SFI IPM test & trials and farmer adoption of the scheme

January 2024

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NFU Plant Health Unit
How is the post-EU future shaping up so far?

- encourage uptake of IPM
- better recording of IPM
Effective IPM planning and recording

Advice & guidance

Payment mechanisms

Drivers of behaviour
Current delivery of IPM public goods → IPM Land Management Plans → Behaviour insight → Evidence report

Structured surveys
national, cross-sectoral, online (limited online/virtual support)
203 farmers (~29 farmers/region; range of IPM uptake)

Other surveys
H2020 IPM Decisions project/ AHDB monitor farm meetings
100+ farmers, existing IPM uptake

Facilitated group workshops
national, cross-sectoral, 3 venues (N, Midlands, S)/virtual
84 farmers, (~12 farmers per region)

1-2-1
national, on-farm/virtual/phone
35 farmers (5 farmers per region)

Basic support
national, cross-sectoral, not-interactive, online
84+ farmers, (~12 farmers per region)

Farm walk/phone interviews
Assess effectiveness of Advice & Guidance; interpret barriers & incentives for uptake
60 farmers (20 from each LMP group)

Report to Defra
Report, evidence & case studies

1 December 2020
31 January 2021
30 June 2021
30 September 2021
31 October 2021
### Drilling method

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<th>Saddle galls</th>
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**Links to Guidance**

- [https://thrive.org.uk/]

### Rotation or Other

- Avoid following legumes by 1 year
- Break crops
- Bedded bank
- Diverse field margins
- Soil analysis

**Crop Establishment**

- Direct drilling may involve 30-40 cm to minimize damage.
- Sowing deeper than 5 cm for a more established and increase susceptibility to disease and other pests.

**Crop Management**

- In Use: ?
- Not Used: ?
- In Use: ?
- Not Used: ?

**Resistance Assessment**

- No: ?
- Yes: ?

**Feedback Questionnaire**

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For weed management guidance please visit:

https://www.efsaframework.org/
Current delivery of IPM public goods

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203 farmers (~29 farmers/region; range of IPM uptake)

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Behaviour insight

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60 farmers (20 from each LMP group)

Evidence report

Report to Defra
Report, evidence & case studies

1 December 2020
31 January 2021
30 June 2021
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31 October 2021

NFU
NFU CYMRU
NFU Mutual
Findings – IPM tool

- 274 farmers completed VI IPM assessment plans
- mean IPM score = 68/100
- 88% would recommend IPM tool to other farmers
- completing IPM tool & creating report took 1-2 hours
- increase in IPM 12-38% for arable crops, 2-21% for grassland
- commitment to adopt new IPM measures similar across groups receiving different levels of support
Findings – Advice & Guidance

• 65% already had good understanding of IPM
• 25% of workshop participants, 17% of 1-to-1, 0% of self-completer’s views on IPM changed by project
• 89% would continue to use IPM advice & guidance in future land management planning
• Preference for ‘face-to-face’ advice, & agronomist’s involvement would be beneficial
Findings – Payment Mechanisms

• ‘economic’ & ‘environmental’ drives use of IPM advice
• ‘economic’, ‘lack of knowledge of IPM’, & ‘mindset or habits’ - key barriers to uptake of IPM practices
• 76% cited ‘economic’ factors as important enabler/reason to implement more IPM practices
• 50% cited ‘economic’ factors are biggest enabler, followed by ‘good advertisement of IPM’ & ‘education’
• £100 didn’t encourage ‘opt-ins’ to participate in this project
Conclusions – IPM tools & planning

• IPM tools needed for each key crop
• IPM tools focussed on effective evidence-based IPM actions
• Widespread use of IPM tool would
  – Enable farmers to create detailed IPM plans
  – Guide users towards effective IPM actions
  – Provide users with links to further guidance
  – Record current implementation of IPM
  – Record commitments to implement additional IPM
Conclusions – Advice & Guidance

• Guidance & support to complete IPM tool should include
  – Short written guidance
  – Online video presentations
  – Technical helpline (to resolve IT issues)
• Guidance could be strengthened with interactive virtual workshops
• Fill gaps in evidence of effectiveness of IPM actions
• Engage crop consultants to support farmers implementing SFI IPM actions
Conclusions – Payment Mechanisms

• VFM – IPM ELM should be focussed on key crops & key pests
• key crops & pests should reflect public good aims of IPM
• key crops & pests selected should be those where there is substantial & practically feasible opportunities for greater IPM
• how will environmental land management payments relate to SFI?
SFI IPM Test & Trial extension A

• Co-design of the SFI IPM Standard
  – checking paid actions against the evidence
• Incentive payment rates
  – farmer workshops – choice experiments
• Developing an online IPM Tool
  – user friendly online tool for expanded range of crops
• Advice and guidance
  – Written and video guidance enabling easier use of IPM tool
Conclusions

• Co-design of the SFI IPM Standard
  – In-field non-cropped areas +/-
  – Crop Rotation +/+ 
  – Precision application +
  – Biopesticides and low risk PPPs +/-
  – Use of decision supports systems +
  – Pest and disease resistant varieties +
  – Crop hygiene and prevention +/-
Conclusions

• Incentive payment rates
  – flexibility is key

• Online IPM Tool
  – Interactive online tool developed; covers winter wheat, oilseed rape, winter barley, winter beans, improved grassland, sugar beet, peas, maize, potatoes, winter oats, apples and brassicas; good user feedback; made publicly available

• Advice and guidance
  – Positive user feedback, but needs regular updates
2.5 SFI actions for integrated pest management

The SFI actions for integrated pest management are focused on:
- increasing knowledge and identifying opportunities for an integrated pest management (IPM) approach
- creating habitats for natural crop pest predators
- using companion cropping to suppress weeds, reduce diseases and provide protection from crop pests
- minimising use of pesticides

They include:
- IPM1: Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan
- IPM2: Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips
- IPM3: Companion crop on arable and horticultural land
- IPM4: No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops

These actions should help with managing crop pests, diseases and weeds more sustainably to minimise use of pesticides.

This can help improve farm productivity by reducing costs and risks. The actions can also provide a range of environmental benefits, such as:
- increased biodiversity
- improved water, soil and air quality
SFI IPM Test & Trial extension B

- Engaging ‘hard to reach’ farmers and low IPM adopters
- Refining the online IPM Tool
- IPM planning…IPM implementation…desired public good outcomes
Farmer adoption of SFI IPM actions

• > 8,500 farmers applied to SFI
• > 6,000 agreement offers issued
• 35,000 live Countryside Stewardship agreements
  – 8,200 new agreements started in 2023
  – 8,600 agreements starting in 2024
• 8,000 HLS agreements
What is the IPM Tool for?
The tool provides specific guidance on the IPM control measures that are relevant to the crops you grow, and the particular pests, weeds and diseases that are a problem on your farm.

Using the Tool will also complete and record an IPM plan for your crops.

How do I use the IPM Tool?
For a short video showing how to use the tool, click here.

Video guidance on using the tool →

Introductory videos on IPM:
Arable here →
Grassland here →
Horticulture here →
Written guidance on IPM here:
Apple →
Brassicas →
Improved Grassland →
Maize →
Oilseed Rape →
Peas & Beans →
Potatoes →
Sugar Beet →
Wheat, Barley & Oats →
Weeds →

Who created the IPM Tool?
The tool was produced by crop protection and IPM specialists at ADAS and SRUC.

It links to guidance from AHDB and other independent sources, and development of the Tool was funded by Defra as part of a Test and Trial project.