



SMART agriculture for innovative vegetable crop PROTECTION: harnessing advanced methodologies and technologies

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ABSTRACT

SmartProtect is a thematic network focusing on cross regional knowledge sharing of SMART Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions for farmers and advisors. Aim is to stimulate knowledge flow in the regional Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKISs) across the EU and connect these on the innovative potential of advanced methodologies for IPM in vegetable production, integrating precision farming technologies and data analytics.

SmartProtect project intends to offer advanced farming technologies and data analysis, by identifying the needs of farmers and purpose methodologies for daily practices based on smart IPM. Through its e-platform, knowledge for vegetable crops related to IPM is gathered, shared, managed and distributed. It benchmarks the highest innovation model for SMART IPM, providing farmers with easily accessible and understandable material, guidelines and support systems for vegetable cropping.



OBJECTIVES

- **Building a sustainable platform for knowledge sharing** connecting the different AKISs at national and regional level across the EU and actors within these AKISs, in particular farmers, advisors, SMEs, regional authorities, researchers, for continuous and interactive knowledge flow on SMART IPM.
- **Benchmarking the best practices with the highest innovation potential for SMART IPM** through an in depth SWOT analysis of innovative technologies and methodologies based on selected pests and disease in different crops.
- **Providing farmers with easily accessible and understandable material, guidelines and support systems in relation to SMART IPM in vegetable cropping**, taking into account the regional socio-economic, cultural and regulatory context.
- **Bridging the gap between European regions** by knowledge exchange on SMART IPM through cross border exchange visits.
- **Engaging in the wider European Innovation Partnership context, in particular “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability”** and supporting the implementation of the EIP-AGRI through linking with ongoing thematic networks and relevant multi-actor research and innovation networks, focus and operational groups in all countries and regions around Europe.
- Securing the long term sustainability of outputs and knowledge produced by feeding into existing initiatives and networks at national and European level, including the European Vegetable Research Institutions Network (EURIN).

CONSORTIUM

The project involves 16 partners around Europe and specifically 4 European Universities, 9 Research and Development institutes and 3 SMEs that will exchange knowledge and skills in order to achieve the goals of the project. All the partners will have a vital role on the implementation, testing, dissemination and communication of the project. The consortium consists of partners active in the AKISs of their country, that through their collaboration the AKISs of the different countries, focussing on the production of brassica, alliums, peppers, cucumbers and tomato, will be gathered and connected bridging the gap between European regions.



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