



eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Focus on Brassica species

What cost-effective IPM solutions are available for Brassica? What other solutions can be proposed?

Throughout Europe, broadly the same pests and diseases are observed on oilseed rape. On Brassica vegetables, some problems are more specific in certain crops or regions and a wide range of pests and diseases are observed.

A better management of problems in oilseed rape starts with preventive IPM measures. For long-term strategies to manage pests and diseases, farmers may need to look beyond their own fields. Managing the density of Brassica production in the area can be an important factor in controlling pests and diseases. So can landscape features, and how neighbouring farms manage their pests and diseases. By organising pest and disease management at a broader landscape scale, overall disease and pest populations can be lowered. To make this happen, neighbouring farms and advisory services will need to collaborate.

Using pesticides should be based on reliable, cost-effective and easy-to-handle decision support systems. Market-driven incentives for farmers can help develop long-term and economically viable strategies. It is important that the market compensates farmers for the extra costs by paying more for their products.

Demonstration projects will be useful to show farmers the benefits of IPM. Exchange of information and development on a European level will strengthen IPM.

“To control pests and diseases in oilseed rape and Brassica vegetables, we need considerable collaboration between farmers, and incentives to make this happen.”

- Claudia Daniel (Switzerland), expert from the EIP-AGRI Focus Group
on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in oilseed rape and Brassica vegetables -

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Ideas for Operational Groups

- ▶ design low-pesticide cropping systems for Brassica
- ▶ establish a local farmers' network for the pesticide-free management of *Meligethes* at a broader landscale scale
- ▶ develop insecticide-free cabbage

Research needs from practice

- ▶ evaluation of IPM decision support tools to control Brassica pests
- ▶ on-farm demonstration trials
- ▶ establish a farmers' network to compare best practices from different neighbouring countries

More ideas for Operational Groups and research needs are available in the Focus Group report

Other recommendations

- ▶ An inventory of existing IPM measures for both oilseed rape and Brassica vegetables is available in the final report of the EIP-AGRI Focus Group on IPM for Brassica
- ▶ to enhance knowledge exchange within the EU, a table with common names of pests and diseases in many European languages can be found in the final report
- ▶ whole system approaches are needed
- ▶ growers need to be aware that oilseed rape can serve as a reservoir for Brassica vegetable diseases and pests



More information:

[Focus Group webpage](#)

[Final report](#)

[Brochure on IPM for Brassica](#)

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