

The role of EU rural development policy in supporting agroforestry systems in EU

A. Pisanelli¹, P. Paris¹,
D. Marandola², R. Romano², S. Marongiu²,
A. Rosati³

¹ Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto di Biologia Agroambientale e Forestale. Italy.
andrea.pisanelli@ibaf.cnr.it

² Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria, Osservatorio Foreste. Italy.
marandola@inea.it

³ Consiglio per la Ricerca e la sperimentazione in Agricoltura - Centro di ricerca per l'olivicoltura e l'industria olearia. Italy.
adolfo.rosati@entecra.it



Italian working group in Agroforestry



National Research
Council



National Institute of
Agricultural Economics



Agricultural Research
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Veneto Agricoltura

Define guidelines supporting the implementation of Agroforestry in the next 2014-2020 RDPs:

- Investigating how EU policy acknowledged agroforestry in the RDPs 2007-2013;
- Assessing the implementation of agroforestry in the RDPs 2007-2013 and understand the reasons that affected agroforestry uptake;
- Highlighting the perspectives and opportunities for agroforestry in the RDPs 2014-2020.



COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

(39) Agro-forestry systems have a high ecological and social value by combining extensive agriculture and forestry systems, aimed at the production of high-quality wood and other forest products.

Agroforestry establishment should be supported.



Agroforestry in the Rural Development Plans



Rural Development Plans (RDP) 2007-2013

Main supporting mechanisms to EU agricultural and forestry sectors

Axis 1: Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside through land management

Axis 3: Improving the quality of the life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy

Axis 4: Leader



Forestry measures in RDPs 2007-2013

Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside through land management

221	First afforestation of agricultural land
222	First establishment of agroforestry systems
223	First afforestation of non agricultural land
224	Natura 2000 payments
225	Forest environment payments
226	Restoring forestry potential and introducing preventing actions
227	Non-productive investments



Implementation of measure 222: Methodological approach

- I. Comparing the resources allocated to implement measure 222 with other forestry measures;
- II. Assessing the effective expenditures invested in establishing new agroforestry systems;
- III. Analysing the realised output indicators (area and farmers) in comparison with the expected target

Source of data

European Network for Rural Development (ENRD),
http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/home-page_en.cfm

The National Rural Network, managed by INEA, Italy
<http://www.reterurale.it>



Measure 222: first establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land

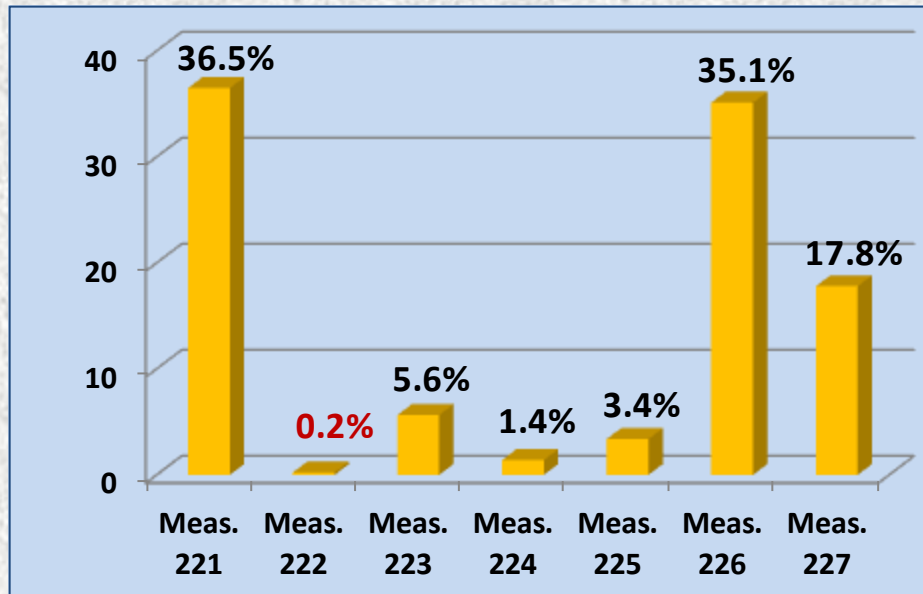
Aims: Biodiversity conservation; Greenhouse gasses reduction; soil preservation

- Support may be granted to farmers to create agroforestry systems combining **extensive agriculture** and forestry systems.
- Agroforestry systems refer to land use systems in which **trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land.**
- Tree density 50-100/ha on arable or grazing land
- Support can be provided for **establishment costs only up to 80%** of the total costs of installation.

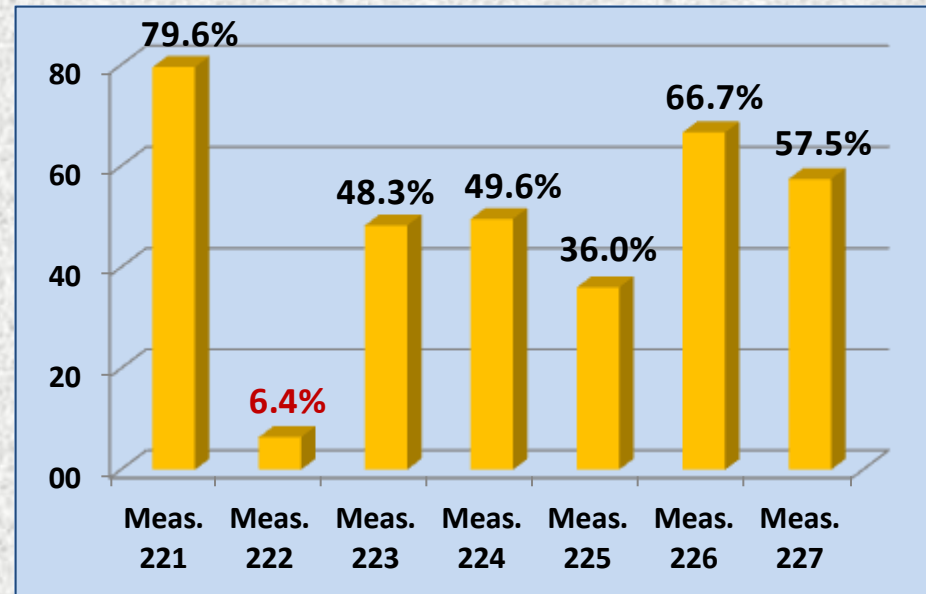


Resources allocated to the forestry measures about 7 billions €

% distribution among the forestry measures



Implementation rate of the forestry measures



Resources allocated to the measures 222: about 15 millions

Country	Region	Financial plan	Financial execution	Implementation rate (%)
Belgium	Flanders	500000	11752	
	Total	500000	11752	2.4
France	Hexagon	2852202	101138	
	Guadeloupe	326000	0	
	Guyana	50000	0	
	Total	3228202	101138	3.1
Hungary	Total	2813540	720574	25.6
Italy	Marche	1270000	0	
	Veneto	30000	9797	
	Total	1300000	9797	0.8
Portugal	Mainland	6644519	102827	
	Azores	160000	0	
	Total	6804519	102827	1.5
Total EU 27		14646261	946088	6.4



Output indicators measures 222: number of beneficiaries

Country	Target (n)	Realised (n)	Implementation rate (%)
Belgium	75	7	9.3
France	610	15	2.5
Hungary	300	93	31.0
Italy	1032	2	0.2
Portugal	575	3	0.5
Total	2592	120	4.6



Output indicators measures 222: hectares under new agroforestry systems

Country	Target (ha)	Realised (ha)	Implementation rate (%)
Belgium	250	7.55	3.0
France	3032	92	3.0
Hungary	3000	905.45	30.2
Italy	6729	24	0.4
Portugal	15025	183	1.2
Total	28036	1212	4.3



Success or failure?

Failure because

- Lack of knowledge and awareness of farmers, consultants, and managing authorities;
- Limited range of agroforestry systems that could be supported;
- Limited allocation of resources to the measure 222 and lack of funding for maintenance costs of the systems;
- Conflict between measure 222 and other CAP instruments (Single Farm Payment).

Success because

- Agroforestry is now recognised within the EU policy;
- Growing interest and consensus around agroforestry at EU level;
- AGFORWARD Project EU 7th FP started (26 partners, 16 countries);
- Learning the lesson and take the opportunity to implement successful approach.



EURAF's Position paper

PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

- Increase number of trees up to 250/ha;
- Inclusion of the definition of agroforestry as recognized by the scientific community;
- Extension of the support period up to 5 years to cover maintenance costs;
- Removal the link between agroforestry and extensive agriculture

**Allowing European farmers to have
the free choice to adopt agroforestry**



EU Reg. 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) 2014-2020

- i) agroforestry systems means land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land;**
- ii) grants should cover both the establishment costs (up to 80% of the expenses) and the management costs with an annual premium for 5 years;**
- iii) tree density according to the pedoclimatic conditions**
- iv) beneficiaries should be not limited to farmers but may include also Municipalities and Associations**



New perspectives in the next rural development programme (2014-20) for the adoption of agroforestry systems in Europe



Opportunity to:

implement coordinated and shared strategies involving different stakeholders: farmers, research system, industries, policy makers

- **promote technical skills and awareness (training, seminars, communicative actions, demonstration sites) concerning agroforestry;**
- **continue research activities adopting an integrate approach: agroforestry is multidimensional**



Next step:

survey to EU regions that allocated resources to the measure 222 in order to:

Collect qualitative data and information to implement guidelines reinforcing the effectiveness of the measure in the programme 2014-2020

- ✓ **Get knowledge about the reasons that inspired EU Regions/Countries to allocate resource to implement the measure 222 during the period 2007-2013;**
- ✓ **Understand the main constraints that hampered the implementation of the measure 222 ;**
- ✓ **Obtain any additional and useful information concerning the measure 222 in EU Regions/Countries.**



Thanks for the attention!

