AGROMIX – Introducing Policy Co-Development for Agroforestry and Mixed Farming

EURAF 2021
Agroforestry for the transition towards
sustainability and bioeconomy
Abstract
Corresponding Author:
Ulrich.Schmutz@coventry.ac.uk

<u>Ulrich Schmutz</u>¹, Sara Burbi¹ and Paola Migliorini²
¹ Coventry University, Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry, UK
²University of Gastronomic Sciences, Pollenzo, Bra, Italy

Theme: Policy

Keywords: EURAF 2021, policy, citizen juries, policy co-development, agroforestry, mixed farming,

AGROMIX

Abstract

Background

Mixed farming systems have been the predominant farming system in Europe for many centuries. However, the first mention of the word 'aaroforestry' in policy documents of the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) was only recently, in the 1998 EU forestry strategy (Larson et al. 2019). The first World Agroforestry Congress in Europe was only held in May 2019. Agroforestry as a mainstream land use has come to Europe late and spearheaded by pioneers like e.g. Martin Wolfe, the late Professor working at Coventry University and Wakelyns agroforestry (Wolfe and Pasiecznik, 2000). Den Herder et al. (2017) estimated the total area under agroforestry in the EU-27 about 15.4 million ha which is equivalent to about 8.8% of the utilised agricultural area (UAA). Over the last decades, structural changes in the EU agriculture have been reflected by declining number of farms, farm size growth and re-specialization of production, moving away from mixed farming (Neuenfeldt et al., 2018, EC Eurostat). The percentage of mixed farming of total agricultural holdings in EU-28 has decreased from 30% in 2005 to 21% in 2016 (EC Eurostat). With 8.8% of the UAA in Europe this is already a substantial area and currently more than the certified organic UAA. Although, certified organic farming is fast growing and likely to double in size in the next 20 years, it is not always, but mostly, mixed farming. In contrast, agroforestry within organic farms can be found more often but it is by no means exclusive to certified organic farming, or farming systems based on agroecological farming practices. Often low input farmers with mixed grazing or agroforestry (e.g. pasture feed beef, hay-milk systems, free-range chicken or agroforestry free-range pigs, chicken, sheep & beef,) are very close to organic management and could convert to organic farming quickly if the market can accommodate further organic produce. Therefore, both systems overlap and there are synergies which need to be considered in the policy work. Especially if another 10% of the UAA in Europe is converted to certified farming systems, including mixed farming and agroforestry in EU legislation regulating certified farming systems is one the policy options.

Research

The working assumption in AGROMIX's policy research is that despite several agroforestry and mixed farming support policies the full potential of this system in Europe has yet to be lifted. AGROMIX is a new 4-year H2020 project which started in November 2020. The AGROMIX policy workshops will contribute to a better scientific understanding of policy co-development from a bottom-up citizen perspective, contributing to the 2021-2027 CAP policy dialog. Novel for agroforestry and mixed farming policy development is a set of comparative policy workshops at different policy levels: EU level, member states in Eastern and Western Europe but also non-EU states within Europe, like Switzerland and UK. Those may have more flexible regulations like Lawson et al. (2019) report for Switzerland (Dupraz et al., 2019) or potentially better (or worse) regulation for 'Environmental Land Management' as planned in the UK. In addition, devolved federal state levels are studied, e.g. in East and West Germany. This multiple approach gives a better policy understanding for the EU level and the stakeholder-led bottom-up approach will help ascertain which policies (related to agroforestry and mixed farming) are best pursued at which level to maximise impact. The workshops adopt a format similar to the 'citizen jury' methodology used in social

science as a form of mini-public (Bryant and Hall, 2017, Wakeford et al., 2015). The participants are citizens, but already with prior knowledge and interest in food and farming policy. They can be farmers, food-chain actors, environmental charities or any other interested stakeholders, but their input will be as citizen not necessarily as representative of a specific lobby group or agenda. As in previous work (Burbi et al., 2016, Zasada, Schmutz et al., 2019) participants will be presented with preliminary scenario modelling results/visualisations. Input from across the world (Kumar, 2019) and especially through the AGROMIX advisory board will also be used.

This presentation introduces the research concept, and invites a critical discussion on the research and modelling approaches proposed (AGROMIX, 2020).

References

- AGROMIX (2020). AGROforestry and MIXed farming systems Participatory research to drive the transition to a resilient and efficient land use in Europe. www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-directories/current-projects/2020/agromix/ [accessed June 2020].
- Bryant, P. and J. Hall (2017). Citizens Jury Literature Review. Shared Future a community interest company, www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk, [accessed June 2020].
- Burbi, S., Baines, R.N. and J. S. Conway. (2016). Achieving successful farmer engagement on greenhouse gas emission mitigation. International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability, 14(4), pp.466-483.
- den Herder, M., Moreno, G., Mosquera-Losada, M.R., Palma, J., Sidiropoulou, A., Santiago-Freijanes, J., Crous-Duran, J., Paulo, J., Tomé, M., Pantera, A. Papanastasis, V., Mantzanas, K., Pachana, P., Papadopoulos, A., Plieninger, T. and Burgess, P. (2017). Current extent and stratification of agroforestry in the European Union. Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment. 241. 121-132. 10.1016/j.agee.2017.03.005.
- Dupraz, C., Gowme, M., Lawson, G. (2019). Book of Abstracts, 4th World Congress on Agroforestry. Agroforestry: strengthening links between science, society and policy. Montpellier: CIRAD, INRA, World Agroforestry. Two volumes: 959 pages.
- Larson, G., P. Burgess, F. Herzog and P. Worms (2019). European Agroforestry Policy history and future opportunities. 4th World Congress on Agroforestry, 20-22 May 2019. Book of Abstracts. Edited by Dupraz et al., p 424, Montpellier, France.
- Kumar, B.M. (2019). Mainstreaming India's National Agroforestry Policy: Challenges and Opportunities. 4th World Congress on Agroforestry, 20-22 May 2019. Book of Abstracts. Edited by Dupraz et al., p 424, Montpellier, France.
- Wakeford T., Pimbert M., Walcon E. (2015). Re-fashioning citizens' juries: Participatory democracy in action. In: Bradbury-Huang H. (ed.) The Sage handbook of action research, 3rd ed. New York, NY: SAGE, (pp. 229–245).
- Wolfe, M. S. and Pasiecznik, N. M. (2000). The potential for organic agroforestry: management of trees on organic farms. Proceedings 13th International IFOAM Scientific Conference, Basel, Switzerland, 28 to 31 August, 2000 (eds. Alföldi, T., Lockeretz, W. and U. Niggli).
- Zasada, I., Schmutz, U., Wascher, D., Kneafsey, M., Corsi, S., Mazzocchi, C., Monaco, F., Boyce, P., Doernberg, A., Sali, G. & Piorr, A. (2019). Food beyond the City Analysing Foodsheds and Self-Sufficiency under different Food System Scenarios in European Metropolitan Regions. City, Culture and Society. 16 (2019), p. 25-35 10 p.



Figure 1. AGROMIX H2020 logo, www.agromix.com