



Plant health



AGRI
Innovation summit 2019



Other Thematic Network

DEPHY Ecophyto network

Réseau DEPHY Ecophyto



Practical problem

Supporting French farmers in reducing the use of phytosanitary products and through agroecological transition.



Partners

National partners of the network coordination: APCA (French Chambers of agriculture) – ACTA (agricultural technical institutes) – INRA



Calendar

Start: 01/01/2010
End: 01/01/2025



Budget

Total amount:
€14,000,000/year

Objectives of the project

DEPHY Network is a flagship action of the French “Ecophyto” plan which aims at a reduction of 50% of the phytosanitary products use in France by 2025. DEPHY network intends to test, valorise and deploy appropriate techniques and agricultural systems to reduce the use of phytosanitary products while being efficient at economic, social and environmental levels. It covers all the French production sectors and involves a partnership between research, development and transfert players.

Main activities

DEPHY Network is the combination of two measures:

1. FERME, (farm) which demonstration farms and production of references network gathering 3000 farmers voluntarily committed in a process of reducing the use of pesticides,
2. EXPE (experiment), which is a testing network that conceive, test and assess different cropping systems where the use of phytosanitary products is extremely limited. DEPHY FERME is made of 250 groups of farmers, each being composed by a dozen of farmers. They are accompanied by a network engineer in an individual or collective project aiming at reducing the pesticides use. DEPHY EXPE associates forty or so projects and more than a hundred partners and testing sites.

Expected results

DEPHY Network aims at promoting dynamics of learning and change, supporting innovation processes, capitalizing and mutualizing knowledges and resources on techniques and agricultural systems sparing in their use of pesticides and with a comprehensive performance and finally at transferring and valorizing these systems. It is based on the principles of an integrated pest management at a cropping system scale. Through the research of synergy between the levers, this approach makes the pest management more efficient than any mainstream crop protection “1 pest – 1 pesticide”.

Results so far/first lessons

The main indicator of DEPHY FERME network in terms of reduction in the use of phytosanitary products is the treatment frequency index (TFI). Below are the IFT decreases recorded for the farmers involved from the beginning of the network (since they joined DEPHY till the average of the years 2015-2016-2017):

- 14% field crops and crop-livestock farming (TFI 2017 = 2,6*)
- 25% Arboriculture (TFI 2017 = 14,3*)
- Apricot: 8,5
- Peach: 15,2
- Apple: 17,8
- 17% Viticulture (TFI 2017 = 10,2)
- 38% Vegetables (TFI 2017 = 3,4*)
- 43% Horticulture (TFI 2017 = 8,5*)
- 37% Tropical crops (TFI 2017 = 4,5*).

* biocontrol agents excluded

Who will benefit

The first beneficiaries are the 3000 farmers involved in the DEPHY FERME network and the range of players involved in the support of the groups and in the experimentation projects. DEPHY will also serve as a basis for a ten fold increase in the number of farmers supported through agroecological transition and pesticide reduction (“Action 30000”). It is designed to widely disseminate and share the results of the experimentations and changes in practices implemented by the members of the network.

Supported by:



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