



DEVELOPPING AGROFORESTRY: THE FRENCH PLAN FOR 2015 - 2020

For the development
and sustainable
management
of all agroforestry
systems

Agroforestry systems associate trees and agricultural production in the same fields. They hark back to age-old, traditional farming combining mixed crops and livestock that gave us the hedgerows and, more recently, the planting of tree lines in fields. Hedges and trees have many functional roles, both economic and ecological: production of wood and fodder, shelter for animals, erosion prevention, micro-climate and water regulation, carbon storage, promoters of resilience to climate change, soil interfacing, water run-off limitation and reduction in the need for inputs. Maintenance and development of a network of hedges and trees must also go hand in hand with the development of production systems aimed at threefold economic, environmental and social high performance. Wishing to contribute to the development of agroforestry, the Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry, Stéphane Le Foll, decided to launch the french plan for the development of agroforestry 2015 - 2020 as part of a wider agro-ecology project for France.



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE
ET DE LA FORÊT

AGRO-ÉCOLOGIE

**PRODUISONS
AUTREMENT**

THE AGROFORESTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN BREAKS DOWN INTO 5 AXES AND 23 ACTIONS

AXIS 1

IMPROVEMENTS IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE DIVERSITY OF AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS AND HOW THEY FUNCTION

Agroforestry systems are highly diverse and present everywhere in the country, but there is a need to better characterise or monitor them from a quantitative or qualitative standpoint. Improvement of our knowledge in this area will provide a wide range of actors with more information on farming practices and is logically a major factor in the development of agroforestry. This will require better information on, and monitoring of agroforestry, the development of research programmes and networks in this domain and definition of technical and economic benchmarks.

- 1.1. Reinforcement of the means for obtaining data and tracking agroforestry systems.
- 1.2. Reinforcement of the coordination of actions conducted by research establishments, agricultural technical institutes, chambers of agriculture, national agricultural and rural bodies and combined technology networks.
- 1.3. Reinforcement of research and research/action programme topics relating to agroforestry.
- 1.4. Evaluation of the role of agroforestry for the national habitat network scheme (*trame verte et bleue*).
- 1.5. Forming and driving a network of reference farms for agroforestry.



AXIS 2

IMPROVEMENT OF THE REGULATORY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND MORE ROBUST FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Historically, agroforestry has been strongly influenced by French farming policies and the Common Agricultural Policy. Major progressive changes have been introduced into recent reforms of the CAP in order to foster the presence of trees and hedges and to take their environmental benefits into account. A number of CAP provisions still need improvement in order to support the development of agroforestry systems. At national level, new provisions could be tried out in order to encourage farmers to invest in such systems for the long term.

- 2.1. Building proposals for aid schemes.
- 2.2. Reinforcement of the deployment of available tools for the various actors at regional level.
- 2.3. Enhancing the security of owner/farmer relationships.
- 2.4. Encouragement of agroforestry development projects as part of environmental compensation measures.
- 2.5. Consideration of tax levers to encourage tree planting for agroforestry.

AXIS 3

DEVELOPMENT OF AGROFORESTRY ADVISORY SERVICES, TRAINING AND PROMOTION

In light of the implementation of the agroecology project, the agricultural training system has started a programme for the total overhaul of its reference materials, in which there is now a strategic need to give agroforestry its rightful place. The farming and non-profit association sectors have also laid the foundations of a network of specialist advisers. However, those efforts need to be supported and developed in order to cover all agroforestry systems and regions and to assist a large number of farmers in putting in place or developing systems of this kind. In conjunction with the actions under Axis 1, a reinforcement of advisory services and training must also go hand in hand with knowledge capitalisation and dissemination.

- 3.1. Reinforcement of the attention given to trees and hedges in training courses.
- 3.2. Reinforcement of the organisation of a network of agroforestry advisers across the country.
- 3.3. Reinforcement of the non-profit association movement centred on a single national association.
- 3.4. Knowledge capitalisation and analysis, concentration of available information in documentation and tools for raising awareness.
- 3.5. Tree and hedge promotion operations.



AXIS 4 SUSTAINED INCREASES IN THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF AGROFORESTRY PRODUCTION

Since the 1970s, hedges and trees in crop fields have often been seen by farm managers as constraints with no economic value, or at best as long-term investments. However, many local experiments demonstrate that agroforestry can bring in non-negligible amounts of additional income, either directly or indirectly. Four actions are planned for Axis 4 with the aim of providing practical, sustained increases in the economic value of agroforestry production.

- 4.1. Support for the development of supply chains that add value to agroforestry products and co-products.
- 4.2. Development of synergy with quality labels.
- 4.3. Implementation of plans for the sustainable management of agroforestry systems and promotion of recognition of “sustainably managed agroforestry wood”.
- 4.4. Development of the national scheme for the production of locally sourced tree and bush plants.



AXIS 5 INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY AND SPREAD OF AGROFORESTRY

The agroecology project includes work on the “international promotion and spread of the agroecology project”. France is convinced that agroecology is a solution for the future to allow farming in France and around the world to meet the challenge of food security using methods that offer high economic and environmental performance. The aim of those efforts is to share at international level a pragmatic vision of agroecology as an innovative, highly effective approach to farming. The international deployment of a strategy for co-operation and advocacy directed at international organisations and partner countries makes it possible to promote this production model and highlight the value of French experience in this area. Those same efforts are also intended to enrich the French vision of agroecology through the identification, sharing and feedback on experience of agroecology in other countries. It also makes possible the preparation of future changes to the CAP by raising points of interest shared with our partners with regard to the search for the above three forms of high performance. The agroforestry development plan, as an integral component of the agroecology project, is perfectly aligned with that approach.

- 5.1. Promotion of the development of agroforestry at EU level.
- 5.2. Promotion of the development of agroforestry at international level.
- 5.3. Development of agroforestry research at EU and international levels.
- 5.4. Development of EU and international teaching exchanges focused on agroforestry.

MONITORING/EVALUATION OF THE PLAN

A steering committee chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and composed of representatives from official departments and partners will be set up at the same time as the launch in the first half of 2016. It will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the action plan. The plan will lead, right from its launch phase in the first half of 2016, to a consolidation of a monitoring grid for the actions and the drafting of detailed action datasheets. For each action details will be provided of pilots, relevant partners, roll-out procedures, milestones and resources and/or results indicators. Execution of actions will be tracked annually on the basis of these datasheets and an evaluation exercise will be conducted in 2020 under the authority of the steering committee. The present plan covers the period 2015-2020, with a view to its further continuation.

AGROFORESTRY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Through agroecology, farming can offer a part of the response to climate change. At COP21, France was the bearer of this message, advocating an innovative and environmentally friendly approach to agriculture. Specifically, with the support of its international partners, France proposed as part of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda “4 per 1,000: soils for food security and climate” initiative. This initiative is intended to foster change in agricultural systems with a view to increase levels of organic matter and carbon sequestration in soils using suitable agricultural methods. Soils richer in organic matter are more fertile and productive, erosion and climate disruption more resistant to help mitigate climate change by capturing large quantities of carbon.

Agroforestry is one of the key components of agroecology and can produce soils more rich in organic matter, diversified and improved production, and a contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

AGROECOLOGY

France is engaged in a transformation of production models aimed at simultaneously combining high economic, social and environmental performance: that is the essence of the agroecology project. It is an ambitious public policy involving all partners in the sector.

AGROFORESTRY

PLANTING TREES AND HEDGES AMONG CROPS

Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry

