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Stone fruits, pears and citrus integrated pest management interdisciplinary network with focus on the exchange of knowledge, innovation and technology transfer (RED-MIFRUT)

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Abstract: The creation of a stone fruit, pear and citrus integrated pest management (IPM) interdisciplinary network (entomology, and field and post-harvest pathology) to strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experiences of participating working groups is proposed; emphasizing on the development of new methodologies to improve the IPM that reduce the use of pesticides and presence of residues, and improves the ability to transfer technology to society. The specific objectives are: 1) Promote the collaboration among the multidisciplinary groups including knowledge transfer themes, integrating the social area. 2) Elaborate guidelines for the exchange of biological and experimental material for research. 3) Facilitate the implementation of research projects coordinated by the participating groups. 4) Analyze aspects related to effective technology transfer to the society, in each of the regions, and propose specific actions. 5) Build a database of the main pests and pathogens (including their vectors) of the fruits involved, and the strategies used for their control. 6) Create the conditions to convert the network in a source of information about IPM in fruits for the social agents. 7) Promote the public-private interaction to improve the adoption of the available technologies, and guide the development of new knowledge. 8) Establish contact with other existing networks with similar themes, like the European network Endure (European Network for the Durable Exploitation of Crop Protection Strategies), and with other institutions, like IOBC. In May of 2014, the first meeting of the area coordinators for each country was held in Río Negro, Argentina. A document was elaborated with the situation and the alternatives for pest control and cultivation in the respective participating countries. The results will be available in the World Wide Web and will be broadcast in the main participating centers.

Keywords: IPM, stone fruits, pear, citrus, network, knowledge transfer, innovation, research