



IPM 2-morrow: current research trends from the point of view of the ENDURE foresight study “European Crop Protection in 2030”

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Abstract

The new EU legislation on pesticides that has recently come into force is staging significant changes in the crop protection landscape in Europe, with fewer pesticides available, stricter restrictions imposed on their use, and IPM becoming the new standard. In this context, farmers are concerned by the risk of lacking proper solutions to deal with some pest problems. They are primarily looking for ready-made alternatives that they can substitute in their current crop protection schemes. But in the long run, they will need more edge-cutting innovation to allow them to develop different pest management strategies within more sustainable production systems.

This also means changes for scientists in the way they engage in crop protection research. It is important that they gain some vision of the future context in which the output of their research will have to be translated into implemented methods at the field level. Two years ago, the ENDURE network produced a foresight study “European Crop Protection in 2030” to explore the possible futures of pest management in Europe. The study showed how, starting from the current situation and adjusting to the new legislative constraints, very different and contrasting scenarios could emerge. Although the study emphasized that the key drivers determining the future of crop protection lie far beyond the technical issues and involve multiple stakeholders, it also identified the various research areas and scientific breakthroughs that can foster the different scenarios.

In several EU countries, the elaboration of their National Action Plan has stimulated a reflection on the knowledge gaps and research needs to reach the goals of the plan. In this presentation, we will take the example of the research agenda associated to the French Ecophyto 2018 Plan to show how research priorities set up by a multi-stakeholder group of experts may contribute to the various forms of IPM tomorrow.