

**INTERNATIONAL IPM APPROACH IN  
COTTON WITH AGREVO PRODUCTS**

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**Abstract**

Integrated Pest Management has been given several definitions. Could it not simply be called "Intelligent Pest Management" leading eventually to the best return on investment? One must not forget that growers face situations which are not always forecastable like weather conditions, logistic failures etc...and which lead them to make decisions which do not fit exactly within the IPM rules. As such, each farmer should be taken as a basic unit when implementation of IPM is at stake and then RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE.

Cotton is undoubtedly a good example as it is grown in all the continents and in various conditions. Since AgrEvo has been in existence, the company has been deeply involved in checking the global IPM ability of its complete range of products, in field conditions and in different countries, through pluriannual trials or demo plots, taking into account local recommendations (thresholds, windows, etc...). Here after are presented results from South Africa, Greece and Australia.

In Brazil, where one can deal with small holders as well as with big farmers, cooperation between all the parties involved in cotton development (research, extension, cooperatives, growers and industry) allowed Integrated Pest Management to reach an interesting level of implementation. A summary of 4 campaigns, from 1990 to 1994, is here after reported.

Looking at the examples given here, we can stress that one of the main ideas to keep in mind is: one basic target pest should always be chosen before thinking about any pest management strategy e.g *Heliothis* in South Africa and Australia, *Pectinophora* in Greece, and *Anthonomus* in Brazil. Then, when spraying becomes necessary, the right product at the right dosage is also an important choice to make. That means an intelligent insecticide management, taking into account the pest population together with the degree of sensitivity of the crop towards this pest at each

moment of the plant development: for the same target, different products with different levels of activity could be used according to the crop stage. Once this is correctly done, which implies an enormous dedication to field visits and scouting, one can say that a big step towards Integrated Pest Management has been done, leading most of the time, but not necessarily, to less applications and better yields.

Through these examples, we have shown that the AgrEvo range of products (DECIS, OVASYN, THIODAN, etc...) can cover most of the situations with fair expectation for good results and the possibility for alternation and mixtures which are key tools of Insect Resistance Management, an important part of Integrated Pest Management.