



Pilot Project — Developing a farmers' toolbox for integrated pest management practices from across the Union

23 months study, contract signed in December 2020

25 June 2021

Context

- EU has most stringent system in the world for the authorisation and control of pesticides
- EU green deal, Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system :
 - reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030.
 - reduce by 50% the use of more hazardous pesticides by 2030.

Scope

- EU (+for analytical purposes, relevant experiences in third countries)
- EU agricultural sectors using pesticides, and various types of farm (i.e. economic size, type of crop...)
- 12 case studies (at least 10 Member States), possibly non EU country to determine:
 - which conditions and drivers played a role in influencing the reduction of dependency on pesticides use
 - Identify Barriers could have discouraged farmers
 - Ways barriers have been/could have been overcome

Objectives 1/4

- To describe and make the inventory of practices ,technologies and policies (public & private initiatives) to promote and reduce the dependency on pesticide use in the Union.

Inventory of policies and guidelines from Member States, Tools (e.g. CAP instruments such as Farm Advisory System (FAS), etc.), pest and disease monitoring and foresight, technologies (e.g. biological pest control by using microorganisms/virus, pheromones, plant extracts), and alternative practices (e.g. crop rotation, intercropping, mixed crops, non-chemical weeding, precision agriculture, resistant varieties, support of beneficial organisms)

Objectives 2/4

- To assess the potential of identified instruments in objective 1 to reduce dependency on pesticides use
- To analyse their effectiveness and barriers (real or perceived, roots and ways to overcome them). With a focus on
 - Economic aspects (e.g. additional costs versus added value) associated with agro-environmental variability factors (e.g. climatic, regional, crop-specific factors), including risk management (in the presence or absence of insurance schemes for pest-related yield or quality losses);
 - Aspects related to knowledge, information availability and accessibility, available or upcoming technologies;
 - Relationships between farmers and the other actors throughout the food chain.

Objectives 3/4

- To propose specific strategies on how to scale up good practices throughout the EU (such as research and knowledge transfer, including experiences from organic farming, permaculture and conservation agriculture).
- Identify an effective communication strategy for the dissemination of the findings.

Objectives 4/4

- To create an EU-wide database listing relevant information and guidance (practices, products, and technologies etc ...) to reduce the dependency on pesticide use;

Thank you