



AGFOSY NEWSLETTER #2

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AGFOSY is an EU funded Erasmus+ project that will create a flexible training system relating to agroforestry. It will be based on case studies and best practices that will provide farmers and landowners with the skills, knowledge and competencies to implement agroforestry systems on their own farms.

Agroforestry (AF) is a land-use system where trees are grown in association with agricultural crops or livestock on the same land. Such measures can bring a wide range of positive benefits to land management, as well as to help landowners to achieve the goals of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The project began in 2018 and will run for 24 months. The consortium is made up on 7 partners from 6 countries.

The project will:

- Create a state-of-the-art analysis on the situation of agroforestry implementation in partner countries
- Compile a set of interesting case studies that will represent the core content of the training system
- Develop methodological sheets for establishment and management of agroforestry
- Develop training materials with introductory videos.

Summary Report

The Summary Report has combined the State-of-the-Art National Reports written by each partner country: Czech Republic, Spain, Slovakia, France, Hungary, Belgium. It gives an overview of the situation of Agroforestry in partner countries, looking at the awareness, implementation, training and policy.

3rd Project Meeting

The 3rd Meeting of the AGFOSY project took place in Zvolen, Slovakia on the 7-8th of November 2019.

The 24-month project is halfway through, and partners have been working hard,

Partners have also been working on creating study material for students/farmers and lesson plans for lecturers that will provide literature, summaries, and other educational material that will help improve skills and expand knowledge of important agroforestry measures such as alley cropping and the use of short-rotation coppice trees.

The project aims to provide students, farmers, landowners and tutors with the necessary tools to implement agroforestry measures successfully on farms.

The second day of the meeting consisted of field visits to see examples of agroforestry in Slovakia. Agroforestry is a new topic for both researchers and farmers in Slovakia, with the country having a long-term tradition of pastoralism and sheep-breeding.

The first visit was to Farma Turová, a 235ha ecological farm breeding cattle and an on-farm organic slaughterhouse. It wasn't until the summer of 2019, that farmer Peter Badiar came across the term Agroforestry, however he has been modifying existing and overgrown pastures since 2013. The 'recultivation' was initiated in order to obtain a grazing area that would be more valuable for the livestock, and he believes that agroforestry should also be combined with other measures enhancing the ecological value of the landscape, such as water retention measures.

The second stop was to Gavurky in Dobra Niva where we met Peter Zach from Institute of Forest Ecology of Slovak Academy of Sciences. Gavurky, once an oak forest, is one of the best-preserved wood pastures in Central Europe. Stretching across 120ha, the protected area is open to visitors to come and enjoy the outdoors. In the past, the forest was used as a training ground for Slovak and Russian forces, and the land has seen intense changes to its landscape. Today, cattle come and graze the land, whilst home to thousands of flora and fauna. For the managers at Gavurky the best nature conversations come from the local people and children who get involved in activities centred around Gavurky.

The next meeting will be May 5th and 6th, 2020 in Sopron, Hungary. Be sure to join us on Twitter with @AGFOSY_ERASMUS or on Facebook with @Agfosy

Case Studies

Belgium Case Study – Ferme Du Pre



The farm was originally established in 1984 and was a very typical Belgian farm, with mostly conventional crops that would vary throughout the years. As with many farms in the area, they had issues with erosion (causing lots of calcium) and a lack of biodiversity.

The farmer had very little previous knowledge in Agroforestry and met with a doctoral student from the University of Ghent who helped him learn about agroforestry. After the farmer discovered there were subsidies available and good information provided by the AWF (Association pour l'Agroforestrie en Wallonie), he got to work, planting rows and hedges of trees.

Silvopastoral agroforestry with high natural value: farmer Tibor Papšo (Slovakia)



The organic farm of Tibor Papšo is located in the picturesque region of Rajecká Valley and is focused on breeding beef cattle, sheep and in lesser extent breeding horses and swine breeding. In addition, he has planted dozens of solitary trees of obsolete varieties and landraces of fruit trees on his land. Tibor is educated in agriculture and therefore his direction to nature and ecology was natural. He operates a natural and traditional type of agroforestry system, as the natural conditions themselves predetermine this type of farming for this area. It is therefore a return to the original foothill farming focused on livestock and sheep breeding. This management is ideal for devastated meadows and pastures, often overgrown with natural seeding.

French Case Study



More than 20 years ago, Alain Magnaut decided to turn a traditional poplar plantation existing on his farm into a silvopastoral system by breeding poultry under the trees. The system is really good for the animal welfare: chicken are always outside as they are protected from sun, rain and predators. The trees, properly planted and pruned by the farmer, are well developed and have a real economic value. The poultry activity brings short term income supplementing the long-term income from the sale of timber.

Spanish Case Study



Olivar de Aloe is an ecological dryland olive grove, in which an aloe vera crop,

of succulent plants of low size. The farm is located in the Jaén province (Andalusia), in the south of Spain, and it has been running successfully since 2015.

CASE STUDY CZ – Jiří Michalisko Farm



The farm covers an area of 39 ha and is focused on crop and animal production. Jiří started with agroforestry during the professional breeding of game and after he has planted trees subsequently on pastures of farm animals. Soon enough, Jiří discovered that the fields managed by him also needed protection, and therefore began to plant trees in lines dividing the field and leaving the boundary to natural regeneration. The planting of trees on pastures resulted in better structure of grasslands and Jiří also noticed higher harvest and content of oil in rapeseed grown in the agroforestry system.

Hungary Case Study



Although the proportion of wood-pastures in Hungary, which has a long history, has now decreased, the popularity of this type of farming and life is increasing today. One of the most beautiful wood-pasture management systems in Hungary is located in the heart of Bakony mountains, on 200 ha. The farmer has been operating an agroforestry system since 2009. The system is aimed at sustainable self-sufficiency and production on the local market, as well as the conservation of genetic resources. Gene conservation extends to several species, including Hucul horses, Hungarian Domestic Buffalo, Gray cattle, Cikta and Tsigai Sheep, black Hortobágy Racka Sheep, and the partridge-coloured Hungarian hen. Their pasture management is not limited to rotational grazing, but they also change the animals grazing in a pastureland. As a result of using this land-use practice, the farmer can provide better quality and quantity of breeding animal, including an improved quality and quantity of slaughter animal. Trees and shrubs provide wind protection, shelter and a better microclimate which improves animal welfare. Total biomass and feed yields are higher, and fresh fall foliage and fruits are utilized by animals. Wild fruit yields are an added benefit to animals compared to woodless pastures and side product for the farmer's family. Besides, the biodiversity has increased or remained at expected levels.

Meet the Partners



Asociace
soukromého
zemědělství ČR

The Association of Private Farming of the Czech Republic is a voluntary professional organisation of private farmers in the Czech Republic. All its activities are based on respecting old peasant traditions and the conviction that

The Czech Association for Agroforestry is an NGO, whose main objective is to promote agroforestry in the Czech Republic. CSAL is focused on building awareness among a broad range of stakeholders working in the rural environment about positive impacts of agroforestry systems.



On Projects is a project management consultancy company. Its main focus is advising companies, associations, and public bodies on the management, monitoring and evaluation of publicly funded projects.

The Co-operational Centre of the **University of Sopron** focuses on research activities in the field of Environmental Resources Management, Agroforestry and Improvement of the methodology, and practical implementation of environmental impact assessment procedures. Work is carried out on a participatory basis, in cooperation with experts at the University's faculties and networks of stakeholders.



The French Agroforestry Association aims to promote and encourage the development of agroforestry across France. The association is involved in a number of projects ranging from research and development through awareness raising and education.

National Forest Centre is a semi-budgetary forestry agency established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. The agency is in charge of the research and development of all areas of forestry, addressing the issues relating to the natural environment and human activities.



The European Landowners' Organization is a federation of national associations from the 28 EU Member States and



ELO is committed to supporting sustainable development, conservation and the responsible use of natural resources.

If you would like to keep up to date with the project development, you can follow us on the links below.



GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

As of 25 May 2018, the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is in effect. Our newsletters are sent by email to make you aware of how the AGFOSY project is progressing. If you're happy with the emails you receive from us, you do not need to take any action. We will continue to send email updates to keep you informed about the AGFOSY project. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, just click "unsubscribe" at the bottom of this email and we will remove your email address immediately from our mailing list. If you have questions regarding your data, please contact the Project at info.agfosy@gmail.com



ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE d'AGROFORESTERIE
L'agriculture dans les règles de l'arbre



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