

P.60 - First ENDURE summer school, 'Biodiversity supporting crop protection'

Bàrberi, P., Moonen, A.C., Bocci, G.

The first ENDURE summer school was part of the Education activities (SA 1.2 Joint Educational Programme) and was aimed at PhD students from all over the world. A study grant covering all travel and subsistence costs was available for 15 selected students. The objective of the summer school was to provide a theoretical framework and analytical tools enabling the participating PhD students to critically review projects dealing with biodiversity in agroecosystems and to set up innovative research examining those elements and aspects of (agro)biodiversity which can positively affect auto-regulation and sustainability related to crop protection. The summer school programme included lectures given by internationally-renowned experts belonging to ENDURE partners or to other higher education/research institutions and team work to facilitate active participation of the students and their interaction with the lecturers. The themes that were treated are: 1) How can bio-diversity and bio-functionality at the crop genetic, variety and species level affect the interaction between the crop and pests, weeds and diseases (PWD)? 2) How can bio-diversity and bio-functionality at the cropping system level affect the interaction between the crop and PWD? 3) How can landscape diversity and landscape functionality affect the interaction between the crop and PWD? 4) True IPM, including management effects on interactions between pests, weeds and diseases and the interactions with landscape spatial and temporal configuration. 5) Socio-economics and politics on crop protection.