



# Pilot project – Developing a Farmers’ Toolbox for Integrated Pest Management Practices from Across the Union

## PROJECT PRESENTATION

February 2021

# Objectives

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The **main objective** of the pilot project is to **provide background knowledge on the most promising ways that could help farmers, advisors, and policymakers to scale up the reduction of the dependency on pesticide use across the EU.**

The **specific objectives** of the pilot project are:

1. To provide a **comprehensive description of the currently available implementing approaches** (e.g., policies, agricultural practices, technologies, private sector initiatives such as certification) to reduce dependency on pesticides use;
2. To **assess the potential of the approaches identified in objective 1** for reducing the dependency on pesticide use, and **to prove their effectiveness as well as barriers** (real or perceived) that limit their uptake. In particular, the study should list and assess the barriers and explain their roots and possible ways to overcome them;
3. To propose **specific strategies on how to scale up good practices** throughout the EU; and
4. To **set up an EU-wide database** containing the relevant information and guidance to enable farmers and advisory services to reduce the dependency on pesticide use and to disseminate it as widely as possible through the EU.

The technical specifications highlight that the conclusions of the study should provide **useful information for future actions at EU and Member States' level, including the implementation of the CAP post-2020.**

# The four themes of the project

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The objectives translate in four (4) themes:

- Theme 1: **Identification and assessment of effective practices and technologies** to reduce dependency on the use of pesticides in the EU.
- Theme 2: **Estimation of the potential to reduce dependency on pesticide use** and its key **drivers and barriers**.
- Theme 3: **Assessment of how public bodies, private certification schemes, and other strategies are contributing to the reduction of the dependency on pesticide use**.
- Theme 4: **Strategies on how to scale up good practices** throughout the EU.

# Scope & examination period

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- EU 27 MS + Third Countries: CH, UK and (the USA)
- The study will cover, *without being exclusively limited*, the following agricultural sectors:
  - Arable crops;
  - Viticulture; and,
  - Fruit and vegetables (F&V).

=> Focus on crops with high Treatment Frequency Indexes (TFIs)
- Examination period: 2010-2020

# Theme 1: Identification and assessment of effective practices and technologies to reduce dependency on the use of pesticides in the EU

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- Main objective: To establish a comprehensive and clear overview and analysis of the **agricultural practices, techniques, and technologies** that have the potential and the capability to reduce dependency on pesticide use
- To identify and assess an exhaustive list of agricultural practices, techniques, and technologies, that, as from 2010 onwards, have been found successful for reducing the dependency on pesticide uses: the “success stories”)

**Step 1: Identification of practices based on the eight principles of the SUD**



**Step 2: Characterisation and assessment of practices**

# Theme 1: Identification and assessment of effective practices and technologies to reduce dependency on the use of pesticides in the EU

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- Additional analytical tasks:
  - Collect data trends on use of pesticides
  - Map and describe targets and indicators set by Member States concerning risk of pesticide use and/or the level of IPM implementation
  - Analyse whether and how Member States transposed the SUD and in particular IPM requirements (Art. 14) into operational rules that are sufficient clear to farmers
  - Describe MS legal instruments and/or guidelines and assess whether or not these guidelines are clear for farmers
  - Identify how MS authorities and other relevant stakeholders are helping farmers in the application of IPM rules at farm level (i.a. support measures, advice, technical support, training, creation of professional networks)
- *“Approach should lead to a classification of MS based on the degree of implementation of each of the requirements at national level”*

## Theme 2: Estimation of the potential to reduce dependency on pesticide use and its key drivers and barriers

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*“While the barriers explaining the low uptake of IPM measures by farmers are well documented, literature is poorer when it relates to presenting*

- 1) the drivers that would promote wider adoption of IPM in farming practices;*
- 2) possible ways to overcome the above-listed barriers.”*

Objective: To **explain the roots of the problems** and **possible ways to overcome them** through a series of study questions (see analytical framework in pdf file), which are related to:

- **Economic aspects;**
- **Aspects related to knowledge, information availability and accessibility, available or upcoming technologies; and,**
- **Relationships between farmers and the other actors** along the food chain.

# Theme 3: Assessment of how public bodies, private certification schemes, and other strategies are contributing to the reduction of the dependency on pesticide use

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Objective: To analyse the extent to which:

- The existing policies and tools at EU and Member State level contribute to the reduction of the dependency on pesticide use (elaborate on the tools used by Member States to achieve the objective of reducing dependency on pesticide use (new technologies, private initiatives e.g. “pesticides free”, certification, taxations, etc) as well as assess the potential of the new CAP instruments)
- The approaches used by Member States or other incentives, as identified above, adequately consider the needs of farmers

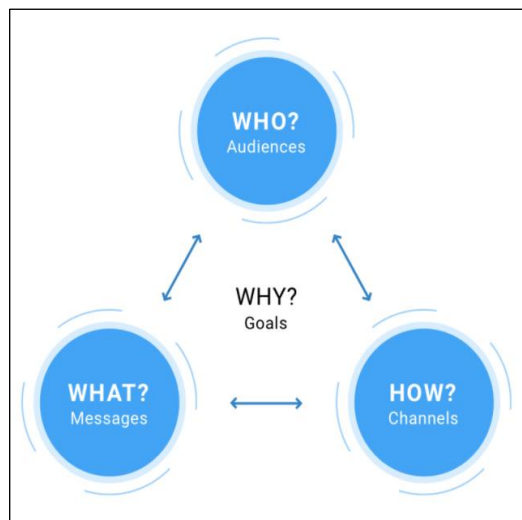
Through a series of study questions (see analytical framework for Theme 3 in pdf file)



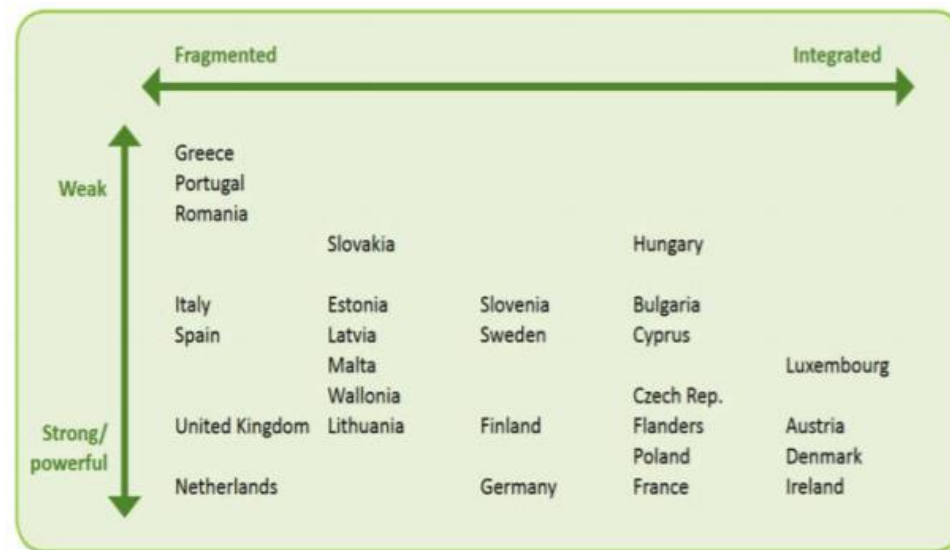
# Theme 4: Strategies on how to scale up good practices throughout the EU

Objective: To analyse how to encourage and promote change in the approaches towards pesticide use and on how to scale up good practices throughout the EU

## Principles



## Diversity of advisory services (AKIS)



# Theme 4: Strategies on how to scale up good practices throughout the EU

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Considering the following issues:

- How to encourage a change? In particular, how to favour the use of new methods, techniques and technologies
- How to foster cooperation between MS (exchanging practices and making use of the EU-wide database)?
- How to implement CAP instruments effectively to reduce the dependency on pesticide use and how to ensure coherence with other incentives (existing or to be developed) facilitating the reduction of dependency on pesticide use by farmers?
- How to improve knowledge and research transfer among sectors and how to integrate it into conventional farming when it decreases the use of pesticides?
- How to identify a suitable communication strategy to disseminate and promote the use of the database (dissemination strategy to ensure its accessibility and availability to farmers and advisory systems)