

Key lessons from Australia inform the development of arable IPM in NZ

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In 2002 entomologists from IPM Technologies Pty Ltd and a group of collaborating farmers and their agronomists started developing integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for wheat, barley and canola crops in Victoria, Australia. The farmers underwent a change in practice from a routine broad-spectrum spray programme to an IPM approach aimed at maximising the use of beneficial predators whilst minimising pesticide use. The collaborative and participatory approach taken was a key factor contributing for this shift in pest management. This paper demonstrates how the same processes and methods used to develop and implement IPM strategies for broad-acre cropping in Victoria, Australia, were then used to guide and inform development of similar strategies in arable farms in Canterbury, New Zealand. Six crops of autumn-sown wheat managed under IPM were compared with six adjacent crops grown under the participating farmers' current pest management practices in demonstration trials in Canterbury during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons. Farmer training with a focus on monitoring and beneficial predator identification was carried out. IPM adoption at these farms was very high after these participatory trials. The strategies developed, the participatory approach adopted, and the outcomes as experienced in the New Zealand setting are discussed.

