

Integrated Pest Management system within urban agriculture

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Sustainable future is becoming a fundamental global concern. The world population is expected to increase 25 % by 2050 reflecting a global challenge for food safety and security. We need efficient and healthy ways to produce more food with less environmental impact and short supply chain. Across Europe, many countries adopted the urban agriculture approach as an agricultural system to produce in close proximity to people and residences. Urban agriculture is a powerful, locally deployable tool that disrupts traditional way of thinking about food production and offers integrated solutions to some of the challenges that modern cities are facing. However, this approach requires the adoption of sustainable production patterns and methods.

In this context, “Farm 2 Future” is a new research foundation under the umbrella of “World of Walas” company aims at applying the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system to urban agriculture as a good practice to enhance the environmental and economic concerns of both producers and consumers. World of Walas, inspired by the Earth Charter, was founded in 2010 by Gerben van Straten over 25 years of experience. World of Walas has a fundamentally different innovative approach to urban development with a particular focus on social, ecological and economic sustainability. Working primarily in North America and Europe, it carefully works to balance all the component of urban development and redevelopment.

Successful IPM program is based on the most effective combination between different component starting by quarantine, cultural, physical, chemical and biological methods. Biological methods are given particular attention and importance for its role of enhancing the environmental performance of agricultural systems. Proceeding from the aforementioned facts, starting from July 2017, Farm to Future laboratory was established to achieve the main following goals:

1. To provide farmers and agriculture students with IPM system techniques through workshops, farmers schools and specific IPM courses.
2. To applying the IPM system on urban gardens on different crops and greenhouses.
3. To conduct research work about the possibility to find local isolates of an entomopathogenic fungi that can be used in the Urban IPM system as a biological control agent.

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