SITUATION: In recent years cover crops have been used increasingly by vegetable farmers in the Northeast to improve soil quality, prevent erosion, increase organic matter, and to suppress nematodes and root diseases. Many studies have been conducted to show the benefits of cover crops for preventing erosion, increasing organic matter and improving soil quality. Few studies have focused on the effect of specific cover crops on the prevalent root pathogens of vegetable crops in the Northeast.

PRIORITIES: Resources, expertise, experience, history, what we know about the situation, stakeholder needs

PROGRAM ACTION- LOGIC MODEL

Inputs
- Project leaders/staff/collaborators
  - Time
  - Money
  - Equipment
  - Infrastructure
  - Materials
  - Knowledge
  - Stakeholder needs
  - Research base/preliminary data

Activities
- Design & conduct replicated research trials in NY, PA, CT
- Design & conduct confirm research/demonstration trials in NY & PA
- Conduct comprehensive literature review on cover crops
- Integrate cover crop recommendations in regional veg production guidelines
- Conduct/ participate in field days, twilight meetings, regional meetings

Outputs
- Project leaders/staff/collaborators
- Project leaders and vegetable production guidelines editorial staff
- Growers/stakeholders engaged in veg production

Participation
- Participants consider how cover crops might fit into their production systems
- Increased awareness about cover crop management options
- Increased access to specific information on cover crops including those that increase/decrease root rot and

Outcomes
- Facilitate more informed selection and use of cover crops for specific root disease and nematode control needs.
- Increased use of cover crops as root disease and nematode control measures.
- Decreased use of fungicides and nematicides - replaced by cover crop disease and nematode controls.

External Factors:
1. Availability of cover crop seed - especially those varieties that suppress nematodes and diseases.
2. Cost of seeds and other inputs for establishing the selected cover crops.
3. Ease of establishing and growth vigor of the promoted cover crops are acceptable/good.