

# 69<sup>th</sup> EURAF Executive Committee Report

7<sup>th</sup> December 10:00 – 11:30

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez, Antía Villada and Rosa Mosquera-Losada

## Present:

Elected Executive Committee: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Anastasia Pantera

National Delegates: Andrea Pisanelli, Robert Borek, Bohdan Lojka, Joao Palma, Andrea Vitjy

Apologies: Gerry Lawson, Jeroen Watté, Yousri Hannachi, Bert Reubens, Felix Herzog

## 1. EURAF PROJECT ACTIVITY

The new projects are indicated in blue, the projects in which EURAF participates are written in green and in blue. In black we can find the projects in which EURAF could be involved but no request for EURAF has been done.

### • Ecosystem services

**NEW** [RUR-02](#): “Coastal-rural interactions: Enhancing synergies between land and sea-based activities” [link](#)

[SFS-28-2017](#): Functional biodiversity – productivity gains through functional biodiversity: effective interplay of crop pollinators and pest predators 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 10 million (Barbara lead)

[SFS-29-2017](#): Socio-eco-economics – socio-economics in ecological approaches 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 5 million, USC (María Loureiro lead)

[SFS-27-2017](#) Permanent grassland – farming systems and policies (Rosa lead)

[RUR-03-2017](#): Towards 2030 - policies and decision tools for an integrated management of natural resources 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 8 million

[RUR-05](#), Novel public policies, business models and mechanisms for the sustainable supply of and payment for forest ecosystem services

**NEW** [SFS-34](#): “Innovative agri-food chains: unlocking the potential for competitiveness and sustainability” [link](#)

**NEW** [SFS-30](#): “Closing loops at farm and regional levels to mitigate GHG emissions and environmental contamination-focus on carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus cycling in agro-ecosystems” (Jaconette)

### • Knowledge transfer

[RUR-10-2016-2017](#): Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice 17 Feb 2016 2 million, already AFINET, Next year “non wood forest production: mushrooms” Probably next year

[RUR-12-2017](#): Networking European farms to boost thematic knowledge exchanges and close the innovation gap 14 Feb 2017 7 million

[RUR-15-2017](#): The benefits of working with others – fostering social capital in the farming sector 14 Feb 2017 3 million

[RUR-16-2017](#): Optimising interactive innovation project approaches and the delivery of EU policies to speed up innovation in rural areas 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 5 million

### • Cost action

[Agroforestry](#), Felix Herzog, excellent job from Felix and Anastasia, about to be sent.

### • Education

[ERASMUS+](#): Education (Charles Burriel: agreed, but not answer. Anastasia will try to contact with Charles Burriel. Rosa was requested to prepare one by a High School.)

RUR-13-2017: Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 7 million  
**ITN. Germany**

- **Submitted**

SUBER: SUBER Erasmus + VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, Joana PASTTREE, ERANET-SUSAN (Innovative management and use of woody plants on pastures for sustainable cattle production systems) **First step approved! Second step submitted!**

**Action:** please contact Rosa to update the information and also if any of you wishes to participate in RUR-02 or SFS-34 as partners are requested.

## 2. EURAF ACCOUNTING

- **AGFORWARD**

The economical report was approved by the Commission. A discussion was initiated with Paul Burgess about money that has 50% to be cofinanced as mentioned in the last EC.

\*New contract has to be done with the already existing money and as Nuria cannot be contracted due her new position, Rosa proposed to contract Dario a person that has been selected in Public call after Nuria. He has excellent English skills, is keen on agroforestry, and has been going to the Arable CDG, which is of his interest.

\* Accountancy firm: A budget has been presented by two consultancy firms. Prices are quite similar 1440 euros per year including VAT. Rosa will ask Christian and Fabien about the details of the firm he proposed to see which of them fits better to the EURAF needs. English speaking with the firms will be useful.

**Action:** Rosa will ask Christian and Fabien about the justification of the budget with a contract which will be discussed in the next EURAF meeting

- **EURAF fees**

Switzerland, Germany and Czech Republic have paid the 2017 fees. Rosa said that we should put a link in the web page of EURAF to pay the fees with a common text explaining the advantages to become a EURAF member. We could also prepare a brochure with instructions to become an EURAF member which could be distributed in the events where EURAF members participate

**Action:** Rosa and Nuria will prepare a template of brochure which will be circulated among the EURAF EC for approval.

## 3. EURAF POLICY ACTIVITIES

- **Already carried out in November/December**

10 November Environment Climate change (Rosa, Gerry), the importance of AF as part of the mitigation and adaptation option was highlighted.

25 November Organic farming, (Belen, Victor). The discussion was mainly concentrated in the new regulation of organic fertilizers. EURAF highlighted the rule of AF in organic farming.

1 December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Networks' Assembly (Nuria). This is a huge event, Rosa was not able to go as she was present in the AF Focus group. There was a main discussion about Cork Declaration and also on digitalization. Working groups were created and EURAF participated in the Environment and Climate Change CDG.

2 December Direct Payment and greening (Rosa, Nuria). A report on the first Ecological Focus Area (EFA) was carried out. AF was poorly selected, EURAF highlighted that the possibility for selecting AF as EFA should be increased to those farmers besides the ones

that implement measure 222 and 8.2, but also about data accessibility (only percentage but no hectares of AF and landscape features were provided. Also relationship between the number of hectares under cross-compliance, EFA and Pillar II regarding the landscape features. Mostly when the information delivered by the EU court of auditors informed that cross-compliance is ineffective due to complexity of implementation. EURAF also explained that it is acknowledge that an evaluation on the impact of EFA has been evaluated with regard to productivity. However, it is not considering the impact of EFA on ecosystem services, when the EFA is directly related to mitigation of climate change. Regarding the simplification of the EFA implementation, it is mentioned that some types of landscape features will be merged in just one date when the farmer declare EFA, like trees in line, wooded strips and hedges. EURAF mentioned that in spite of acknowledging the need of simplification, the lack of separation of these three types of landscape feature in the declaration of the farmer may make difficult to evaluate the impact of these EFA from a Carbon sequestration point of view, as the potential of these landscape features is different, and therefore the mitigation potential of these EFA landscape features will be fairly broadly estimated. There was a presentation from Bird-life dealing with the importance of biodiversity in the EFA. A strong discussion show strong doubts from COPA-COGECA about the importance for the in productivity, which should be shown. Farmers were also more in line with applying pesticides in those areas, but the Commission informed that this will not be the case. Rosa will propose, with the help of EC a presentation where biodiversity in fields and lands increases global productivity and sustainability.

- **Focus group:** Agroforestry: introducing woody vegetation into specialized crop and livestock systems. The first meeting was 30 November – 1 December and the next meeting will be in March. Nine minipapers were proposed, which doubles the usual number per focus group. Several minipapers are led by EURAF EC as those from Andrea Vityi and Rosa Mosquera. From Andrea, Rosa and Robert the meeting was a really excellent success.
- **Forthcoming events**  
9 December Forestry and Cork (Rosa, Gerry)  
16 eceember, CAP (Rosa , Eloi)
- **New calendar 2017. No meetings in January! Only one scheduled (not confirmed yet)**  
Arable Crops: 7 February  
Rural Development: 15 February  
Arable Crops: 7 March  
Without data: Environment and Climate Change, Organic Farming, Direct Payment and Greening, Forestry and Cork and CAP

**Actions:** *please inform Rosa if you wish to go to any of the meetings, please inform Rosa if you have excellent examples on which biodiversity increases production for the next direct payment and greening meeting.*

#### **4. GACSA (Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture) TEMPLATE**

FAO has created the GACSA and Rosa has been recently named as facilitator of the GACSA. They asked her to collaborate doing a FAO practice brief about agroforestry in temperate areas. Rosa showed us the template for practice briefs and encouraged us to prepare something about homegardens, silvoarable, silvopasture or riparian buffer strips.

**Actions:** please contact with Rosa for more information

## 5. NEXT WORLD AGROFORESTRY CONFERENCE

Rosa said that in the World Agroforestry Conference held in India (2014), Montpellier presented a candidature to host the next World Agroforestry Conference. This week Rosa received an email from Simons (ICRAF) and he said that the Conference will be in Europe but the place is not decided yet. Rosa said him that EURAF agreed already the Montpellier candidature that was presented in India, but we will follow the procedure.

Rosa also asked Simons about the creation of the International Agroforestry Federation to integrate ICRAF, AFTA and EURAF among other institutions. Some statutes were created but the process of creation was stopped. Simons said that the process can be restarted now and Ravi will be in charge of that together with Rosa and Patrick.

## 6. EURAF Newsletter & Dissemination Activities

Nuria said that the newsletter was published at the beginning of this week and now we have to prepare the next newsletter (January 2017). We already have news from Germany, France, Greece and Italy and some contacts around Europe to write the featured farm. Therefore the next newsletter will be published on time. Nuria is very grateful for your contributions.

Rosa said that EURAF is in facebook and twitter (@EURAF\_AF) and she asked us about the possibility to pay to substitute Skype by [Gotomeeting](#). We would have to pay 50 euros per month.

Rosa suggested to Joao some changes in the EURAF webpage because it is necessary to put the EURAF logo in the webpage and Joao said that we have to change the colours, everybody agreed.

Rosa said that we had received an email asking about the use of the pictures published in Flickr (*"I came across a few images in your flickr account (attached here), and I was wondering if I could discuss licensing the images to appear in a book about climate change solutions. The book, Drawdown, which will come out in spring 2017, outlines approximately 100 solutions to global warming (including agroforestry methods), and models how they can scale over the next 30 years to get us to drawdown, or the point when atmospheric greenhouse gases begin to decline on a year-to-year basis. If you allow us to use the photo in our book, we would of course include you (or whomever is appropriate) as the source of the photo with a full printed credit. I'm happy to discuss more with you, or answer any questions you have. Please let me know if this would be at all possible.)*)

Joao thinks that the people can publish the pictures but they have to indicate the name of the person who took the picture and the name of the organization (EURAF will promote that EURAF appears).

Rosa said that the following conferences are very interesting because some of them have session related with agroforestry. Rosa will try to organise a session in the North American Agroforestry Conference

- <sup>nd</sup> 2 "From Field to Forest" Congress

The 2<sup>nd</sup> "From Feld to Forest" Congress will take place in Theaterkerk, Bommel, Netherlands during 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The program consists of five lectures and a panel on the future of natural farming, in which the government has a place. More info [here](#).

- **19<sup>th</sup> European Grassland Federation (EGF) Symposium**

The 19<sup>th</sup> European Grassland Federation (EGF) Symposium will take place in Sardinia, Italy during 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The title of the Symposium is "Grassland resources for extensive farming systems in marginal lands: major drivers and future scenarios". More info [here](#).

- **15<sup>th</sup> North American Agroforestry Conference**

The 15<sup>th</sup> North American Agroforestry Conference will take place in Virginia, USA during 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The title of the Conference is "Agroforestry for a Vibrant Future: Connecting People, Creating Livelihoods, Sustaining Places". The Conference is for agroforestry producers, researchers, educators and those involved with related work in the fields of the permaculture and agroecology. More info [here](#).

- **15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology**

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology will take place in Rhodes, Greece, during 31<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> August-September 2017. An Agroforestry session is organized within the conference. More info [here](#).

- **IUFRO Anniversary Congress 2017**

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is organizing their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress "Interconnecting Forests, Science and People". The congress will take place in Freiburg, Germany, from 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. The Congress will include an agroforestry session "Agroforestry - the future of land use management?". More info [here](#).

**ACTION:** Nuria and Mercedes Rois to take over the newsletter. Rosa will ask to Nuria Rodríguez (Feuga) about the Gotomeeting and other aspect related with the EURAF communication. Joao will modify the webpage.

## 7. EURAF National Associations News

Christopher Morhart from Germany sent an email to Rosa asking her about the possibility to change the EURAF logo. Rosa commented that this discussion was already done twice and we agreed that the best one is the one we have. He sent Rosa a logo. Rosa thinks that this logo could be used by the national associations with some modifications and Christopher gave the rights. Congratulations to Germany for the Excellent logo!



## 8. Other

Master students from Austria sent an email to Rosa to fill a query. The questionnaire covers various topics related to agroforestry in mountain regions. Please try to fill the query. Here the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/7bozJJdEC4lthnDw2>

**The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 at 10:00 CET**