TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT, IPM FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE - H2020 IPMWORKS

19 & 20 March, 2024. CIHEAM Zaragoza

Day 1: Technical workshop

9:00	**Registration**
9:30	**Welcome session**
9:50	**Presentation of the institutions & round table on IPM present and future** Chaired by Raúl Compés, Director of CIHEAM Zaragoza ▪ Valentín Almansa, Director General - Health of Agricultural Production and Animal Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ▪ Emilio Betrán, Director of CSCV - Plant Health and Certification Centre, Government of Aragon ▪ Juan J. Barriuso, Professor of University of Zaragoza ▪ Ángel Jiménez, Dean of Official College of Agronomists Aragon, Navarre and the Basque Country ▪ Ramzi Belkhodja, Administrator of Plant Production, Health and Breeding, CIHEAM Zaragoza
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	**IPM and IPMWORKS session** Introduction to IPM & State of the Art Introduction to H2020 IPMWORKS Project IPMWORKS e-learning modules

12:10	**IPMWORKS e-learning Modules – Session 1** Agrosystem/Agroecosystem: Concepts and theory. Holistic approach to IPM Risks and Challenges for Plant Health in the present decade. Pest resurgence and emerging risks Integrated Weed Management. Case study #1 French case, arable crops
13:25	**Lunch**
14:30	**IPMWORKS e-learning Modules – Session 2** ATRIAs and Holistic IPM examples, Orchards Integrated Invertebrate Pest Management Assessment of cost-efficiency of low-pesticide IPM-based cropping systems Soft skills for facilitating interactive learning and demonstration on IPM
16:00	**Coffee break**
16:30	**How is IPM addressed in CIHEAM countries?** Case studies of Egypt, Tunisia and Türkiye
17:30	**Wrap up session**
17:45	**End of Day 1**

Day 2: Field visit

8:15	Departure for field visit
9:00	Field visit to farm implementing IPM in the Jalón river bank area, Zaragoza
13:30	*Lunch*
14:30	Feedback session after the field visit
15:30	Wrap up session
16:00	End of the workshop

Background information

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is a comprehensive approach to pest control in agriculture that makes use of a number of methods while closely observing the environment to reduce the need for excessive pesticide use. The primary goal is to implement long-term control strategies which combine biological, cultural, and chemical methods to reduce pathogenic populations to tolerable levels so that pests do not reach an economic threshold of damage. This is accomplished using an ecosystem-based approach that incorporates several management techniques to lessen dependency on pesticides. The widespread adoption of IPM, prioritising environmental conservation, is the result of increased awareness of sustainable conventional agriculture. Emphasising this approach is essential to provide healthy and sustainable food to meet the needs of the world's growing population.

IPM provides an alternative to conventional pesticide-dependent pest control techniques. Furthermore, the importance of IPM lies in its viability to increase the sustainability of agricultural production, which can lead to a reduction of the effects of agrochemicals on the environment and their economic cost at the farm level.

Building on the practices required under Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) conditionality, the voluntary actions are pursued within a range of instruments in the CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) and go hand in hand with the efforts aimed at reducing the use and risk of pesticides. In this line, CSPs provide farmers with access to eco-schemes applying IPM or other types of pesticide management, such as those excluding chemical pest control and those excluding or limiting the use of pesticides in quantity or time. IPM is furthermore highlighted within the EU framework for the sustainable use of pesticides and Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture).

H2020 IPMWORKS

IPMWORKS - An EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective IPM strategies - is a four-year project (2020-2024) funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. The aim of IPMWORKS is to demonstrate that holistic IPM "works", i.e. it enables low dependence on plant protection products with improved pest control, reduced costs and increased profitability. The main objectives of the project are:

- To promote the adoption of IPM strategies, based on a network of farmers across the EU who, on the one hand, further advance the adoption of IPM - through peer-to-peer learning and joint efforts - and, on the other hand, demonstrate to other farmers that holistic IPM "works".

- Coordinate existing networks that promote IPM and initiate new farm hubs. The advisors coordinating the hubs play a key role in facilitating knowledge exchange, helping farmers to find their own IPM solutions and organising local demonstration activities.
- Stimulate access to the IPM Decisions platform and provide information on IPM methods. Collect data to compare IPM strategies, and share results and dissemination material through channels widely used by farmers, disseminating IPM success stories.
- Organise training activities and develop training materials, targeting both farmers outside the network and advisory services.

IPMWORKS consists of a consortium of 31 partners from 16 European countries brought together with various types of organisations covering the following functions: Farmers' organisations; Applied research, advisory and extension services; Academic research in social sciences; Academic research in agronomy (*sensu lato*) and environmental sciences and Training organisations. The project is coordinated by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE).

IPM TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC (SUD) aims to achieve a sustainable use of plant protection products (PPPs) by reducing the risks and impacts of PPP use on human health and the environment and promoting IPM, as well as alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. Additionally, in the framework of the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy provides that measures shall be proposed to further develop IPM and alternatives to chemical pesticides. The importance of IPM as a key strategy to achieve sustainable agriculture and protect the environment is thus increasingly recognised.

In the framework of IPMWORKS Work Package 6 – Dissemination, Communication and Training which is co-led by CIHEAM Zaragoza, each National Focal Point (NFP) is in charge of organising three or more training events on IPM in each partner country. These events are part of the activities within Task 6.5 Training activities also led by CIHEAM Zaragoza. This IPM Technical Workshop will therefore also contribute to achieving the number of training activities to be carried out in Spain, thus supporting the Spanish NFP in this objective. The Workshop will be based on a knowledge transfer activity through the introduction and presentation of the IPMWORKS e-learning modules, created under the coordination of CIHEAM Zaragoza in the framework of IPMWORKS Project. These materials have been prepared based on successful experiences within the project network, including technical aspects of IPM strategies, farm performance, co-innovation and methods for farm hub coaching, targeting both farmers and advisors.

In addition to contributing to Task 6.5 Training at national level, this event will also serve wider dissemination goals of Work Package 6, amplifying regional dissemination across Spain, with several

Aragonese institutions involved with Plant Health and IPM included in the workshop programme. The intention is to present these institutions and their activities and experiences in IPM, and at the same time host an open debate on the implementation and future of IPM with these institutions and the public attending the event.

Participation will be open through registration. 40 places will be available for face-to-face participation (lectures and technical visit), and online participation (lectures) will also be facilitated. Simultaneous interpretation from English to Spanish will be available for the Welcome Session, Presentation of the Institutions & Round Table on IPM Present and Future, and for the field visit.

The activity targets advisors, technicians, scientists and researchers, since their role is a major factor to ensure an efficient IPM implementation. The workshop will also provide a forum for the exchange of best practices and experiences, and for networking with other professionals in the sector.