



Redefining Pest Management - a Holistic Approach

Practice Abstract N° 2

Survey on user requirements for OPTIMA IPM system: results obtained in Italy

In the ambit of OPTIMA WP1 activities a survey aimed at collecting indications from farmers about their needs and expectations concerning OPTIMA IPM approach was carried out in the vineyard pilot area in Italy, in Piemonte region. Results pointed out that most of farmers actually follow IPM voluntary plant protection strategy but they generally do not use bio-PPPs in particular for the control of downy mildew. They are generally in favour of the adoption of bio-PPPs provided that the efficacy is proven and that the frequency of the application can be compatible with other operations to carry out in the vineyard. Farmers look also for the development of new bio-PPPs enabling to protect vines from other diseases like golden flavescence and Escà disease. In general terms the interviewed farmers declared to be interested in the development of more precise Decision Support Systems able to address them in the timing and management of spray application and they also encouraged the development of tools for early disease detection. One concern was pointed out regarding the realization of smart sprayers which should be not too much complicated to operate and especially not too much expensive if compared to a conventional one. OPTIMA IPM approach was therefore considered interesting but farmers remarked the importance to link environmental with economical sustainability.



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