

**Paper produced by the CAP reform working group of the
European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)**

7th February 2012

Recommendations for changes to CAP reform proposals (draft Council Regulation 2011/0280 and 2011/0282) to increase support for agroforestry in Europe

Agroforestry, the integration of trees, crops and/or livestock on the same area of land, has been identified by the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) as a 'win-win' multifunctional land-use approach that balances the production of commodities (food, feed, fuel, fibre, etc.) with non-commodity outputs such as environmental protection and cultural and landscape amenities (IAASTD, 2008). Agroforestry across Europe includes both traditional systems that are an essential part of cultural heritage (e.g. dehesa in Spain, montado in Portugal, grazed orchards, wood pastures) and modern alley cropping systems that combine high productivity with protection of the environment. Agroforestry meets the need identified by the Commission for *"resource efficiency with a view to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for EU agriculture"* (Council Regulation 2011/0280, page 2). This is recognised within the proposed reforms with Article 24 identified within Annex V (Council Regulation 2011/0282, page 109) as a measure of particular relevance to *"Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry"; and "Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors."*

Under the current policy framework (CAP 2007-2013), there is support available under Pillar 2 for the first establishment of agroforestry on agricultural land (Measure 222, Article 44). However, adoption of this Measure has been limited. Only 17 regions or states had adopted Measure 222, Article 44 in 2009 (European Commission, 2009), although, since then, France has also adopted this Measure. Within those Member States that have implemented this Measure, uptake by farmers has also been low. We believe that this low uptake is primarily due to conflict with Pillar 1 support, since farmers establishing agroforestry systems risk losing eligibility for receipt of single farm payments on this area of land. To resolve this conflict, we would like to propose changes to the draft Council Regulation on rules for direct payments (2011/0280) to include agroforestry as an eligible land use for Basic Farm payments, and to the draft Council Regulation on support for rural development (2011/0282) to modify Article 24 to further enhance support for agroforestry.

Recommendations for changes to text

1. Draft Council Regulation 2011/0280: Rules for direct payments

We believe that agroforestry plots should be recognised as true farming plots and totally eligible for the Basic Farm payment. To reflect this, the following changes to Article 4 of draft Council Regulation 2011/0280 are recommended (changes in red), adopting the World Agroforestry Centre's (ICRAF) definition of agroforestry:

Article 4(1e): "agricultural area" means any area taken up by arable land, permanent grassland, permanent crops, or a combination of these in agroforestry systems;

Article 4(1h): "permanent grassland" means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or longer; it may include other species, including woody species, suitable for grazing or shelter, provided that the grasses and other herbaceous forage remain predominant ;

Article 4(1l): "agroforestry" means land-use systems and practices where woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit. The trees may be single or in groups inside parcels (silvoarable agroforestry, silvopastoralism, grazed or intercropped orchards) or on the limits between parcels (hedges, tree lines).

In addition, changes are needed to Article 25 (2bii) to include land afforested under the previous agroforestry measure (Article 44 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005) in its definition of 'eligible hectare':

Article 25(2bii): for the duration of the relevant commitment by the individual farmer, is afforested pursuant to Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 or to Article 43 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 or to Article 44 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 or under a national scheme the conditions of which comply with Article 43(1), (2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 and Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No [...] [RDR]; or

The environmental benefits of agroforestry are well recognized and so we believe that agroforestry systems should also be identified as an option for the proposed Ecological Focus Areas:

Article 32

Ecological focus area

1. Farmers shall ensure that at least 7 % of their eligible hectares as defined in Article 25(2), excluding areas under permanent grassland, is ecological focus area such as land left fallow, terraces, landscape features, buffer strips, agroforests and afforested areas as referred to in article 25(2)(b)(ii).

2. Draft Council Regulation 2011/0282: Support for rural development

We welcome the inclusion of a dedicated Measure (Article 24 in the proposed regulation) to support the establishment of agroforestry. We believe, however, that certain changes to the Article need to be made to fulfil the aims of this Measure.

'Agro-forestry' should be written as 'agroforestry' according to the international definition and to avoid confusion with land afforestation.

This Measure should include "*conversion to*" as well as "*first establishment of*" agroforestry systems. Following from this, support should be available for new planting on agricultural land as well as for creating agroforestry systems within existing forests, the latter after evidence of the necessary land-use change permit.

The annual premium for maintenance costs should be extended to a minimum of 10 years in line with other afforestation measures.

The definition should specify that agroforestry means integrating woody perennials within agricultural **and/or** grazing systems (or both) to include silvopastoral systems. This definition should be the same as the proposed definition of agroforestry in Article 4 of Council Regulation 2011/0280: Rules for direct payments as recommended above.

Therefore we recommend the following changes to the text (changes in red):

Article 24

Establishment of ~~agro-forestry~~ agroforestry systems on agricultural or forestry land

1. Support under Article 22(1)(b) shall be granted to private landowners, tenants, municipalities and their associations and shall cover the costs of establishment **or conversion to an agroforestry system** and an annual premium per hectare to cover the costs of maintenance for a **minimum maximum period of three ten** years.
2. "~~Agro-forestry~~ **Agroforestry systems**" shall mean land use systems **and practices where woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit in which trees are grown in combination with extensive agriculture on the same land.** The trees may be single, in groups or in rows inside parcels (silvoarable agroforestry, silvopastoralism, grazed orchards) or on the limits between parcels (hedges, tree lines). The **maximum and minimum number of trees (or cover) per hectare shall be determined by the Member States taking account local pedo-climatic conditions, tree species and the need to ensure agricultural or livestock grazing use of the land.**
3. Support for new plantations in agricultural lands and establishment and maintenance of **agroforestry practices, including silvopastoral systems, shall be limited to the maximum support rate laid down in Annex 1 (80%).**

These changes have been proposed by the CAP reform working group of the European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF):

Christian Dupraz, INRA, France
Dirk Freese, BTU Cottbus, Germany
Anil Graves, Cranfield University, UK
Fabien Liagre, AGROOF, France
Bohdan Lojka, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic
Jim McAdam, AFBI, UK
Gerardo Moreno, Universidad de Extremadura, Spain
Adrian Morley, Forest Farming, UK
M^{re} Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Steve Newman, BioDiversity Intl. Ltd., UK
João Palma, Universidade Technica de Lisboa, Portugal
Joana Amaral Paulo, Universidade Technica de Lisboa, Portugal
Vasilios Papanastasis, University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Jo Smith, Organic Research Centre, UK*
Mike Strachan, Forestry Commission, UK*

*working group co-ordinators. Please contact Jo Smith jo.s@organicresearchcentre.com or Mike Strachan Mike.Strachan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk for more details.

7th February 2012

Reference:

IAASTD (2008) Executive summary of the synthesis report., International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development