



EUROPEAN AGROFORESTRY FEDERATION

EURAF, 14, Rue Pagès, 34070 Montpellier, FRANCE

www.agroforestry.eu

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1. A WORD FROM EURAF'S NEW PRESIDENT

EURAF has entered a new period, bereft of the excellent leadership of Christian Dupraz, the first President of EURAF. Under Christian's guidance, agroforestry options were reinforced within the new CAP 2014-2020 and its profile was raised throughout Europe in fora of agronomists, foresters and policy-makers.

I would like to thank Christian and all outgoing members of the EURAF Executive Committee for their excellent contributions. I would also like to give a warm welcome to the new members of the EURAF Executive, elected for the next two years. The coming period will be full of challenges, but also opportunities to further promote agroforestry as a land use system to increase the sustainability and diversity of European landscapes.

The 2nd European Agroforestry Conference "*Integrating Science & Policy to Promote Agroforestry in Practice*", was held in Cottbus, Germany, 4-6 June. The event was organised by EURAF, hosted by the [Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg](#), assisted by the [Centre of Energy Technology Brandenburg](#) and supported by [TUBEX Ltd](#). 130 attendees from more than 20 European countries, plus Africa and Northern America, made the conference a successful and exciting forum for agroforestry research and extension activities across Europe. The Book of [Abstracts provides an excellent overview](#).

The parallel sessions were lively and full of questions, with a rich dialogue between researchers and farmers. The final session was open to farmer representatives from Brandenburg and they shared their views on options for implementing agroforestry in Germany. Field visits to different experiments in the Brandenburg region, gave clear examples of the possible use of new agroforestry practices to restore seriously damaged environments in a sustainable way. We would like to thank to the whole organizing committee for this more than successful conference. As mentioned in the EURAF General Assembly at Cottbus, we hope to enroll new national agroforestry associations in EURAF during the coming two-year period. We also aim to network with stakeholders around Europe, including the new European Commission "Civil Dialogue Groups" and 'think tanks' like the European Policy Institute who are evaluating the implementation of CAP2014-2020. EURAF and their national associations therefore aim to play a key role within a number of operational and focus groups, which will be funded by the CAP.



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This will help to transfer the research and practical experience from existing trials to the end-users: farmers. It will also help to identify technical problems to be solved, based on a continuous exchange of ideas between researchers and stakeholders. New projects, like AGFORWARD, are working on similar issues, and EURAF will work closely with this and other relevant European projects. EURAF counts on its members to keep the committee informed of initiatives with which we should engage!

Source: María Rosa Mosquera Losada, EURAF president, mrosa.mosquera.losada@usc.es

2. MEET EURAF'S NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EURAF's Executive Committee consists of 6 officers, who were elected at the EURAF General Assembly, held in Cottbus, Germany, 4 June 2014.

President: M^a Rosa Mosquera Losada PhD (Spain)

Rosa coordinates the "agrarian and forestry inter-university PhD program" at the University of Santiago de Compostela. She is associated editor of two JCR journals and an editor of two books on agroforestry: "Agroforestry in Europe - Current Status and Future Prospects" (Springer) and "Silvopastoralism and Sustainable Land Management" (CAB International). Rosa leads the Policy Workpackage in AGFORWARD. She is acting as an expert for the Climate Change Office of the Spanish Agricultural Ministry.

Deputy President: Gerry Lawson BSc, MIBiol, MICFor (UK)

Gerry recently retired from the Natural Environment Research Council HQ, following 10 years involvement in research policy, research information systems (including impact assessment) and research data policy. Previously, he led work-packages on modelling and agricultural/forestry policy within a number of agroforestry projects. He was a senior lead author on the IPCC LULUCF Good Practice Guide, and remains a Research Fellow at the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and a consultant for UberResearch GmbH.

Secretary: Jeroen Watté, Bio-engineering in land and forest management (Belgium)

Jeroen is a bio-engineer with training in development anthropology. He came into contact with permaculture in Northern Malawi in 2000 and has since then been working for NGO's promoting sustainable agriculture, agroecology, soil biology and agroforestry. He currently works for Wervel vzw, a small NGO based in Brussels campaigning for 'just and responsible agriculture. He has a wide range of research interests from root architecture in agroforestry systems to stakeholder dialogue and basement aquaponics.

Deputy Secretary: Adolfo Rosati PhD (Italy)

Adolfo is an agronomist, working as a scientist at the Agricultural Research Council (CRA) in Italy. He works mainly on olives, including olive agroforestry systems with other crops/animals in the olive orchard. He leads the CRA participation in the AGFORWARD and other agroforestry projects. He initiated and coordinates an agroforestry working group within the Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest (SISEF). Together with his wife he runs a 24 ha agroforestry farm, with over 1300 different cultivars/species of trees.



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Treasurer: Sylvène Laborie-Roussel (France)

Sylvène originally trained in international relations and economics, and after 10 years spent in banking, she retrained in natural resources management (especially forests). She has researched the ecological and economic advantages of agroforestry in French Guyana and India, and is involved in agroforestry in France through AFAF.

Deputy Treasurer: Joana Amaral Paulo, Forestry PhD (Portugal)

Joana has a PhD in Forestry titled 'Development of a Growth and Yield Model for the Sustainable Management of Cork Oak Stands' and is currently working on the development and dissemination of agroforestry as a tool for rural development, combating rural depopulation, decreasing and making efficient use of soil and water resources. She is based at the Agronomy Faculty of the Technical University of Lisbon.

EURAF's Executive Committee is available to promote Agroforestry in Europe at policy, stakeholder and educational level. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any ideas, suggestions or needs related to the promotion of Agroforestry.

3. EURAF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EURAF's General Assembly meeting is carried out every two years. This year's meeting took place in Cottbus, Germany on 4th June. All EURAF members, as well as all people attending the 2nd European Agroforestry Conference were welcome to participate. In addition, the meeting was streamed and between 20 and 30 EURAF members followed it online.

At the beginning of the meeting the [activity report](#) and the [financial report](#) for the past two years were presented. [EURAF's lobbying work](#) in Brussels was especially highlighted.

Afterwards, national delegates from Switzerland, Spain, UK, the Netherlands, Kosovo, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Germany, France, Belgium and Czech Republic [reported on agroforestry issues](#) in their countries.

This was followed by a discussion of EURAF's main priorities for the next two years and the election of EURAF's new Executive Committee. EURAF's main priorities will be to participate in more research, knowledge transfer and educational projects (e.g. the AGFORWARD project), and to organise the 3rd European Agroforestry Conference for June 2016 in Montpellier.

Detailed minutes of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Sources: Anja Chalmin, EURAF Project Manager, euraf@agroforestry.eu

Rosa Mosquera Losada, EURAF President, mrosa.mosquera.losada@usc.es

4. ECOLOGICAL FOCUS AREA: BETWEEN HOPES AND CONCERNS

In the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), 30% of the basic payment depends on the implementation of agricultural practices beneficial for climate and the environment. This is the "greening payment". Establishing Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) is one of the practices listed in the [Regulation 1307/2013](#), which also includes permanent pastures and crop diversification.



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EFA is meant to preserve and improve biodiversity on farms. From the 1st of January 2015, holdings of more than 15 hectares will have to dedicate 5% of arable lands to EFA. There are some exceptions such as regions with more than 50% of forest land. By the 1st of August 2014, each Member State will notify to the European Commission which measure(s), listed in Article 46.2, is/are considered as EFA. Some of them can be instrumental in further promoting agroforestry such as landscape features (hedges, trees in line, isolated trees, trees in group and field margins etc.), buffer strips, agroforestry areas and areas with short rotation coppice (with no use of mineral fertilizer and/or plant protection products). Article 45 of the [Delegated Regulation on Direct Payments](#) provides additional criteria for each EFA.

When discussing this delegated act¹ a few months ago, one of the most controversial issues was EFA. Some Member States and Members of the European Parliament voiced concerns that EFA could take areas out of agricultural production. To address these concerns, the European Commission has adopted a [Declaration](#) in April 2014 in which it is reaffirmed that it is up to Member States to define precise rules for EFA – crops that can be cultivated and technologies that can be used – as long as biodiversity is safeguarded or improved.

Furthermore, with regard to the production of nitrogen-fixing crops on EFA, the European Commission has controversially increased the weighting factor, i.e. 1 ha of a nitrogen-fixing crop such as alfalfa, clover or lupine can be equivalent to 0.7 ha of EFA rather than 0.3 ha in the initial version of the document. The Declaration states that “any nitrogen-fixing crops grown on EFA will have to be done in a way that enhances biodiversity, respecting the production conditions defined for EFA by Member States.”

While the Declaration has been welcomed by farmers organizations which stated that it “[gives farmers sufficient flexibility when implementing the greening requirements](#)”², it has been highly criticized by NGOs. Green groups see notably little environmental value in nitrogen-fixing crops and are concerned about the potential use of pesticides. The European Commission has justified the nitrogen-fixing promotion in order to fight the EU’s strong dependence on imports of protein crops.

A first assessment of EFA will be carried out after the first year of implementation. The agroforestry sector will have to be proactive by making the European Commission know how agroforestry related measures are being implemented by Member States and, if needed, by suggesting some improvements.

¹ A delegated act is designed to provide or amend technical details or non-essential elements of the basic act.

² Quote from Copa President Albert Jan Maat.

Source: *Mélanie Lamaison, AlienorEU, melanie.lamaison@alienoreu.com*

5. LOBBYING FOR AGROFORESTRY AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

After the long negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform in Brussels, in which [EURAF has lobbied insistently for agroforestry](#), some of the most relevant decisions on how the CAP will be applied in the 2015-2020 period are currently being made at national and regional level. Indeed, Member States (MS) and regions have a large degree of freedom to adapt the European CAP regulations, so lobbying at those levels is crucial to ensure agroforestry systems obtain adequate policy support in the forthcoming years. And we are running short of time!



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In the first pillar, there are two relevant issues for agroforestry that MS will decide upon by August 2014. Firstly, as presented more in detail by Mélanie Lamaison in this newsletter, MS have the possibility to include agroforestry systems and other agroforestry-related features in their lists of Ecological Focus Areas. This is important since farmers can opt for them to receive greening payments. Secondly, there is the issue of eligibility for direct payments of parcels containing trees, which already hindered agroforestry in past CAP programming periods.

The current [Regulation 1306/2013](#) and its associated [Commission Delegated Regulation](#) are relatively favourable towards hedges and other landscape features adjacent to the agricultural parcels, as they consider them eligible, although the general limit is 2 m of width (with certain exceptions). Regarding non-fruit trees inside agricultural parcels, two general conditions are established by the Delegated Regulation for full eligibility: a) agricultural activities can be performed normally, and b) there are less than 100 trees per ha. MS have the right to choose a lower maximum tree density, which would lead to the total or partial exclusion of many agroforestry plots, so we should follow up on this decision and make sure that the highest possible density of 100 trees per ha is maintained in the national and regional regulations.

In the case of permanent grasslands (including permanent pastures) containing trees, MS can opt for an alternative pro-rata system with several "eligibility reduction" levels. If this option is applied restrictively, it could reduce dramatically the direct payments silvopastoral parcels receive, so we should advocate a flexible low-impact application of the pro-rata system. Silvopastoral systems in active use, where trees and shrubs are accessible and browsed by livestock should qualify for full eligibility.

In the second pillar, national or regional Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) are made up of a selection of measures from those offered in the [European Regulation 1305/2013](#). We should definitely advocate the implementation of [Article 23](#) (Establishment of agroforestry systems), as it gives the most obvious and direct support for agroforestry systems. Furthermore, as the associated [Measure fiche](#) describes in detail, Article 23 can cater for a wide range of situations: subsidies can cover not only tree planting or forest stand thinning to create agroforestry systems, but also complementary investments (e.g., fences, protectors, water troughs or livestock sheds) and their maintenance costs for 5 years.

Nevertheless, agroforestry systems may be supported by other second pillar measures too. For instance, forest and fuelbreak grazing for wildfire prevention can be funded through Article 24, organic farming (Art. 29) can encourage the integration of fruit trees and livestock (e.g., grazed olive orchards), and certain agroforestry systems may be eligible for support under agri-environment-climate measures (Art. 28) or the Natura 2000-Water framework measure (Art. 30).

The EU will have a total of 113 RDPs in this CAP period, so there are 113 opportunities to include agroforestry-related measures in them. RDPs are currently in their final stage of elaboration, under public consultation or in revision by the European Commission, so it is our last chance to influence their content. Are you aware of what is happening in your country or region?

Sources: *Jabier Ruiz, EURAF Policy officer, jruizmirazo@gmail.com*

Rosa Mosquera Losada, EURAF President, mrosa.mosquera.losada@usc.es



6. REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY NEWS

6.1 AGROFORESTRY IN GREECE: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND POLICY ISSUES

The Hellenic Agroforestry Network (HAN) was established in July 2012 and has currently 55 regular members. However, the internet forum of this network has more than 200 members.

During its two years of operation, HAN has put forward important actions: HAN increased the level of awareness on agroforestry practices in general, as well the economic and environmental benefits of agroforestry among local, regional and national governmental officials, forest and agronomy engineers, and farmers. For this, four workshops were organised in co-operation with the Hellenic Agricultural Chamber, the Faculty of Forestry and Natural Environment, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and the National Agricultural research Foundation.

One workshop was held in Thessaloniki, in April 2013. It dealt with “Agroforestry: a new land use in the frame of CAP 2014-2020” and was attended by more than 200 participants, consisting mostly of foresters, agronomists, farmers and students.

The 2nd workshop was dedicated to the environmental benefits of agroforestry practices. It was carried out in Larissa, central Greece, in June 2013 – in a region where agricultural land is intensively managed.

Lamia, in central Greece, was selected for the 3rd workshop, organised in November 2013, in co-operation with the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management of TEI Stereas Elladas. This meeting was attended by several officials, farmers and students. Students understood agroforestry as a potential new labour market.

Workshop 4 was organised in February 2014, in Athens. This event dealt with the description of the agri-environmental agroforestry measures in the new CAP. Several officers from the Ministry of Rural Development, Food and Environment, and the Ministry of Energy and Climatic Change attended the workshop. During the discussion, several issues were raised on how to implement the measure in Greece.

Another achievement of HAN’s work is its involvement in the implementation of the new CAP in Greece, with the goal to convince the policy makers in Athens to adopt article 23 of the [European Regulation 1305/2013](#). A series of meetings between members of HAN’s administrative council and political leaders in Athens led to the result that HAN was asked to contribute to the technical bulletin of the agroforestry measure, to be implemented in the forthcoming programming CAP period in Greece.

Source: Kostas Mantzanas, Vasilios Papanastasis (Edits: Anja Chalmin)

6.2 AGROFORESTRY IN THE NEW PORTUGUESE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2014-2020)

Article 44 of the EU Regulation 1698/2005 was implemented in Portuguese law during the period 2007-2013. Although these efforts have taken Portugal to a leading position on this transposition at the European level, the expected increase of the Agroforestry area in the country was not achieved. Reasons for this low success have been analyzed by EURAF and an audience was asked to the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Land Planning (MAMAOT) in March 2013. On the 5th of April 2013, EURAF had a meeting in MAMAOT with interpretations of the current legislation and identification of possible of obstacles for the unsuccessful measure in order to adjust it to improve the implementation of



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The meeting seemed to be constructive and was summarised by EURAF.

The transposition of the EU Regulation 1307/2013 into the Portuguese Rural Development Plan is underway and a preliminary version submitted to Brussels has been released. This version is explicit concerning a direct reference to the implementation of the article 23 supporting the establishment of agroforestry systems and includes a specific "Action" for their support.

The current version of the Portuguese RDP includes a similar measure (now called Operation 8.1.2) for the installation of Agroforestry areas.

Some important differences have been included that may contribute to increase the adoption and installation of new agroforestry systems by farmers:

- Measure 2.3.2.2 from the previous RDP included both support to forestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land, as well as support for the installation of agroforestry areas. The current RDP distinguishes these two types of supports, and operation 8.1.2 is exclusively dedicated to the installation of agroforestry areas.
- Operation 8.1.2 includes 80% support to farmers, instead of 50% in the previous RDP
- The minimum area allowed for support was reduced from 5 hectares to 0.5 hectares. This value is important since around 75% of Portuguese farms have less than 5 ha (corresponding to 11% of Utilized Agricultural Area).
- The definition of 'agroforestry system' maintains the limit of 250 tree/ha, in accordance to EU recommendations made at the final version of the Measure Fiche related to Article 23 "Establishment of agroforestry systems" (2nd pillar of the new CAP)
- Other operations regarding knowledge transfer at national and international level have been presented, and may allow for the dissemination of knowledge between countries. This may help the recognition and dissemination of new agroforestry systems in Portugal (for instance alley cropping etc.) and the use of other species

Two main concerns persist:

- The existence of a forest management plan is still compulsory, referring minimum of 25 ha and to the Regional Forest Territorial Plan (PROF). Therefore some inconsistency prevails on the minimum area.
- It is still not clear if maintenance support will continue to be incompatible with Single Farm Payment.

NEXT:

The new RDP is still being studied and the identification of agroforestry systems in a broader definition combining trees/crops/livestock can be also be found through the document. For example in Measure 7 (Agriculture and Natural Resources), Operations 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.2, 7.6.1 and 7.7.2. We will continue to work on the interpretation to extract where agroforestry systems are present in the document and understand how they are being supported/implemented.

A non-official translation of the Operation 8.1.2 of new Portuguese RDP into English can be found [here](#) (page 2-5), and a version in Portuguese of the 5th May 2014 document is available [online](#).

Sources: Josep Crous Duran, Joana Amaral Paulo, João HN Palma



6.3 AGROFORESTRY AND THE SINGLE FARM PAYMENT IN SCOTLAND

CAP Reform – Direct Payment Analysis

New CAP package [analysis](#) has shown that it will affect farmers in the main agricultural sectors and geographic regions of Scotland.

While implementation decisions taken in Scotland have decided the final shape of the package, the two changes most likely to affect an individual farmer's pillar 1 payments are the move from historic to area based payments (e.g. for the new Basic and Greening Payments) and the reduction in the pillar 1 payment pot.

The information presented below is illustrative. A number of factors affecting the payments will not be known until the Scottish Government collects claim details from applicants (e.g. on the number of beef calves or number of hectares declared). A number of assumptions have therefore been made to complete this analysis.

Furthermore, the figures shown are for 2019. In 2015, payment rates will be different as transition arrangements mean historic Single Farm Payment values will be taken into account and payments will be based on the lower 2015 budget. ...[further reading](#)

Pillar 1 – Factsheet. Media and stakeholder factsheet. Future CAP Direct Payments I Scotland 2015-2020.

Over the last year, there have been many discussions on how future Direct Payments can be best made in Scotland. The Scottish Government's CAP Stakeholder Group has met throughout the year to discuss possible ways forward, a public consultation has been carried out and a further public engagement programme has also been undertaken.

Europe published the main regulations for the future CAP in December 2013, and these require us to notify Europe of many of the key decisions by August 1st 2014. However, the delegated acts and implementing rules which set out much of the fine detail have still not been published. This document outlines the main decisions that have been taken so far which will form the basis of our notification to Europe in August. Further information and guidance for farmers will be produced in due course when all the detailed rules are known. ...[further reading](#)

Pillar 2 - Factsheet: SRDP 2014-2020.

The key purpose of the SRDP is to help achieve sustainable economic growth in Scotland's rural areas and the priorities remain broadly the same as the previous programme: The four main priorities are:

- Sustainable economic growth
- Protecting and enhancing our environmental assets
- Adapting to, and mitigating, climate change
- Vibrant and sustainable rural communities

A Partnership Agreement will outline how the SRDP will have a joined-up approach with other European funds in Scotland for economic growth and fisheries. ...[further reading](#)

Source: Mike Strachan, Forestry Commission Scotland (Perth); Chair of UK Farm Woodland Forum



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PhD position in landscape modelling for environmental evaluation of land use systems

In the context of a European research project, we will evaluate the environmental services of novel land use systems for agriculture at the farm and landscape scale. We will confront benefits and drawbacks (ecological, economic), socio-cultural aspects and investigate trade-offs. At Agroscope Zurich (Switzerland) we are looking for an enthusiastic PhD student to help with this task....[further details](#)

Source: Felix Herzog, Agroscope Zurich (CH)

New book on “European wood-pastures in transition”

Wood-pastures are important elements of European cultural identity and have an exceptional ecological value, yet they are in decline all over Europe. The structure of wood-pastures is strongly influenced by grazing and multiple other land uses and by local and regional environmental conditions.

A recent book, edited by Tibor Hartel and Tobias Plieninger, examines the diverse expressions of wood-pastures across Europe. It provides a new perspective, using a social-ecological framework to explore social and ecological values, governing institutions, threats and conservation approaches. It explores the major drivers of decline, which are shown to be related to accelerated cultural, institutional and developmental changes occurring across Europe over the past century. Case studies are included from North-Western, Southern, and Eastern Europe. Written by renowned scholars and conservationists, the book contributes to developing better, locally adapted conservation policies and management approaches for wood-pastures.

The book is available at the publisher [Earthscan - Routledge](#) (enter code DC361* for a 20% discount).

Source: Tobias Plieninger, University of Copenhagen



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This is your newsletter! If there's anything you think should be included, please pass suggestions to euraf@agroforestry.eu for inclusion in the next issue.