

## S1007TU09 Integrated Pest Management

S1007

## IPM on top fruit in Italy: State of the art and outlook

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IPM was born in Italy in 1972, after ten years of entomological researches and investigations aimed to study the behaviour of the most important species of pest and beneficial insect and to assess the response to different control techniques. In those years, many demonstration projects began and achieved significant results and a substantial decrease in number and toxicity of the insecticides used. In the eighties, those projects turned into programs for Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and over time other fruit and horticultural crops joined to the programs. These crops are currently regulated by Integrated Production Disciplinary (DPI), which defines the crop growing techniques in all agronomic aspects and control strategy (sensu lato). The environmental factors were decisive in implementing IPM, especially since the early nineties, following specific Community Directives, which over time have allowed to increase IPM techniques until they become mandatory in Europe in 2014 (Law 128/09). The Directive emphasize the training and transfer of all the knowledge related to the proper use of insecticides, the general principles of IPM and the risk indicators that allow to assess the way in which chemicals are used. The market demands for productions without or with a limited number of residues might become a factor conditioning the IPM, stimulating, however, the improvement.

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