



IPM Innovation in Europe

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Co-innovation

THE INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT OF THE PURE CO-INNOVATION PILOTS

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The involvement of farmers in research processes is widely seen as an essential aspect to foster the success of research for sustainable agriculture. This paper focusses on such farmer participatory research projects carried out in the domain of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Over the past few decades, much work has been done on farmer participatory research in agriculture. One of the returning messages in this extensive body of literature is the importance of the institutional context to understand the dynamics and 'success' of such projects. The responsiveness of researchers' specific contexts greatly matters to the room they have and take to involve farmers in their research.

Despite the widely accepted importance of the institutional context to understand the unfolding of farmer participatory research projects, still surprisingly little research has actually looked into its role in greater detail. By studying how a set of farmer participatory principles and methods were applied by researchers/advisers operating under different institutional conditions, this paper aims to fill this gap in literature. More specifically, it seeks to find out what institutional factors govern the researchers/advisers' behaviour and how these – indirectly – affect the unfolding of farmer participatory research projects.

This paper draws on a comparative analysis of four pilots that are part of the PURE-project's work package on 'co-innovation' (WP13), which is based on a farmer participatory research model. The four pilots took place in Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands, involved different national researcher/adviser-teams, farmer groups and focused on promoting IPM in different crops and farming systems. Although the pilots were part of the same project and had been guided by the authors of this paper with similar concepts and approaches, they showed their own dynamics, problems and successes. This makes them interesting cases to study the role of the institutional context. Each pilot's key events, dynamics and institutional context were reconstructed based on project reports, pilot team members' self-reflection documents and purposefully designed video meetings. Additional in-depth interviews were carried out with all members of the national researcher/adviser pilot teams in the final year of the project.

Based on a qualitative comparative analysis, this paper identifies major institutional factors and illustrates their influence on the unfolding of the co-innovation approach in the four cases, distinguishing between the personal, pilot team, work package, project, organisational and country AKIS level. More knowledge about the institutional factors and their specific effects is theoretically relevant for our understanding of complex farmer participatory research processes and practically salient to promote successful approaches in different innovation contexts.

EXPERIENCES FROM THE PILOTS – PRESENTATION OF THE VIDEO MATERIAL

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In this presentation, a few short videos are presented which describe successes and challenges regarding co-innovation of IPM efforts carried out in four pilots in The Netherlands, France, Germany and Denmark.

Due to the time constraints, only short parts of the videos can be presented. All the videos in full length will after the congress be available at the PURE website, <http://www.pure-ipm.eu/>

AN EFFICIENT APPROACH TO INVOLVE KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR AN IPM MODEL AT REGIONAL LEVEL: THE CASE OF LIFE AGROINTEGRA

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The objective of LIFE AGROIntegra project (2014–2017) is to minimize environmental risks related to chemical crop protection, by demonstrating the viability of more sustainable alternatives to pest control, on grain, vegetable, fruit and grapevine crops, in line with the Directive 2009/128/EC, establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

The specific objectives include:

- Bring innovative IPM techniques closer to farmers via practical demonstrations.
- Improve a collaborative pest monitoring and warning system.
- Develop a DST for farmers, proposing the best method for pests, diseases and weeds control in each specific plot and situation.
- Raise awareness among farmers and advisors on the advantages of more sustainable crop protection methods.
- Training and transfer of knowledge and tools in a fast, effective, continuous and comprehensive way, involving the agro industry and cooperatives.

The Government of Navarra (public authority responsible for implementing the Spanish National Action Plan for the sustainable use of pesticides in the region of Navarra – Spain) coordinates the project and the Institute for Agrifood Technology and Infrastructures of Navarra (INTIA), a public company attached to the former, is responsible for its technical implementation. The Union of Agriculture Cooperatives of Navarra (UCAN), with 169 cooperatives and 21.354 farmers, assures the participation and involvement of the farmers for the *on field* demonstrations and facilitates the communication and collaboration with them. Finally, the project ensures the representation of the food sector through CONSEBRO, the Agrifood Industry Association of the Ebro valley (Navarra, La Rioja and Aragón regions), with 104 companies, fully involved in the use of innovative IPM solutions for vegetables and minor crops and producing *zero residue* food.

The first stage of the project (2014) includes strong actions dedicated to the involvement of the stakeholders:

- Establishment of an **Action Group**: includes representatives from all stakeholders in Navarra (farmers, advisors, policy makers and actors of the food supply chain). The AG will meet three times a year and will be consulted for the strategic decisions of the project. At the end of the project the **IPM Platform of Navarra** will be established, gathering all stakeholders involved, as a permanent and open organization aiming at supporting the transition to more sustainable agricultural practices.

- Definition of the cooperatives, agro industries and farmers participating in the project that will later participate in:
 - o **On farm** demonstrative actions
 - o **Observers group** for the development of an improved monitoring and warning system
 - o **Implementation of a DST** (HAD AGROintegra) and its technical and economic validation

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