

A sentinel for arable crops

The French arable crop institutes have just launched Vigicultures®. This vast network for the surveillance of diseases and pests quickly alerts producers of a parasite risk. Objective: to allow a more precise targeting of crop protection interventions.



Vigicultures® is a tool for the retrieval of field information. Launched on last February during a press conference given by ARVALIS- Institut du végétal, CETIOM (for oilseed crops), ITB (sugar beet) and ITL (flax), this « arable crop » tool covers sugar beet, wheat, oilseed rape, maize and flax, and will soon include peas, potatoes, sunflower and barley. Vigicultures® was piloted in 2008, supporting 850 assessment fields. Easy and rapid in use, this on-line tool has proved its efficacy and utility. It has allowed pests and diseases to be monitored and identified in real time, and has evaluated the risks to crops.

**With Vigicultures®,
ARVALIS – ITL Institutes
are contributors to the
plant health bulletin**

To take advantage of every regional network

By joining a regional network, every observer (cooperative, merchant, Chamber of Agriculture) can create fields on the website www.vigicultures.fr from his computer. He then keys in his observations according to the various variables.

These variables and methods of observation are described precisely in the observation protocols which are constructed so as to enable experts to make a risk analysis.

Vigicultures® effectively exploits the data observed by new observation networks.

Using the Internet, the data keyed in are instantly added to the system: all the partners can access it. They then have access to a dynamic map of all the observations made in their network for a chosen variable (locality and nature of the observations).

When the observations are repeated over time, developmental graphs are automatically drawn. The observer can also display a synthesis table showing all the observations within the network.

All the data enable advisory organisations to establish and refine the local recommendations for farmers. Another advantage is that Vigicultures® is inter-operable; that is to say that is accessible by other tools and compatible with any database. This enables it to take advantage of every observation network or national database.

New observation networks

In 2009, this new network has been introduced for several pioneer regions such as Centre, Normandy, (for all arable crops), and Picardy, Midi-Pyrenees and Aquitaine (specifically for certain industries).

Vigicultures® is part of the reorganisation of the agricultural warning system.

We will have to wait until the 2010 cropping season for the « Plant Health Bulletins » - published by the Chambers of Agriculture and replacing the Agricultural

Warnings – to appear in all the French regions. The institutes intend to contribute to the success of this publication. To this end the partners in Vigicultures® offer their expertise in various domains: real-time data management, training of observers, use of risk rules and analysis tools and the setting up of operational networks.

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Via the internet, each observer in the network can key in observations on his fields from his computer or mobile phone.

If you need further information about this newsletter or about our activities, do not hesitate to contact:

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You can also consult our website, and register to this newsletter online:

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