

O.08 - Integrated production: Europe needs an innovative, participative IPM strategy within a holistic integrated production approach

Lesinsky, D.

Agriculture is a base for the well being of all of us, therefore there is no alternative to agriculture, but there are alternative approaches to agriculture. We must minimise negative impacts of agriculture inter alia reducing CO₂ emissions, agrochemical residues in food, feed and the environment, improving soil health, supporting vibrant rural communities etc. Our current dependence on pesticides is scientifically proven to have damaging impacts on human health, the environment and ecosystems and this must be eliminated - the sooner the better. There is also a need to internalise the external costs of pesticides and other agrochemicals in order to help make ecologically based IPM financially more attractive. Solutions are partly known, partly under test and partly wait for discovery. On the one hand, we need strong political and economic support for more ecologically based approaches and, on the other, effective networking in research, knowledge/experience exchange, advice, training and education as well as fair financing, information systems and consumer awareness. A holistic approach to integrated production should be the way forward for the majority of conventional agriculture in Europe. It requires clear, measurable and controllable standards, a spirit of continuous improvement, and measurable added value for consumers, the farming sector and European society. PAN Europe, the Pesticide Action Network in Europe, supports such a holistic alternative and is ready to help with its implementation across the European Union.