

EURAF General Assembly in Cottbus June 2014

Conference with ~70 people present, and streamed over internet with 20-30 online participants

President Christian Dupraz:

As EURAF is by law a French association, it has two legal duties to perform at each General Assembly: an activity and a financial report.

Activity report (see ppt), October 2012 – May 2014

Monthly meetings by Skype (summarized in 38 EURAF executive committee reports, accessible on EURAF's website for EURAF members).

EURAF's internal rules and logo were established.

EURAF was established on 15 December 2012, a list of founding members and their countries of origin (19) can be found here: <http://www.agroforestry.eu/node/199>

Translations of EURAF's name:

- Dutch: Europese Agroforestry Federatie
- English: European Agroforestry Association
- French: Fédération Européenne d'Agroforesterie
- German: Europäische Gesellschaft für Agroforstwirtschaft
- Greek: Evropaiki Enosi Agrosadoponias
- Portuguese : Associação Europeia de Agroflorestas
- Spanish: Asociacion Europea de Sistemas Agroforestales

EURAF is an association of individual members, possibly linked to national member associations with a minimum of 10 members.

EURAF's main duty so far was lobby-work. As explained in the [3th EURAF newsletter](#), lobbying in Brussels included different meetings with European Commission (EC) and Parliament members. EURAF was also part of the "Forestry and Cork" advisory group. Funds for lobbying were paid by each EC participant member. Advisory groups were renewed and are now called "Civil Dialogue Groups". EURAF applied to be in 8 different groups:

1. animal
2. arable
3. CAP,
4. Direct payment and greening
5. Environment and climate change
6. Forestry and cork
7. Organic farming
8. Rural Development Civil Dialogue Group.

When EURAF gets the confirmation of being a member of any Civil Dialogue group, the representatives' travel expenses will be covered by the EC.

Last February in the World Agroforestry Congress, it was decided to create the International Union for Agroforestry (IUAF), Rosa Mosquera is part of the working group to perform the charter of this new federation.

Question by Fabien Liagre:

Regarding regulations: what is the main position of EURAF regarding agroforestry?

This will be tackled later in the debate.

The activity report has been approved unanimously.

Financial report (see ppt)

Cash-flow problems expected 2015 – major task for the next Executive Committee, as AGFORWARD project will pay at the end of the project only. It is important to get more funds. Contracting a loan could be a possible solution. Jabier's and Anja's contracts were finally signed with APLITEC which is expensive. However, another bureau could be contracted in the future to save costs.

Question by Adolfo Rosati

Is the contract of AlienorEU included in the cashflow chart?

Yes it is, but for one year only.

The financial report has been approved (none against, one abstention, the rest in favour).

National reports

Switzerland (Felix Herzog)

Finally the EU has adopted Swiss agricultural policy. Tree planting is financed. Cross-compliance is included in the new regulations. We wish to preserve traditional orchards. Some farmers are trying to combine trees and arable crops, but subsidies are only given for fruit trees. Good news is that Mareike Jäger obtained an agroforestry extension project from the Swiss Ministry of Agriculture, for planting five demo-agroforestry-plots on five different farms over five years. Plots will have a light monitoring scheme. Last week, there was a stakeholder meeting on agroforestry in the francophone part of Switzerland, which included a visit of two farms. Two farmers investigated about subsidies, which are available for certain tree species, but these farmers wanted to plant different tree species, so they planted the (quite large) plots without any subsidy - these are quite encouraging news.

Spain (Gerardo Moreno, see ppt)

We spent some time creating the Spanish Agroforestry Association; we already had a scientific

group on agroforestry within the national forest science association before. But, following the EURAF rules, we decided to create a specific group where we could include different stakeholders, not just scientists but also policy makers, farmers, companies, and that resulted in AGFE, which already brought some money to EURAF at least. The other commitment has been to understand how Pillar I in CAP really works. It is a very opaque process to get information on CAP implementation right now. Some of the 17 regional RDPs are already written, and we are evaluating them right now. Very strong fight on the eligibility exclusion of those silvopastoral systems included in the permanent pasture, as a reduction related to the presence of tree seems to be programmed. Possibly, the reduction could be more than 50%. This is an important challenge we will try to influence.

Question by Gerry Lawson

How is the 100 trees/ha limit implemented in Spain, and what's the definition of a tree?

Jabier Ruiz:

Basically Member States have two options. One is mostly for arable land and the following two conditions need to be fulfilled: a) Limit of 100 trees / ha b) you have to be able to plough your land comfortably.

For pastures (permanent grassland) like the dehesa, they use a different approach: Member States can decide to reduce eligibility by a certain percentage depending on the amount of vegetation. And that is the method that Spain seems to apply for dehesas and other woody pastures.

UK

Scotland (Mike Strachan)

We have already measures for agroforestry (9 euro/trees, based on 400 trees per hectare). Grazing wildlife in woodland is sponsored, as there is not-grazing in woodland (forestry ecosystems with differing conservation strategies). It's been accepted quite nicely, we could have had agroforestry from 1992, but nobody took it up, because it was not well promoted.

Northern Ireland (Jim McAdam)

Agroforestry was eligible in the last CAP, but there was no uptake. Our goal is to address this during the AGFORWARD project. Under the next CAP, our government decided that agroforestry would be eligible again and they are not applying the tree limit as most of our country is grassland. Any land that can be grazed with or without trees is eligible. Ireland has also decided to fund an agroforestry project.

England (Jo Smith)

Despite our best efforts, there will be no adoption of the agroforestry support measure, but help is offered by the RDP to assist on financing, extension, advice, exchange and other measures. On the good side, the Farm Woodland Forum met in Southwest of UK on agroforestry and biodiversity, very interesting annual meeting.

Netherlands (Mark Vonk)

I'm representing a group of farmers, working together with research institutes like the Louis Bolk Institute. Good news: I can announce we have a Dutch association, with about 20 people. Projects started 3 years ago and culminated in the association's launch. A lot of interest from organic farmers, bottom-up. Happy to be part of AGFORWARD. Expert group started together with

universities.

Question by Els Bonte

Do you have any subsidy or do you plan to implement art. 23?

Answer: It's very unclear what's happening on the policy level, but there are some subsidies for planting trees under landscape schemes, but not really called agroforestry.

Kosovo (Sami Kryeziu)

see [ppt](#)

Italy (Adolfo Rosati)

see [ppt](#)

Portugal (Joao Palma)

see [ppt](#)

Greece (Anastasia Pantera)

see [pdf](#)

Germany (Norbert Lamersdorf)

see [ppt](#)

France (Sylvie Guillerme)

see [ppt](#)

Czech Republic (Bohdan Lojka)

On Friday we established a national association of 10 people, mainly from universities and research organisations. We would like to have some farmers in the association in the future. Agroforestry is not well known in our country. Most of the people don't know the term, and those who think they know it, are often wrong. So our first goal is to raise awareness on what AF is. Streuobst (fruit silvopasture) is the traditional system, alley cropping is not practised. There was a difficult discussion recently about the implementation of article 23 for agroforestry support. So far there is no implementation, despite of our recommendations. I estimate it will be hard to have it implemented in the near future. At least on the educational level, we have courses on agroforestry in some universities. We are cooperating with the Agro-Vet project.

Belgium (Bert Reubens)

see [ppt](#)

What will EURAF do during the next two years (2014-2016) ?

AGFORWARD tasks will be carried out.

The 3rd European Agroforestry Conference will be organised for June 2016.

Jeroen Watté: we should go for other sources of finance (European projects) than just research projects, since EURAF is not a research institute.

Bart Vleeschouwers: reach out to link with farmers (organisations) like COPA, but also at local level, make contact with farmer's organisations to reach them in a proper way.

Patrick Worms: We need to invest much more in the promotion of agroforestry, and build linkages to bodies that can do this promotion for us. For example, two crucial groups we have not yet build strong alliances with are farmers' unions and the agricultural input supply chain.

xx?: Participatory research into cultural context. Overcome the barriers: "it's cool to be a sissy".

Gerry Lawson: need to engage with foresters and their profession. We should document to them that agroforestry can produce high quality wood.

Mike Strachan: loads of woodlands are grazed but it's not called agroforestry. Think about the language in overcoming the barriers. Educate.

Fabien Liagre: it's important to have the link with the farmers. Not just to get advice on our ideas, but we have to explore more what their ideas are about new regulation.

Christian: it's hard to interact with farmers at European level. It should be carried out at national level or lower.

Paul Burgess: the aim of AGFORWARD is stakeholder's participatory promotion of agroforestry. Three aims: to be involved with participatory innovation, on policy, and on dissemination. Working with farmers is the key.

Norbert Lamersdorf: we had several meetings with farmers, but we couldn't convince them. Only when my colleague calculated the income of conventional and AF with SRC (see poster), they were convinced more than with anything else. Hard scientific work is needed. Big organisations normally subdivide into sections. We should think about this in EURAF.

Dyomi Zamora: And if we use regional networks to address specific issues within specific areas? In Northern America we have the Pacific Northwest, Mid-America AA, East and Great Lakes region. Through this approach we are reaching more people. Peer-to-peer learning. In our previous conferences with AFTA we invited landowners so that they can share their concerns. In the last AFTA Conferences we invited policy makers which started to think of AF as a viable option to solve some of the productivity and environment problems that USA has to solve in agriculture.

Christian Dupraz: We should make farmers meet. Not only researchers should travel.

Piero Paris: Have you considered Facebook?

xx?: We have to ask more farmers what they want.

Adolfo: EURAF budget comes from AGFORWARD, not from the members. So we could dream of it, but it's also a question of cooperation for the members.

Joana: It's important to have that peer-to-peer interaction. There are funds available to do this on the European level.

Mark Vonk: It's possible to find funds to visit France with farmers. If you are creative you can work together.

Bert Reubens: There's a whole list of working groups that involve farmers on national level. Farmers are involved. In Horizon2020 there are possibilities to get funds to involve farmers.

Mike Strachan: It's good to have demonstration sites and we have to make them accessible for neighbouring farmers. We have to get farmers to talk. Facebook & Twitter? Farmers are on the average 50+.

Melanie Lamaison: what is the merit of national/European organisations? We have to keep busy on the European level. On social media: they are popular with European decision makers.

Bert Reubens: is it an idea to involve policy makers in EURAF?

Melanie: I'm in favour of organising an event per year in Brussels. It's the only way to involve policy makers.

Election of the Bureau

Stephen Briggs and Giustino Mezzalira do resign, both are absent. Dirk Freese and Christian Dupraz do resign.

New Bureau

President: María Rosa Mosquera Losada (ES) (mrosa.mosquera.losada@usc.es)

Deputy-President: Gerry Lawson (UK) (gela@nerc.ac.uk)

Secretary: Jeroen Watté (BE) (jeroen@wervel.be)

Deputy Secretary: Adolfo Rosati (IT) (adolfo.rosati@entecra.it)

Treasurer: Sylvène Laborie Roussel (FR) (sylvene.laborieroussel@gmail.com)

Deputy Treasurer: Joana Amaral Paulo (PT) (joanaap@isa.ulisboa.pt)

Election Results

- Rosa Mosquera - 74 voices
- Joana Amaral Paulo - 68 voices
- Adolfo Rosati – 64 voices
- Gerry Lawson – 64 voices
- Jeroen Watté – 62 voices
- Sylvène Laborie-Roussel – 56 voices