



# EUROPEAN AGROFORESTRY FEDERATION

Quarterly Newsletter 1, AUGUST 2012



## Few words from the president

On December 16 2011, the EUROpean Agroforestry Federation (EURAF) was founded in Paris. The 242 founding members, representing 17 European countries, approved the constitution of the federation. Attendance was possible both in person or through the internet.

The main objective of EURAF is to promote the adoption of agroforestry practices (trees on farms) across Europe. To achieve this aim, EURAF will support any effort to develop awareness, education, research and policy making that could foster the use of trees on farms in Europe. For further details please refer to the EURAF constitution, available on the EURAF website (<http://euraf.isa.utl.pt/>).

The EURAF bureau has an executive committee, composed of 6 elected members and two national delegates for each European participating country (not only EU countries. The 6 elected members and the national delegates and sub-delegates are reported at the end of the newsletter.

Since its foundation, EURAF has been already very active in its lobbying activity. Several EURAF delegations have met in Brussels with members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and European Commission Officers, but also with other important personalities involved in European and Common Agricultural policy (CAP). Details on EURAF proposals for the new CAP and meeting reports are available on the EURAF website. Another important lobbying activity will be held during the first EURAF Conference, on the October 10 noon session. The presentation that EURAF used to lobby in favor of agroforestry can be downloaded from

<http://www.wervel.be/downloads/AFachanceforEurope.pdf>

EURAF needs more participating countries! Please circulate this newsletter and help attracting new members from all European countries.

Christian Dupraz, President of EURAF

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## Activity highlights across Europe

### 1<sup>st</sup> European Agroforestry Conference

EURAF is proud to invite you to participate in the first European Conference on Agroforestry entitled "Priorities for European Agroforestry", October 9-10, 2012, Brussels. The purpose of this conference is to share what is going on in Europe for agroforestry. We will discuss innovative avenues for Agroforestry in Europe, from both research, development, and policy perspectives. EURAF members can assist at a discount rate to the conference. For further information, including the full program and to register, please visit the EURAF website

<http://euraf.isa.utl.pt/news/eurafconference2012>

### News from European Countries

#### Belgium

*Flanders:* The government recognized legal obstacles to agroforestry and declared the intention to solve them. Some of the legal aspects have been addressed, others unfortunately remain.

*Wallonie:* On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the AWAFF (association Wallonie – Bruxelles d'agroforesterie) was founded. It will gather the different forces operating in agroforestry: administrators, policy makers, farmers, landowners, scientists, universities, etc.

#### France

Please refer to the monthly newsletter of the AFAF (Association Française d'Agroforesterie)

<http://www.agroforesterie.fr/news/newsletter.html>

The French Minister of Agriculture Stéphane Le Foll visited agroforestry farms in July :

<http://www.agroforesterie.fr/marciac.html>

*AF'Enture project: an agroforestry studying tour around Europe.* AF'Enture is a self initiative project led by 4 French students from the ENSAIA (National Engineering School of Agronomy in Nancy, France, studying agroforestry in Europe. More details on their blog: [www.afenture.over-blog.com](http://www.afenture.over-blog.com).

#### Greece

Please visit the Hellenic Agroforestry Network ( [www.agroforestry.gr](http://www.agroforestry.gr) ).

*The future of Valonia oak silvopastoral systems in Greece.* Valonia oak (*Quercus ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis* (Kotschy) Hedge & Yalt), had an important role in silvopastoral systems in Greece, but this system is under several threats. New current studies (<http://www.korres.com/default.aspx>, <http://www.greenapple.gr/articlesdesc.php?id=297>, <http://www.redtractorfarm.com/acorn.html>) aim at finding new economical uses to both preserve these systems and create new job opportunities.

#### Italy

*Veneto Agricoltura: where Agroforestry is at home.* Veneto Agricoltura, a Regional organization, has several hectares under measure 222, in addition to various agroforestry projects. It also has animals (endangered breeds) and other agroforestry sites, making it an ideal location for agroforestry research and dissemination.

*Olive, wild asparagus and chickens in one field.* Three-way agroforestry using existing tree crops (olives), underplanted with new vegetable crops (wild asparagus) and combined with grazing chickens that weed and fertilize the whole system. This new approach to agroforestry is the topic of a project, funded by the Region of Umbria and carried out by the CRA OLI, the university of Perugia and the 3A –Umbria Agro-Food-Technology Park. Details at <http://www.parco3a.org> (go to "vedi tutti i progetti in corso", then to "PSR Umbria 2007/2013 - MISURA 124", then to "OLIVO, ASPARAGO SELVATICO, POLLO RUSTICO").



*PhD Thesis: "Agroforestry systems in Italy within the current Common Agricultural Policy" by Anna Perali.* The study, a collaboration between the University of Tuscia, Viterbo, and the CNR-IBAF (National Research Council - Institute of Agro environmental and Forestry Biology), analyzed the prospective of agroforestry in Italy in the context of the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

*Phytoremediation agroforestry.* Phytoremediation is one form of agroforestry! A project was funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture (MiPAAF) in 2009, to study the use of "Poplar short rotation coppice plantations as a possible solution for the phytoremediation of olive mill waste water".

### **The Netherlands**

*Farmers' network for fodder trees and multifunctional land use.* This knowledge sharing network for farmers, advisors and researchers was set up in the Netherlands in 2011 to promote the multifunctional use of trees and shrubs in modern farming systems, and to create agroforestry and silvopastoral systems.

For more information please contact Nick van Eekeren ([n.vaneekeren@louisbolk.nl](mailto:n.vaneekeren@louisbolk.nl)) or Mark Vonk ([mark@duinboeren.nl](mailto:mark@duinboeren.nl)). Also visit: [www.voederbomen.nl](http://www.voederbomen.nl), [www.louisbolk.nl](http://www.louisbolk.nl), [www.duinboeren.nl](http://www.duinboeren.nl).

### **Kosovo**

*Project:* The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) funded an agroforestry project in Kosovo, titled "Establishment and Capacity Development for Reforestation in Kerstec and Rapce villages" For more information: <http://www.agrovet-ks.com/index.php/en/>



The nursery installed with the project in Kosovo

### **Portugal**

Financial support trough several PRODER measures is available. For information available on this specific measure: <http://www.proder.pt/conteudo.aspx?menuid=650>.

### **Spain**



*Project:* "Silvopastoral management for quality timber production: functioning, productivity and environmental services (SILVOMAD)". The Forestry Research Group of the University of Extremadura (UEX) and the private company Bosques Naturales have recently embarked in this 3-year-long research project with walnuts and cherries to study sheep grazing, intercropping fodder legumes, irrigation regimes, soil fertility, tree-grass below-ground competition, nutrient leaching, tree growth and below-ground carbon fixation.

Sheep grazing in one of the experimental plots with



walnut.

### United Kingdom

*UK Farm Woodland Forum.* The UK Farm Woodland Forum annual meeting was held on 24/25th May 2012. The meeting, titled “Trees, Farms and Ecosystem Services”, was organized by Dr James Walmsley, School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography, Bangor University. The meeting commenced at Henfaes Research Station (Bangor University) with several talks. The site is part of the UK Silvopastoral Network. Further details of the site can be seen at:

<http://pages.bangor.ac.uk/~afs032/Henfaes/Henfaes.htm>

On the second day the delegates visited the forest enterprise at Esgair Timber Company Ltd, Esgair Forest, Machynlleth (<http://esgair.wordpress.com/>). This farm also practices silvopastoral agroforestry. More details on the Farm Woodland Forum can be found at <http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk/>



### Featured farm

We will feature a farm, practicing some form of agroforestry, in each newsletter.



The featured farm for this first newsletter is the Bachetoni Farm (Azienda Agricola Antonio Bachetoni: <http://www.bachetoni.com> site in Italian).

Located in the Umbria region, the green heart of Italy, the farm produces the Umbrian’s most typical products: Chianina (the famous ancient giant white cow) meat, black truffles and extravirgin olive oil. The cows graze in the forest (during the summer), feeding on natural vegetation, including the acorns produced by the abundant oaks. The meat is sold directly to the consumers at the farm butcher shop. Olive orchards and the farm mill allow the production of extravirgin olive oil. The olive cake obtained after processing the olives is first de-pitted and then fed to the cows. The pits separated from the cake make an excellent fuel, used on site and sold (100-120 € per ton).



Recently, taking advantage of local funding from the Region of Umbria (RDP, measure 1.2.4.) the farm has started raising poultry under the olive tree, where wild asparagus (*Asparagus acutifolius*), a local highly-estimated vegetable, is also grown. The poultry graze and weed the olive orchards and asparagus (which they do not damage due the prickly vegetation of adult plants), while fertilizing the whole system. They also contribute to killing olive suckers and control asparagus parasites, such as the common asparagus beetle, *Crioceris asparagi*, and the spotted asparagus beetle,



the



*Crioceris duodecimpunctata*. The poultry meat can be sold at the farm butchery. With this design, the farm does an excellent job at making the best synergy among crops, turning residues into resources and providing local (zero miles) high quality products.

## Coming Events

- **20 July Seminar:** Olive, wild asparagus and grazing chickens. Results of a project funded with measure 1.2.4. of the RDP. Spoleto, Italy. The flyer can be found at: <http://www.parco3a.org>
- **5-10 August Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting:** *Life on Earth: Preserving, Utilizing, and Sustaining Our Ecosystems* Portland, Oregon, USA (<http://www.esa.org/portland/>)
- **28-31 August IUFRO:** *Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems and Landscapes* Cork, Eire (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/iufro2012>)
- **5-7 September UK Econet:** *Trees Beyond The Wood* Sheffield, UK (<http://www.ukeconet.co.uk/>)
- **11-14 September ForestSAT2012,** Corvallis, OR (<http://2012forestsat.com/>)
- **8-11 October IUFRO2012:** *Managing Forests for Ecosystem Services; Can Spruce Forests Show the Way?* Edinburgh, UK (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/iufro2012>)
- **9-10 October first EURAF conference:** "Priorities for European Agroforestry", Brussels, Belgium (<http://euraf.isa.utl.pt/news/eurafconference2012>)
- **24-27 October 6th International Canopy Conference** Oaxaca, Mexico (<http://intranet.cidiroax.ipn.mx/eventos/canopy2012/english/?q=node/18>)

## Books and publications

- World Agroforestry Centre: Climate change vulnerability of agroforestry (<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/publications/PDFS/WP12013.PDF>)
- The Overstory: The Overstory is a free e-mail agroforestry journal (<http://agroforestry.net/overstory/index.html>).
- Animals, Man and Treescapes: <http://www.ukeconet.co.uk/index.php/wildtrack-publishing-publications-a-free-downloads/43-conference-proceedings/232-animal-man-a-treescapes-conference-proceedings>

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## EURAF Executive Committee

Elected members. President : Christian Dupraz; Deputy-President: Stephen Briggs; Secretary: Rosa Mosquera; Deputy Secretary: Jeroen Watté; Treasurer: Dirk Freese; Deputy Treasurer: Giustino Mezzalira.

National delegates and sub-delegates. Belgium: Bernard Maus, Willy Mertens; France: Sylvie Guillerme, Yves Gabory; Germany: Norbert Lamersdorf, Heinrich Spiecker; Greece: Konstantinos Mantzanas, Anastasia Pantera; Italy: Adolfo Rosati, Piero Paris; Kosovo: Sami Kryeziu; Portugal: Joao Palma, Joana Amaral Paulo; Spain: Gerardo Moreno; Switzerland: Felix Herzog, Mareike Jäger; The Netherlands: Mark Vonk, Emiel Anssems; UK: Jo Smith, Mike Strachan.

This is your newsletter! If there's anything you think should be included, please pass suggestions to [adolfo.rosati@entecra.it](mailto:adolfo.rosati@entecra.it) for inclusion in the next issue (quarterly issues).

