

Promotion of Agroforestry. EURAF's activities within the AGFORWARD consortium in 2014.

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Within the [AGFORWARD](#) (AGroFORestry that Will Advance Rural Development) project, EURAF's duties cover two main aspects: policy and dissemination.

In 2014, EURAF's policy work comprises a review of European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) measures dealing with agroforestry - analyzing past and current CAPs, including the Rural Development Programs. In addition EURAF has started to participate in 7 of the 13 [Civil Dialogue Groups](#) (CDG), set up in autumn 2014 by the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). The CDGs which EURAF participates in are: Arable Crops, Common Agricultural Policy, Direct Payments and Greening, Environment and Climate Change, Forestry and Cork, Organic Farming, and Rural Development. We have a total of 14 seats on these CDGs, making EURAF the joint 12th most represented of the [68 organizations](#) which are members of these groups.

In 2014, EURAF's major dissemination activity was the 2nd European Agroforestry Conference, which took place in Cottbus (Germany), from 4 to 6 June. Under the subject of "Integrating Science & Policy To Promote Agroforestry In Practice" the conference provided a platform for participants from very diverse backgrounds to present, discuss and debate critical issues related to agroforestry.

The EURAF newsletters and website offer the opportunity to exchange information and experiences on agroforestry on a regular base. With a steadily increasing number of readers, both website and newsletter have proven to be useful tools to disseminate results to countries with no participants in the AGFORWARD consortium. In order to use these tools even more efficiently they are currently being revised regarding content and layout. For instance, an online agenda with agroforestry events throughout Europe, including conferences, demonstration events, or field visits is currently being built.

Another important dissemination activity is EURAF's constant support to national Agroforestry Associations, particularly facilitating the creation of national Agroforestry Associations. In 2014 assistance has been given to several start-up initiatives, e.g. in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Austria. The support includes provision of agroforestry and EURAF related information, establishment of contacts, up to active participation of a EURAF delegate in a national agroforestry meeting. As a result, in the course of the year 2014, the number of EURAF's member countries has increased to 20. Through the above mentioned activities information was also disseminated beyond EURAF members and member countries.

EURAF has started preparations for dissemination activities scheduled for 2015, e.g. organization of an agroforestry festival.