Ecologically-Based Growers Face Obstacles and Market Could Help

What's in a Name?

One challenge with IPM is in the name; integrated pest management. As much as anyone, some do not like it; they think it means too much labeling and too much work. The name itself can be confusing. As a result, some are already using the term PAIPM, partial adoption of integrated pest management, recognizing that IPM is not a "one-size-fits-all" model and that sometimes you have to use chemicals. Another model might be a "spectrum of IPM." A spectrum of IPM consists of a more flexible model that recognizes different levels of adoption. A spectrum model recognizes that all farmers have different needs and different situations. The spectrum model is more realistic and provides answers that are more applicable to the situation on the farm. It helps farmers to identify and address the issues they face, and it provides a framework for making decisions that are specific to their situation. A spectrum model can also be used to develop marketing campaigns that are more targeted and effective.

What are the challenges for a farmer trying to use IPM?

1. Lack of consumer demand: IPM is less well-known than other farming methods, such as conventional farming. This lack of consumer demand can make it difficult for farmers to justify the extra time and effort required to implement IPM practices. Farmers may find it easier to use pesticides, which are cheaper and more convenient, rather than IPM practices.

2. Knowledge gap: Many farmers do not have the knowledge or skills to effectively implement IPM practices. They may not understand how to use IPM tools or how to interpret the results of these tools. This gap in knowledge can limit the adoption of IPM practices.

3. Financial constraints: The cost of implementing IPM practices can be higher than the cost of using pesticides. Farmers may find it difficult to afford the additional costs associated with IPM, such as the cost of purchasing and using IPM tools or the cost of training staff.

4. Time constraints: Farmers may have limited time to devote to implementing IPM practices. They may have other priorities, such as meeting the demands of their customers or addressing other challenges on the farm.

5. Resistance from stakeholders: Some stakeholders, such as consumers or government agencies, may resist the adoption of IPM practices. They may perceive IPM practices as less effective or less reliable than other farming methods.

Both types of ecologically-based growing, organic and IPM, are knowledge-intensive and require a serious commitment from farmers and consumers in order to succeed. It is important to recognize the challenges and opportunities that exist for both types of ecologically-based growing and to work towards developing marketing strategies that can help to overcome these challenges.
A few things are known: lift heights for potatoes are much higher than for peas, and overuse of pesticides and practices of landscape management need that in residue-filled fields. Ecologically based approaches could include biological control, which is based on the idea that multiple species exist in the fields, in a non-circular way, and arrest crop losses. Organic and IPM growers are responding by producing healthy food that can endure environmental problems that are occurring naturally. We need to look at the evidence and ask ourselves the question, “Is this the best we can do?”

Adherents of IPM and organic growing share common priorities. IPM and organic production brings a broader benefit: reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy consumption, and improved water quality. For sustainable agriculture, there is a need to broaden and open distribution of knowledge—about the biology, ecology, and prevention of pest outbreaks—already exists through the USDA National Organic Program (NOP).

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In the case of weeds, the knowledge, understanding, and often requires overuse of pesticides. Or unacceptable levels of soil erosion.

Nowhere are overuse of pesticides and practices of landscape management needed. Looking back to the basics—fueling new discoveries and identifying emerging threats. The ecological approach prioritizes the focus, even for IPM and organic. More implemented by farmers who want to maintain plant characteristics and who are not interested in the short-term only. The existing environmental impacts are often understated. Fine-tuning irrigation systems, for instance, is more critical than just adding inputs to the farm. The ecological approach prioritizes the focus, even for IPM and organic. More implemented by farmers who want to maintain plant characteristics and who are not interested in the short-term only. The existing environmental impacts are often understated. Fine-tuning irrigation systems, for instance, is more critical than just adding inputs to the farm.

Overcoming the Barriers to More IPM and Organic

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IPM and Organic: Synergies— and Barriers

Sustainable practices are becoming less expensive to implement and more widely accessible, and are increasingly being recognized as a key component of the solution to many of the world’s most pressing environmental and social challenges. In the face of these challenges, IPM has emerged as a promising approach for achieving sustainable agriculture. However, despite its many benefits, organic agriculture remains a relatively small part of the global food market, and IPM adoption continues to lag behind expectations.

A new approach to IPM is needed to address these challenges. This approach, known as “ecologically-based growing,” emphasizes the use of natural processes and ecosystems to manage pests and diseases. This approach is gaining traction among farmers, researchers, and policymakers around the world.

Key features of ecologically-based growing include:

- Promoting biodiversity: Ecologically-based growing encourages the use of diverse crops and practices, which can help to maintain a healthy ecosystem that is resilient to pests and other stressors.
- Using natural controls: By promoting biodiversity, ecologically-based growing can reduce the need for chemical pesticides and other synthetic inputs.
- Promoting sustainability: Ecologically-based growing can help to reduce environmental impacts and improve social and economic outcomes.

Many farmers who are adopting ecologically-based growing are finding that it is possible to achieve high yields and quality produce while reducing their use of synthetic inputs.

Overcoming the Barriers to More IPM and Organic

Promoting Synergies

The synergy between IPM and organic agriculture can be leveraged to address a wide range of challenges. For example, the use of diverse crop rotations can help to control pests and diseases while also improving soil health and reducing the need for chemical inputs.

Limitations of organic and IPM

While both IPM and organic agriculture offer many benefits, they also have limitations that need to be addressed.

Limitations of organic agriculture include:

- Limited resource availability: Organic agriculture relies on diverse crop rotations and natural controls, which can be difficult to achieve in some regions or for some crops.
- Higher costs: Organic agriculture can be more expensive due to the need for labor-intensive practices and the lower use of synthetic inputs.

Limitations of IPM include:

- Limited efficacy: IPM can be less effective than synthetic inputs in managing some pests and diseases, especially those that are new or emerging.
- Limited application: IPM can be difficult to apply in some situations, such as those where pests are not well-studied or understood.

Addressing these limitations requires a coordinated approach that leverages the strengths of both IPM and organic agriculture.

Moving Forward

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Challenges and Opportunities

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References

- Soil references from the July 2018 issue of IPM Insights at the link: http://epm.org.go/PAjE

www.northeastipm.org

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Adoption of IPM and organic growing share common principles, including a focus on maintaining natural resources for future generations. This allows for the protection of human health, the environment, and sustainable agriculture. The emphasis on human health, the environment, and sustainable agriculture is a common denominator in both IPM and organic growing, making them both ecologically based approaches.

A New Approach
IPM could help growers solve many problems, with numerous pests. In the case of weeds, the knowledge infrastructure needed to practice weed management needs to be expanded. Similarly, for soil pests, this knowledge infrastructure could be expanded. By using the principles of IPM, growers can use the least harmful methods to control pests. This approach focuses on the entire ecosystem, rather than just targeting pests. By using this approach, growers can help maintain the health of the ecosystem, which benefits all pest control methods.

Expanding Adoption
Adoption of IPM involves the “low-hanging fruit” strategy of shifting expectations for both pests and economic returns without regard to externalized environmental and human health costs. The business model promotes this focus, even for IPM and organic. More implementation by farmers who choose to maintain their farms sustainably and who are not expecting to pay for those external costs, the resulting environmental impacts are often lower than expected. A recent study in the Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics examined the economic benefits of IPM and found that it can lead to significant economic gains.

Complementing Environmental and Societal Benefits
Eco-growing and IPM are both ecologically-based approaches. They focus on the entire ecosystem, rather than targeting pests. By using a system-based approach, chemical spraying seventimes financial gain. And innovative systems thinking is kept to the backburner for another day.

Making Gains
Sustainable products are in high demand in the market. Organic and high-yield practices require a growing and increasing scale to meet the high demand. By using IPM and organic practices, farmers can help maintain the health of the ecosystem, which benefits all pest control methods. This approach focuses on the entire ecosystem, rather than just targeting pests. By using this approach, farmers can help maintain the health of the ecosystem, which benefits all pest control methods.

References – This resource is a compilation of 2013 summary of IPM impacts at this link. http://www.esan.org/article/2013-impacts
A growing body of literature on occupational exposure to pesticides makes it a priority across the production spectrum.

A Model: Organisms in the Market

Benjamin W. Lasky and Adrian P. Polya, University of Illinois at Chicago

The move toward IPM and organic agriculture is at least in part a response to growing consumer demands for nonpesticide, pesticide-free food. As a result, the number of consumers who will support these practices is growing. However, the impact on food production and the environment can be substantial only if these consumers have the ability and willingness to make sustainable food choices. The food industry, too, may be under pressure to make changes in how it produces food. As such, IPM and organic efforts may be only a small part of the bigger picture. Food production systems are influenced by many factors, such as consumer demand, economic returns, and social norms. These factors interact to determine the production system that is adopted by farmers. The decision to adopt a particular production system is influenced by a variety of factors, such as the availability of technology, the cost of inputs, and the price of outputs. In this context, the move toward IPM and organic agriculture may be seen as a response to consumer demand, but it is also influenced by other factors, such as the availability of technology, the cost of inputs, and the price of outputs. In this context, the move toward IPM and organic agriculture may be seen as a response to consumer demand, but it is also influenced by other factors, such as the availability of technology, the cost of inputs, and the price of outputs. In this context, the move toward IPM and organic agriculture may be seen as a response to consumer demand, but it is also influenced by other factors, such as the availability of technology, the cost of inputs, and the price of outputs.
IPM and Organic Moving Forward Together

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Agriculture is a discipline, agriculture has a need for resources to support research, education, and technology transfer. Within the field of crop production and protection, IPM and organic are two different, yet, their basic philosophy—which places an emphasis on the environment, human health, and profitability—unites them apart from other approaches. It has been said that if you can't beat them, join them. IPM and organic agriculture have definitely not been beaten, but they are not growing as quickly as they could be, considering the demand in the marketplace. The Children's Bureau of Agriculture Research and Education (PB) program has funded and supported more projects in both IPM and organic than any other government agency. Perhaps their success is in their name, “sustainable agriculture”, to fit the farm economics and sustainable IPM and organic agroecological systems.

IPM is a science-based approach to managing pests using all available tactics, although beneficial populations are rarely induced as the latest trend in traditional practices. IPM systems are generally designed to preserve beneficial organisms by using selective and fewer pesticides, adjusting timing of application, incorporating trap crops, and improving the habitat for natural enemies. While integrated control, such as spotted wing drosophila, has increased consumer demand for IPM, and even conventional crop blocks can apply, the negative impacts to human health and the environment should be weighed equally with potential economic losses.

A Two-Pronged Approach

Individual producers, such as small and nutrient management, and tools like variable density and biological controls, provide short-term benefit, whereas, a long-term benefit can be seen in the sustainable IPM and organic movement and the IPM tradition, whose adherents strive to meet the demands of a changing agricultural landscape.

Meanwhile, a limitation of IPM is that, on a continuum, benefits are restricted to the degree to which they are applied. Insecticide resistance in arthropod pests continues to increase, and the important, beneficial populations are rarely induced by the treatments used. Continued IPM and organic systems are generally designed to preserve beneficial organisms by using selective and fewer pesticides, adjusting timing of application, incorporating trap crops, and improving the habitat for natural enemies. While integrated control, such as spotted wing drosophila, has increased consumer demand for IPM, and even conventional crop blocks can apply, the negative impacts to human health and the environment should be weighed equally with potential economic losses.

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