

A large, stylized green leaf with white veins is positioned in the top left corner, accompanied by several smaller green leaves and yellow and purple dots.

# IPM Decisions external newsletter

ISSUE **4**

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## Improvements to the IPM Decisions Platform

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The Platform has been up and running for a year now and user numbers have grown steadily during the cropping season. Seventeen DSS are now available to run directly through the Platform across Europe.

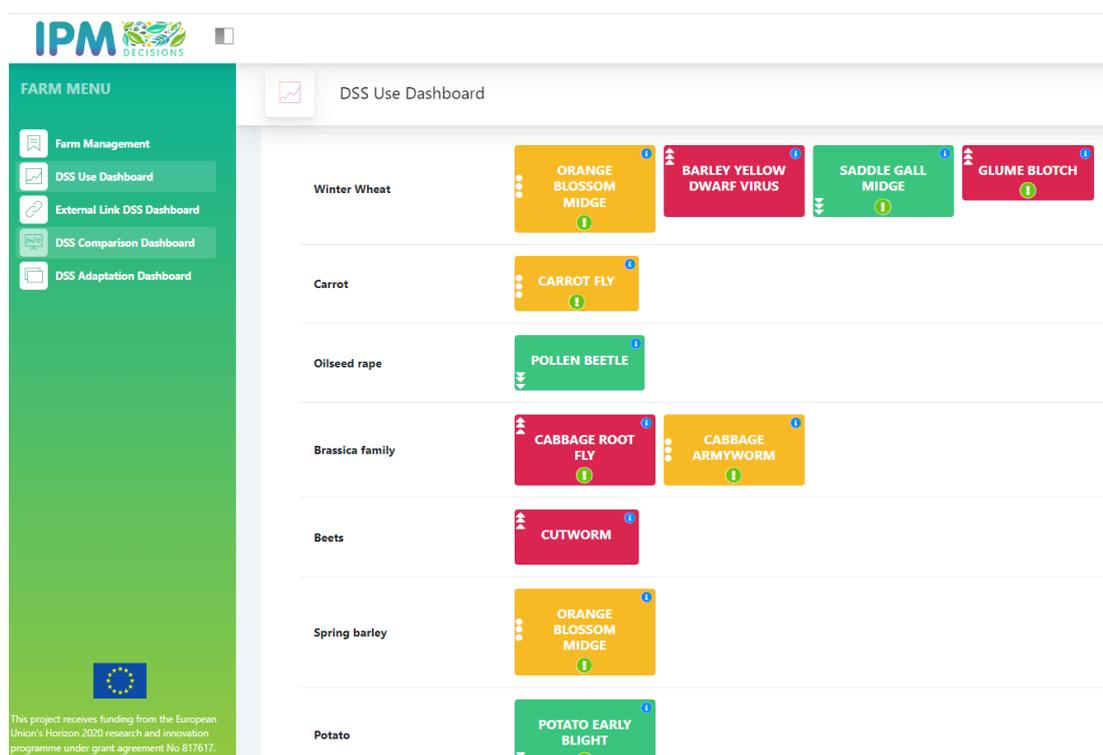
Improvements to the platform in 2023 include:

- In response to user feedback, the DSS Use dashboard can now show the pest risk over previous weeks or months, as well as the forecast risk - so you can review how the risk has developed during the season.
- A new 'External Link DSS Dashboard' shows links to DSS providers across Europe - so you can find DSS of interest provided by others. There are currently 19 linked DSS, some of which provide DSS for multiple pests.
- A new 'DSS Comparison Dashboard' allows you to run DSS alongside each other and compare the risk predictions for pests of interest. Comparisons can be made between the same DSS run at different locations, or between different DSS run for the same location. The Platform software has been developed further to handle DSS that need

[HTTP://WWW.ZODAN.NL/](http://www.zodan.nl/)

user input of pest observations so more DSS can be added to the Platform for next season.

A fictitious example of risk information from the DSS Use Dashboard. Create your account, select crops and DSS and get up to date risk information for your crops.



## What can farmers and advisors expect from the IPM Decisions Platform?

The DSS available on the platform for different countries reflects the amount of funding which has been put into developing and validating DSS. Some countries have invested large sums of public money into IPM DSS over decades, others have invested very little. Private companies have largely focussed on developing DSS for high value crops.

The IPM Decisions Platform can only make existing DSS available. The project does not have the funding or remit to develop or test new DSS. For farmers and advisers, the Platform should be considered as a marketplace, which makes DSS available to run – mostly free of charge. For researchers, the Platform enables

more efficient testing, comparison, adaptation and development of DSS – so DSS will improve more rapidly in future.

We ensure that DSS on the system are from reputable organisations and meet certain criteria, so that the pest risk predictions should be reliable. If conditions are outside the range of conditions in which the DSS was tested, then the predictions may not accurately reflect the true risk. Therefore, how the DSS are used is important.

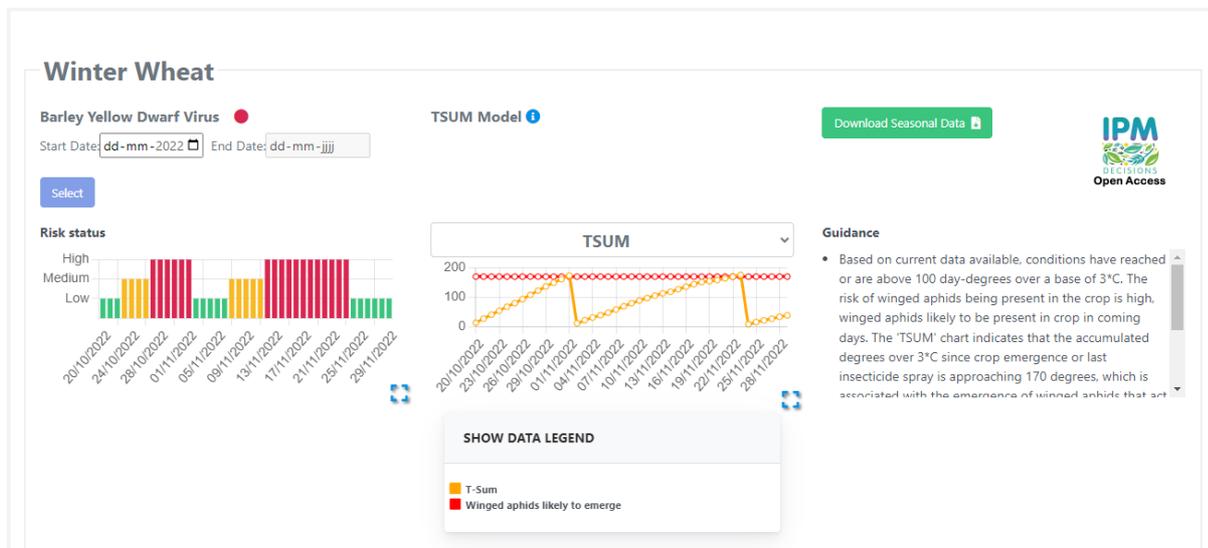
## How to make best use of the Platform?

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### If you are a farmer or adviser:

- Take some time during the winter to read the information on the Platform about what DSS are available, how they work and how to interpret the pest risk predictions.
- Many of the DSS are not active outside the growing season, but the information about them is still available by clicking on the information buttons.
- Decide which DSS look interesting to try next season.
- DSS give information about certain important components of pest risk, this information needs to be combined with 'in-field' experience and observations to make a pesticide treatment decision.
- If you are not yet confident in a particular DSS, then review the risk predictions that it makes during the season and compare the predictions with what you see in the field subsequently.
- Platform DSS are not yet validated for all European countries. But you can get an idea of the value of a DSS for your location by evaluating the DSS output with historical data, this functionality is now available in the platform under the 'DSS Comparison Dashboard'.

The figure shows an example of the risk for a BYDV infection in the fall of 2023 for a location in The Netherlands.



### If you are an applied researcher or DSS developer:

If you want to set up field trials or on-farm testing of DSS, then the Platform makes it easy to run the DSS for the location of the trials, and to compare the risk predictions during the season with pest observations from the trials.

If you want to evaluate a DSS developed in another country, then DSS models can be run from any source, with local weather data. Outputs of different DSS can be compared in the 'DSS Comparison Dashboard'.

DSS developed for a particular country or region will usually need some adaptation to make them work in another area. A 'DSS Adaptation Dashboard' will be to make it easy to change the parameters of a DSS and test the result of those changes.

The resources of the Platform, including historical, 'real-time' and forecast meteorological data across Europe, are open source and free of charge.

If you are interested to put your DSS on the Platform or use the resources of the Platform, then just get in touch. [https://www.platform.ipmdecisions.net/coding-](https://www.platform.ipmdecisions.net/coding-article)

[ARTICLE](https://www.platform.ipmdecisions.net/coding-article)

# Why is IPM decision support important?

The need for pesticides to be applied 'according to need' has never been greater. The economics of crop production mean we can't afford losses due to pests or to spend too much on pesticides. Society, the market and regulators are increasingly demanding more sustainable food production.

If you support and use the IPM Decisions Platform, it will grow, develop and improve. It will enable the development, testing and availability of new and more accurate DSS.

If you have comments or suggestions about the Platform or the DSS on the Platform, please get in touch: [CONTACT@IPMDECISIONS.NET](mailto:CONTACT@IPMDECISIONS.NET)

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and we will update you a few times per year on IPM Decisions and related projects.