



European demands on IPM: the current state of the sugar beet crop in the Netherlands

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Abstract

From 2014 on all professional users of pesticides should implement the eight general principles of integrated pest management (IPM), as described in the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD; 2009/128/EC) of the European Union. These IPM principles describe a diverse set of measures that can be used to prevent or control pest damage.

IPM measures described in the SUD show coherence with best practices already described for and implemented in Dutch sugar beet growing. Also research from the sugar beet research institute IRS around 1950 already concentrated on integrated control of pest problems, like beet cyst nematodes (*Heterodera schachtii* and *H. betae*). Research and breeding resulted in the current availability of tolerant varieties which are high yielding on infested fields. Also for weeds, diseases and other pests, many examples of IPM measures (e.g. damage thresholds, monitoring programs (diagnostic service), seed treatments and low dosage herbicide treatments) can be found that they have developed in the past and are applied in sugar beet growing. The IRS is still putting effort into developing more sustainable methods to control pests, diseases and weeds that cause problems for growers. This way the sugar beet sector will stay IPM-proof.