

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 **1**

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IPM Decisions, H2020 project stimulating use of IPM DSS in Europe

The European Commission is funding work to develop and promote more cost-effective and sustainable Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Decision Support Systems (DSS) are useful tools for farmers and advisors implementing IPM; the IPM Decisions project will focus on increasing their use and impact across Europe. This five year project began in June 2019; we can now update you on the first year of project progress and next steps.

Why IPM Decisions

In Europe there is a diverse range of DSS for integrated control of weeds, pests and diseases (collectively 'pests') available on the market. There are excellent examples of crop protection DSS which are well tested and implemented, but the proportion of farmers and advisors using DSS is low. IPM Decisions will increase the use of DSS throughout Europe by addressing key limitations on DSS uptake – based on feedback from DSS users and potential users.

How IPM Decisions will promote DSS use

The project will enable farmers and advisers to easily find, access and run IPM DSS through a pan-European online Platform and associated IPM Decisions Network. Access to the Platform will be via a tailored 'dashboard', specific to the user's requirements. The dashboard will act as the user's control panel to collate information and manage DSS applications. As end users of DSS, farmers and advisers will benefit from a simple 'click and go' platform to find and run decision systems that have been evaluated for use under their regional conditions. The extent of validation and economic benefits from use of each DSS will be transparent to enable informed choices about which systems to use. The Platform will support a wide range of DSS which are either free to use or commercial pay to use.

IPM Works, demonstration project on IPM

In addition to IPM Decisions a new project, IPM Works, will start by the end of 2020. This Euro 6million project will demonstrate IPM strategies in practice on commercial farms in 15 European countries. The IPM Decisions platform will be used in this new project, as DSS are an important aspect of IPM strategies. We will keep you updated on this project as well through our newsletter.



Platform development

We are now building the IPM Decisions platform, which will be a "one stop shop" for IPM DSS and information across Europe. The Platform will provide access to risk forecast maps for key pests, as well as enabling registered users to obtain tailored DSS outputs accessed via an "at-a-glance" dashboard and alerting system.





The Platform software architecture will provide access to both DSS and weather data across Europe, interacting with external DSS remotely via a set of application programming interfaces (APIs). This will allow existing software and DSS providers to utilise the Platform resources if they wish. The project team is working on development of the platform and underpinning services.

We will carry out systems testing towards the end of 2020, and plan for the platform to go live in mid-2021.

DSS catalogue

IPM Decisions has created a catalogue of DSSs from across Europe. So far, information on 73 DSSs has been collected and collated in the catalogue, covering DSS on diseases (40), insects (26), weeds (6), slugs (2) and potato haulm killing (1). The information in the catalogue is helping to identify priority DSSs for initial inclusion on the IPM decisions web platform (in discussion with the DSS owners). It includes key information about input data required by the systems including types of weather data, agricultural practices and pest monitoring inputs. Lastly, a visual catalogue gives an overview of the types of user interfaces and graphical output from the systems. For more details see WWW.IPMDECISIONS.NET/NEWS



Successful stakeholder consultation

From December 2019 to February 2020, IPM Decisions partners ran workshops with IPM DSS owners/developers, farmers and advisors across 12 EU countries. The workshops were carried out to better understand the needs and wishes of these stakeholder groups for improving access to IPM DSS. Over 300 people were consulted, and their feedback will be used to improve the design and functionality of the IPM Decisions Platform. In the workshops we first presented our ideas for our Platform, then discussed different elements of the design and delivery with each stakeholder group. You can find the key messages from the groups on [HTTPS://WWW.IPMDECISIONS.NET/NEWS/STAKEHOLDER-CONSULTATION/](https://www.ipmdecisions.net/news/stakeholder-consultation/) . Attendees were asked to complete a questionnaire. A total of 380 survey responses were collected. A summary of some key messages we have extracted so far from the responses can be found online in our news section [HTTPS://WWW.IPMDECISIONS.NET/NEWS/SURVEY-RESPONSES-WORKSHOPS/](https://www.ipmdecisions.net/news/survey-responses-workshops/)

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Sign up to our stakeholder list on the website

[HTTPS://WWW.IPMDECISIONS.NET/CONTACT-US/](https://www.ipmdecisions.net/contact-us/) , and

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