description of the measure	<p>According to the European Commission, IPM “involves an integrated approach to the prevention and/or suppression of organisms harmful to plants through the use of all available information, tools and methods. IPM aims to keep the use of pesticides and other forms of intervention only to levels that are economically and ecologically justified and which reduce or minimise risk to human health and the environment. Sustainable biological, physical and other non-chemical methods must be preferred to chemical methods if they provide satisfactory pest control”.</p> <p>IPM entails the prevention of harmful organisms through the implementation of good practices (rotation, good soil condition, etc.), the monitoring of pests' thresholds, the selection of the least harmful solutions and products, the implementation of good practices for crop protection products application, the records and critical evaluation of necessary applications, the appropriate storage and handling of agrochemical containers, etc.</p>
Suitable sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All farms and crops
How a good implementation looks like	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IPM shall be based on available proofs of verification, such as Farm Register Books, field visits, specific written advice on pest populations, etc. ▪ The existence of an expert advisory system is also a good sign of implementation ▪ There shall be a consistency between the IPM advise and the pesticides treatments performed (i.e. treatments are justified by pest thresholds levels)
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>The most important success of IPM is that, due to a reasonable approach to pest and disease management, the amount of agrochemicals released to the environment and the number of treatments is significantly lower. This way, the potential impact on wildlife at farm level is reduced.</p>
Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer	<p>IPM is about good agriculture and consistency. Agrochemicals and personnel costs are dramatically increasing in EU agriculture, but never at the same rate than agricultural prices do. Being able to approach pest management in an informed way can entail a very interesting economic saving.</p>
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surface in which IPM approach is used and can be verified through Farm Register Book and Advisory support.

Risk and further recommendations	<p>IPM may be a new approach in some areas, especially outside EU or for new crops. In this case, a lot of work is needed to implement IPM such as understanding pests' thresholds, exploring the alternative options for pest and disease treatments, knowing the cultural practices that can minimize pests' impacts, etc.</p> <p>In some cases, for an optimum implementation, advisory system may be needed.</p>
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	Permanent action
Additional special resources/equipment/skills needed	Most EU countries have officially trained staff on Integrated Agriculture.
Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/sustainable_use_pesticides/ipm_en

Further information: Knowledge Pool

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for advisors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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