


Argument A 6	<h1 style="margin: 0;">New legal constraints on pesticide use and the potential of IPM</h1>
	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Environmental</h2>

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WHAT IS	<p>Pesticides have been designed to control living organisms, such as weeds, plant diseases and pests, and most active substances in pesticides are hazardous. Use of pesticides therefore involves risks to those who apply them, to those who consume treated produce and the environment. Both European and national regulations set up a number of provisions in the use of pesticides to mitigate these risks.</p> <p>Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an alternative which minimises the risks to human health and the environment. While IPM may entail time management and technical constraints, it will nevertheless buffer regulatory constraints such as the possible reduced availability of pesticides and help prevent the development of resistance problems.</p>
WHY	<p>IPM, which involves the application of cultural and preventive measures and the use of pesticides in a more targeted fashion, reduces strongly the constraints introduced by the regulations (less use of products → fewer risks).</p> <p>From a resistance perspective, IPM also allows for better control of pests, diseases and weeds because it involves techniques rather than products.</p> <p>In fact, all technical and regulatory measures significantly reduce flexibility in the use of pesticides and also limit the argument which claims that IPM is complicated and time consuming.</p> <p>The main arguments to put forward are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ IPM is a system whereby farmers make decisions. Their decisions depend on the information they have as well as their confidence to take action. ▶ Farmers learn about IPM through observation and experimentation. ▶ IPM principles are realistic when farmers learn by doing ▶ IPM is an enhancing system for farmers.
HOW	<p>First, ask a group of farmers to present all the constraints they can think of when using pesticides. For this, you can use the brainstorming, hum group or post-it methodologies (see</p>

	<p>methodology sheets).</p> <p>Second, work with them to estimate the costs, both economic and in terms of time, that these constraints represent, and to set up good practices in terms of the quantity of pesticides used.</p> <p>Third, try to find alternative solutions with a focus on cultural methods and prevention before actual pesticide use. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the possible solutions. You can estimate the economic and time costs of the options and then identify good practice.</p> <p>Finally develop the positive aspects and indirect effects (not forgetting the long-term approach) of IPM implementation on a farm with regard to the previously discussed options. For this final step, you can use the restitution method (see methodology sheet).</p>
<p>SOURCES</p>	<p>You can find relevant information in the following documents:</p> <p>Directive establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides http://www.endure-network.eu/about_crop_protection/european_documents</p> <p>National policy documents (National programmes EU, DK, FR, NL, UK & National action plans : DK, FR, DE, http://www.endure-network.eu/about_crop_protection/national_policy_documents</p>