EUROPEAN INDEX FOR SUSTAINABLE AND PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURE. THE INSPIA PROJECT

Paula TRIVIÑO-TARRADAS (1,2); Emilio Jesús GONZÁLEZ-SÁNCHEZ (2,3); Gottlieb BASCH (1,4); Jeremy DYSON (4,5); Gavin WHITMORE (6,10); Gerard RASS (7,8); Amir KASSAM (8,10)

1-European Conservation Agriculture Federation, Brussels, 2-University of Córdoba, 3-Spanish Association for Conservation Agriculture/Living Soils, Córdoba, 4-University of Évora, 5-Syngenta, Basel, 6-European Crop Protection Association, Brussels, 7-French Association for Conservation Agriculture, Paris 8-University of Reading

Abstract: Farms must produce more and more food, feed and raw materials to meet the increasing demands of a growing population, which means an additional 70% more food globally by 2050 – as well as underpinning the economy and protecting natural resources. INSPIA aims at sustainable, resource-efficient agriculture that also delivers ecosystem services through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs): (i) no or minimum soil disturbance; (ii) permanent mulch cover; and (iii) diversified cropping, and the measurement and monitoring of a set of defined indicators. The project covers over 50 farms in Belgium, Denmark, France and Spain and its main objectives are to:
- Demonstrate that ecologically resilient BMPs can contribute to achieving sustainability in European agriculture
- Provide an index of farm sustainability based on a set of verifiable indicators
- Create a network of farms that validates, demonstrates and communicates BMPs
- Promote sustainable agricultural practices in different production systems and agricultural landscapes
- Raise awareness among EU stakeholders.

Keywords: biodiversity, best management practices, sustainability indicators, soil management

References