


<b>METHODOLOGY</b>  <b>M10</b>	<b>FIELD VISIT</b>  (Technical preparation)
	<b>Preparation of session</b>

Date (08/07/2010)

<b>WHAT IS?</b>	Field visits are a type of training whereby farmers and advisers can learn and gain experience about solutions to plant protection problems through discussions in the field. Farmers' fields can be the launching point for these discussions, as well as demonstrations and field experiments.
<b>WHY</b>	A well-prepared event will create the optimal forum for learning and discussing during a field visit.
<b>HOW</b>	<p>Before planning the actual field visit, identify the kind of people who will attend the field visit, as different groups have different expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Farmers: Will need concrete discussions on subjects in the field.</li> </ul> <p>Use, for example, <b>Experience groups</b> for farmers, as this creates an optimal environment for farmers to share knowledge and experiences (see case below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Advisers: Will need advanced discussions among colleagues on relevant subjects.</li> </ul> <p>Advisers benefit from being put together in the field, where more specialised challenges can be discussed</p> <p>For both types of audience, it is important that most of the session takes place in the field, where the problems occur.</p> <p>As host of the event, you should establish what you want to show to the participants. As a rule of thumb, there are two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Farmers fields</li> <li>▶ Field experiments</li> </ul> <p>Often it is enough to spend time in farmers' fields, if they are suitably located.</p> <p><b>Case: grass weed management</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>You are advising a group of farmers, who all have problems with grass weeds in their cereal dominated crop rotations. They ask you to help them learn more about grass weed management.</p> </div>

	<p><b>Before the meeting:</b></p> <p>Before the meeting, prepare a sheet on, for example, four dominant grass weed species, where you list the main biology and control measures. <a href="#">See an example from the Danish IPM homepage here.</a></p> <p><b>The meeting:</b></p> <p>At the meeting, start by introducing the four species and provide information about the sheet. Move then to one of the fields with grass weed problems and discuss both identification and management. In this case it is both relevant to discuss preventive measures (for example, crop rotation, stubble management, weed mapping etc.) and curative measures (for example, optimised herbicide use).</p> <p>Depending on the number of fields visited, this type of field visit should not take more than approximately two hours.</p> <p>By including the sheet as a tool in the field visit, it ensures farmers keep a reminder with them, about something new, something they did not know before. This is the key to a successful field visit.</p>
WHAT I NEED	<p>Before a field visit, the following should be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Identify the target group</li> <li>▶ Decide on an appropriate technique for sharing the knowledge (see the sheet on <b>Preparation of session</b>)</li> <li>▶ Determine what should be the outcome of the meeting, what should the farmers/advisers know when they have attended the field visit?</li> <li>▶ Locate the right fields!</li> <li>▶ Decide if it is relevant to make/visit field experiments.</li> </ul>
SOURCES	<p>For further information on methodologies etc. download the other sheets and leaflets in the ENDURE IPM Training Guide.</p>