



# ENDURE

European Network for Durable Exploitation of crop protection strategies

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**An interaction framework to create linkages between research and policy makers as well as to disseminate information concerning policy background, procedures and socio economic factors for success in different countries**

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## Glossary

EIC – ENDURE Information Centre (or ENDURE IC)

PSD – Pesticides Safety Directorate is an executive agency of Defra

EPA – Danish Environmental Protection Agency

NAP – National Action Plan(s)

MS – European Member States (EU 27)

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## Summary

The main aim of the interaction framework is to forge links between ENDURE and policy makers and contributing to the ENDURE Information Centre as point of scientific reference for policy makers. As a first step expectations of policy makers were identified and direct contacts initiated. The work are presented in this report.

This report describes the undertaken work and achieved first results of the sub-activity establishing interactions with policy makers and introducing ENDURE as a source for scientific information. Contacts to policy makers on national and European level revealed their interest in scientific information about the implementation of IPM and low input systems. A need for training schemes with focus on IPM and indicators adapted to threshold values were identified.

The first event, the EU Expert Meeting on “National plans and programmes for the reduction of risks associated with the use of plant protection products” took place on March 13-14, 2007 in Berlin. Another component building the interaction network is the co-organisation of the European meeting “Sustainable agriculture and pesticides” under the auspices of the French EU presidency on November 24-26, 2008 in Paris.

The experiences revealed the importance to identify the topics for scientific advice in the policy field and to respond to current developments. The increasing integration of knowledge and expertise of European scientists will be made available to different national and European levels. For the future it will be increasingly valuable for ENDURE to build a long lasting network with policy makers, to offer the expertise as well as its experiences to other European Member States and countries and establish itself not only as a knowledge provider but as a broker for scientific knowledge.

Depending on the development and availability of the Endure Information Centre information and content such as national reduction programmes, evaluation reports and reflections on success factors will be offered and available to policy makers via the EIC virtual policy desk.

## 1. Introduction

The main task of SA4.5 is to forge close links between ENDURE and policy makers and to contribute to the ENDURE IC as point of scientific reference for policy makers. This was agreed at a preliminary group meeting in August 2007 in Berlin. Therefore the activities from M9 to M18 focused on proactive approach towards policy makers. The contribution to ENDURE IC with web based information will be realised when the EIC platform is developed. The current ongoing discussion process of the Framework Directive for community action for a sustainable use of pesticides served as a starting point for planning of activities. During first discussions it became clear that the networks' contribution to policy makers should take stock of the current ongoing discussion about the proposed "*EU Framework Directive to establish Community action for the sustainable use of pesticides*".

## 2. Planning

With the start of the sub-activity it became very obvious that real-life dialogue with policy makers is preferred because it will be more efficient and more appropriate to their needs than making information available on a web site as originally planned.

### 2.1. Definition of goals and objectives

Creating an interaction framework means to foster interaction between policy makers and research with the aim of providing comprehensive scientific information and facilitating crop protection policies and their implementation. The term framework should be seen as the establishment of contacts at both national and EU level where ENDURE proposes itself and it is recognised to be a major source of scientific information on crop protection and IPM in particular.

With regard to scientific contribution concerning the national implementation of the proposed Framework Directive the following topics relevant to policy makers were identified:

- Support the development of National Action Plans
- Exchange experiences and knowledge concerning training for IPM
- Promote implementation of IPM and matching governance strategies

IPM is considered the most urgent issue for facilitating and exchanging information between science and policy making and it was decided to organise a European event with focus on implementation of IPM in Europe.

Acknowledging that ENDURE is a network of scientists, in all group's actions the role of science in supporting policy development and decision making is emphasised.

### 2.2. Action points

In the first stage a proactive approach towards policy makers was adopted till the ENDURE Information Centre will be ready as a virtual desk to provide comprehensive information to policy makers. Thus considering being very important to build individual contacts identifying the expectations of policy makers. Therefore each participant identified the competent national authority and conducted interviews with them. On European level a talk was held between the ENDURE coordinator and the DG Environment to find out about their expectations towards ENDURE and the scientific expertise the network could provide leading to focused action of the group and offering expertise pertinent to policy makers needs.

In preparation of the contribution to the EIC, the role of governance and stakeholder participation was investigated in NL and DK and reports from other activities will be made available for the EIC.

## 3. Implementation and activities

### 3.1. Contact with national and European authorities and policy makers

The members of the group representing the countries Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands and United Kingdom initiated contacts with national authorities.

#### 3.1.1. National contacts and outcome

In Germany an interview was organised with a representative from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Dept. Plant Protection. Very efficient cooperation between JKI and the Ministry of Agriculture exists. Therefore direct contact and scientific advice would be received via the additional expertise of the JKI experts represented in the ENDURE and not via the network as such.

Regular participation of German group members in sessions of the Working Party on Agricultural Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products) in Brussels provided a continuous update of current developments of discussions for the activity concerning the proposed Framework Directive.

In France ENDURE was represented at the round table meetings and interviews were conducted with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment. Their main interests are focused on indicators associated with threshold values in context of integrated pest management and replacing indicators with focus on yields. A need for training schemes which are based on realistic examples and schemes applicable for general cases was expressed. The need to develop low-input and site specific systems was emphasised. Methods to evaluate the feasibility of such systems are essential to persuade farmers to adopt alternative farming approaches. The representatives were interested in scenarios on a diversity of agricultural systems each associated to a different level of pesticide use from which different target thresholds of pesticide use could be extrapolated.

The possible role of retailers in promoting change, the role and image of science and agriculture in society, its benefits to society and the need to raise awareness in the general public with regard to environmental and social benefits were discussed.

In the UK a meeting took place with representatives of Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD). Members of PSD at first expressed reservations towards the network's objective of reduced reliance on pesticides. But within the meeting the potential contribution was explained and the reservations dispelled. The further withdrawal of products from approval under current legislation and concerns about problems in "minor use" crops were particularly mentioned as a need for scientific advice. An exchange with other Member States about their experiences with the different training schemes would be welcomed.

In the Netherlands permanent relations to the Ministry of Agriculture were used to enquire about expectations towards the network. Very close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and WUR in different activities such as the Covenant Sustainable Crop Protection exists. Therefore ENDURE's contribution is welcomed but demands on information from the network were not expressed in detail. The Dutch experiences in the development and implementation of governance processes will serve as a valuable source for development processes.

In Denmark a meeting with the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took place. Members of the EPA are generally interested in scientific information from the Network and a need of pertinent information concerning IPM implementation and crop specific guidelines was identified. With regard to scientific support for the implementation of NAP Denmark has a long history of reduction programmes and could serve as a reference for experiences developing and implementing such plans in other countries.

The Italian group member established contacts with a representative of the Ministry of Environment and a meeting took place where general interests in ENDURE activities were expressed. A meeting with the National Technical Committee including representatives of Min. of Agriculture, Environment, Health and national and regional authorities took place on

12<sup>th</sup> May 2008 where ENDURE was presented to the Committee. The discussion concentrated on the contributions that ENDURE could provide for the definition of suitable and reliable indicators and on IPM.

### 3.1.2. European contacts and outcome

Tim Hall, Head of Unit at DG RTD, attended the ENDURE kick-off meeting and encouraged ENDURE to serve as a source of scientific support to policy makers.

Contacts with DG ENVI were initiated and a meeting held with Anne-Cecile Cotillon in Brussels.

At European Level a meeting took place with a representative of the DG Environment and the following fields for expertise were identified:

- IPM principles and the complementation of Annex III of the Framework Directive
- Information about IPM measures implemented in practice and their effects on the farmers' income
- IPM should be a topic made understandable for users and the general public
- Risk indicators used for assessing decisions and decision making of concerned strategies and then their implementation
- Training requirements and mutual recognition, requirements for groups of users, advisors and retailers

## 3.2. Events

### 3.2.1. EU Expert Meeting on National plans and programmes for the reduction of risks associated with the use of plant protection products

The EU Expert Meeting on "National plans and programmes for the reduction of risks associated with the use of plant protection products" was held on invitation of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) on March 13 – 14, 2007 at the venue of the Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry in Berlin-Dahlem. The meeting, chaired by Dr. Wolfgang Zornbach (BMELV), was co-organised by the German EU Presidency and the ENDURE partner JKI.

Delegates from 23 EU-Member States, 5 NGOs and the European Commission attended the meeting. 10 Member States presented and discussed in plenary sessions their national activities, plans and programmes considering development process, essential goals, objectives and milestones, measures and instruments, as well as results, achievements and long-term perspectives with all the participants.

All participants welcomed and appreciated the meeting being very useful and expressed their hope for a follow up.

### Summary report of the meeting

At the end of the meeting a broad discussion on possible elements and basic conclusions and recommendations was held. The observations from the expert meeting are as follows:

#### 1. Development process

National legislation concerning plant protection, different legal frameworks (e.g. the WFD) and other legal based and/or voluntary programmes are the basis for the development of National Action Plans.

Status quo analysis is one of the initial steps leading to the development of national programmes.

Programmes and plans should address the need for national flexibility and adaptation on national characteristics.

Programmes with regional and/or national scope are developed focussing on the particular needs of Member States.

The involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the development process of national programmes constitutes a very important step to promote acceptance and support of those plans. Responsibilities among stakeholders should be shared and a consensus reached about essential targets and goals.

The Action Plans should always take a safe income for farmers in account. Otherwise acceptance of activities will be rather poor.

## 2. Essential goals, objectives and milestones

In the past national activities on the reduction of pesticide use mainly focused on volume reduction as well as the ban of certain hazardous substances. Currently developed programmes follow approaches of risk reduction and reduction of intensity of treatments as means of risk reduction. Targets were set up targets with short or long term perspective. These targets differ from Member State to Member State and include quantitative as well as qualitative targets.

All goals, objectives and milestones should be related to specific situations in Member States.

Outputs of programmes are very often recorded. Outcomes are more important, but not so easy to define.

The availability of sufficient plant protection products has to be maintained to ensure the competitiveness of crop production as well as efficient resistance management strategies.

Methods and techniques for risk reduction in the field, which are technically and economically feasible, should be introduced and applied.

## 3. Measures and instruments

Status quo analysis needs to be carried out and for observation of trends a clear reference has to be set up.

Communication and involvement of stakeholders (incl. farmers) is a very important component to gain wide support for the plans.

The involvement of R&D, reference and demonstration farms and the use of advisory services can provide additional support for the implementation of programmes.

Action plans have to take the characteristics of different sectors into account. This can for instance relate to specified requirements concerning training, testing and inspection of equipment and facilitating information programmes.

The detailed meeting report, the agenda and the participant list is available at:

### **3.2.2. Invitation of representative of COM DG Environment to the ENDURE Annual Meeting 2007**

The representative of the European Commission DG Environment Unit B.3 (Biotechnology, Pesticides & Health) Anne-Cécile Cotillon held a presentation about the Framework Directive at the ENDURE Annual meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. She pointed from the Commission's point of view out on which issues scientific input from ENDURE can be delivered. A short discussion took place with the scientific audience discussing the controllability of measures proposed in the Framework Directive, incentive systems, the allocation of possible incentives for adoption of alternative production methods and ensuring the competitiveness of European farmers.

### **3.2.3. European meeting 2008**

Acknowledging the success of the first European meeting held in Berlin and the awareness about the role of the activity to actively initiate exchange and collaboration between policy makers and scientist from different countries the group decided to organise another event. The need for scientific information concerning the mandatory implementation of IPM was identified based on the talks to the national contacts. A meeting of two half days with European scope was planned for November 20-21, 2008. The objective of the meeting planned was to facilitate an exchange of experiences between policy makers, researchers



and other stakeholders on the prospects and obstacles of implementing IPM in a competitive European agriculture. Shortly after this decision was taken and the meeting content identified and preparation started the group was informed by the French Ministry of Agriculture about a European Meeting co-organized by the Ministries of Agriculture and Ecology on “Sustainable agriculture and pesticides” on November 24-26, 2008. Therefore the SA4.5 group contacted the representative of the French Ministry of Agriculture and offered to co-organise the meeting with several contributions to the meeting organised under the auspices of the French EU Presidency. This found the support of the French organisers and it has been agreed about the content ENDURE will deliver in different workshops and about the workshop “Governance and actor networks” which is organised by ENDURE.

### **3.2.3.1. Objective and content for the workshop “Governance and actor networks”**

ENDURE, acting as a facilitator of exchange across a diversity of situations, wishes to share experience in IPM on a variety of crop types and from a diversity of sector interests and disciplinary points of view across Europe.

During the workshop the following questions will be addressed:

- What are the success factors for the development of economically viable and environmentally acceptable crop protection?
- What are the levers for action available to policy makers?  
The objective is to identify factors allowing a reduced reliance on pesticides and to analyse how these factors can be used as elicitors of change.
- How can policymakers help accelerate the innovation process? Examples are presented for successful implementation of IPM and related to governance experiences.

Key factors as levers for policy action with regard to the success of IPM strategies were identified and accordingly the different examples will be analysed. The knowledge and research facet will be displayed with all related factors of governance and science drawing to a conclusion and rounding up the multi-facet information package.

### **3.2.3.2. Content contribution**

- Farmer-advisor-researcher innovation networks: The "Farming with future" programme in the Netherlands
- Short-term tactical reduction vs. long-term cropping system changes in arable crops: The “Hardy wheat story” from France and long term strategies from DK
- ENDURE’s analyses of drivers and barriers to IPM implementation
- Lessons learned from the Region-wide implementation of IPM with public support in Emilia Romagna: A top down approach
- PIC-Leg; a Farmer-led initiative to scale-up IPM across a commodity chain: A bottom up approach
- Non-agricultural actors and private standards: Retailer involvement in GlobalGAP and LEAF

## **4. Conclusion**

The experiences of the last 18 month reflect the contribution that science can provide in the policy and governance field. Close interaction between science and policy makers will ensure valuable scientific information in supporting their decisions responding to current developments and in long term. The knowledge and governance facets and the development of science beyond national level will be recognised and utilised. The rich expertise of European scientists and the increase in the integration of knowledge regarding specific subjects will be made available to national authorities. This is a valuable source for the development of National Action Plans and science related issues in all European Member States.

Past and planned events are the first steps in the constitution of a framework for interaction with policy makers that has the potential to become recognised as a major source of scientific information on crop protection and IPM in particular.

In all activities the exchange between policymakers and scientists of different countries on science-based policy development and decision making is emphasised. The network will act as a knowledge broker encouraging the transfer and exchange of scientific knowledge from research to comprehensive information for policy makers at national and European levels.

In the future the work will focus on consolidating the network with policy makers, disseminating information on procedures and socio economic factors for success in different countries.