
The EWRS Working Group on “Optimization of herbicide use in an IWM context” in collaboration with the Perottis College/ American Farm School (AFS), organized a Regional Meeting (26-27 June 2017), in Thessaloniki, Greece.

In total 17 weed experts from 9 countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Rumania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey) attended the meeting.

The purpose was to determine the level of implementation of IWM systems, to discuss ongoing IWM related research and future IWM research needs and establish networks that could be beneficial considering future EU research and network applications.

Each participant gave an account of the above topics in his/her country.

Through the presentations and the discussions, a full account of current weed problems and IWM systems implemented was made.

At the end, it was highlighted the need to establish strong networks and frequent expert meetings in the area. A number of funding possibilities for such actions was also presented.

National Weed Science Societies could play an important role in coordinating such actions.

Weed experts stated their willingness to actively participate on future EWRS activities through national entities (universities, research institutes, extension and public services).

We thank Elanco Hellas S.A., and KNE Certis B.V. for sponsorship this event.

Report on EWRS Regional Meeting

“Integrated Weed Management: Status and ongoing research in the Balkan region”

Working Goup: Optimization of herbicide use in an IWM context

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Prior to the meeting, a specific questionnaire on IWM adoption and research was constructed, by members of the Working Group. This instrument aimed to gather the extent of use of IWM, identify obstacles and propose measures for its development, implementation and adoption into South East European cropping systems.

During the meeting, there was a deep discussion about levels of IWM and how various public and private entities promote its implementation, in EU and non-EU countries.

It was also highlighted that regional cropping systems frequently face similar (more or less) major weed problems and IWM challenges, research needs and priorities and extension services upgrades to tackle IWM implementation.

Identifying the current obstacles and proposes measures to eliminate them would boost national efforts as they could benefit from a common framework and transnationally IWM approaches.

Results from the questionnaire are currently analyzed and together with the in-depth discussion points raised, will be the basis for a scientific paper to be submitted and presented in an EWRS event.