



Conference

Supporting Natural Climate Protection in Agricultural Landscapes with... ...traditional and modern Agroforestry Systems

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Definition of Agroforestry Systems (AFS)

- Agroforestry: “**land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land**” CAP 2014–2022 framework (Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013),
- Since 2023 framework is flexible: Member States are free to define AFS and design payment schemes. Post 2027: 9 MSs planned AFS support in CAP Strategic Plans (EURAf), including transitional payments.
- **Agroforestry practices** (EURAf) include all forms of association of trees and crops (**silvoarable** systems) and/or animals (**silvopastoral** systems), on a parcel of agricultural land, whether in the interior of the parcel or on its edges.
- **Traditional agroforestry systems** on farmland include for instance (grazed) orchards, wood pastures, hedgerow systems, dehesas or montados.
- **Modern agroforestry systems** are systematically designed in **lines or patterns** on arable land or grassland in the way that the wooden structures are integrated in the agricultural production with minimum limitations for machinery and create ecological, **economic and/or social benefits**.



Benefits of Agroforestry Systems

Ecosystem services:

- Long term carbon sequestration (climate change mitigation),
- Bioeconomy resources,
- Reduced chemicals,
- Water protection through filtering and water retention, erosion control,
- Higher biodiversity,
- Animal welfare,
- Improve microclimate – adaptation.



Benefits of Agroforestry Systems

Socio-cultural benefits:

- Communal Resource Management
- Transmission of Traditional Knowledge
- Tourism and Education
- Strengthening Local Identity
- Social-Ecological Resilience



Thematic workshop on AFS

- Băile Homorod, Romania, **16 – 17 June 2025**
- **Good examples:** national measures and projects presented, e.g.
 - CZ: (5.2 M EUR for silvoarable and silvopastoral systems) for establishment 4,353 EUR/ha, for maintenance 754 EUR/ha • suitable for Nature Restoration Action Plan, carbon credit
 - DE: both traditional and modern AFS are recognized in CAP; eco-scheme for modern AFS maintenance (600 EUR/ha from 2026); planting supported in 4/16 regions; target: 200,000 ha, reached: 173 ha by 2024 • for a more successful penetration: knowledge, advisory, clear rules, incentives are needed
 - DE: "Juradistl" brand LA Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz: preserving traditional fruit plantations; support for processing small fruit quantities; developing brand & market opportunities
 - EURAF: "**Agroforestry Starter Pack**" YO–Y6+ CAP measures and carbon credits
- **Recommendation** in one sentence: Varying national frameworks and subsidy policy, clear recognition of AFS and encouragement of new installations would be needed in several MSs.



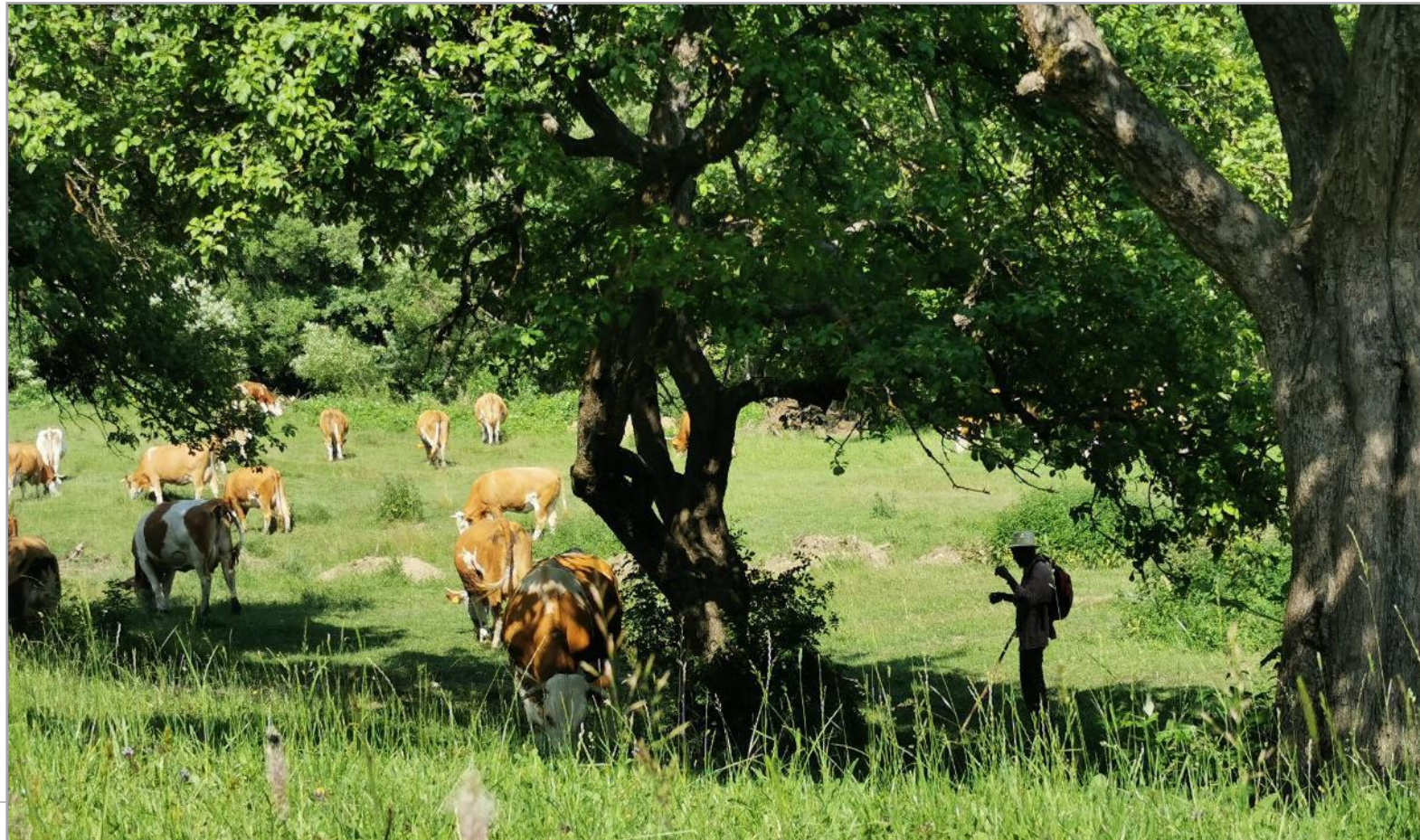
Workshop in Romania - best practice examples

Communal silvopastoral system with rotational grazing on the landscape level



Workshop in Romania - best practice examples

Traditional grazed orchard system



Workshop in Romania - best practice examples

Traditional mixed orchard-vegetable garden system



Workshop in Romania - best practice examples

Traditional silvoarable system with orchard, grain & hay



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Tips for farmers - outlines from the project manual

- Consider **purpose** (e.g. erosion prevention, diversification, long term investment, animal welfare, water retention),
- Start with an **easy and small** system before upscaling,
- Choose **long lasting systems** over short rotation coppice,
- Pick a plot of land **close to the farm** building,
- **Design** the layout and width between rows of trees **according to the width of your machinery** (including a buffer),
- To improve **water retention** plant trees in lines oriented with contour lines and crossing above drainage systems,



Tips for farmers - outlines from the project manual

- **Plant** in spring or autumn and protect trees from animals,
- Wide strips of woody plants (e.g. multiple rows, min. 5 m wide) improve the **erosion prevention**,
- **Enhance biodiversity** by integrating elements in wooded strips like flower strips, dead wood from tree pruning or stone piles for reptiles and insects.
- Calculate **sufficient time for the tree care** in the first years of establishing the system: checking/renewing tree protection, watering, (ideally mechanical) weed suppression, pruning, replacement planting,
- Think about how to **harvest and sell** agroforestry products (timber, fruit, nuts, fodder) before planting,
- **Staggered harvest** of trees keeps up the benefits of AFS for the soil and leave overmature trees,



Support by Landcare(-like) associations

- **Raise awareness** for the importance and protection of traditional agroforestry systems,
- **Contact and communicate with the local administrations** for agriculture and environment and/or water to clarify the legal requirements and support,
- **Consult on initial funding** through CAP measures and beyond e.g. in carbon credits, nature conservation or research projects,
- **Organise trainings** on pruning of fruit trees,



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Support by Landcare(-like) associations

- **Advise on the right plant choice** for native woody plants and robust old varieties, contact and order trees from the nursery,
- **Organise communal planting** and/or harvesting campaigns,
- **Building regional value chains**, e.g. developing local **brands** for agroforestry products like fruit or nuts and organize **infrastructure** projects e.g. fruit processing, juice press or distiller.



CAP RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Secure legal status** and CAP support of different agroforestry systems on farmed land (wood-pastures, orchard-grazing/cropping, alley-cropping/coppice, food-forests, agro-silvo-pasture, woody landscape features);
2. **Long-term perspectives** are needed for farmers to invest;
3. **Protected landscape elements** (hedges, individual trees, copses) included in conditionality requirements should be protected (should not be removed);
4. **Eco-scheme** on agroforestry – annual, flexible, MSs can introduce;
5. **Agri-environmental** and **climate measures** – multiannual, high impact;
6. **Funding** for establishment of **new AFS** & for **value-chain** development;
7. **Advisory**: should pursue both climate resilience and biodiversity, a holistic approach including planning the systems on site and education on soil and water management as well as biodiversity.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Landcare Europe – Focus paper on agroforestry systems as natural carbon sinks

Download here: <https://www.landcare-europe.org/resources>

Landcare Europe agroforestry workshop

Download **presentations** here: https://www.landcare-europe.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Pictures/Activities/2025/WS_RO_Agroforestry_PDF.zip

Download **agenda and report** here: <https://www.landcare-europe.org/events>

Romania's best practice example: Fazakas Farm in Madaras

Watch **video**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vyb8vuSX2u0>

Read **profile**: https://www.landcare-europe.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Pictures/Projects/EUKI/Best_practice_Fazakas_RO_260625_FINAL.pdf

Czech Republic's best practice example: CAP measure for agroforestry

Read **profile**: https://www.landcare-europe.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Pictures/Projects/EUKI/Best_practice_Agroforestry_CAP_CZ_FINAL_040825.pdf



Thank you for your attention!

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