Project title: Identifying IPM measures for given pest/crop combinations to improve plant health and decrease dependency on chemical pesticides

Funding agency: In-kind contributions from various institutions*

Project budget: € 114 260

Duration: 2022-2024

Project description

There has been limited progress in the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) by growers at field-level, as well as in the reduction of dependence on chemical pest control although effective alternative or preventive measures are available. This may be attributed to the active promotion and marketing of chemical pesticides by their manufacturers, while efficient alternative preventive measures for improving plant health (such as crop rotation, intercropping, planting of resistant/tolerant cultivars, hygiene measures, appropriate cultivation methods, biological control measures, and the use of monitoring and decision support systems) are often less promoted. This is despite the fact that some regions have legal requirements for regulating plant production according to IPM principles and for marketing plant products with low, or even no, residues (EU Directive 2009/128/EC).

This project, an initiative of the Euphresco network for phytosanitary research coordination and funding is being coordinated by the ICGEB Biopesticides Group. Specific project objectives are to: i) identify model crop/pest combinations, for which plant protection alternatives to chemical-synthetic products are particularly needed, based on agreed decision criteria; ii) map information about IPM strategies (including recent technical-scientific but also traditional agricultural knowledge, economic and social aspects) validated or already in use for the model crop/pest combinations in order to identify IPM measures that are cost effective; iii) compile information on IPM strategies retrieved from different sources (e.g. websites, scientific articles, technical guidelines) and to agree on the best format to present this information to policy makers and other national stakeholders; iv) identify the technical gaps on IPM measures that may prevent their adoption and use, and to provide recommendations to fill the gaps; and v) identify the main obstacles for the implementation of IPM in the partner countries and to propose the most efficient ways to encourage national stakeholders to adopt the IPM measures (e.g. knowledge transfer). Options to create cross sector, multi-actor approaches based on best practice examples shall also be examined.

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