



## **Regional Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the Near East**

**GTFS/REM/070/ITA**

### **Objective:**

To improve food security by promoting the adaptation of IPM strategies to crops through Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology.



### **Donor:**

FAO Global Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety – Italian Contribution.

### **Duration:**

2004 – 2011

### **Budget:**

7,609,370 USD

### **Countries:**

Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria, and Tunisia.

### **Main results:**

To build the capacity of local relevant authorities and farmers communities on IPM in order to achieve a sustainable intensification of crop production by maintaining and enhancing agro biodiversity, reducing pesticides related risks, improving the livelihood conditions of the rural communities and improving the access to national and international markets.

### **Beneficiaries:**

Ministries of Agriculture and other relevant institutions and farmers communities of the target countries.

### **Partners:**

Ministries of Agriculture of the members Countries; Universities, International and local NGOs (i.e. ICU, GFF, AVSI, AEA and the IGRA, etc.).

At a Glance



ministero degli affari esteri





## Expected Outcomes

The project is promoting local adaptation of IPM strategies to horticultural crops in 6 countries of the Near East region (Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestinian Territories, Syria) since 2004. In late 2009, activities have been expanded also to Algeria, Iraq, Morocco and Tunisia and consolidate the achieved results, focusing on the promotion of IPM strategies to horticultural crops and farmers' participation and understanding of local ecosystems, through **Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology**. FFS on IPM is a participatory approach to train and empower farmers on reducing the use of pesticides, performing their own agro-ecosystem analysis (AES) and pest management. This helps the participants also to preserve natural resources using appropriated farming practices. IPM/FFS activities have been carried out in each country of the project to promote:

1. Capacity building and strengthening of IPM/FFS approach, taking into account local eco-system and promoting the participation of women in Project activities
2. Strengthening the framework for sound pest and crop management
3. Sharing information and establishing partnership for a broad IPM approach
4. Improving access to markets
5. Development of a comprehensive strategy to promote IPM and crop management in the region

## Achievements

### Quantitative Outputs

1. More than 1,000 IPM/FFS established; 1,830 staff of MoA, other institutions officials, civil society representatives and farmers trained as Facilitators; and more than 15,000 Farmers directly trained by the Project in the 10 participating Countries
2. On average 28% of the Facilitators and 15% of the Farmers are women
3. Pesticide utilization reduced: from 51 to 73% throughout the targeted areas of the Region in the target areas and crops
4. On average, 8% higher yield levels obtained throughout the targeted areas of the Region

### Sustainable Institutionalization of the IPM Methodology



IPM/FFS became a consolidated participatory extension methodology, fully incorporated and budgeted in the annual plans of some of the target Countries (i.e. Syria, Iran, Jordan, and Palestinian Territories) where National IPM Programmes have also been developed.

## Marketing Support

In Iran, interested stakeholders (i.e. farmers, consumers, and other related representatives from the public and private sector), supported by the Project created the "IPM Group of Iran" in early 2010 for the commercialization of IPM products. More than 100 members have already joined the Group, which is also supported now by the local Municipalities like Tehran. In Syria, in the Rural Areas of Damascus (Housh Arab Village and Assal Alward), the Project is assisting to set-up a farmers association. This association, composed by farmers who participated at the Apple FFS programme intends to be register as a Global GAP certification Group. Other similar initiatives at group or individual levels are present in Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Lebanon and Egypt.



## Official Recognition of the Project Impact/Efficiency

In order to face the arising pests related emergencies like the *Tuta Absoluta* Pest infestation of Tomato, and the Rust on wheat, the MoA of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinian Territories formally requested FAO and/or directly the Project assistance to tackle the problems through IPM approach.

In order to build up their agricultural strategy the MoA of Jordan and Iran are formally requesting support on Olive production planning;

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen has officially requested to be included in the Project highlighting that this issue is one of the most important priorities of the Government's program in the agricultural sector.

The Project partners (i.e. Institutions, individual farmers and MOA staff) received several awards for their special contribution to improve agricultural standards at local communities or country levels in several participating countries. This approach has already resulted into tangible benefits for farmers in Near East participating countries who have achieved several improvements in economic, health, social and environmental aspects.



## Regional level

### Trans-boundary Plant Pests and Diseases