

1. Agroforestry and the Green Deal

EURAF Policy Briefing No 1, 15.9.20, (v2 24.9.23) Patrick Worms and Gerry Lawson¹, 10.5281/zenodo.7953307



EURAF is an NGO, established in Paris on 16/11/2012, with a French Registration number of [W343014937](#) and a Transparency Register ID of [913270437706-82](#). It aims “to promote the adoption of agroforestry practices across Europe by supporting efforts to develop awareness, education, research, policy making and investments which foster the use of trees on farms”. It has a network of 31 affiliated entities in 23 countries.

This is an updated version (Sep 23) of the first in a series of Briefings about agroforestry policy in the European Union, its Member States, and other European countries. It gives an overview of the documents behind the European Green deal, and the mentions given to agroforestry. See [euraf.net](#) for later briefings.

1 The Green Architecture of the New CAP

For agroforesters, 2019 and 2020 were years full of promise. Later policy briefings in this series will cover whether this initial promise has been fulfilled!

Firstly, on 20th May 2019 a [presidency working paper](#) was published on “Horizontal Agricultural Questions” which made it clear that the “100 tree/ha rule” was dead - or at least it should have been. Member States were assured by Council that

agricultural land under agroforestry is fully eligible for Direct Payments “when justified based on the local specificities (e.g. density/species/size of the trees and pedoclimatic conditions) and the value added by the presence of trees, to ensure sustainable agricultural use of the land”. It was also noted that “this encompasses all possible agricultural land uses, avoiding the inclusion of trees only on arable land, as agroforestry systems are present also on permanent grassland and permanent crops”.



Then, on 11th December 2019, the [European Green Deal](#) was published. This overarching document guides European policy for the next 7 years and recognises the strategic importance of agroforestry. Importantly, it said: *The Commission will ensure that Strategic Plans are assessed against robust climate and environmental criteria. These plans should lead to the use of sustainable practices, such as **precision agriculture, organic farming, agroecology, agroforestry** and stricter animal welfare standards. By shifting the focus from compliance to performance, measures such as eco-schemes should reward farmers for improved environmental and climate performance, including managing and storing carbon in the soil, and improved nutrient management to improve water quality and reduce emissions.*

Then on 20th May 2020 came the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) which also contained an important commitment to agroforestry: *“The new ‘eco-schemes’ will offer a major stream of funding to boost sustainable practices, such as precision agriculture, agroecology (including organic farming), carbon farming and **agroforestry**. Member States and the Commission will have to ensure that they are appropriately resourced and implemented in the Strategic Plans. The Commission will support the introduction of a minimum ring-fencing budget for eco-schemes”*

Finally, and also on 20.5.20 the EU [Biodiversity Strategy](#) was published. This promised that “the uptake of **agroforestry support measures** under rural development should be increased as it has great potential to provide multiple benefits for biodiversity, people and climate. The new forest strategy ... will include a roadmap for planting at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030, in full respect of ecological principles. Tree planting is particularly beneficial in cities, while in rural areas it can work well with **agroforestry**, landscape features and increased carbon sequestration.”

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EURAF [Policy Briefing #21](#) summarises the definitions of agroforestry used in the CAP Strategic Plans of Member States, but this briefing, back in September 20, summarised the EURAF Agroforestry Typology, and made a number of recommendations for its use in the Land Parcel Identification Systems of Member States.

2 What is agroforestry?

In the EU, agroforestry has a simple and flexible definition: “a land use system in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land” (Reg 1305/2013). This definition is complemented by Article 4 of the EURAF Constitution: “Agroforestry practices 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 (hedges)”.

The EURAF Agroforestry Typology (Table 1) is based on Dupraz et al [\[1\]](#) and Mosquera-Losada et al [\[2\]](#). It recognises that all rural land in the EU is divided first into "agricultural land" and "forest land", then classified into "arable land", "permanent grassland" and "permanent crops". This information is held in national Land Parcel Information Systems (LPIS), and data on land-use and crops in parcels and sub-parcels is supplemented with an GIS layer, which records "landscape features". These must be on agricultural land and include hedges, individual trees, lines of trees and groups of trees. They have a measure of protection and do not detract from the eligible area used for the calculation of basic payments. Silvopastoral or silvoarable parcels may also be fully eligible for basic payments, depending on the threshold values used by Member States (MS) to scale-back payments according to the number of trees or their crown-cover. In normal circumstances, agricultural basic payments are not made for forest parcels, although in most countries these areas are eligible for assistance from CAP rural development budgets.

Table 1 *The EURAF Agroforestry Typology (Worms and Lawson 2020)*

Tree location	Agroforestry System	Agroforestry Practice	
		Agricultural Land	Forest Land
In parcels	Silvopastoral	1 Wood pasture	9 Forest grazing
	Silvoarable	2 Tree alley cropping 3 Coppice alley cropping 4 Multi-layer gardens	10 Muiti-layer gardens
		5 Orchard intercropping, 6 Orchard grazing.	
	Agro-silvo-pasture	7 Alternating cropping and grazing	
Between parcels	Landscape Features	8. Hedges, trees in groups, trees in lines, individual trees	
Settlements	Urban agroforestry	11 Homegardens, allotments, etc.	

Our Recommendations:

1. In the new CAP, starting in 2023, the ten agroforestry practices tabulated above should be included as IACS/LPIS codes,
2. Landscape features, and particularly tree–landscape-features should be marked on farm-orthophotos by Member States, and farmers asked to confirm their boundaries (as done by France in the previous CAP).²
3. Farmers should be reassured that Landscape Features are always fully eligible for basic payments.
4. IACS/LPIS returns should be used by MS for GHG Emissions Reporting to the EU and to the UNFCCC. MS could provide databases of estimated GHG emissions at least for NUTS4 municipalities, and potentially down to the level of individual farms. .

² We totally agree with the WWF suggested Amendment to the SP Regulation Article 129 (3). “3. Existing up-to-date administrative registers such as the IACS, LPIS, animal and vineyard registers shall be maintained and reinforced. The IACS and LPIS shall be further developed to better meet the statistical needs of the CAP. By 1 January 2023, at the latest, all Member States shall have in their LPIS an updated layer with full territorial coverage for high-biodiversity landscape features. Data from administrative registers shall be used as much as possible for statistical purposes and to monitor compliance in cooperation with statistical authorities in Member States and with Eurostat.”

3 References

1. Dupraz C, Lawson GJ, Lamersdorf N, Papanastasis VP, Rosati A, Ruiz-Mirazo J. Temperate agroforestry: the European way. In: Gordon A, Newman SM, Coleman B, editors. *Temperate Agroforestry Systems*. CABI: Wallingford; 2018. pp. 98–152.
2. Mosquera-Losada MR, Freijanes JJS, Pisanelli A, Rois M, Smith J, den Herder M, et al. How can policy support the uptake of agroforestry in Europe? Cranfield University; 2017. Report No.: EU AGFORWARD Project - Grant No 613520. Available: https://euraf.isa.utl.pt/files/pub/docs/deliverable_8_24_how_can_policy_support_agroforestry1.pdf