



Integrated Pest Management Systems in Agriculture

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Message from the Guest Editors

Agriculture contributes most to current human-induced climate change. However, crop productivity is at risk due to the increasing incidence of pests and diseases. A warmer climate and extreme weather events have led to a loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which has a significant impact on plant pests and the damage they cause. EU phytosanitary and environmental policies have defined the common challenge of reducing dependence on chemicals, improving food quality, and increasing the potential for the development of more bio-based and biotech-oriented production systems. To promote this transition and prioritize preventive crop protection based on agro-ecological practices to prevent pest outbreaks and infestations, we need a change of direction and paradigm. The measures taken by EU Member States to reduce pesticide use are based on the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). However, current crop protection in the EU is still largely based on curative crop protection with chemical pesticides.

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