

Workshop

Traditional and modern agroforestry systems as natural carbon sinks Practical implementation and requirements for CAP measures

16 - 17 June 2025, Băile Homorod, Romania

Day 1 (Mo, 16 June 2025) – Conference Day

8:30 Welcome & registration

- 9:00 Opening & welcome
 - Gergely Rodics, Agri-Cultura-Natura Transylvaniae Association
 - video message from Loránt Vincze, MEP of the region
- “Project Presentation: Landcare Europe Captures Carbon - Supporting Natural Climate Protection in Agricultural Landscapes” – focus topic: agroforestry, Corinna Friedrich, DVL, Project leader
- “Situation of agroforestry systems in the EU/CAP”, Tamás Szedlák, former DG AGRI forestry expert
- “Supporting agroforestry systems in Europe – which framework conditions do we need?”, Rūta Žulpaitė, European Agroforestry Federation

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

- “Carbon sequestration of agroforestry systems in the context of the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF)”, Dr. Rico Hübner, German Federation for Agroforestry (DeFAF)
- “Ecological and social aspects of wood pastures in Romania and Europe”, Tibor Hartel, Romania
- “Sweet chestnut orchards as a traditional agroforestry system throughout Europe”, Linda Magyar, CEEweb for Biodiversity
- “Experiences of agroforestry from a farmers perspective”, Fazakas Imre, Madaras, Harghita, Romania, translation: Szilvia Bencze

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break

- “First steps of Agroforestry in the Baltics”, *Remigijus Lapinskas, Lithuania*
- “Moving forward - Agroforestry in Czech Republic”, *Vašek Zámečník/ Michaela Kadavá, Czech Society for Ornithology*
- “Between CAP regulations & nature conservation: agroforestry model farms in Germany”, *Corinna Friedrich, Landcare Germany*
- “Orchards – Management and Marketing”, *Werner Thumann, LPV Neumarkt i.d. Oberpfalz, Germany*

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break

- 16:30 - 18:00 Roundtable discussion & Working groups
- Panel discussion (30min)

Question: What needs to be done, to promote agroforestry systems in Europe?

Moderation: Szilvia Bencze, *Agri-Cultura-Natura Transylvaniae Association*

- Tamás Szedlák, former DG AGRI
- Prof. Dr. Tibor Hartel, Romania
- Werner Thumann, LPV Neumarkt i.d. Oberpfalz, Germany
- Linda Magyar, CEEweb for Biodiversity

17:00 Working Groups:

Necessary regulatory framework and CAP measures,

- Group 1: Recommendations for the CAP, *Traci Birge, University of Helsinki*

Practical implementation of agroforestry systems

- Group 2: What are key success factors for implementing successful projects to foster agroforestry with several farmers/stakeholders? *Iris Benes, BED/ Gergely Rodics BEF*
- Group 3: How can Landcare (-like) organisations support the spread of agroforestry systems agriculture? *Sylvie Rockel, Landcare Europe*
- Short presentations of WS results

18:00 End of conference

18:15 Walk to former holiday village in communist times (optional)

19:30 Dinner at venue

30.05.25

Day 2 (Tue, 17 June 25): Excursion (full day including lunch)

9.00 am – 6:00 pm (dinner 7:00 pm)

Visiting the compossessorate in Zetelaka

The medieval system of **common land management** organisations (lat: compossessor) was continuously operational until the communists took over Romania in 1947. After their horroristic reign the system of commons was reinstated after 1990. They are organised on the level of the individual villages and their main purpose is to manage grasslands and forests owned by the village. With the changing regulations on how compossessorates have access



to EU agricultural funds, the management of these bodies follow different approaches. One such best practice is the approach of the Zetelaka compossessorate which manages 8.515 ha of high mountain forest and 1.875 ha of grassland on the western slopes of the Hargita mountains. Besides many other initiatives they set up a system where the individual farmers keep their calves until they are young, then sell them to the compossessorate, which fattens them up on its own pastures and then sells them on the market. This approach complies with the regulation that requires landowners to manage their territories with animals whereas benefits the farmers too. They introduced the rotational grazing system, and they created new water channels in the landscape to counteract recent droughts. To add value to their forest fruits and mushrooms they set up a modern fruit processing unit co-financing European subsidies (such as LEADER) with their own funds. We will be hosted and guided by József Erőss, the director of the Zetelaka Compossessorate.

Visiting traditional orchard systems in Farcád



West from the Hargita mountains is the Udvarhely hills – an area with rolling hills and many small villages in a rather bad economic and demographic situation. Because of the good ecological circumstances and the late modernisation of these settlements an ancient fruit-arable-grassland management system survived here. They were not so heavily studied as the Andean agriculture system (a GIAHS), but they are also very old and developed their endemic varieties as well as their holistic

approach of using beneficially favourable organisms to maintain long term sustainability on the farm and on the landscape level. Walking in these villages feels like walking in an inhabited fruit-forest. Because of the recent exodus of young people from the area we will experience this system in its descendance. We will be hosted and guided by Mónika Pakot, a local expert on fruits and herbs and their production systems.