

First meeting of the expert group on the Thematic Strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides

Conclusions from chair

- No "ideal" National Action Plan exists. Each Member State will have to develop a plan adapted to its particular situation. Good examples already exist in several Member States.
- Training is a key aspect for making the implementation of the Framework Directive a success. Sources of advice are already in place in Member States.
- Although non chemical tools are lacking in several areas, there are already good IPM or ICM programmes already in place in a number of Member States. IPM guidelines will be available later this year and should give indications on what is required from Member States, in particular regarding the development of crop- or area-specific guidelines, giving concrete examples.
- Buffer strips will have to be established in an intelligent way (guidelines edited by CORPEN are available) and should be used to meet several legislative demands and hence reach several environmental goals (water protection, biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation).
- Several projects financed under FP6 and FP7 (e.g. ENDURE, FOOTPRINT, TEAMPEST, etc.) will deliver useful concrete tools to facilitate the implementation of the Directive.
- The development of appropriate harmonised indicators is key for measuring trends and progress. The European Commission is working on it.
- **Follow-up:**
 - We would welcome receiving comments on the BiPRO study, notably on the draft guidance documents, preferably by the end of July.
 - We would welcome contributions on what the expert group should cover.
 - Priorities for the next sessions:
 - receive a more formal contribution from COPA COGECA
 - further encourage exchanges between Member States
 - tackle non agricultural uses of pesticides