

CONTENTS & MODULES

IPM PRINCIPLE

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Evaluate the success of the applied plant protection measures

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| WHAT IS... | The application of a plant protection measure has been effective when the pest population has been maintained below the economic injury level, not when the pest population has been (almost) completely eliminated. This concept has to be explained to growers very clearly. It is also important to note that this principle addresses all types of intervention, not only chemical ones. |
| WHY | IPM is a continuous process always including the latest improvements in plant protection. The knowledge of the success of the plant protection measures applied is a key element to achieve this improvement. The maintenance of farm records in e.g. field books allows a detailed study of the reasons of possible failures that might have occurred in the fields, and the proposal of corrective actions. |
| HOW | Monitoring pest populations after application of a pest control method is essential. Clear guidance must be provided to growers as to how success should be checked and which data should be used for this. In order to explain the success or failure of an applied plant protection measure, documented evidence is required on the preventive measures established by the professional user, on the monitoring activity carried out before and after intervention, on the characteristics of intervention (what, when, how, etc.). |
| EXAMPLE | <p>Proper documentation provides an excellent basis for reviewing if the established tools are helpful and lead to a real implementation of integrated pest management. The "field books", established, for example, in the frame of Integrated Production Guidelines, provide a detailed guide to comply growers' activity during the growing season.</p> <p>In order to be able to compare measures in a very rough way it seems appropriate to categorise results of success checks into (e.g.) 'measure failed', 'measure provided adequate results' or 'measure provided excellent results.' For each category, a definition is necessary, taking into account the monitored pest decrease and the necessary period for the plant protecting measure. It is important that such definitions are established for each plant protection measure group separately, since a non-chemical method might lead to the same success but might take more time.</p> |

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| SOURCES | 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) |
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