

84rd EURAF Executive Committee Report

28th March 2018 10:30 – 12:00

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez and Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present

Elected Executive Committee: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Anastasia Pantera

National Delegates: Andrea Vityi, Andrea Pisanelli, Adolfo Rosati, Bohdan Lojka, Joao Palma, Josep Crous Duran, Jo Smith, Norbert Lamersdorf, Robert Borek, Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez

Invited: Patrick Worms

Apologies: Jeroen Watté

1. ROSA REPORT

1.1 MEETINGS

- Second AKIS meeting, (no payment of travelling neither accommodation)

One of the aspects pointed out in this meeting is that the post-2020 CAP will promote agricultural extension services. The development of extension services at European level is key for the European Commission to make agriculture more sustainable. Moreover, the European Commission want to include in the new PAC, systems to pay farmers for results related to ecosystem services and for this extension services are key as a way to transfer knowledge.

- FAO Forestry Meeting, 20-21 February, Rosa

In this meeting it was indicated that 70% of greenhouse gas emissions are due to the lack of forest management. Agroforestry systems improve the management of forest areas and therefore greenhouse gas emissions are decreased. An FAO officer showed interest in working with the inventory of the agroforestry practices at Global level like the one done in LUCAS. Rosa will be in other meeting of the FAO next week.

- 26 February meeting at 20:00, for Euraf Conference, Rosa, Nuria, Anastasia
- 12 March meeting at 20:00, for Euraf Conference, Rosa, Nuria, Anastasia

Rosa, Anastasia and Nuria meet with Mark and Louis to organise the EURAF meeting every two weeks. If any of you wish to join, please inform Rosa.

- 28 February to 1 March, SCAR-AKIS.

Important for research and connecting agroforestry to paying and innovation EU member states agencies

- Innovation meeting 21 February, Nuria

Three new focus groups will start this year: i) New feed for pigs and poultry; ii) Protecting fruit production from frost damage and iii) Reducing food loss on the farm. Nuria presented the work of the AFINET project to establish the synergies with other projects and operational groups about

agroforestry and with the national and regional rural networks. The Commission was very interested in this work.

- Arable crops: 6 February, Dario and Javier.

Minutes are available. Both were on holidays during the 84th EURAF meeting.

- TN network leaders: 8 March, Rosa, synergies with the 19 TN

The European Commission thinks that it is very important to know the interaction among the different Thematic Networks to clearly identify synergies among different researchers and farmers for this reason the creation of Networks of Thematic Networks will be pushed by the European Commission. Rosa will collaborate with other thematic networks in farms mapping.

- CLLD/LEADER: 8 March, Eloi

It was presented the new CAP as did in the Direct Payments and Greening CDG on 9 March. The results from CLLD and LEADER projects were presented.

- Direct payments and greening: 9 March, Rosa and Eloi

The CLLD/LEADER meeting and the Direct Payments and Greening Civil Dialogue Group showed how direct payments are going to be considered. Pillar I will be more objective based on its implementation, so knowledge about the main benefits including production and environment that different systems provide will be key to get payments with regard to sustainability. A better integration between Cross-compliance and Greening is fostered with payment for results as a key concept in the next CAP. A better integration between Pillar I and Pillar II through an Eco-scheme is also pursued.

- Arable crops: 16 March , Dario and Javier
- Grazed Orchards, UNESCO heritage, Strasbourg, 23-24 March

Actions: *If any of you wish to go to the meetings please inform Rosa. Some of the meetings are paid for travelling and accommodation, some not. None of them covers personnel costs so are done in a voluntary basis*

1.2 EURAF STRATEGY

As a start point to establish the EURAF strategy, Rosa prepared a google survey. The google survey was circulated among a small group. Jo, Joao and Anastasia were working on the survey. Rosa thinks that the survey is too long and we should modify it. Rosa was very busy participating in different meetings and preparing the public consultations and she could not work in the survey but she will try to work in the survey next week. Jo suggested to send it in the short version.

Actions: *Rosa will modify and circulate the survey about the EURAF strategy and the EC members will send their comments.*

1.3 EUROPEAN AGROFORESTRY STRATEGY

Rosa and Christian were in the European Parliament discussing about agroforestry with MEPs which were contacted by Melanie Lamaison. Melanie Lamaison did a very good work because she contacted with key MEPs which are very interested in agroforestry. Two MEPs were interested in specific things related to agroforestry. A MEP from Hungary asked about the homegardens and a MEP from Portugal asked about aspects related with the forest fires. Rosa and Christian proposed the creation of a European agroforestry strategy (last recommendation of the policy report of the AGFORWARD project) and it was a success among the MEPs. Now, the idea is to work on the creation of a European agroforestry strategy which will be presented in the world agroforestry conference next year but there is a lot of work to be done. Rosa and Christian also said to the MEPs that it is necessary a better integration between the Pillar I and the Pillar II.

MEPs encouraged us to participate in a project pilot. The pilot project should explore new topics with a possible impact on EU policies. We should be very careful to choose a specific scope that was never covered by any research project funded by the European Union. Possible scopes: a) forest fires, b) LPIS within IACS as a way to pay by results agroforestry ecosystem services delivery, c) homegardens agroforestry practices linked to smart villages, d) water and e) climate.

Rosa thinks that we need an expert to write the proposal. The deadline for the pilot projects will be 19 April. Rosa suggested us to think in another scopes or focus more the previous ones by next Tuesday.

Roadmap of the meetings with MPEs from all relevant parties:

- Proposal
 - European Agroforestry Strategy WAC
 - Pillar I and Pillar II coherence
- Mean Suggestions
 - Interpelation
 - Pilot projects, 19 April, 1 million Euros
 - Own initiative report
 - Written questions
 - Oral questions
- Main interests
 - Homegardens, smart villages
 - Forest fires
 - Agroforestry
- Calendar
 - Elections next year

Actions: Rosa will contact Melanie to get more information about the project pilot. Those interested in being part of the pilot project will think in possible scopes by next Tuesday.

1.4 PROJECT ACTIVITY

1.4.1 AFINET PROJECT

The regional agroforestry innovation networks (RAINs) of the AFINET project met for the 2nd time in different European countries (Spain, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Portugal, France, UK, Poland and Finland) during January and February 2018. From those meetings, AFINET actors were asked about what prevents them from adopting agroforestry. After discussions at regional level the main challenges identified by the AFINET actors are indicated in the follow table. AFINET actors think that it is necessary more knowledge about the best combinations of the woody component and the understory. Practical guidelines and agroforestry policy are also keys to help farmers to implement agroforestry.

	SP	UK	BE	PT	PL	HU	IT	FR	FI	Total/mean
Number meeting attendees	38	89	30	34	28	17	16	19	12	283
Number survey respondants	24	43	13	15	20	19	16	16	17	197
Improving Policy Support	5,7	5,1	3,8	5,0	5,3	5,6	5,1	4,8	4,9	5,4
Optimal Combinations	5,7	5,6	4,9	6,0	5,2	5,2	5,8	4,5	5,4	5,6
Practical guidelines	5,5	5,6	4,6	5,0	5,2	5,4	5,2	4,9	5,3	5,5
Informing consumers	5,5	4,9	4,5	5,0	5,2	5,4	5,6	4,3	4,6	5,3
Legislative uncertainty	5,4	4,9	4,6	5,0	5,0	5,5	5,1	5,1	4,9	5,3
cost/benefit insights	5,4	5,4	3,9	5,0	5,4	5,1	5,4	4,5	5,1	5,4
demonstration farms	5,3	5,4	4,2	5,0	5,4	5,5	5,6	4,3	5,6	5,4
Value chain	5,2	5,2	3,8	5,0		5,2	5,4	5,2	5,1	4,6

Rosa also said that the European Commission thinks that it is very important to establish networking with other thematic networks.

1.4.2 PROPOSALS (NEXT CALLS)

1. PRIMA (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=prima>). Stage 1 Pre-proposals - 17th April, 2018, Stage 2 Full proposals - 15th September, 2018
Andrea Pisanelli and Anastasia Pantera cannot lead the PRIMA call. Therefore Rosa will lead this call. She will prepare a proposal about permanent grasslands from a document used in a previous call which was not approved. Rosa will try to circulate a draft of the proposal next week among interested partners.

2. ERA-NET SUSCROP: (FACCE-JTI)

https://www.suscrop.eu/lw_resource/datapool/systemfiles/elements/files/60C3F9747E110E71E0539A695E8617DD/live/document/Pre-announcement_SusCrop_final.pdf

Open call: 15 January, Preproposal deadline submission: 4 April

Topics:

- I. Enhancement of predictive breeding technologies and development of new genotypes leading to new phenotypes and crop varieties for improvement of plant health, protection, production and resilience
- II. Development and exploitation of novel integrated pest and crop management methods and practices
- III. Improvement of resource-use efficiency of crops and cropping systems
- IV. Systemic research on agricultural crops as part of an ecosystem including interactions between plants and other organisms (“the plant as a meta-organism”)

3. H2020 Proposals

* SFS-18-2018-2019 Climate Smart and resilient farming: efficiency and resilience of mixed and agroforestry farming systems”

Rosa will lead this call. At this moment, the consortium of the project has 13 members of which 12 are EURAF delegates. Rosa had a meeting with people from Wageningen together with Bert. Wageningen can be a good potential partner in the consortium. We have to start working on the proposal. The project leaders should be selected. The work on policy will not be easy because everything is changing continuously.

* SFS-25-2018-2019 Thematic network

Rosa thinks that we could ask for another thematic network. We have to think the subject. All people will be invited to participate and new countries should be included.

* Jo Smith said that Barbara will lead a project based on FABTRIC previous proposal. She will prepare the proposal from the document written for a previous call (SFS-28-2017)

Actions: Rosa will try to circulate a draft of the PRIMA proposal next week among interested EURAF colleagues. Please contact Rosa to update the information and if you wish to participate or lead a call.

2. EURAF CONFERENCE

Rosa, Anastasia and Nuria meet with Mark and Louis to organise the EURAF meeting every two weeks. Next meeting will be 9 April at 20:00 h. Almost 100 people already paid. We have 130 abstracts in 13 sessions, already reviewed. Posters and oral presentations were allocated based on the decisions of the scientific committee. The conference has a good representation of different countries. Now we have to organise the oral presentations in the different sessions. We have two options: i) 10 min for the oral presentation + 5 min for the questions, ii) pitches (5 min for the oral

presentation + 10 min for a discussion). The scientific committee thinks that 5 minutes for the oral presentation is not enough time. During the poster sessions the authors will present their posters to the audience.

Actions: Rosa, Anastasia and Nuria will have a meeting with Mark and Louis 9 April at 20:00 h. If you wish to participate in the meetings please contact Rosa.

3. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC CALL

These public consultations were sent. Rosa thanked us for our contributions.

- Consultation on 'Performance of Rural Development Programmes of the 2007-2013 period - Your Voice'
Link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/performance-rural-development-programmes-2007-2013-period_en
Person in charge: Anastasia, Rosa, Javier and Dario
Deadline: 20 April 2018
- Consultation on Evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal local development and jobs in Rural Areas
Link: http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-780196_en
Person in charge: Javier, Dario and Rosa
Deadline 9 March
- Consultation on Global pact for the environment
Link http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-900428_en
Person in charge: Dario, Javier: Rosa,
Deadline 15 March
- Consultation on Alignment of environmental reports obligations
Link http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-884453_en
Person in charge: Rosa, Dario, Javier
Deadline 15 March
- Consultation on Bioeconomy strategy:
Link: http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-975361_en
Person in charge: Rosa, Dario, Javier
Deadline 20 March

There is an open public consultation:

- Consultation on "Introducing a monitoring approach in the integrated administration and control system in agriculture"
Link: http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-1389948_en
Person in charge: Javier, Rosa and Dario

Deadline: 20 April 2018

Actions: Rosa will send us information about the open public consultations.

4. NEWSLETTER

Nuria said that the newsletter of March is finished. She will send us a draft next week. Please send Nuria your comments during the review period of the newsletter. Nuria is working on the next newsletter which will be published in May. We have news from Germany, Spain and Czech Republic. The deadline to send Nuria news for the next newsletter is 10th May.

Actions: Nuria will take care of the newsletter. Please send Nuria agroforestry news of your countries to publish in the newsletter.

5. EURAF WEBPAGE

Joao said that he has been trying to think to re-design EURAF webpage. He would like to propose a new design; based on the experience we have been getting with AFINET (where we also envision a transition of AFINET towards EURAF). In this sense the ISA team is preparing a similar design for EURAF and they did a test page here: <https://euraf.isa.utl.pt/testsection/testpage>. They need the OK of the EURAF EC to move forward (or not), in order to have a "new face" before the conference. All the menu structure will remain as is, so the content won't be changed.

The site, like AFINET, will become ready to harbour multi language content if needed, but that needs to be discussed in future on how to organise that. In the meantime it will be only in English (as it is now).

The EURAF EC thinks that this is a good idea. The new design is better than the previous one.

Actions: Joao will modify the design of the EURAF webpage

6. OTHER ISSUES

Calendar (provisional) of forthcoming CDG and EU meetings

- 3-5 April, FAO AGROECOLOGY meeting (2nd FAO International Symposium on agroecology: scaling up agroecology to achieve the SDGs), Adolfo (3-4 April) and Rosa (5 April)
- 6 April, SCAR-AKIS Meeting, Rosa
- 9 April EURAF Conference, Rosa
- 9 April FAO meeting, Rosa
- 13 April Parliamentary Member meeting, Santiago, Rosa
- 20 April CAP meeting, Rosa, ???
- 24 April, ESIF meeting, Rosa

- 27 April, Evaluation subgroup, Rosa
- 22 May, Environment and Climate change, ??
- 22 May, Smart Cities ??
- 23 May Organic Farming, Javier and Dario
- 1 June Forestry and cork??
- 1 June Arable crops, Javier and Dario

Actions: *If any of you wish to go please inform Rosa. Rosa can help and make easier the meetings for those going. Moreover, may be it is a good idea to create working groups to have a good response when people goes. Some of the meetings are paid for travelling and accommodation, some not. None of them covers personnel costs so are done in a voluntary basis.*

Rosa thinks that we have to organise the General Assembly. It would be good if people could vote 2-3 days before the conference to avoid the problems of the last votes. The EURAF lists are updated. Moreover, Adolfo said that probably the General Assembly will be faster than the General Assembly held in Montpellier if during the presentations of the National Agroforestry Associations each National Delegate focuses on three basic questions. Adolfo can prepare the questions with the help of Andrea Pisanelli.

We have received news about the organisation of the scientific committee of the world agroforestry conference but we do not know the role of EURAF in the organisation. Rosa is in contact with Christian.

Actions: *We have to think in the organisation of the next general assembly.*

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 9th of May 2018 at 10:30 CET