INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

IPM is a holistic approach to sustainable agriculture that focuses on managing insects, weeds, and diseases through a combination of cultural, biological, and chemical measures that are cost effective, environmentally sound, and socially acceptable. This includes the responsible use of crop protection and plant biotech products.

WHY IS IPM IMPORTANT?

GLOBAL POPULATION is on the rise and therefore so is FOOD DEMAND. This means farmers must INCREASE YIELDS on existing land while PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY and looking after the environment. IPM PROVIDES FARMERS WITH TOOLS AND STRATEGIES TO SUSTAINABLY MAXIMIZE PRODUCTION and MINIMIZE LOSSES due to insects, weeds, and diseases.

KEY COMPONENTS OF AN IPM STRATEGY

PREVENT: Understand conditions, select varieties, manage crops.
- Select the best crop varieties for local growing conditions.
- Employ crop rotation, irrigation, and tillage practices that help manage pests.
- Manage habitats for beneficial insects.
- Reduce carry-over of weeds and disease by appropriate harvesting, seed cleaning and storage.
- Use seed treatments when necessary.

MONITOR: Inspect pests, identify issues, determine action.
- Inspect crops to monitor for pests (including weeds and diseases).
- Distinguish between pests and beneficial insects.
- Determine if intervention is necessary.

INTERVENE: Choose method, plan approach, implement responsibly.
- Determine the most appropriate intervention to control pests, one that is cost-effective and environmentally sound.
- Interventions can be physical, cultural, biological, or chemical.
- If crop protection products are required, use them responsibly.

IPM TRAINING INCLUDES:

IDENTIFYING beneficial insects
WHEN and HOW to manage pests
RESPONSIBLE USE of crop protection products
PROPER DISPOSAL of empty containers or unused products

Since 2005, CropLife International IPM programs have trained over 2 MILLION individuals.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- Developing innovative chemistry and other control agents to manage insects, weeds, and diseases
- Improving crop varieties with pest and disease resistant traits

ROLE OF THE PLANT SCIENCE INDUSTRY

As part of an on-going commitment to stewardship, the plant science industry trains farmers on IPM best practices.

The global CropLife network has over 340 IPM PARTNERSHIPS worldwide.

The plant science industry is committed to the worldwide implementation of IPM strategies and training on the responsible use of crop protection and plant biotech products. For more information, please visit croplife.org

*CropLife International and its member companies support the IPM initiative put forth by the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (ICC, 2010).