

54th EURAF Executive Committee Report

Wednesday, 5th August 2015, 10am-12:30 pm

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro, Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present:

Officers: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson

National Delegates: Anastasia Pantera (Greece), Andrea Pisanelli (Italy), Robert Borek (Poland)

Apologies: Adolfo Rosati (Italy), Jeroen Watté (Belgium), Joana Amaral Paulo (Portugal), Gerardo Moreno (Spain)

1. EURAF Accounting

An update of the accounting situation was provided by Rosa. EURAF accounting situation has improved compared with the last EC meeting. Now, the bank account of EURAF is in “green numbers” but EURAF should spend the money carefully as cofinancing could further complicate the situation in a near future. Sylvene, Joana and Rosa helped by the support of Kenisha and Paul and USC and ISA expert people will make clear the situation and will provide a new budget proposal for the next justification periods of AGROFE and AGFORWARD. On the other hand, Rosa is still negotiating the payment of Sylvie for the job that she carried out in AGROFE.

ACTION: Sylvene, Joana and Rosa should prepare a new budget proposal for the new period

2. EURAF Projects

EURAF is pending in the following calls without adopting co-financing, and not final results are known from the following:

- COST ACTION (Leader: USC): EURAF is waiting for the first stage resolution
- WATER (Leader Cottbus): EURAF is waiting for the first stage resolution (call one preproposal (21 April)).
- ISIB (Leader: USC) (1 stage): an interesting project dealing with the implementation of innovations of AF systems in Europe.

We are still preparing the following two calls:

- Pilot project: PEFC. Rosa spoke with the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) staff members and AFAF who show high interest in participating in this call. The proposal has to be submitted by 21 September. Rosa is working with Melanie on it. Anyone interested on working on it will be more than welcome!
- Doctorate Program: Marie Curie Actions. A draft document will be prepared by USC, ISA and BTU.

Rosa reminded us that in the last EC meeting we decided that if the resolution of the COST ACTION is negative, we will participate in the first call of 2016. Rosa thinks that the resolution of the ISIB project will be in October or in November. Regarding to the Pilot project, Rosa said that we have to talk to Melanie Lamaison to prepare the proposal. Rosa sent an email to the Commission because the call deadline is not clear but she has not received a response yet. Rosa asked to the participants in the meeting if they had new information about other calls and Andrea and Robert said that they are working now on the second stage of a proposal about integrated systems that included agroforestry systems. Rosa asked if they need a letter of support from EURAF as this may benefit the project and also increase the visibility of EURAF. Andrea and Robert will ask to the leader.

ACTION: If someone wishes to have EURAF in a project, please contact Rosa. Rosa will then inform the EURAF EC.

3. Agroforestry Definition Agreement for EU policy

Rosa presented a slide with the agroforestry definitions shown in the following Table.

Agroforestry practice	Brief description
Silvoarable agroforestry	Widely spaced trees inter-cropped with annual or perennial crops. It comprises alley cropping, scattered trees and line belts
Forest farming	Forested areas used for production or harvest of natural standing specialty crops for medicinal, ornamental or culinary uses
Riparian buffer strips	Strips of perennial vegetation (tree/shrub/grass) natural or planted between croplands/pastures and water sources such as streams, lakes, wetlands, and ponds to protect water quality
Improved fallow	Fast growing, preferably leguminous woody species planted during the fallow phase of shifting cultivation; the woody species improve soil fertility and may yield economic products
Multipurpose trees	Fruit and other trees randomly or systematically planted in cropland or pasture for the purpose of providing fruit, fuelwood, fodder and timber, among other services, on farms and rangelands
Silvopasture	Combining trees with forage and animal production. It comprises forest or woodland grazing and open forest trees
Homegardens	Combining trees with vegetable production in urban areas, also known as part of “trees outside the forest”

Rosa indicated that there is a general confusion in the EU regarding with the definition of agroforestry. As Rosa has to prepare a document for the Commission as part of the AGFORWARD project dealing with policy she will prepare a draft document with a general definition of agroforestry. She sent a table with the main types of AF that can be included indicating that maybe Homegardens should be integrated as it is already in the tropical AF practice definitions. Both Robert and Andrea explained that the word

“rural should be included before “areas” in the homegardens definition. Also both suggested to include homegarden as a AF practice. In a first step, the document prepared by Rosa will be send for review to all EURAF and AGFORWARD members. Finally, these definitions will be forwarded to the Commission to work by November. Rosa and Gerry will work on this and advice will ask from PK Nair. Rosa indicated that it is very important to work together on the definitions and to obtain consensus

ACTION: Rosa and Gerry will prepare a draft document with the definitions and all EURAF EC members will review the document.

4. EURAF Events

- Marciac Festival: EURAF was represented in this event by Alain Canet, Fabien Balaguer, Rosa Mosquera, and Felix Herzog. The EURAF logo was prominent, and thanks to the help of AFAF and this will allow EURAF to justify the activities of AGFORWARD. Rosa said that during the Marciac Festival they visited farms with agroforestry practices, many with low levels of soil organic matter (less than 0.8%). AFAF has different and important projects on dissemination of agroforestry practices, and participants could visit a restaurant with agroforestry products (see this month’s newsletter). Rosa also said that especially relevant were the two days event linked to the doctorate and post-doctorate research works carried out in France. During the Marciac Festival Rosa encouraged Alain and Fabien to participate actively in EURAF and they agreed that Fabien will join the EC mailings and could take part of the events related with the CDG on Arable Crops.
- Expo Milano: Rosa said that Adolfo and Nuria were actively working in the program and in a brochure to promote the event which will be held next 12th September. Joao and Nuria have prepared the EURAF web with an electronic form for registration. The program is divided in two parts. The initial part of the event will be in English with the already confirmed participation of important institutions linked to the agroforestry systems (AFAF, FAO, European Commission...) and other part in Italian in the afternoon with English translation in which agroforestry practices in Italy will be presented. None of these participants will be paid by EURAF. Adolfo and Giustino are organizing the afternoon session. Rosa said that ICRAF was also invited but due to an important event in Indonesia they organize, they are looking for a person to participate. Rosa explained the budget necessary to organize the event (coffee break (9 Euros per person), cocktail (as a kind of lunch 23 Euros per person) and English translation (1500 Euros all the day) and technical compulsory payments (720 Euros for technicians and 950 Euros for organizers). The costs of the building itself paid are co financed by the European Commission and it is part of the AGFORWARD dissemination activities. In the next EURAF newsletter this event will be announced.
- Rosa indicated that AFAF will be organising an event on agroforestry and climate change in Paris in November within the [COP](#), and EURAF has been invited to participate.
- AGROFE, Brussels, November. We will collaborate with Charles Burriel on this event and will be in touch with Charles to see how to help.

- Robert said that he will participate in a regional event in Poland which brings together people from different parts of the country with the government. Robert said that he will prepare a summary of the event which will be included in the next EURAF newsletter.

ACTION: Nuria will include a summary of the Marciac Festival prepared by Rosa, Fabien Balaguer, Felix Herzog and Alain Canet in the next EURAF newsletter and also an advertisement of the Expo-Milano to promote the event. Adolfo and the Italian team with the help of the EURAF members will continue organizing the Expo-Milano. Rosa and Gerry will work with Alain Canet and Fabien Liagre to ensure that EURAF is represented in Paris. Robert will prepare a summary of the Polish event for the next EURAF newsletter.

5. EURAF Policy Activities

There are several CDG meetings scheduled but with provisional dates.

- ✓ 22 September CDG ARABLE CROPS: sugar & non-food crops

An invitation will be sent to EURAF EC members to participate in the CDGs, and if not volunteer is forthcoming she will ask the people that already agreed to represent EURAF in the Arable CDG: i.e. Nathan Baets, Nuria Ferreiro and Fabien Liagre.

- ✓ CDG Arable: event in December AF and production

We will try to organize a two hours session with Farmers for the next general meeting of the Arable CDG provisionally announced for December. This is an important opportunity to put the agroforestry systems on the table in front of the Commission and also farmers associations dealing with arable crops. It is important to have farmers participating in this presentation about AF real life. All participants agreed that Alfredo from Portugal, farmers from France and the participation of AFAF will be great. Christian will be contacted again to make the general presentation.

- ✓ 24-25 September meeting of the EIP subgroup Leader/CLLD subgroup member

Rosa will participate in the meeting of the EIP subgroup Leader/CLLD subgroup member, as the USC team is making an evaluation of those LEADER projects related with AF for the AGFORWARD project.

ACTION: Rosa will send an email to the EURAF members and volunteers to participate in the Arable CDG of September. Reports and documents should be included in the EURAF CDG Dropbox. Organization of the December session of Arable CDG.

6. EURAF Dissemination Activities

- ✓ EIP Newsletter: European Innovation Partners

Rosa was asked by the EIP to disseminate the news on European Innovation Partnership in our newsletter. One of the interesting areas to disseminate is called 'inspirational ideas' (see [here](#) for the latest EIP Newsletter) which are examples of innovative/interesting practices to improve productivity/sustainability in a given agricultural sphere. EIP is looking for concrete examples in the field and if possible people behind these ideas. Can EC members pass on and 'inspirational ideas' they are aware of? Rosa will make

a list and send it to my communication colleagues so they can consider them for future issues of the newsletter.

This could be an interesting motivation for good agroforestry farmers, who sometimes don't get adequately recognized.

✓ EURAF Newsletter

Nuria has finished the newsletter of July and it will be used to advertise the Expo-Milano event. The newsletter will be published when the program and the brochure of the Expo-Milano are finished and these will also be included by Nuria in the EURAF website.

Nuria proposed to add an ISSN to the newsletter and Gerry sent us a link in which we can find that the ISSN is free (<http://www.bl.uk/bibliographic/issn.html>). Anastasia Pantera also offered to help with this.

The Newsletter has increased the subscribers at a rate of one person every two days in the last two months. We noticed subscribers from the European Commission, so this is an important tool to disseminate AF activities and it means that the Commission is interested in our activities and we have a tool to connect the farmers with the Commission.

Rosa explained that the NL is composed of a brief presentation of the last EURAF activities, followed by AF regional news and a featured farm. Nuria compiled the number of entries from each country within the NL in the following Table. Green highlights countries higher participation while the red shows countries with less active participation. Belgium was congratulated for having the most active EURAF NL writers followed by France, Italy, Greece, Hungary, Portugal and UK. The EURAF EC wants participation of the different countries in the newsletter and that all countries be included in the 6 NL EURAF has agreed to produce per year. Space is also needed for the events to be announced as soon as they happen. Anastasia proposed to make one NL per country, but meeting agreed to keep an option open for special 'country' editions to be produced between the 6 standard issues. This possibility will be evaluated later.

	EURAF Newsletter (August 2012)	EURAF Newsletter 1 (March 2014)	EURAF Newsletter 2 (May 2014)	EURAF Newsletter 3 (May 2014)	EURAF Newsletter 4 (July 2014)	EURAF Newsletter 5 (October 2014)	EURAF Newsletter 6 (November 2014)	EURAF Newsletter 7 (December 2014)	EURAF Newsletter 8 (January 2015)	EURAF Newsletter 9 (February 2015)	EURAF Newsletter 10 (March 2015)	EURAF Newsletter 15 (May 2015)	
Belgium	X			X	X	X	X						5
Bulgaria									X				1
Czech Republic						X							1
Denmark										X			1
Fennoscandia											X		1
France	X			X					X		X		4
Germany										X		X	2
Greece	X				X			X					3
Hungary							X				X	X	3
Ireland									X				1
Italy	X			X					X		X		4
Kosovo	X												1
Poland								X					1
Portugal	X				X				X				3
Spain	X							X					2
Sweden										X	X		2
Switzerland				X									1
The Netherlands	X			X									2
UK	X				X						X		3
	9	0	0	5	4	2	2	3	5	3	6	2	

To increase the participation in the newsletter, Rosa proposed to make a rolling program for the next 12 months, to define the responsibilities of different authors. The meeting agreed this suggestion and Andrea Pisanelli volunteered to try to write an article on an Italian agroforestry farmer for a future issue. The rolling programme should be circulated to the EC list

ACTIONS: Nuria and Teresa to take over the Newsletter and the program.

7. EURAF Internal Activities

✓ Sponsors

Rosa explained that a letter was produced by Nuria and emailed to the sponsor list created by Anja. Javier Santiago from USC had added emails for the potential sponsors and he added some more. Gerry suggested that the same list should be used to seek sponsors for the next edition of the Euraf/Tubex brochure, but wondered whether it was better to undertake a mailshot. The good news was that the Italian PEFC delegation will sponsor the Expo-Milano event with 500 euros.

In the Marciac Festival Rosa was talking with Alain Canet and Fabien Balaguer about the EURAF brochure produced thanks to the funds of TUBEX and the work of Gerry. They think that the concept of biodiversity should be more relevant in the text. AFAF already detected that TUBEX protectors are not working well in some environmental conditions in France and are expensive. Rosa commented that in Galicia the TUBEX protectors worked well and that they are even used for kiwi and vineyards plantations. But, of course, the effectiveness of the protectors can vary and be excellent in one place and really not useful at all in other conditions. So, Rosa proposed to express the recommendations by “adding” along the text “in some conditions” (after the tubex protector recommendation) or a similar sentence. Rosa agreed with AFAF that it is not good for EURAF to recommend a protector that it is not

working well in their conditions in a broad way. Moreover, it is not worth for TUBEX. Gerry asked for what can be done with the copies already printed and Rosa answered that may be they can be circulated in the areas that they worked fine. Gerry proposed to ask Christian about the effectiveness of the TUBEX protectors in different conditions. On the other hand, it was detected that as this brochure is responsibility of EURAF, instead of mentioning that the brochure was done by EURAF and TUBEX it should be mentioned that the brochure is from EURAF and done with the collaboration of TUBEX, to gain more sponsors and have all the rights. Rosa will prepare a new version of the brochure with AFAP and will circulate it among the EC for getting their opinion.

ACTIONS: Rosa will prepare a new version of the brochure with AFAP and will circulate it among the EC for getting their opinion. Gerry will remind EC members to suggest changes to the brochure for the next edition, but early-September, and devise a letter to be sent or emailed to sponsors for further funding. All EURAF EC members should help with the new strategy to find sponsors

✓ EURAF WEB

Rosa suggested that it is necessary for EC Members to check the EURAF web, and make suggestions for improvement. The website does not contain the EURAF logo because of uncertainty surrounding changes to this, and a decision is needed on this soon.

ACTIONS: all EURAF members to check the EURAF web and propose changes.

✓ EURAF lists update

Rosa and Nuria tried to update the EURAF lists but this was not possible as there are many e-mails handling with the lists and lists itself created by Anja. Rosa sent an email to Anja to ask her how the lists are organized but Anja did not answer the email. Rosa thinks that the best is to simplify and have 1.- a joint list (merging the NL and the info-EURAF list), 2.- the official EURAF members, and 3 the EURAF EC members. All lists should be linked to the official e-mail account of EURAF created by Rosa and Christian in 2011. Gerry offered himself to help Rosa and Nuria to have access to the EURAF lists.

ACTIONS: Rosa and Nuria will simplify and update all the lists and they will inform about this to the EURAF EC.

8. Further Comments

Andrea indicated that numbers Italian members would be reduced compared to previous years, but it was hoped that the Expo-Milano event would attract new Italian members. Andrea confirmed he will prepare a sheet to ask people to become members when registering for the Expo-Milano event.

In the case of Greece, Anastasia said that Kostas is in charge to get the member fees of 2015.

To increase the number of EURAF members, Rosa proposed to create a prize for Master or PhD students, to help them on their career while increasing the number of members of EURAF.

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 2nd of September 2015 at 12:00 CET.