



European grower needs for IPM and BioControl

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Outline

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Who are Copa and Cogeca?

Copa – European farmers

Bringing together 60 EU farmers' organisations

Representing 30 million farmers and their families

Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives

Bringing together 35 EU agri-coops organisations

As well as around 40,000 cooperatives

Is IPM a new concept ?

- IPM is not a new concept
- Techniques
- What is new in Europe ?

What does IPM mean to European farmers and agricooperatives ?

There are many definitions of IPM

e.g. FAO: IPM means managing, in a given situation, populations of plant pests, diseases and weeds by the **combination of all appropriate agricultural practices** (preventive measures, cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical practices), with a **holistic approach** that reduces the impact of pests and damage to an acceptable level and at the same time ensures the protection of human health and the environment.

Applying IPM at farm level

- IPM is an on-farm management tool
- IPM is part of integrated crop management (ICM)
- IPM/ICM are the cornerstone of sustainable farming
- IPM is not about definitions

Applying IPM at farm level

- IPM is about ...
- Non chemical and chemical combined /integrated
- Biological control products
- Preventive actions first
- Use of PPP principle
- Requires day to day decision making on the farm
- Need for more demo actions
- Less theoretical / macro research

Important to remember

The market dictates a lot of the requirements which restricts the farmers options

The economic threshold for certain products is often zero.

Hence it is unfeasible to expect farmers to wait for even slight visual damages before spraying if it reduces crop value.

(I) Some points of consideration for IBMA work

Solutions for growers must be available at all times for all problems. This must be:

- **A range of control options are needed with different modes of action**
- **Resistance management is at risk due to the limited availability of PPPs on the market – biological control products play an important role**
- **Cost effective tools which are easy to implement (e.g. mass trapping with pheromones)**

(II) Some points of consideration for IBMA work

- **Consider bio control products for both open fields and protected crops**
- **North and South EU climatic conditions need to be considered**
- **Further development of biopesticides as effective tools to control certain pests**
- **There is real concern for the implementation of IPM principles if tools are unavailable or missing. This could lead to distortion of competition at EU level and vis-à-vis third country imports**

Crop and sector specific guidelines on IPM

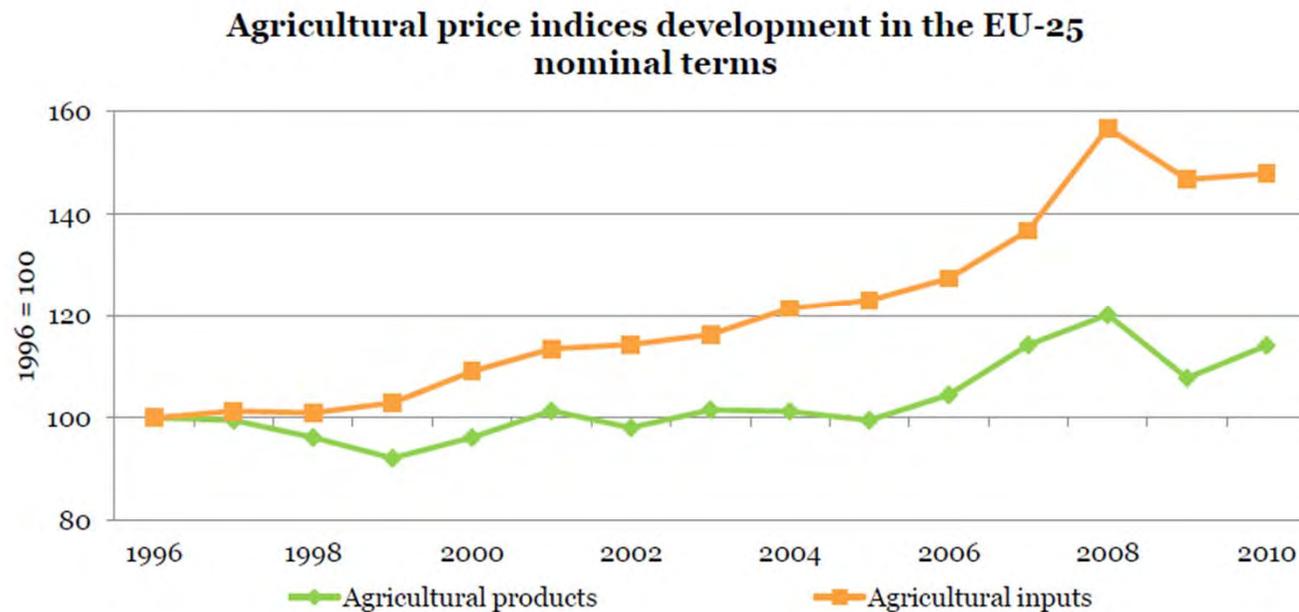
Defining general IPM principles and provision of general guidance is possible as long as these allow for adaptation to the specific situation and provide flexibility for site specific management decisions.

Crop and sector specific guidelines on IPM

The role of National authorities should be to provide relevant information and not to approve specific rotations or cultivation methods based on specific guidelines

(1) Some facts to keep in mind

The “cost-price squeeze”: since 1996, agricultural output prices have increased on average by 1.1% each year while input prices have increased by 2.9% in nominal terms



(2) Some facts to keep in mind

- 65% of EU farms are unable to cover all their production costs (i.e. remuneration of own factors included)
- CAP support represents two-thirds of farmers' incomes
- Excessive price volatility for agricultural products severely hampered by the competitiveness of the sector
- Farmers' incomes equate to less than half an average salary

No additional costs at farm level

Conclusions

- Decision for use of a PPP needs to be done by farmers and growers
- IPM has to be economically sustainable
- Ensuring better economic margins for farmers and growers
- Guidelines are useful if practical and developed with farmers organizations
- Ensuring a common playing field at EU
- Imports from third countries has to meet EU standards

Let's work together to defend, develop and promote the European Model of Agriculture

THANK YOU !!!

www.copa-cogeca.eu

