



REFOREST

Carbon sequestration of agroforestry systems in the context of the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF)

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

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Agenda

Goals

CRCF

Soil, Above-/Belowground Biomass

Conclusion



Political goals for Germany



CLIMATE PROTECTION ACT FOR THE SECTOR 7: LULUCF

- >2030 on average of 2027-2030 a net balance of -25 mill. tons CO_{2eq} per year
- >2040 on average of 2037-2040 a net balance of min. -35 mill. tons CO_{2eq} per year
- >2045 on average of 2041-2045 a net balance of min. -40 mill. tons CO_{2eq} per year [2]

REALITY

- recent years net balance in LULUCF was often positive [3]
- 2017-2022 forests lost 41,5 mill. Tons C (-3 %) [4] → (>30 mill t CO_{2eq} /a)
- due to calamities, especially drought 2018 to 2021 → reduced growth → but reforestation of existent areas don't count
- **We need substantial C-storage alternatives**

Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) certification Framework

TIME SCHEDULE

Regulation 2024/3012 launched 24. Nov 2024 [5]

Specific rules in the initial draft DG CLIMA [Nov 2024](#) [6]

- trees supported by CAP funding will not be considered ineligible due to CRCF “financial additionality” test
- the minimum durations of the activity period for AF is 10 years and monitoring period 15 years [6]
- trees or woody elements cannot be older than 5 years old when planting

The upcoming Carbon Farming Delegated Act

- New deadline for comments: 7. July 2025, expected for public comment for four weeks in autumn 2025

- after a two-month objection period by the MS and the EP, expected to enter into force at the

CRCF criteria to quantify

- C removals and soil emission reductions (LULUCF emissions and removals, direct and indirect N₂O emissions from managed soils) from mineral soils under agricultural management, and
- C sequestration in above- and below-ground biomass on agricultural land through trees and woody crops (i.e. agroforestry)
- must generate benefits for biodiversity, including soil health as well as the avoidance of land degradation



Soil

- Account for bulk density (BD), measure 1 m [7], pedotransfer function have their limits
- Core sampling intense
- Sampling design for scattered trees [8] and trees in alleys [9]
- Ideal timing (fall), not after fertilization
- Sensor technology, e.g. Stenon (?)





Aboveground Biomass

Aboveground biomass relatively certain to estimate

- Post-harvest [10], 20% faster growth [11]
- Standing biomass by forestry methods [12, 13], allometric formulas
- Handheld and UAV Lidar [14]
- Remote sensing [15]



Belowground Biomass



- Approx. 20-40 % of the aboveground biomass [16, 17]
- Substantial, as studies on older hedgerows show [18]
- Root pruning bzw. -trimming [19], fine roots die off during tillage, C stored in deeper soil areas [20, 21]
- Allometric functions based on the root-base diameter available for few species only, thus limited
- Key figures here are the root-shoot ratios [22]

Calculations should be made with caution

Studies reviewed

GHG reduction potential	Sectors considered	Comments	
1.8 ... 25	C-binding in above- and below-ground biomass	Varies depending on tree species, planting density and rotation time	[23] *
10.1	C-binding in above- and belowground biomass	Average value from other studies	[24] *
5.2 ... 21.6	C-binding in above- and below-ground biomass	Varies depending on tree species, planting density and rotation period	[25]
10.4	C-binding in soil C-binding in above- and below-ground biomass GHG avoidance through savings on N fertilisers	9.6 t CO ₂ eq/ha*a in terms of biomass growth and soil carbon sequestration 0.8 t CO ₂ eq/ha*a for GHG savings by dispensing with N fertilisation	[26]
6.0	C-binding in the soil C-binding in above- and below-ground biomass	Based on a period of 20 years	[27]
1.8 ... 5.5	C-binding in above- and below-ground biomass	Between 15 and 45 walnut trees for timber production	[14]
7.0	C-binding in above- and below-ground biomass	In relation to the system area: 1.4 t CO ₂ eq/ha*a No significant increase in soil C compared to grassland reference areas	[8]
19.1	C-binding in the soil C binding in above- and below-ground biomass	Reference to hedges and a period of 20 years 16.0 t CO ₂ eq/ha*a with regard to above-ground and below-ground biomass 3.1 t CO ₂ eq/ha*a relating to soil	[28]
8.0	CRF Methodology of the UBA	7.94 t CO ₂ eq/ha*a Conversion of arable land on mineral soils to woody permanent crops 9.57 t CO ₂ eq/ha*a Conversion of arable land on mineral soils to woody plants	[29]



Conclusion

- AF is suitable for carbon farming
- The average reduction effect is 10 t CO_{2eq} per ha and year
- On agricultural land, the potential is estimated at around 1 mill ha of wooded part of AFS in DE
- 10 mill. t CO_{2eq}. → 40 % of the reduction goals until 2030 or 25 % of reduction goals until 2045 from DE climate law 2024 [1]

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