



World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES



AGR VET
DEVELOPMENT



AGROFORESTERIE
association française



Stichting Duinboeren
samen sterk voor een gezonde toekomst

CAP REFORM: EURAF's POSITION PAPER FOR THE TRILOGUE

April 2013

Rationale: Agroforestry should be fully recognised as a suite of productive systems in the new Common Agricultural Policy.

**EURAF calls on
the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to adopt:**

- The inclusion of agroforestry in the Ecological Focus Areas provided that these areas can be productive (1st pillar).
- The increase in the number of trees (up to 250 per hectare) in areas of permanent crops (1st pillar).
- The inclusion of the definition of agroforestry in the 2nd pillar.
- The extension of the period for public support up to five years for the establishment of agroforestry systems.
- The deletion of the link between agroforestry and extensive agriculture (2nd pillar).
- The flexible approach regarding rules on eligible areas containing trees (Horizontal Regulation).

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By adding trees to farmland, agroforestry is a suite of land management systems that are uniquely qualified to combine high productivity with strong environmental objectives. Hundreds of studies document that adding trees to fields and pastures boosts overall productivity, generates biomass, maintains and restores soils, and provides a number of valuable economic and environmental services – such as reducing the need for phytosanitary products, enhanced carbon capture, improved biodiversity protection, water purification and storage, contribution to erosion control, and more.

Agroforestry does not replace existing agricultural practices – it enhances their productivity, sustainability and will boost farmers’ incomes in the long term. Economic analyses have shown that a farm that comprises 25% of agroforestry parcels planted with high quality timber trees (e.g. pear, cherry, maple, walnut...) will double its annual income from the moment it starts harvesting the first trees. More information about agroforestry can be found [here](#).

However, agroforestry is currently not an option to European farmers, mostly because of deterrent regulations. Our suggestions aim at allowing European farmers to have the free choice to adopt agroforestry system.

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1. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy (CAP Reform)

➤ Article 32: Ecological Focus Area

Modification proposed by the Council

EURAF supports the inclusion of agroforestry in the Ecological Focus Areas provided that these areas can be productive.

EURAF welcomes the modification proposed by the Council designed to include eligible hectares of agroforestry in the Ecological Focus Areas (EFA). However, agroforestry is a productive system, and this should not be denied by the inclusion in the EFA. Farmers should therefore be allowed to collect tree products from agroforestry trees such as biomass or timber.

Doc. 17383/1/12 REV 1: The Cyprus Presidency revised consolidated draft Regulation

Doc. 6638/13: The Irish Presidency paper

Doc. 7539/13: Presidency compromise

Modifications proposed by the Council in bold.

Article 32: Ecological focus area

1. Where the eligible agricultural area of a holding excluding areas under permanent grassland covers more than 15 hectares, farmers shall ensure that as from 1 January 2014, at least 5% of their eligible hectares declared in accordance with Article 26(1), excluding permanent grassland, is ecological focus area. Ecological focus area may include:

(e) eligible hectares of agro-forestry;

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Modification proposed by the Council

EURAF supports the increase in the number of trees (up to 250 per hectare) in areas of permanent crops.

Increasing the number of trees up to 250 per hectare in areas of permanent crops will give more flexibility to farmers. This is an incentive to plant trees in these areas.

Doc. 17383/1/12 REV 1: The Cyprus Presidency revised consolidated draft Regulation

Doc. 6638/13: The Irish Presidency paper

Doc. 7539/13: Presidency compromise

Modifications proposed by the Council in bold.

Article 32: Ecological focus area

1. Where the eligible agricultural area of a holding excluding areas under permanent grassland covers more than 15 hectares, farmers shall ensure that as from 1 January 2014, at least 5% of their eligible hectares declared in accordance with Article 26(1), excluding permanent grassland, is ecological focus area. Ecological focus area may include:

(f) areas of permanent crops with more than 20 but less than **250** trees per hectare;

2. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)

➤ Article 2 paragraph 1: Definitions

Modification proposed by the European Parliament

EURAF applauds the inclusion of the definition of agroforestry in the 2nd pillar by the European Parliament.

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Agroforestry systems are now recognized for their efficiency on both productivity and protection of natural resources. A simple definition that embraces all European agroforestry systems is therefore required.

Doc. P7_TA-PROV(2013)0086: Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Decision on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations)

Modifications proposed by the European Parliament in bold.

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point m a (new)

(ma) "agro-forestry": a system of production in which trees and cultivated or grazed plants are grown together on, or on the edge of, the same plots of land;

➤ **Article 24: Establishment of agro-forestry systems**

Modification proposed by the European Parliament and the Council

EURAF welcomes the extension of the period for public support up to five years.

The extension of the period for public support up to five years is a sound delay to be sure that the planted trees are successful. Trees need tendering (e.g. weed removal, hoeing, watering in dry areas, replacement of the failed) for at least five years in order to get successfully established, especially in agroforestry systems where the tree density is low. 5 years is however much less than the 15 years support delay envisaged for forestry plantations. The same period of support for agroforestry and forestry would be fairer.

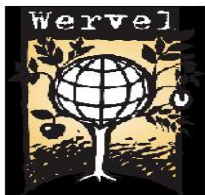
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Doc. 17383/1/12 REV 1: The Cyprus Presidency revised consolidated draft Regulation

Doc. 6638/13: The Irish Presidency paper

Doc. 7539/13: Presidency compromise

Modifications proposed by the European Parliament and the Council in bold.

Article 24 – paragraph 1: Establishment of agro-forestry systems

*Support under Article 22(1)(b) shall be granted to private landowners, tenants, municipalities and their associations and shall cover the costs of establishment and an annual premium per hectare to cover the costs of maintenance for a maximum period of **five** years.*

Modification proposed by the European Parliament and the Council

EURAF welcomes the modification designed to break the link between agroforestry and extensive agriculture.

The deletion of the word “extensive” is crucial because agroforestry should not be limited to extensive agriculture. Agroforestry brings high environmental benefits to both extensive and intensive agricultural systems and should be applied across Europe whatever the agricultural systems.

Doc. P7_TA-PROV(2013)0086: Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Decision by the European Parliament on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations)

Doc. 17383/1/12 REV 1: The Cyprus Presidency revised consolidated draft Regulation

Doc. 6638/13: The Irish Presidency paper

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Modifications proposed by the European Parliament and the Council in bold.

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Article 24 – paragraph 2: Establishment of agro-forestry systems

"Agro-forestry systems" shall mean land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with **extensive** agriculture on the same land. **Member States shall determine the minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted or preserved per hectare, taking account of local pedo-climatic and environmental conditions, forestry species and the need to ensure sustainable agricultural use of the land.**

➤ **Annex 1 – Article 24 paragraph 3**

Modification proposed by the European Parliament

EURAF supports the idea of covering the entire cost of the establishment of agroforestry systems.

Establishing agroforestry systems is a significant financial investment for farmers. Furthermore, they do not have an immediate return on investment since they have to wait for several years before collecting tree products.

Doc. P7_TA-PROV(2013)0086: Support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (Decision by the European Parliament on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations)
Modifications proposed by the European Parliament in bold.

Annex 1 Article 24 paragraph 3

24(3)	<i>Establishment of agro-forestry systems</i>	100 %	<i>Of the amount of eligible investment for the establishment of agro-forestry systems</i>
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3. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP

➤ Article 77: Delegated powers

Modification proposed by the European Parliament

EURAF welcomes the flexibility introduced by the European Parliament regarding rules on eligible areas containing landscapes features or trees.

EURAF agrees that eligibility rules should not penalise high nature value farming or agroforestry systems. The limit of 50 trees per hectare has had detrimental consequences on rural trees. Although the European Commission allowed for flexibility in the implementation of this provision, most Member States have been quite rigid in the interpretation. The pragmatic approach adopted by the European Parliament is therefore a positive step forward.

However, EURAF is asking for the deletion of the word “grazed” so that the provision applies to all agroforestry systems and not only to grazed agroforestry systems.

*Doc. P7_TA-PROV(2013)0087: Financing, management and monitoring of the CAP (Decision on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations)
Modifications proposed by the European Parliament in bold.*

Article 77 paragraph 2 point b: Delegated acts

*provisions required for a harmonised definition of the basis for calculation of aid, including rules on how to deal with certain cases where eligible areas contain landscape features or trees; **without prejudice to Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No .../2013 [DP], eligibility rules shall be consistent with meeting the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, and shall not therefore penalise high nature value farming or grazed agro-forestry systems, or cause decreases in environmental quality; flexibility, justified***

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on agronomic or ecological grounds, shall be allowed on the basis of the customary standards of the Member State or region concerned;

The European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF) federates national agroforestry organisations from 9 European countries (with thousands of members) and individual members from 18 different European countries. It aims at promoting the use of trees on farms throughout the different environmental regions of Europe.

For further information on agroforestry:

<http://www.agroforestry.de/>

<http://www.agroforst.de/2-definition.html#kurzdef>

http://umr-system.cirad.fr/programmes_finalises/systemes_sylvo_arables

http://www.agrooof.net/agrooof_dev/agrooof_safe.html

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