Integrated pest management (IPM)

IPM is a holistic approach to sustainable agriculture that focuses on managing insects, weeds and diseases through a combination of cultural, physical, biological and chemical methods that are cost effective, environmentally sound and socially acceptable. This includes the responsible use of crop protection and plant biotech products.

Why is IPM important?

- **Global population** is on the rise
- **Food demand** and therefore so is
- This means farmers must **increase yields** on existing lands
- While **protecting biodiversity** and looking after the environment

IPM provides farmers with tools and strategies to **minimise losses** caused by insects, weeds and diseases to **sustainably maximise production**

Key components of IPM

Farmers are the primary decision makers in implementing IPM strategies

**Prevent** the build-up of pests

- Understand conditions
- Select varieties
- Manage crops

**Monitor** crops for both pests and natural control mechanisms

- Inspect fields
- Identify issues
- Determine action

**Intervene** when control methods are needed

- Choose method
- Plan approach
- Intervene responsibly

Control methods

- Cultural
- Physical
- Biological
- Chemical

Integrated pest management
Role of the crop protection industry

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- Developing innovative chemistry and other control agents to manage insects, weeds and diseases
- Improving crop varieties with pest and disease resistant traits

TRAINING
As part of an on-going commitment to stewardship, the crop protection industry has several initiatives in place providing for training on best management practices, including IPM strategies.

RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT
Over time, pests can develop resistance to different control methods. The plant science industry works to provide strategies and information that can help farmers manage insect, weed and disease resistance.

IPM TRAINING INCLUDES:

IDENTIFYING
beneficial insects

WHEN AND HOW
to manage pests

RESPONSIBLE USE
of crop protection products

PROPER DISPOSAL
of empty containers or unused products

The crop protection industry is committed to the worldwide implementation of IPM strategies and training on the responsible use of crop protection and plant biotech products. For more information, please visit www.ecpa.eu.