

Agroforestry in the CAP 2013-20



Assessing eligible areas

Agroforestry pictures

EU Agroforestry Forum

- www.agroforestry.eu
- www.eurafwiki.eu (registration needed)
- **Projects**
- Agforward - www.agforward.eu
- Agrofe - www.agrofe.eu
- SAFE - www1.montpellier.inra.fr/safe/



Definitions of 'agroforestry'

- **EU:** Article 23 of the new Rural Development [Regulation 1305/2013](#): “For the purposes of this Article, agroforestry systems are defined as land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land”
- **USDA:** “Agroforestry is the intentional growing of trees and shrubs in combination with crops or forage. Agroforestry also includes tree and shrub plantings on the farm or ranch that improve habitat value or access by humans and wildlife, or that provide woody plant products in addition to agricultural crops or forage. Agroforestry is distinguished from traditional forestry by having the additional aspect of a closely associated agricultural or forage crop.”

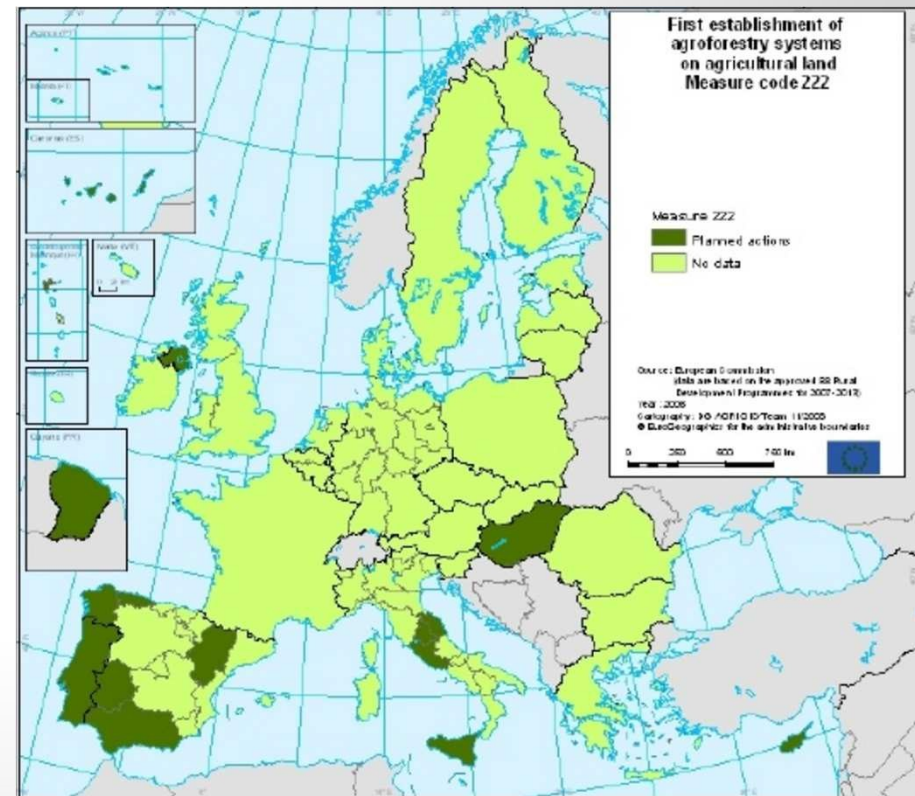
EU Forest Strategy

“2.1.10. (Working Paper) **Agroforestry systems**, are at the interface between agriculture and forestry, and are important. The system integration of trees, crops and/or livestock on the same area of land. Trees can stand inside parcels or on the boundaries (hedges). Agroforestry can be applied to all agricultural systems, in all parts of Europe. Agroforestry systems are obtained by planting trees on agricultural land (silvoarable) or by introducing agriculture in existing woodland (silvopasture). This land use can optimise the benefits from the biological interactions created when trees are deliberately combined with crops and/or livestock and can help to cope with future challenges, including climate change adaptation.

Europe has a unique heritage of traditional agroforestry systems with a high environmental and cultural value, and a high potential for innovative modern agroforestry systems as developed by research centres across Europe during the last two decades. However, since no statistics on such practices exist, its contribution to agriculture or rural economy is undervalued.” See eurafwiki.eu for examples

Agroforestry in EU Rural Development Plans

- Budgeted in only 17 of the 88 RDPs in 2007-13
- Uptake was very low (no maintenance payment, loss of SFP, bureaucracy, uncertainty?)
- It will be implemented by many more regions in 2014-2020 - Reg 1305/2013, and is included in Ecological Focus Areas.



Definitions of 'forest'

- Most countries have their own definitions of [‘forest’](#)
- **FAO (2015)** *“Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use (see note).”*
- **EU (2009)** ([Directive 2009/28/EC](#), Article 17(4)(b)) defines “continuously forested areas ... as land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than five metres and a canopy cover of more than 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ”;

Note: FAO (2015) ... ‘forest’ “excludes tree stands in agricultural production systems, such as fruit tree plantations, oil palm plantations, olive orchards and **agroforestry systems when crops are grown under tree cover**. Note: Some agroforestry systems such as the “Taungya” system where crops are grown only during the first years of the forest rotation should be classified as forest.”

Definition of grassland (1)

[Regulation 1307/2013](#), on direct payments to farmers, includes a new definition of "permanent grasslands". Article 4 H: "Permanent grassland and permanent pasture" (together referred to as "permanent grassland") means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or more;

it may include other species such as shrubs and/or trees which can be grazed provided that the grasses and other herbaceous forage remain predominant as well as, where Member States so decide, land which can be grazed and which forms part of established local practices where grasses and other herbaceous forage are traditionally not predominant in grazing areas;

Definition of grassland (2)

[Regulation 1307/2014](#), which relates to two Bioenergy Directives, says that *“grassland’ means terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous or shrub vegetation at least 5 years continuously. It includes meadows or pasture that is cropped for hay but excludes land cultivated for other crop production and cropland lying temporarily fallow.”*

It further *“excludes continuously forested areas as defined in Article 17(4)(b) of Directive 2009/28/EC unless these are agroforestry systems which include land-use systems where trees are managed together with crops or animal production systems in agricultural settings. The **dominance** of herbaceous or shrub vegetation means that their combined ground cover is larger than the canopy cover of trees.”*

Agroforestry as 'agricultural land' & GAEC7 trees are 'eligible' for direct payments

[Regulation 1306/2013](#), on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP:

- **Article 22 (b)** says ... *ensure agri-economic and agri-environmental monitoring of agricultural land, including **agro-forestry**, and monitoring of the condition of crops so as to enable estimates to be made, in particular as regards yields and agricultural production*
- **Appendix II. GAEC 7** *Retention of landscape features, including where appropriate, hedges, ponds, ditches, **trees in line, in groups or isolated**, field margins and terraces, and including a ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season and, as an option, measures for avoiding invasive plant species - GAEC7 trees are exempt from the 100 tree rule (like 'grazed' trees or 'fruit' trees).*

Delegated Regulation 640/2014 (1)

[Commission Delegated Regulation 640/2014](#) (supplementing and interpreting Regulation 1306/2013) devotes its Chapter II to “**Agricultural parcels with landscape features and trees**”. There are two Articles in the Chapter:

Article 9 “Determination of areas where the agricultural parcel contains landscape features and trees”:

1. *Where certain landscape features, in particular **hedges**, ditches and walls, are traditionally part of good agriculture cropping or utilisation practices on agricultural area in certain regions, **Member States may decide that the corresponding area shall be considered part of the eligible area** of an agricultural parcel within the meaning of Article 67(4)(a) of [Regulation \(EU\) No 1306/2013](#) provided that it does not exceed a total width to be determined by the **Member State concerned**. That width shall correspond to a traditional width in the region concerned and **shall not exceed 2 metres**.*

Delegated Regulation 640/2014 (2)

Article 9 “Determination of areas where the agricultural parcel contains landscape features and trees” (continued)

2. *Any landscape features subject to the requirements and standards listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 which form part of the total area of an agricultural parcel **shall be considered part of the eligible area** of that agricultural parcel.*
3. *An agricultural parcel that contains scattered trees shall be considered as eligible area provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:*
 - a) ***agricultural activities can be carried out in a similar way** as on parcels without trees in the same area;*
and
 - b) *the **number of trees per hectare** does not exceed a maximum density (this will be **defined by Member States** and notified on the basis of traditional cropping practices, natural conditions and environmental reasons. **It shall not exceed 100 trees per hectare.** However, that limit shall not apply in relation to the measures referred to in Articles 28 and 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (agri-environment-climate and nitrate-sensitive zone payments)*

Delegated Regulation 640/2014 (3)

Article 10, Pro-rata system for permanent grassland containing landscape features and trees.

Note: this is an alternative to the above (Article 9) but is only applicable to permanent grasslands.

1. *As regards permanent grassland with **scattered ineligible features, such as landscape features and trees**, Member States may decide to apply a pro-rata system to determine the eligible area within the reference parcel.*

*The pro-rata system referred to in the first subparagraph shall consist of **different categories of homogeneous land cover types** for which a **fixed reduction coefficient based on the percentage of ineligible area** is applied.*

1. *Any landscape features subject to the requirements and standards listed in Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) No 1306/2013](#) which form part of the total area of an agricultural parcel shall be considered part of the eligible area.*
2. *This article shall not apply to permanent grassland containing fruit trees which yield repeated harvests.*

Guidance Document for the LPIS

4- The [Guidance Document on the Land Parcel Identification System](#) (LPIS) provides details to Member States on how to implement Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the aforementioned Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 640/2014.

This “LPIS Guidance” defines the rules for delineating the three types of ‘agricultural land’ (arable land, permanent grassland and pasture, permanent crops (including SRC)). It also restricts the eligibility of “**scattered trees which can be grazed in permanent grassland**”, in Article 9 (100 trees) and Article 10 (pro-rata) for non-grazable trees to mean that the trees should be “*actually accessible to farm animals for grazing for their full area*”. This seems to exclude trees which contribute acorns or are regularly cut for fodder.

More Agroforestry is coming...

Agroforestry is no longer a 'niche' land use

- At the [National Agroforestry Day](#) (12/12/14) the French Ministry of Agriculture announced a target of '50% of farmers using agroforestry by 2025'.
- The EU [Climate and Energy Framework](#) (24/10/14) encourages both afforestation and agricultural intensification - **which exactly describes agroforestry:**

*The European Council invites the Commission to examine the best means of encouraging the **sustainable intensification of food production, while optimising the sector's contribution to greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration, including through afforestation.** Policy on how to include Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry into the 2030 greenhouse gas mitigation framework will be established as soon as technical conditions allow and in any case before 2020.*