

# Pilot Project – Developing a Farmer’s Toolbox for Integrated Pest Management Practices from across the Union (EC/DG AGRI)

## Open Call for Case Studies

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**In the context of the Pilot Project conducted for the European Commission /DG AGRI, we are hereby launching an open call for case studies to feed into the on-going study.**

While pesticides have the function of protecting crops, they may have a negative impact e.g. on human health and the environment. This is why pesticides and the use of pesticides are strictly regulated at EU and national level. Furthermore, the European Commission contributes to the enforcement of a sustainable use of pesticides through **Directive 2009/128/EC** (Sustainable Use Directive - SUD) that i.a. promotes the use and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques; and the **Common Agricultural Policy** that includes tools supporting the implementation of the IPM principles established in the SUD Directive.

**The main objective of the on-going 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, as advocated in the European Commission’s Farm to Fork Strategy and in the context of the Green Deal.

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 certifications) to reduce dependency on pesticides use. The study will make an inventory of the most relevant tools, policies and guidelines developed and used in Member States, pest and disease monitoring and foresight, technologies (e.g. biological pest control by using microorganisms/virus, pheromones, plant extracts), and alternative practices (e.g. crop rotation, intercropping, mixed crops, non-chemical weeding, precision agriculture, resistant varieties, support of beneficial organisms). The description will include private sector initiatives and other public policies that promote and support the reduction of the dependency on pesticide 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 will list and assess the barriers and explain their roots and possible ways to overcome them. The study will examine in particular the following drivers and constraints:
  - **Economic aspects** (e.g. additional costs versus added value) associated with agro-environmental variability factors (e.g. climatic, regional, crop-specific factors), including risk management (in the presence or absence of insurance schemes for pest-related yield or quality losses);
  - **Other aspects** related to knowledge, information availability and accessibility, available or upcoming technologies; and
  - **Relationships** between farmers and the other actors throughout the food chain.
- 3. To propose specific strategies on how to scale up** good practices throughout the EU;
- 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 identify a suitable communication strategy to disseminate it as widely as possible through the EU.

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.

**In this context**, a particular emphasis will be given to integrated pest management as defined in the SUD Directive and Member States guidelines. A variety of data collection methods will be used to feed into the four study themes, including case studies.

## Objectives and timeline of Case Studies

**12 case studies** will be conducted with the objective of shedding light on ways to **reduce the dependency on pesticide use**, based on concrete examples where substantial IPM measures and/or policies have been introduced since 2010. Particular attention will be paid to the eight principles of IPM (as set in Annex III of the SUD Directive) and how they have been introduced.

**This call for case studies is directed to a variety of actors** carrying out activities in this area including farmers, advisors, research and/or technology institutes, as well as competent authorities.

- Case studies will be performed on a voluntary basis and consist in discussions and exchange with the study team, focusing on conditions, barriers, and drivers which played a role in influencing the reduction of the dependency on pesticide use. Particular attention will be paid to barriers that could have discouraged farmers from acting, and the ways these barriers have been/could have been overcome.
- Case studies will cover activities across the EU Member States but not only. Initiatives taken outside the EU are also invited to participate to this open call;
- The case studies will be conducted during **the period May-September 2021**;
- For each case study, a report will be drafted and disseminated at large at the end of the pilot project<sup>1</sup>.

**Should you be interested in this open call**, please complete the form on the next page and send it back to us by 21/04/2021. For further information, we invite you to visit the project website at [www.agrilpm.eu](http://www.agrilpm.eu) or contact us at [agriipm@arcadia-international.net](mailto:agriipm@arcadia-international.net).

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with data protection and confidentiality obligations of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation).

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Name of the initiative: .....

Coordinates of the project leader: .....

Target pests: .....

Target crops: .....

Geographical scope: .....

Objectives: .....

Date of initiation: .....

Budget of the initiative: .....

Actors involved in the project (including a description of the farm typology):  
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Description of the initiative (1/2 page max):

Results observed to date (1/2 page max):

Success factors, bottlenecks/barriers and limits of the initiative (1/2 page max):

Motivations to participate in the open call (1/2 page max):

**Please submit your completed form to [agriipm@arcadia-international.net](mailto:agriipm@arcadia-international.net) by 21/04/2021. For further information, we invite you to visit the [AGRI IPM project website](#).**