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PROJECT DELIVERABLE REPORT

Deliverable D6.1: Report from the introductory stakeholder meetings



**Fruit Flies In-silico
Prevention & Management**

FF•IPM

Project Title:

**In-silico boosted, pest prevention and off-season focused IPM against
new and emerging fruit flies ('OFF-Season' FF-IPM)**

SFS-2018-2

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1 Summary

The main objective of Work Package 6 is to develop a decision-support modelling system for in-silico design of site-optimised precision IPM for the management of the Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly, *Ceratitis capitata*) that can be adopted by European farmers and applied in heterogeneous landscapes. The validation of the novel OFF- and ON-Season IPM strategies that will be developed will be conducted on farm with the involvement of stakeholders. Hence, this deliverable presents and analyses the outcome of a series of three consultation workshops (which took place in Greece, Italy and Spain) that explored and tried to identify stakeholder needs, perception of precision pest management and expectations. Their input will be used to adapt the FF-IPM developed modelling to their requirements and to particularities of the different production systems in different European countries. Based on stakeholders' recommendations, heuristic guidelines and illustrative case-scenarios, OFF- & ON-Season IPM medfly control approaches will be developed, and their socioeconomic and environmental impacts assessed. The participants of the workshops were growers, local and regional advisors, pest control managers and scientists. The results of the Workshops will be also used to identify a suitable communication platform with the stakeholders (see WP 7 and 8).

The current deliverable provides background information for each pilot site and describes (a) the risk of medfly for fruit growers in Greece, Italy and Spain considering the information gathered during the stakeholders meetings and historic and published data, and (b) stakeholders perspectives and needs identifying also their willingness to adopt alternative pest management strategies. It also thoroughly discusses differences and similarities among the three countries and pilot sites with regard to (a) the production system, (b) medfly importance, (c) the control methods applied, and it identifies challenges in the integration of improved medfly control technology and records stakeholders needs and priorities. Briefly, stakeholders (a) are interested in a range of pests while researchers usually focus their attention on one pest, (b) identify a need for more knowledge about pest identification and damage, (c) seek a more advanced surveillance system and stronger support from public extension services and (d) consider the farmers cooperation as key element of fighting against a notorious pest such as medfly.

Overall, the conducted workshops and stakeholder interviews revealed a substantial dose of interesting information, modified our perspective and improved our understanding of the local conditions where FF-IPM tasks will be performed. The collected information will be further analysed and used to shape project execution.