

### ***A start made on Integrated Production for apples***

HPK has been promoting Integrated Production (or IP) on greenhouse tomatoes for the last three years. IP is the careful production of fruit and vegetables that aims, above all, to offer to the consumer healthy products at affordable prices – and in a way that protects the environment. This is achieved by reducing the use of agro-chemicals to a minimum through introducing alternative and natural cultivation techniques.

Rexhep Kryeziu – a tomato producer from Mamusha – is impressed with the approach in this his third year – “IP is the best way for me to produce tomatoes – we save a lot of money by cutting down on the number of treatments and by stopping completely the use of hormones for pollination”.



Meanwhile in Shtime, Neriman Ismajli, stated “I had thought that I was by far the best tomato producer in the area until I was introduced to IP. Now I understand how many of the techniques that I was using needed to be improved in order to produce safe tomatoes. I now have much greater understanding of different insect pests and diseases, in spraying only when really necessary – and then with only the safest of chemicals approved by the Ministry of Agriculture”.

**IP farmer field school**

And what was the answer of Nexhet Morina – the largest tomato producer in Mamusha – when asked

what type of tomatoes he provided to his family? “IP” he responded without hesitation.

A start was made in May on introducing the IP approach on a second crop – that of apples. Specialists from Switzerland and Albania visited apple orchards throughout Dukadjini and Anamorava. They then presented the principles of IP to a meeting of agronomists including representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the Project. The meeting established a first list of the most important pests and diseases of the apple crop as well as a medium-term programme for the introduction of Apple IP.

This initiative is a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, CABI Europe (Switzerland) and the Project. The partners are pleased to have obtained the advice of Professor Rexhep Uka of the University of Tirana – a well-respected entomologist.