



European Network for the durable exploitation of crop protection strategies

IA3 Activity: Human resource exchange

ENDURE - Internal Mobility

Final activity report

(The form has to be filled in and sent to the activity leader – message should be sent to his p.a. elisa.scanzi@ibaf.cnr.it – within 15 days after the end of the visit)

Topic of the visit

Basic conditions and requirements for training and certification of farmers, advisors and distributors for using plant protection products in ENDURE partner states

1. Information about researcher and sending partner

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2. Information about hosting partner

Hosting partner: *Szent Istvan University (SZIE)*

Institute/Department/Research Unit: *Plant Protection Institute*

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* For senior scientist indicate the name of the collaborating colleague

3. Information about the visit

Duration: *4 weeks*

Start date: *10th April 2008*

End date: *9th May 2008*

4. Topic of the visit

To support the sub-activity SA1.1 "Training of pest managers, advisors and facilitators of farmer groups":

- 1. Provide primary and additional information for identifying training needs and lacking knowledge about IPM in the ENDURE network.*
- 2. Identify of training needs within the ENDURE network, exchange of information depending on the training practises and plant protection advisory systems in the various ENDURE member states;*
- 3. Design of a training programme for plant protection advisors, to take place in June 2008 on the experimental site in Dahnsdorf, Germany (organised by JKI in cooperation with and under the supervision of SZIE);*

5. Links between visit activity and priority areas

- This stay will provide main and additional information for identification of training needs and lack of knowledge about IPM in the ENDURE network. Furthermore different training practises in the member states should be compared;*
- Supporting the sub-activity SA1.1 "Training of pest managers, advisors, facilitators of farmers groups".*

Date of submission

17.05.2008



Dr. Maurizio Sattin
IA3 activity leader

Approved



Progression:

- 1) Taking part in *ENDURE Exploratory training workshop* on April 28th and 29th in Budapest:

The main topic was to discuss and draw conclusions from the *Desk Study with analysis of existing different training programmes and proposal for their feasibility under ENDURE activities*. (Janice Jiggings) and the incorporation of a participatory approach into the current advisory systems in the ENDURE member states.

The main findings or key points from the desk study discussed in the workshop were that there is no integration of IPM training at the European, national or subregional levels. There is no clear picture of what is offered by whom or who accesses which of the private advisory/extension services. Technical and management advising of crop-specific or pest-specific IPM often varies amongst the different countries.

The queries were at what levels is it useful to organise IPM training information and would it be useful to target training efforts by developing a map or an inventory of hot spots, for example.

Proactive initiatives already exist in the various countries. Examples include direct payment schemes for integrated production, such as the market recognition label *IP Suisse* in Switzerland, the COOP supermarket group in Great Britain which offers advisory information and an agric specialists' guide *Assured Produce Scheme* (vegetables and fruits) and *Farming with Future*, based on a crop protection agreement with the water and pesticide industries and farmer's organisations that implement strong *maximal residual levels* and crop-specific *good agricultural practices*.

- 2) Interviews with farmers, agricultural advisors and facilitators participating in an FAO project about participatory training of farmers and advisors in all parts of Hungary.

Topics: the Hungarian advisory system and Hungarian experiences with the participatory training in comparison to common advisory practices in Hungary.

The official Hungarian plant protection advisory system consists of a national *Plant Protection Chamber* with about 4000 members who mainly work as advisors throughout Hungary. All plant protection advisors must hold a university M.Sc. degree in plant protection. There are sub-chambers of the national chamber with local advisors in each country.

All plant protection advisors who work for the Hungarian state must be members of the national plant protection chamber, but not all of them are governmental agricultural officers (first group). There are also advisors in the local plant protection chambers (second group) who have a contract with the state of Hungary. The most dominant group is comprised of independent advisors who are paid by the farmers (third group), although these expenses can partly be recalled by the farmers from the state of Hungary. The

advisors in the first and second group only very rarely spend time on farmers' fields. The dominant group advising farmers on-farm are the independent advisors.

In addition to these plant protection advisors, companies that trade in plant protection products such as Raiffeisen, also have advisors who are also members of the national chamber and must therefore have a licence in order to advise. There are also advisors of the agrochemical industry, of course.

What are the main duties of the advisors?

In Hungary plant protection products are divided into three categories. The first category includes the most toxic plant protection products with the highest impact or danger for the environment. The second category includes plant protection products of medium toxicity and plant protection products of less toxicity comprise the third category.

The sale, purchase and use of the first category plant protection products is only allowed with an M. Sc. degree in plant protection but they are also available with the prescription of an advisor in the national chamber and can be sprayed by the farmer if he is authorised to buy and sell second category plant protection products. This adviser must however be present during the spraying of the plant protection product. Unfortunately this seldomly works because the advisors do not have enough time to be present on the field whenever a plant protection product has to be sprayed. Even for the decision to spray a ppp in most cases there is even a lack of time to decide whether to spray or not on-site and the farmers have to come to advisor's office to receive their prescription after having described their phytosanitary problem.

Buying, spraying and selling second category plant protection products is allowed if a farmer has a minimum farm size of 80 ha and a licence by the national chamber for the application of second category plant protection products. A university degree for this category is not necessary. Plant protection products that belong to the first category include, for example, all herbicides used in winter wheat and most of the insecticides. Most ppps used in orchards or viticulture belong to the second category.

Participation in retraining every five years is mandatory in order to keep a license for the first or second category. Training for the first category ppp licence takes 40 hours and is offered by the universities. Training for the second category takes only 8 hours and is organised by the plant protection chambers. Other official retrainings don't exist, but trainings and workshops are also offered by various trade organisations, secondary agricultural schools, universities or the agrochemical companies especially during the winter (so-called winter schools).

A highly frequent early plant protection warning service by fax or e-mail, such as in Germany's federal states does not exist in Hungary and there is also a lack of knowledge about IPM methods and thresholds for pests and diseases that are specific to Hungary. The participatory training methods within the FAO project for farmer field schools in Hungary were a chance for the Hungarian farmers to get in contact with IPM.

The experiences of the facilitators, who are mostly advisors as well, and the farmers with participatory training and farmer field schools during the entire vegetation period were continuously positive. The advantages of FFS and participatory training methods in comparison to winter schools or "normal" advising are that knowledge is offered to the farmers and not just pure information and that it seems to be more efficient and ultimately less time-intensive to train farmers to be able to take their own decisions and not to be permanently dependent on continuous advising services.

3) Introduction to the process of participatory training at SZIE

What characterises participatory training?

Training of Trainers and *Farmer Field School* are two core activities of IPM training. The knowledge gained in FFS will enable farmers to organise *Farmer Field Schools* for more farmers in their area.

FFSs are based on ecological principals, participatory training and non-formal educational methods. They emphasise learning through experience and dealing with real field problems. Training implies the facilitation of the learning process rather than instruction. FFSs give farmers the opportunity to experiment, sharpen their observation skills and take the initiative. Generalised recommendations need to be tested and adapted by the farmers themselves, according to the specific local conditions and skills that the farmers have gained through years of experience. A FFS is field-based and lasts for one cropping season (from seeding to harvest).