

PROGRAMME – ANNUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE

Alternatives to chemical crop protection for the reduction of risks and pesticides dependency, 7 September 2006, Bologna, ITALY

Organised in cooperation with SANA, Legambiente and AIAB

Thursday, 7th of September, Open session

Sala Armonia (Armoria Room) situated at the **Business Club - Pavilion 36**

9:30 - 10:00

Arrival and registration

10:00 - 10:30

Plenary session

Chair: **Sofia Parente**, PAN Europe

Note from **Sergio Rossi**, Consigliere Delegato, SANA S.r.l

Note from organisers: **Carina Weber**, Chair PAN Europe; **Andrea Ferrante**, AIAB President; **Francesco Ferrante**, Deputy Director, Legambiente

Keynote speech: **Daniela Guerra**, Member of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Council (Green Party)

10:30 - 11:30

Session 1: Global and European views on the state of Integrated Crop and Pest Management

Chair: **Carina Weber**, PAN Germany, Chair PAN Europe

A global perspective on the state of Integrated Crop and Pest Management and pesticide use reduction
Harry Van der Wulp, Global IPM Facility, FAO- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

The state of Integrated Crop and Pest Management in Europe: institutional framework and prospects for development

Bernd Freier, Head of the Institute for Integrated Plant Protection of the Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (BBA), Germany

Discussion

11:30 - 12:00

Coffee break

12:00 - 13:30

Session 2: Are alternatives adequately addressed at the EU level?

Chair: **Stephanie Williamson**, PAN UK

Roundtable with:

Roberto Musacchio, Member of the European Parliament, Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left

Bernd Freier, Head of the Institute for Integrated Plant Protection of the Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (BBA), Germany

Murree Groom, Ecospray, United Kingdom

Hans Muilerman, Natuur en Milieu, PAN Europe Board, Netherlands

Discussion

13:30 - 14:45

Lunch break

14:45 - 16:00

Session 3: Alternatives to chemical crop protection from the point of view of producers

Chair: **Daniel Lesinsky**, CEPTA, Slovakia

Knowledge transfer and development of organic farming

Helga Willer, FIBL- Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland

Example from farmers' association/cooperative from Emilia Romagna on Integrated Crop and Pest Management or other alternatives to chemical crop protection

Gianni Ceredi, Apofruit, Italy

Discussion

16:00 - 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00

Session 4: Coordination between farmers, retailers and consumers

Chair: **Luigi Gurrera**, AIAB (Italian Organic Farming Association), Italy

Legambiente protocols for reduction of pesticide residues in selected food products

Davide Sabbadin, Legambiente, Italy

From farmers to consumers: Italian/regional experience

Alessandro Triantafyllidis, AIAB, IFOAM EU Group, Italy

A regional example of promotion of organic farming

Matteo Sandon, Associazione Biorekk, Italy

Discussion

18:00 - 18:15

Wrap up and closure

Sofia Parente, PAN Europe

PROGRAMME – NGO WORKSHOP

Promotion of pesticide use reduction strategies in particular Integrated Crop and Pest Management, 8 September 2006, Bologna, ITALY

Friday, 8th of September

Sala Allegretto (Allegretto room), situated at the Centro Servizi

Introduction

Integrated Crop and Pest Management is a method of crop growing, in which fertilizers and synthetic pesticides may be used, but in which the environmental burden of these inputs is minimized by giving priority to preventive measures of crop growing and the use of non-chemical practices and methods. Pest management cannot be seen isolated and therefore, Integrated Crop and Pest Management should ideally be used as a complete integrated system, *ie* a combination of nutrient strategy, pest management, soil and biodiversity conservation objectives and crop quality. This means that implementation of this integrated system can only be accomplished on the basis of a complete set of requirements. Picking and choosing some techniques does not result in an integrated system, only the full set can do so. For instance it is well known that a bad nutrient strategy can result in more spraying with pesticides and in low product quality. So, there is an interdependency between nutrient, pest, and quality management, and a simultaneous action on all key elements of Integrated Crop and Pest Management can result in a maximization of both environmental quality and product quality.

Area under Integrated Crop and Pest Management

In the EU 15 only 3% of the agricultural land is under certified Integrated Crop and Pest Management. Considering the large agricultural acreage in the new Member States and the total absence of integrated systems in these countries, the percentage of land under Integrated Crop and Pest Management in the EU 25 is negligible. The reasons for this small percentage is simple: certified systems have been implemented mostly in fruit production followed by vegetable production, which only accounts for a very small percentage of the agricultural land, but is only marginally implemented in arable crops. Looking at the regional representation of Integrated Crop and Pest Management compared to conventional production, the picture changes. In the Italian region of South Tyrol for example, a large area of apples and pears production in Europe, 90% of the orchard farmers comply with regional Integrated Crop and Pest Management requirements.

Legal Situation

Legally binding Integrated Crop and Pest Management requirements exist in very few countries: in Belgium for a limited number of crops, in Spain since 2002 and in the Regions South Tyrol and Emilia-Romagna in Italy.

In most European countries it is allowed to use the term Integrated Crop Management (ICM), Integrated Production (IP) or Integrated Farming and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) subjectively. The absence of legally binding definitions on national and European level has lead to a large number of labels with a wide range of regional and private standards and requirements.

Environmental protection and pesticide use reduction

Whether Integrated Crop and Pest Management systems have positive impacts on the environment and lead to a reduction of pesticide dependency greatly depends on the general and crop specific standards. Though studies have shown that ecological improvements do not automatically emerge, when Integrated Crop and Pest Management is applied – one study in biodiversity in a German Integrated Production orchard systems stated: “IP low stem systems are neither environmentally friendly nor protect beneficial [insects].” Low habitat diversity and sterile grass alleys between the low stem rows are unattractive for wild plants and animals. On the other hand, the requirement of the Spanish Integrated Crop and Pest Management legislation to create at least 5% ecological compensation area *per* farm might be one way to enhance biodiversity.

Requirements

A European legal framework setting minimum standards is needed to ensure transparency for consumers and to ensure that goals of the society are met. However, crops specific, legally binding guidelines must be developed at the national level.

Extension services, growers associations, consumers association and environmental NGOs must participate **equally** on the development of Integrated Crop and Pest Management guidelines since these guidelines must serve three overall goals: ecological improvement (less emissions, increased biodiversity), food safety (especially reduction of pesticide residues) and reduction of farmers/bystander exposure to pesticides and profitability.

9:30 - 10:25

Start

Chair: **François Veillerette**, MDRGF, France

Welcome

Round the table introduction. The participants will be asked to present their name, organisation and country. Every year we give some time to organisations who wish to present their activities to other network members. National Movement Friends of the Earth (Bulgaria), Green Doctors- ISDE Ukraine, Centre for Environmental Studies (Hungary), SDEEC- Sustainable Development and Ecological Education Centre (Ukraine) and Prior Trend of Georgia- Poverty Reduction (Georgia) will have 5 minutes each to present their activities in relation to pesticide use reduction strategies in all three levels of intervention outlined.

10:25 - 10:30

Objectives of the workshop

The two main objective of the workshop are to:

- draft concrete **measures and recommendations** for the promotion of pesticide use reduction strategies, in particular Integrated Crop and Pest Management in Europe via different levels of intervention or strategies.
- develop informal **indicators** for our network to monitor progress and effectiveness of different pesticide use reduction strategies and of our advocacy work.

The **first level of intervention is EU and governmental policies**. Many NGOs present in the workshop are involved in direct institutional lobby for the implementation of Integrated Crop and Pest Management and/or national reduction plans for pesticides. The group will address the current state and prospects for the development of pesticide use reduction in the framework of the Common Agriculture Policy and the Directive for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides and will draw from the presentations and discussion from session 2 in the previous day. The **second level of intervention is non-governmental standards** developed by private companies, grower's associations and others. The group will address the role of retailers and supermarkets in setting up standards of Integrated Crop and Pest Management and the reaction of farmers in Europe and developing countries exporting produce to Europe. Finally, the **third level of intervention is NGO campaigning** for the implementation of Integrated Crop and Pest Management standards and pesticide use reduction, frequently by starting campaigns targeted at consumers, the public and retailers/supermarkets centred on pesticide residues.

10:30 - 11:15

Presentations

Current state and prospects for pesticide use reduction in the EU Common Agriculture Policy
Arjan Berkhuisen, Natuur en Milieu, The Netherlands

The role and extent of non-governmental standards in the promotion of Integrated Crop and Pest Management
Stephanie Williamson, Pesticide Action Network UK

Promotion of Integrated Crop and Pest Management in the Netherlands: experience from 7 years of NGO campaigning
Hans Mulerman, Natuur en Milieu, The Netherlands

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 12:30

Group discussion

The participants will be split into three groups (see suggestion for which group you should integrate in the list of participants). The objectives of the group discussions are to address key questions and to find indicators to monitor progress in all three levels of intervention. The groups shall nominate a note-taker and a rapporteur to present the discussion and conclusions to the plenary.

Group A: EU and government policies

Chair: Susanne Smolka, PAN Germany

- Do we need a legislative framework for Integrated Crop and Pest Management similar to the one already in place for organic production? What would be acceptable minimum standards for Integrated Crop and Pest Management?
- What is needed to extend Integrated Crop and Pest Management to arable crops?
- What do we need in terms of legislation to make biopesticides an alternative to hazardous chemical pesticides?

Group B: Non-governmental standards

Chair: Lars Neumeister, PAN Germany Board

- What are the pros and cons of NGO engagement with individual and multi-stakeholder sustainability initiatives?
- How far can or should NGOs go in publicising and supporting private standards for pesticide use reduction?
- Do supermarkets serve as a force for good or for evil in terms of pesticide use reduction and Integrated Crop and Pest Management?

Group C: NGO campaigning

Chair: Gergely Simon, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary

- How to be more effective in stimulating consumer demand and access to organic and pesticide free products?
- What are the funding opportunities for this type of campaigning?
- How to communicate effectively to the public and consumers the importance of pesticide free food?
- How should we address the issue of sustainable farming livelihoods in Europe and beyond?

12:30 - 13:15

Report back to the plenary

Each rapporteur will have 10 min to present to the plenary the main points in the discussion and conclusions to the plenary.

There will be 15 min for clarifications and discussion after the presentations.

13:15 - 13:30

Wrap up and closure

13:30 - 14:45

Lunch break

Friday, 8th of September, afternoon

Free time to visit SANA fair.

Friday, 8th of September, afternoon, Network Annual General Meeting
***Sala Allegretto* (Allegretto room), situated at the Centro Servizi**

14:45 - 16:15

PAN Europe Network Annual General Meeting

1. Report on the main 2005-2006 activities;
2. Report of accounts from 2005-2006;
3. Presentation of new network members approved by the Board during 2006;
4. Election of Board Members for 2006/2009;
5. Priority policies and actions for 2007;
6. Presentation and approval of PAN Europe Work Programme and budget for 2007.

Only network members are entitled to vote. Other organisations can participate as spectators only.

PROGRAMME – FIELD TRIP

Saturday, 9th of September

Departure from the Hotel Albergo Drapperie at 8:45am

8:45 - 16:30

Field visit to Apofruit Italia cooperative and IPM farm near Cesena

With more than 40 years experience, 130,000 tons production, a turnover of 132 million euros (2003) Apofruit is one of the leading Italian companies marketing fruit and vegetables, all of them obtained through IPM or organic farming (with the Consortium “Almaverde bio”, which is not only fruit and vegetables, but also a complete range of organic foodstuff). For more info: <http://www.apofruit.it>

After lunch and on our way back, we will have the chance to stop at the small town of Bertinoro to visit the castle and enjoy the views. For more info: <http://www.comune.bertinoro.fo.it>