We have a dream:
Fostering agricultural transition towards agroforestry

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EU FOOD AND FARMING

FUTURE OF FOOD AND FARMING

FAIR INCOME

SOCIAL INCLUSION

RESILIENT FARMING SECTOR

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

CLIMATE ACTION

KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION

FOOD SECURITY

GENERATIONAL RENEWAL

THRIVING RURAL AREAS
Initial Approvalment by the Parliament

• Calls for better integration of the “circular economy” to ensure the best and most efficient use of primary material and by-products in the emerging bioeconomy...... underlines the need to promote agroforestry, which can provide multipurpose, recreational and productive ecosystems and microclimates and to close the gaps that could hamper its development.

• Believes that the AECM support, complemented by eco-schemes at Member State level cover the costs for farmers of transitioning to new sustainable practices, such as through promotion and support for agroforestry

• Calls on the Commission to guarantee innovation research and modernisation in agroforestry
BIOLOGICAL BASIS

• Better use of the resources:

Aerial level

Soil level

INCREASE BIOMASS PRODUCTION PER UNIT OF LAND:
High employment rate
Challenges:
   a) Best combinations to increase farm profit
   b) Obtain higher profit from the value chain
INTENSIFICATION of Conventional Farming Systems

• Short term production increase
• Medium and long term natural capital deployment
• High negative impact on Climate Change
• Negatively affecting food security

BETTER WAY TO FEED THE PLANET?

NO
WHY AGROFORESTRY IS NOT EXTENSIVELY USED?

• AGFORWARD and AFINET
  – Survey 184 and 384 people from 14 EU case studies
    • Most farmers are not aware about the agroforestry term
    • Some farmers: CAP eligibility problems
Providing solutions: understanding what agroforestry is

Deliberate integration of woody perennials and an agricultural product from the lowerstorey (Annex 1)
Defining agroforestry for policy makers

Common mistakes:
Not considering shrubs neither fruit trees as the woody component:

**Harmonization** (FAO definitions used by International bodies: IPCC):
Lack of harmonized definition of trees (min. height 2-5 meters)
1.- What happens with young trees?
2.- Shrubs/fruit trees reaching minimum tree height
3.- Trees cropped as shrubs (SRC)
4.- Trees never reach min. tree heights in some areas

**Benefits**
Similar role than a forest tree
6.- Productive (two products)
7.- Environmental (water, soil, nutrient cycling, CC..)
8.- Social: increasing employment, healthier food
Providing solutions to enhance implementation: Enabling transition environments

Farmers

Researchers
Technical Solutions

Technical experts

Social experts

Advisors
Fostering knowledge

Multipliers

Policy makers
Enabling social environments
Needing tools to foster agroforestry transition

• European Union

  – Focus group

  – As expert stakeholders, we need to provide insights to foster this transition: Agroforestry statement fostering Agrforestry strategy
EIP-AGRI
fostering agricultural transition towards sustainable practices

AGROFORESTRY FOCUS GROUP
– Agroforestry: introducing woody vegetation into specialised crop and livestock systems (13 EU countries; 40% Multipliers; 40% Scientifics; 20% Farmers)

9 Minipapers
– Technical
  • Practical tree knowledge on farm level
  • Tools for optimal design and management
  • Territorial landscape management

– Financial
  • Financial impact of agroforestry
  • Added value of agroforestry,

– Environment
  • Ecosystem services assessment in agroforestry
  • Agroforestry as a mitigation and adaptation tool

– Education
  • Education in agroforestry
  • Databases on agroforestry) were show the global aspects that agroforestry have to fulfil
The need for a European Agroforestry Strategy

National Agroforestry Strategies:
- a) France (2016)
- b) Mexico
- c) Brasil
TOWARDS A EUROPEAN AGROFORESTRY STRATEGY
European Commission
European Parliament

EURAF
Understanding that:

• a) Agroforestry is a **sustainable land use** system
• b) Agroforestry can be applied into all **agricultural and forestry** systems of Europe
• c) **Five agroforestry practices** implemented at plot level: silvopasture, silvoarable, forest farming, riparian buffer strips and homegardens that can also be integrated at farm (agroforestry systems) and landscape level.
• d) Europe has a **unique heritage of traditional agroforestry systems**, while having a high potential for innovative **modern agroforestry systems**
• e) The ambition of the European Agroforestry Federation ‘**50% of Farmers adopting agroforestry by 2025**’ is realistic, desirable and necessary
Nijmegen statement

- Agroforestry optimizes the use of the resources such as light, nutrients and water, reduces the needs of external inputs and increases quality and production of healthy food;

- Agroforestry is able to improve the quality of waters and if combinations of woody perennials with agricultural production from the lower storey are combined the use of the water

- Agroforestry mitigates climate change because of the carbon sequestered and by reducing greenhouse gases emissions from fertilizers and reducing fire risk;

- Agroforestry is able to adapt crop/pasture/livestock production to climate change thanks to the increase of crop production and the extension of grazing season and animal welfare, if adequate and locally adapted combinations are used;

- Agroforestry increases farm resilience thanks to the diversification of products and to the reduction of the impact of extreme events;

- Agroforestry enhances higher and more diversified production per unit of land that has more added value;

- Agroforestry is able to enhance job creation and rural population increase because higher and more diversified production per unit of land is obtained and a higher added value products can be sold

- Agroforestry fulfills all the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
Nijmegen statement towards an EU Agroforestry Strategy

- Accelerating transition and scaling up Agroforestry in all Europe
- There is an urgent need of a clear set of policy measures that promote agroforestry practices at plot and farm and landscape level
- The promotion and work of National Agroforestry Associations in the development of national action plans fulfilling the overall European Agroforestry Strategy and ambitions, whose impact should be measured and rewarded to farmers.
- A clear agroforestry education and communication agenda that disseminates the concepts, practices and systems of Agroforestry at all educational levels and for all end-users (consumers, students at different levels and farmers), is essential in the next forthcoming years.
- A clear research agenda that together with the current Rural Development Measures linked to EIP-Agri can help agroforesters to foster Agroforestry knowledge and implementation of agroforestry innovations at large scale.
- A promotion of a certification system able to identify and therefore to provide added value to agroforestry products through the value chain.
- ..................Your idea ...........
We have a dream

Facilitate the transition of agroforestry among all of us

Please contribute to the start point of the transition:

Comment on the Nijmegen Statement!!