

CONTENTS & MODULES

IPM PRINCIPLE

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Use the correct amount of pesticide

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WHAT IS...	Once the decision to use a pesticide is taken, having considered the IPM principles, the grower must decide on how to apply the pesticide, the amount of active ingredient per ha (dose), quantity of spraying liquid per ha, frequency of application, complete or partial spraying of the field etc. According to this principle, an IPM-farmer uses as little pesticide as possible, but as much as needed.
WHY	It is an aim of IPM to limit pest control measures to the necessary minimum in order to favour robust cropping systems with a high biodiversity and to use natural processes rather than external inputs for plant protection. Depending on the outcome of the monitoring and decision making systems, the use of pesticides is sometimes unavoidable. In such cases, dose and/or frequency reductions or partial applications have to be considered.
HOW	To apply this principle, the grower must have access to sufficient information and guidance on what is the necessary amount of a specific pesticide. The role of independent professional advisors and of official advisory services is very important. The establishment of a network of reference and demonstration farms is another tool.
EXAMPLE	The correct way to comply with this principle is to know when to apply the lower or the higher registered doses. There is some discussion on the use of lower doses, as they are sometimes recommended depending, for example, on weed and canopy size. The increased risks of resistance development when applying lower doses are true mainly in intensive systems (e.g. continuous cropping) but they are reduced if professional users make full use of preventive measures. Thus if the conditions for the implementation of "true" IPM are met, diversification of pest management approaches will itself strongly reduce the risk of occurrence of pest resistance.
SOURCES	<p>► European Commission. Directorate General Environment. Implementation of IPM principles Guidance to Member States: (http://www.endure-network.eu/about_crop_protection/european_documents : BIPRO 2009 reports)</p> <p>► on the ENDURE Information Centre :</p> <p>→ keywords: measure = chemical control</p>
CONTACT PERSONS	Jesus.Avilla@irta.cat Jozsef.Kiss@mkk.szie.hu ;