Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Goal	Use the IPM approach to fight against pests and diseases.
Short description of the measure	According to the European Commission, IPM "involves an integrated approach to the prevention and/or suppression of organisms harmful to plants through the use of all available information, tools and methods. IPM aims to keep the use of pesticides and other forms of intervention only to levels that are economically and ec ologically justified and which reduce or minimise risk to human health and the environment. Sustainable biological, physical and other non-chemical methods must be preferred to chemical methods if they provide satisfactory pest control". IPM entails the prevention of harmful organisms through the implementation of good practices (rotation, good soil condition, etc.), the monitoring of pests' thresholds, the selection of the least harmful solutions and products, the implementation of good practices for crop protection products application, the records and critical evaluation of necessary applications, the appropriate storage and handling of agrochemical containers, etc.
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	Permanent action
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	▪ IPM shall be based on available proofs of verification, such as Farm Register Books. ▪ The existence of an expert advisory system is also a good sign of implementation.
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	IPM may be a new approach in some areas, especially outside EU or for new crops. In this case, it should be necessary to understand to which degress, as no previous references exist, the farmer is applying IPM principles.
Effects on biodiversity (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 The most important success of IPM is that, due to a reasonable approach to pest and disease management, the amount of agrochemicals released to the environment.
Indicator/key data	▪ Surface in which IPM approach is used and can be verified through Farm Register Book and Advisory support.
Reference	▪ ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/sustainable_use_pesticides/ipm_en

Further information: Knowledge Pool

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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