

AGROFORESTRY SVERIGE

a national agroforestry association of Sweden

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Agroforestry Sverige (Agroforestry Sweden) is a national agroforestry association and was formed in February 2016. The aim of the association is to promote the development and spread of agroforestry in Sweden through national and international collaboration. The association will have activities revolving around agroforestry in its many different forms and give members a platform for sharing information and ideas for practical agroforestry. Among the members are agroforestry farmers, researchers, a municipality representative and interested individuals.

Agroforestry Sweden hopes to contribute with increasing the knowledge about agroforestry in Sweden. We hope to inspire to ideas concerning agroforestry and the development of methods for agroforestry, including scientific research and development. In addition, members have envisaged policy work regarding agroforestry systems. The association wishes to exchange knowledge with agroforestry initiatives in other countries.

Traditional systems – examples



Semi-natural pasture with bushes and trees

Photo: Linnéa Asplund

← **Semi-natural pastures** with bushes and trees have high natural values, having a very rich biodiversity. They are important for the Swedish national environmental quality objectives "A varied agricultural landscape" and "A rich diversity of plant and animal life"

The extensive forest has traditionally been used for grazing of cattle, sheep and goats. While forests were traditionally commonly owned and free ranged, meadows and crop fields close to the houses were private and fenced off. Thus the hay was protected and was harvested and saved for winter fodder, while the manure was used as a fertilizer on the crop fields. Trees and bushes were used for food, feed, fuel, wood and construction material.

Another traditional Swedish agroforestry system is the **summer farm**. Cattle, sheep and goats were taken for free grazing in mountainous areas and used for meat, milk, cheese and butter production. Animals were moved to the farm in early summer and part of the farming family stayed on the site during the summer. There are between 250 and 300 summer farms in Sweden today.

In northern parts of Sweden Sami people traditionally keep large herds of semi-domesticated reindeer for meat production, with the reindeer grazing freely in mountainous and forested areas. Wood from the forest is used as building material, fuel and for craftwork, and lichens on trees are grazed by the reindeer.



Summer farm

Photo: www.fotoakuten.se

Agroforestry systems in Sweden

More recent systems - examples



Forest garden

Photo: Kjell Sjelin

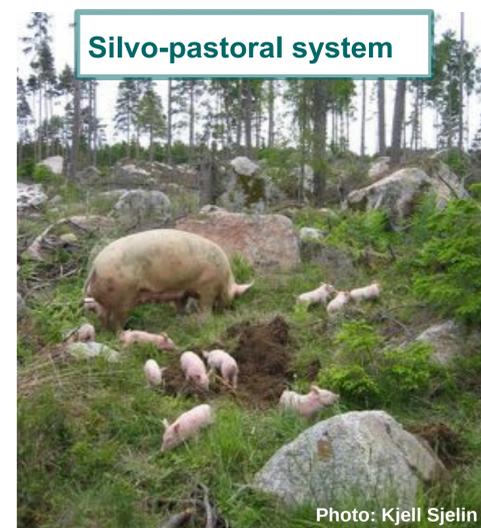
← The **forest garden** is one type of agroforestry system which aims at creating several layers of vegetation, for effective use of light and utilization of the different characters of plant species. This type of agroforestry is also used in urban areas.

Large forested areas in Sweden give plenty opportunities for keeping animals in conditions which allows more natural behaviour in **silvo-pastoral systems**. Animals like hen and pigs are also kept in other agroforestry systems than forests.

← **Silvo-arable systems** are also tried out, but are, as much agroforestry practice in the country, still in the trial phase.

Energy forests of e.g. *Salix* are used in agroforestry settings. They can be planted in connection to natural islands in the field and in other ways incorporated in the landscape to increase biodiversity and perform other ecosystem services. Other examples of tree species used in agroforestry systems are hazel, walnut and fruit trees.

← **Ecosystem based forestry systems** have the local vegetation type as role model and guideline. This gives them higher biodiversity than traditional production forestry, and production of several wood types.



Silvo-pastoral system

Photo: Kjell Sjelin



Silvo-arable system

Photo: Kjell Sjelin



Ecosystem based forestry

Photo: Mikael Karlsson