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| **IPM difficulties** | **FRANCE** | **ITALY** | **POLAND** | **CROATIA** | **GERMANY** | **ROMANIA** | **IRELAND** |
| **Are the compiled guidelines based on one or more different resources? Which ones?** | The first recommendations found were taken from the specifications for “Haute valeur environnementale” (HVE) certification. Membership of the certification scheme, and thus compliance with its specifications, is voluntary. High Environmental Value is the highest level (3rd) of environmental certification for farms (article L.611-6 of the French Rural and Maritime Fishing Code - CRPM). Certification source of HVE: https://agriculture.gouv.fr/certification-environnementale-mode-demploi-pour-les-exploitations - THEN: "Les niveaux de certification environnementale" – THEN "Plan de contrôle niveau 3[...]". The other recommendations are taken from the various “Ecophyto Guides”. The Ecophyto plan is the national plan associated with the SUD directive, which aims to reduce the use of pesticides. These guides present crop systems that are low in phytosanitary products, or technical sheets on certain practices, and their application is in no way compulsory. | In Italy each region operates under its own disciplinary framework, official documents were retrieved from the website: www.rete.rurale.it platform and consolidated into a unified dataset. Moreover, each region indicates the guidelines for specific crops, thus fruit trees and arable crops were chosen to further investigate the IPM guidelines and the respective information were merged to obtain an overview at national level. Data are sourced from the institutional websites of the individual regions, under the Agriculture or Phytosanitary departments. | Recommendations are mainly found in the methodology of integrated pest management and IP methodologies developed by research institutes which are accepted and approved by state entities, mainly by the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service, they are also found on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, and are the basis for certification bodies inspecting farms applying integrated production standards within the framework of ecoschemes in the CAP. In addition, the Principles of Plant Protection are also widely disseminated through scientific publications, through information materials available at Agricultural Advisory Centers, are disseminated at numerous training courses, access to these sources is widely disseminated, access is free. | The **2013 Guidelines for Integrated Production of Arable Crops** (Ministry of Agriculture) and the **2023 Technological Guidelines for Orchards** (HAPIH) are national-level documents intended to support integrated production in Croatia. Although both include relevant technical content and reflect IPM principles, they are not structured as dedicated IPM guidelines but rather as broader production manuals.  The **orchard guidelines** are current and focus on crop establishment, yet they lack specificity in areas such as pest thresholds, monitoring protocols, and decision-making tools. They provide general recommendations rather than context-specific IPM strategies and would benefit from a more targeted structure and regular updates.  In contrast, the **arable crop guidelines** incorporate more detailed IPM elements, particularly for pest and weed management, but are **outdated** and require revision to align with current practices and standards. | Yes, Germany's IPM-related crop protection guidelines derive from multiple sources, which operate at federal and regional levels: 1. ISIP.de – a decision support platform offering regionalized pest and disease warnings, thresholds, and treatment recommendations. 2. National Action Plan (NAP) on Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products – crop-specific IPM guidelines (“Anerkannte Leitlinien”) for major crops like cereals, sugar beet, maize, etc. 3. Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI) – provides IPM guidelines for apple production, among others. 4. Regional platforms – such as Infodienst Landwirtschaft BW, which offer IPM guidelines for fruit production. | Several resources are available in Romania for those interested on cereals / field crops, as well as for orchards and vineyards. Our compiled guidelines are based on a combination of official, semi-official, and private sector resources. These resources reflect both regulatory and advisory information that farmers can access freely, though IPM-specific structuring is limited. However, these resources provide guidelines of indirect correlation with IPM practices.  A general Guide for determining plants resistance to pests and diseases is provided by MADR and ISTIS on https://istis.ro/image/data/download/publicatii/ghid.pdf.  The National Phytosanitary Agency (ANF) is providing several Guidelines for the identification of pests and diseases on various crops, including cereals, fruiting trees, grapevine etc. These identification guides also include several chemical and alternative control measures. | The guidelines are based on a signal document, which is a compendium of guidelines that are IPM standards across agriculture. |
| **Was it easy to find this resource? Was it easily identifiable?** | HVE certification and its specifications are easily found online. The label is well known in France (~10% of cultivated areas). The Ecophyto guides are more complicated. They are to be found somewhere on the national CIP (Culture Integrated Protection) resource site, but are hard to find. On the other hand, the European portal “Farmer's Toolbox for IPM” «Farmer’s Toolbox for IPM»  ([*https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/mashup/IPM\_GUIDELINES/*](https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/mashup/IPM_GUIDELINES/)*)* | It is easily and fully accessible for everybody on Rete Rurale website (<https://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/24285>). The information are clear and updated annually. | It is easily accessible, there is a constant campaign of information, training. | The arable crop and orchard guidelines are grounded in national legislation, expert agronomic practices, and input from Croatian agricultural research and advisory institutions. The orchard guidelines were developed by the Center for Fruit and Vegetable Growing under the Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food, while the arable crop guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and authored by over fifteen domain-specific experts. | Yes, the NAP crop-specific guidelines are publicly available and well structured. ISIP.de is accessible, though full access may require registration. Regional platforms are often more fragmented and not harmonized, requiring prior knowledge for effective navigation. | All specified resources are available online and do not require special log-in to access the content. However, improvements could be made in how plant varieties are listed, specifying those cultivars with tolerance or resistance to pests, diseases, and abiotic stress factors. Also, specific searches (e.g. resistant varieties, IPM-specific tools) require effort. Key information, such as cultivar resistance or approved phytosanitary products, tends to be fragmented or embedded in lengthy documents. This can pose a barrier for direct, farmer-oriented use. | Source is on the DAFM website and is linked with the National action plan as part of the SUD https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/integratedpestmanagement/ |
| **Is it intended to be read by the farmer? Or for another audience?** | All these recommendations are designed to be read by researchers, advisors, agronomists and farmers in particular. Since they are available on the Internet, they can be consulted by anyone. | These resources are intended for professional farmers and advisors. | Mainly for agro-environmental advisors, but materials for farmers are also prepared in a slightly less extensive form. Inspectors of IP certification bodies are also required to read constantly updated training materials. | Yes, both resources are publicly available and clearly titled as official national guidelines. However, the arable crops document is outdated (2013), and the updated version is not available. | These resources are intended for professional farmers and advisors. ISIP and regional services are farmer-oriented, while NAP guidelines are more technical. Authorities and researchers also use these documents for training and compliance. | All these recommendations are designed to be read by researchers, advisors, agronomists and farmers in particular, so a mixed audience. Since they are available on the Internet, they can be consulted by anyone. | Yes. It is compulsory to be read by professional users of pesticides. |
| **Is this resource known, used or a reference for the farming community in your country?** | For French citizen “Haute Valeur Environnementale” certification is easy to find, is well known in the French farming world and is expanding rapidly. However, its real environmental value was hotly debated in 2016, as many farmers didn't need to change their practices to obtain it. | These documents are mainly tailored for farmers, while also serving other relevant stakeholders. They are written in clear, accessible technical language and are intended to support practical decisions in agriculture and the implementation of integrated production standards. | Yes | The written documents are intended for farmers as the main target, but also for other stakeholders. The language is technical but simple. The documents are written to guide practical agricultural decision-making and integrated production standards. | Yes, they are widely known and used, especially by advisors and large-scale farms. However, uptake is uneven, with smaller farms relying more on direct advisory services. | Yes, these resources are increasingly known and used, as they are also presented and recommended during the training organized by ANF/MADR for the farmers that can benefit from payment schemes and financial support measures, if their activities involve IPM practices. | The document is compulsory reading. |
| **Are the guidelines usable as they stand in the field by the farmer? (Do they offer the farmer all the cards for easy and straightforward application?)** | Regarding HVE certification, farmers are supported by an approved certification body (CB) from the initial application through to the issuance, monitoring, and renewal of the certificate, based on compliance with defined performance indicators over a three-year period. In contrast, the Ecophyto guides provide technical recommendations on integrated practices—such as using resistant plant varieties—but do not offer practical support or tools to help farmers implement these changes. | Technically yes, the guidelines provide field-level recommendations and guidelines at technical level. Every implementation is voluntary. | Farmers must be familiar with IP rules if they want to benefit from IP ecoschemat subsidies. The methodologies include checklists that must be compulsorily met during cultivation and protection. This is controlled by IP system certification bodies. | The Technological Guidelines for Orchards outline essential agrotechnical and pomotechnical measures, including standards for orchard establishment, soil preparation, fertilization, and plant material. The Guidelines for Integrated Production of Arable Crops provide comprehensive, crop-specific recommendations on crop rotation, fertilization, and pest management, incorporating numerous IPM-relevant elements, though they lack updates on current pest control regulations and explicit decision-making thresholds. While both documents embed IPM principles, they are not structured as standalone IPM tools, and their effective implementation often requires advisory support. | Partially. Tools like ISIP provide usable, field-level recommendations. NAP guidelines offer principles but lack step-by-step instructions. Implementation is voluntary and not always supported by financial incentives. Success depends heavily on advisory support. | While the guidelines contain useful and detailed information, they are not fully field-ready for direct farmer implementation. A more integrated approach is needed. Currently, farmers must navigate multiple sources to piece together a full picture of IPM for a given crop. Crop-specific guides structured according to IPM pillars (prevention, monitoring, decision-making thresholds, interventions) would significantly improve usability. | Technically the guidelines are only guidelines and are typically used by farmers, when they can. |
| **Any other description of the document, its context and its other uses/contents** | None | None | Key elements of IPM include: - Monitoring of pest populations and use of decision support systems to optimize treatment timing. - Preference for non-chemical methods, such as crop rotation, resistant varieties, and support for beneficial organisms like natural predators. - Legal obligation for professional users to follow IPM principles, as outlined in EU Directive 2009/128/EC and Regulation No. 1107/2009/EC. - Implementation tools like methodologies for individual crops, phytosanitary hygiene, and selective pesticide use to prevent resistance development and preserve agroecosystem biodiversity. | The updated orchard guidelines align with current national requirements and emphasize sustainability, plant health, and integrated production, while the older arable crop guidelines still provide a valuable baseline despite their age. However, farmers often rely more on experience and informal advice than on these official documents. A forthcoming Integrated Pest Management regulation in Croatia is expected to enhance the relevance and application of these guidelines. | These guidelines serve as legal and advisory references, but the term 'IPM' is not always explicitly used. Some regional resources (e.g., predictive weather data) were considered but excluded from the final dataset due to lacking direct action guidelines. | These resources serve both as compliance tools and as technical references. In addition to supporting payment claims under cross-compliance frameworks, they form the technical foundation for advisory services and certification schemes.  In Romania, the requirements for the safe use of pesticides are mandatory for all farmers, as stipulated by national legislation aligned with Directive 2009/128/EC. | It is the Department (Ministry) of Agriculture that have developed and disseminated this document to the tillage sector. |