



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 6

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Living Lab INTIA: Improving the advisory service on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The advisory service of INTIA has more than 30 years of experience in pest management advice. Although nowadays it is mainly based on the use of pesticides, there is a clear evolution towards more sustainable strategies. Farmers and experts want to be prepared for these new strategies, so they demand a change in the advisory service, adapted to new needs in relation to IPM.

The Pest Monitoring and Warning System (PMWS) is a tool that has been used by agricultural advisors for many years to help the decision-making process of experts and farmers in the pest management of crops. In a recent European project the tool was improved, creating a platform that offers real-time information about 164 monitoring points and in which farmers and experts can contribute giving data about phenology and pests on their own crops, improving the quality of the information of the tool. Although the tool is very helpful, its use is not much widespread among farmers and experts of the agro-food sector. It is necessary to show its functionalities and to open up the process to the end-users so that they can say which things would be useful for them and to make it easier to use. Besides the improvement in the usability of the PMWS, other points of action have been identified: training in small groups, demonstrations near their cooperatives, collective actions to improve peer to peer learning and working with new technologies such as drones, satellites and precision agriculture.

As of the next campaign, the LL strategy is going to be focused on 3 cooperatives of Navarre region. Using the LL methodology, farmers, advisors, experts on IPM and other stakeholders will be engaged in the design, test and validation of a new tailored service, which is going to consider all their practical needs.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The aim of the LL in Navarra is to improve the advisory service in IPM on a multi-stakeholder participatory process, in a real context and considering farmers' real needs.

After a diagnosis phase and workshops with various stakeholders of the sector the aim of the LL and 5 points of actions were defined for the improvement of the service: experimentation, training, Pest Monitoring and Warning System, innovation and technology and communication.

The prototyping and testing phases are focused on three cooperatives that represent the diversity of crops, farmers and landscapes that we can find in the region.

Farmers have raised problems for each action points and, although each cooperative has its own needs, some common lines have been proposed for all of them: an action group to organize activities within the LL, an innovation plan that includes innovation and technologies and a specific collaborative use of the Pest Monitoring and Warning system.



ABOUT AGRILINK

Agrilink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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