



Report of the Workshop 1 (24-25 September 2024; Brussels)

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Overview

This seminar was designed to gather insights from various experts, including European Commission, Member States’ representatives and experts. Their contributions are essential for shaping practical and relevant guidelines that meet the needs of the agricultural community (farmers, advisors, policy makers, etc).

Composition of the different groups of participants:

- European Commission : DG Agri, DG Santé, DG Envi
- Member States’ representatives: members of the SUD WG. Representatives
- Experts: from the 8 member states part of our consortium, from the following 5 origins and/or competencies:
 - o Research
 - o Input suppliers
 - o Farm advisors
 - o Representatives of the national administrations
 - o NGO

Below is a detailed program of these two days:

Tuesday 24th September	Afternoon	2pm- 4.45pm	Agrowise presentation: project overview and work package presentations
		5.15pm- 6pm	Presentation of the SUPPORT scientific project on IPM in conjunction with Agrowise
		7pm	Dinner
Wednesday 25th September	Morning	8.30am- noon	Interactive workshop on Integrated Pest Management: Polls and discussions on implementation improvements
		Noon- 1.30pm	Lunch
	Afternoon	1.30pm- 3pm	Split workshops: one for experts and the other for SUD national representatives: Identify strategies tailored to various stakeholder groups
		3pm- 3.45pm	Joint feedback of the workshops

Ultimately, the goal of the seminar is to create a cohesive framework to begin the reflexion on how to improve the implementation of IPM across Europe. This framework will



be informed by the input from stakeholders, leading to actionable guidelines that contribute to more sustainable agricultural practices and improved pest management strategies.

24/09: Agrowise presentation

1. Introduction by Maud Blanck (COO; INRAE – France)

(Presentation pgs. 01-42)

The **Agrowise** project aims to develop comprehensive guidelines to assist EU Member States in reviewing their national action plans, particularly focusing on promoting the eight principles of integrated pest management (IPM). These principles encourage sustainable agricultural practices that minimize the reliance on chemical pesticides. The project is a part of the "LIFE Program" with the objective of providing guidelines to each member state for implementing the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) rules at the farm or crop-specific level. This project takes part in the "Farm to Fork strategy" which aims to achieve a 50% reduction in chemical pesticide use by 2030.

Led by the French Institute "INRAE", this eighteen-month project brings together 10 research organizations from 8 European countries. The project will collect, harmonize, and propose scientifically-backed methods and strategies to reduce pesticide use and risks for various crops. The guidelines will promote innovative approaches to crop protection by limiting the use of chemical pesticides and following Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles.

2. Description of each WP

2.1. Work Package 2 (WP2)

Leader (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences – Sweden): Riccardo Bommarco (professor in agricultural entomology)

Objective:

WP2 focuses on establishing a robust link between IPM principles and practical applications on farms. It aims to develop a comprehensive toolbox that enhances the understanding and implementation of IPM strategies across the EU.

Key Activities:

- **Taxonomy Development:** Creating a structured taxonomy that organizes diverse IPM practices based on their underlying principles and management targets. This will facilitate clearer navigation and understanding of the available practices.



- **Harmonization of Nomenclature and Metric:** Developing a harmonized nomenclature to standardize terminology across Member States, which will help stakeholders better understand and compare IPM practices and strategies. A review of available metrics will be conducted and a standardized metric will be proposed to compare practices and systems across E.U.
- **Expansion of the IPM Toolbox:** Identifying and integrating additional practices into the existing IPM toolbox by drawing from various EU-funded projects and ongoing research. This aims to ensure that the toolbox reflects the latest innovations and best practices in pest management. Evaluation of practices to reduce pesticide use and risk: Based on the Taxonomy Development and Harmonization of Nomenclature and Metric, an estimation of pesticide reduction will be proposed. The volume and pesticide in question will be recalculated into the suggested metric. Each value will be assigned a scoring of confidence based on evidence.

2.2. Work Package 3 (WP3)

Leader (University of Bologna – Italy): Profs. Giovanni Dinelli (Director of Department of Agriculture at the University of Bologna; specialist of low impact agriculture with an emphasis on the environmental aspect) and Francesco Spinelli (specialist of arboriculture and pesticide compounds) represented by Giovanni Mian

Objective:

WP3 is dedicated to identifying and evaluating existing IPM practices implemented across different Member States and Europe. It seeks to assess the effectiveness and economic viability of these practices, providing insights that can inform future IPM strategies throughout Europe.

Key Activities:

- **Quantify the deployment of practices:** gather comprehensive data on current IPM practices being adopted in various regions.
- **Economic Evaluation:** Analysing the economic implications of the identified IPM practices to ensure that they are viable and beneficial for farmers, taking into account factors like cost-effectiveness and yield impacts.
- **Regional Variability Analysis:** Understanding the differences in IPM adoption and effectiveness across various Italian regions to create region-specific recommendations that address local agricultural conditions.
- **Means for Control of the Implementation of the Practices and Systems:** Definition of the possible instruments that could be deployed, in relationship with the taxonomy of levers in order to the application of these rules. This will be discussed with the national authorities in the Member states.

2.3. Work Package 4 (WP4)

Leader (Teagasc – Ireland): Fiona Thorne, Ewen Mullins and Steven Kildea represented by Fiona Thorne



Objective:

WP4 aims to define criteria and deliver tangible guidelines that assist Member States in formulating crop-specific rules for IPM. The focus is on ensuring that these guidelines are informed by existing policies and practices across various Member States.

Key Activities:

- **Policy Review:** Gathering and analysing information on existing IPM policies and instruments in different Member States to understand their effectiveness and implementation challenges. This task is undertaken by a team of consultants from the company RICARDO.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging with representatives from different regions to foster collaboration and ensure the guidelines reflect local agricultural needs and practices.
- **Guideline Development:** Creating crop-specific or farm-specific guidelines based on the analysis of policies and stakeholder inputs. The guidelines will include both binding and optional rules, enabling flexibility in their application.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Facilitating knowledge exchange among consortium members and stakeholders to share best practices and experiences related to IPM implementation.

2.4. Work Package 5 (WP5)

Leader (INRAE – France): Christian Huyghe (Scientific Director Agriculture) represented by Maud Blanck

Objective:

WP5 focuses on establishing a structured framework that links research, agriculture ecosystem (experts, farmers, industries, etc) and public policy, facilitating better integration of IPM practices into agricultural policies across the EU.

Key Activities:

- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Compiling and analysing data from various Member States to identify successful IPM strategies and practices. This includes evaluating their effectiveness in reducing pesticide use.
- **Toolbox Enhancement:** Building on the existing IPM toolbox to incorporate new practices and strategies that have proven effective in different contexts. This will involve creating a taxonomy that organizes these practices according to their principles and management targets.
- **Workshops and Feedback Sessions:** Conducting workshops with stakeholders – including farmers, agricultural advisors, and policymakers- to discuss findings and gather feedback on the proposed guidelines and practices. This will ensure that the tools and strategies developed are practical and applicable at the farm level.
- **Collaboration with Member States:** Engaging with national authorities to ensure alignment of the developed tools and strategies with existing agricultural policies.



2.5. Work Package 6 (WP6)

Leader: Maud Blanck (INRAE – France)

Objective:

WP6 is focused on the validation and dissemination of the guidelines and tools developed in the previous work packages, ensuring they are suitable for application across the EU.

Key Activities:

- **Guideline Review and Validation:** Reviewing the guidelines produced by WP4 and WP5 to ensure they are comprehensive, practical, and beneficial for farmers.
- **Dissemination Strategy:** Developing a clear strategy for disseminating the final guidelines and tools to relevant stakeholders across Europe, ensuring that the information reaches those who will benefit from it.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing mechanisms for monitoring the uptake and impact of the guidelines and tools, allowing for adjustments and improvements based on feedback and outcomes observed in practice.
- **Replication methodology:** recommendations for information collection, specifically regarding data collection, and first steps to be carried out after the project across various EU member states.
- **Upscaling Evaluation:** study of the feasibility of implementing the guidelines on all crops and testing the instruments for finer levels of governance.

3. Presentation of the project “SUPPORT” by Johan Bremmer (project manager)

(PPT pgs. 42-52)

The Horizon Europe initiative known as "[SUPPORT](#)", which signifies *Supporting Uptake of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Low Pesticide Use*, is designed around a collaborative, multi-actor co-creation framework, reflecting the core principles of numerous Horizon Europe projects. The primary objective of this project is to promote synergy among stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that encourage the uptake of IPM practices.

The project addresses the need to develop future policies aimed at lowering the use and risk of plant protection products while supporting agricultural practices. Despite the presence of well-organized IPM programs, the adoption rates have not aligned with projected expectations. The Support project aims to produce insights that will streamline the application of IPM strategies, particularly focusing on understanding the decision-making processes that farmers navigate when considering the adoption of IPM.

The consortium includes 20 partners, split between 10 academic and 10 private organizations, representing nine EU member states and Switzerland.



3.1. Project Mission

The mission of Support is to pave the way for adopting IPM by:

- Developing knowledge that supports the uptake of IPM strategies.
- Understanding the farmer decision-making process related to the adoption of IPM.
- Recommending strategies and policies to enhance the adoption of IPM practices.

3.2. Project Objectives

1. Building a Stakeholder Ecosystem:

This ecosystem includes farmers, growers, suppliers, wholesalers, traders, advisers, and policymakers. Together, they co-create strategies and policies that promote the adoption of IPM practices.

2. Collecting and Assessing IPM Tools:

Collection both current and future IPM tools and assessment of their effectiveness in pest control, economic performance, and environmental impact. The collection of IPM tools is already complete, development of a monitoring tool to evaluate these impacts (in progress).

3. Understanding Farmer Decision-Making:

A major focus is on understanding the farmer decision-making process. Interviews and surveys are conducted throughout the agri-food chain to collect data, which will allow to analyse the drivers and barriers to IPM adoption. This data will help provide recommendations for strategies and policies aimed at improving the adoption of IPM practices. A tool to measure the economic, environmental, and social impacts of IPM strategies is being developed. This tool builds on the existing system "Synopsis," developed by JKI. The tool will be extended with more indicators to make data collection and impact measurement easier and more comprehensive.

4. Proposing Policies and Strategies:

Using the knowledge generated through the project to propose both public policies and private sector strategies that support the adoption of IPM practices.

3.3. Work Packages in SUPPORT

SUPPORT is structured around six work packages:

1. WP1 – Capacity Building for Understanding IPM Impacts:

This WP focuses on collecting IPM tools and establishing a monitoring system.

2. WP2 – Analysing Decision-Making Processes:

WP2 is dedicated to understanding the barriers and drivers that influence the decision-making process for adopting IPM practices.

3. WP3 – Policy and Strategy Design:

This WP involves designing policies and strategies to support the adoption of IPM practices.

4. WP4 – Stakeholder Engagement:

WP4 organizes national crop clusters, communities of practice, and the network of practice.



5. **WP5 – Dissemination and Exploitation:**
This WP focuses on sharing project results and ensuring that the outcomes are effectively applied.
6. **WP6 – Project Management:**
WP6 handles the management and execution of the entire project.

3.4. Comparison with Agrowise

Both the SUPPORT and Agrowise projects are funded by the European Union and are committed to advancing the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools and technologies. SUPPORT primarily focuses on research, innovation, and understanding the decision-making processes of farmers. In contrast, Agrowise is oriented towards formulating actionable recommendations for implementation at the member state level. The SUPPORT initiative spans four years, having launched in January 2023 and set to conclude in December 2026. In comparison, Agrowise began its activities in May 2023, with a projected completion date of October 2025.

3.4.1. Similarities with Agrowise Work Packages

SUPPORT	AGROWISE
WPI: development of a harmonized IPM Toolbox	WP2: development of a harmonized IPM Toolbox
WP3: policy design; tools and mechanisms development for farm-specific regulation	WP4: policy design; tools and mechanisms development for farm-specific regulation
WP5: stakeholder involvement and dissemination	WP6: stakeholder involvement and dissemination

3.4.2. Meetings and Stakeholder Involvement

Farmers are critical to the adoption of IPM, and they are invited to participate in project activities. They are involved through interviews and surveys to understand their decision-making process. However, it's not always easy to get them involved due to their busy schedules and previous commitments. Consortium' activities are scheduled in ways that work for them.

3.4.3. Interaction with Stakeholder Groups

Each national crop cluster engages in one primary activity each year. In the inaugural year, these clusters focused on the collection of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools, while in the current year, they have shifted their attention towards the development of IPM strategies. Furthermore, communities of practice are convened annually, with the Consortium's professional network holding a meeting each year that often aligns with the project's general assembly. For example, the meeting was held in Berlin last year and will meet in Athens next year.

In light of the numerous similarities identified, it is firmly asserted that both projects stand to gain significantly from a robust collaboration between the consortia. It is imperative that the



work package leaders from both SUPPORT and Agrowise engage in the exchange of information and synchronize their activities. They shall promote transparency and openness to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and deliverables between the two projects. Furthermore, Johan Bremmer intends to extend invitations to members of Agrowise to attend SUPPORT's meetings, and aspires to coordinate joint dissemination activities.

4. Q&A session: Discussion on the importance of involvement farmers in the project

During the question-and-answer segment, a prominent issue emerged regarding the engagement of farmers, the key stakeholders directly impacted by the Agrowise consortium's recommendations. There is significant concern about the necessity of gathering direct input from individuals actively implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices, rather than relying on indirect insights from policymakers and researchers.

According to some participants, not including farmers in the initial project phases could pose a risk of missing essential insights. Farmers face distinct challenges on a daily basis, and their first-hand experiences are crucial for developing practical and effective IPM strategies. Relying solely on policymakers and scientists for guidance on supporting farmers could lead to recommendations that do not accurately reflect the realities of agricultural practices.

In light of these concerns, project representatives acknowledged the critical need to involve farmers and agricultural advisors directly. The primary focus of next day's workshop will centre on formulating strategies to enhance stakeholder involvement, with an emphasis on ensuring that farmers' perspectives and other key stakeholders are effectively represented in future discussions. There is a commitment to a phased approach that will systematically integrate farmers and advisors in the later stages of the project.

The complexities surrounding IPM were extensively explored, highlighting farmers are not a monolithic group. It is essential to identify specific categories of farmers—such as large-scale producers, smallholders, and cooperative members—to facilitate effective engagement. This differentiation is vital for capturing a diverse range of perspectives within the project's development.

In conclusion, it is clear that developing a systematic approach to include farmers and other stakeholders in upcoming meetings and workshops is of utmost importance. The insights contributed by farmers will be invaluable in shaping practical IPM strategies and ensuring that the project addresses the real-world challenges faced in agriculture, thereby producing guidelines that are both feasible and acceptable to all involved parties.



25/09: Collaborative workshops

The 25th of September was dedicated to collaborative workshops. (PPT pgs. 52-63)

Following the Agrowise presentation from the previous day, participants had gained a clear understanding of the project's objectives and the strategies in place to achieve them. This laid the groundwork for the first co-construction workshops that took place throughout the day on the 25th of September.

1. Morning: Polls and Discussions on IPM Implementation Improvements

The **Interactive Workshop on Integrated Pest Management** held on the morning of the 25th consisted of **Polls and Discussions on IPM Implementation Improvements**.

The goal was to collectively discuss each participant's understanding of the concept of IPM, its principles, its deployment across the EU, the most promising avenues for improvement, and potential adaptations or enhancements to existing public policies.

This first interactive workshop was highly productive and rich in discussions. Led by Christian Huyghe, Scientific Director for Agriculture at INRAE, the workshop alternated between scientific presentations on Integrated Pest Management and interactive sessions. These included responding to one or more poll questions, followed by structured debates on the results.

This survey is intended to be analysed by Agrowise in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of IPM implementation and priority areas for further action.

Before sharing **the analysis of the survey results**—which **will be published in the next newsletter**—we kindly ask those who have not yet completed the survey to dedicate 20-25 minutes to respond by following this link: [IPM Poll](#).

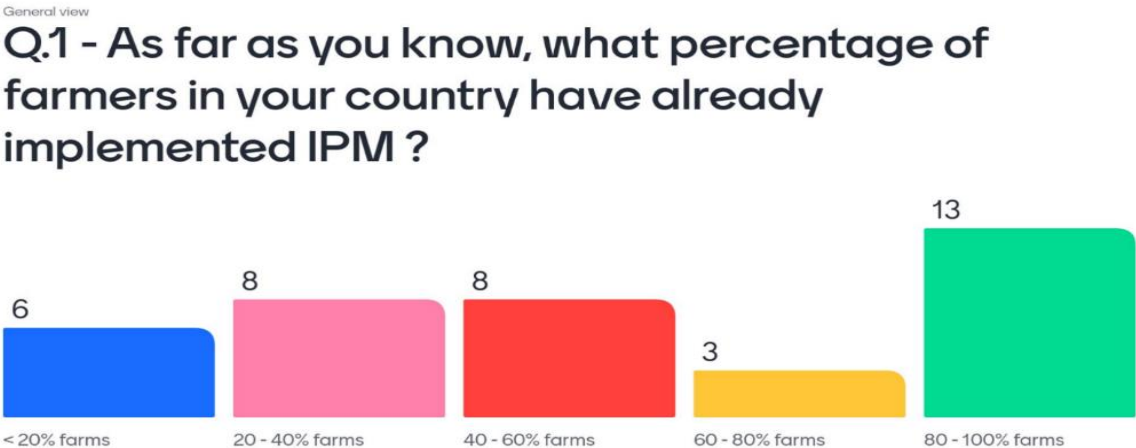


Figure 1: example of the kind of question asked in this poll



We encourage you to share the survey within your network, as a higher number of responses will enhance the accuracy and value of the analysis.

2. Afternoon: Identification of strategies tailored to various stakeholder groups

The afternoon was dedicated to split workshops to identify strategies tailored to various stakeholder groups, through the creation of stakeholder maps. The two days of workshops finally came to a conclusion with a closing session.

2.1. Workshops to Identify strategies tailored to various stakeholder groups

The **afternoon Workshop** consisted on the **creation of a stakeholder map**.

Most of the afternoon was dedicated to split workshops: one for experts and the other for national representatives' members of the SUD working group. The event concluded with a joint presentation of the stakeholder maps created by both groups.

The objective of developing these stakeholder maps was to obtain an initial outline of the actors involved in implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the various collective actions that could be undertaken. The method employed was suggested and animated by Mourad Hannachi, an INRAE management sciences' researcher specializing in collective action dynamics.

¹Initially, both groups created a map identifying all stakeholders in IPM implementation, aligning with the objective of "reducing risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and encouraging the development and introduction of IPM and alternative approaches or techniques to reduce dependency on pesticide use (Directive 2009/128/EC)." The stakeholders were positioned relative to one another along two axes, defining their level of involvement concerning the stated issue as well as their capacity to act on the problem.

¹ Were represented: **European Commission** (Directorate General Agriculture, Directorate General Santé and Directorate General Environment); **member states' representatives from the SUD working group**; **experts from the 8 member states** which are part of our consortium, representing 5 areas of expertise or activities (research, input suppliers, farm advisors, representatives of the national administration, NGO).



SUD NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

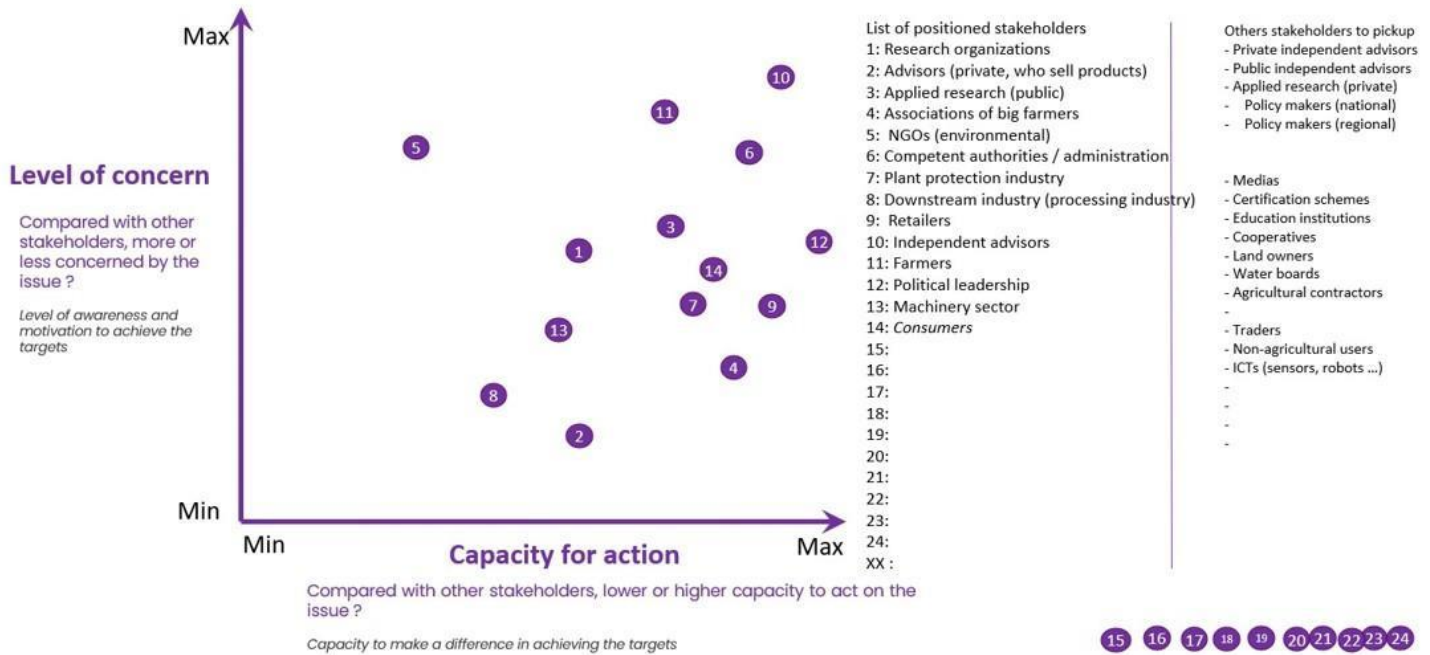


Figure 2: Stakeholder's map created by the group members states' representatives

EXPERTS

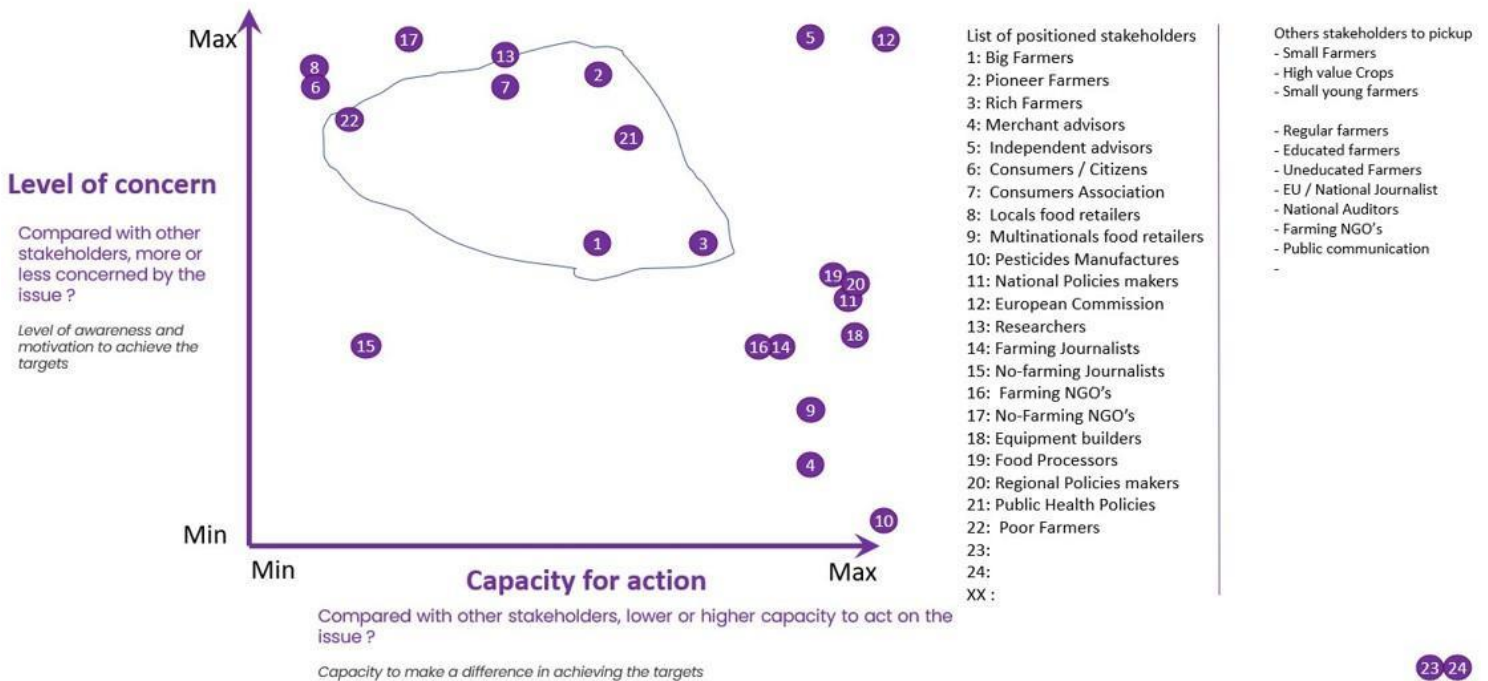


Figure 3: Stakeholder's map created by the group of experts



Should you have a different perspective on the two stakeholder maps, we invite you to share your own version with us at agrowise@inrae.fr.

Based on the stakeholder maps created, we initiated the conceptualization of collective actions. To facilitate this process, we first categorized the nearest stakeholders into subgroups on the map, examining the nature of their relationships to identify potential collective actions for each subgroup. This identification of collective actions will continue during the upcoming remote workshops and will shape the content and objectives of the subsequent co-construction workshops for the project. The identified strategies will be used to create guidelines.

Analysis of the maps created will be shared in the next newsletter.

2.2. Conclusion

A request emerged from the floor for organizers to share a participant directory, including contact details, names, and photos of all attendees. The goal was to maintain the collaborative community established during the event. Participants expressed a strong interest in continuing the productive exchanges that took place.

The participant directory has been sent to attendees and will be updated with photos shortly.

The next steps in participant collaboration with Agrowise are as follows:

1. Upcoming meetings for Member State representatives (part of the SUD WG)
 - **March 18-19-20, 2025, in Brussels**
 - **June 16-17-18, 2025, in Brussels**

Note: Dates are subject to change. Each participant will receive an invitation for each meeting.

2. Upcoming meetings for Experts
 - November 7, 2024, remote
 - December 17, 2024, remote
 - **January 22-23, 2025, in Bologna, Italy**
 - March 12, 2025, remote
 - April 23, 2025, remote
 - **June 16-17-18, 2025, in Brussels**
 - July 22, 2025, remote
 - September 4, 2025, remote

Note: Dates are subject to change. Each remote meeting will focus on a specific topic. Experts are required to attend at least 3 of the 5 remote meetings, selected based on alignment with their area of expertise. Participation in all remote meetings is permitted. Attendance at all in-person meetings is mandatory for all experts. Invitations will be sent accordingly.

