

# What support for agroforestry under a greener CAP?

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## What agroforestry?









- A range of meanings associated with agroforestry systems;
- Focus:
  - Extensive agroforestry big environmental benefits, for soil, biodiversity, water, and cultural benefits;
  - Traditional agroforestry systems -- critically depend on livestock grazing;
- Maintaining semi-natural features including trees, hedges, wooded areas, shrubland through P1 is a pre-condition for agroforestry support.



### Current CAP measures relevant for extensive agroforestry (until

2013)



#### Pillar One

- Decoupled payments / eligibility criteria (these are necessary and appear reasonable but were zealously interpreted);
- GAEC standards (minimum maintenance, unwanted vegetation, landscape features); and
- Quantitative obligation on MS to maintain the share of permanent pasture.

#### Pillar Two

#### First establishment of agroforestry

- o Good measure
- Very low frequency in RDPs, low uptake,
- Little known about environmental outcomes

#### Agri-environment

- Schemes for the management and restoration of traditional wooded pastures (eg Sweden, Estonia)
- Schemes for the management of dehesas (Spain), maintenance of HNV farmland (eg Romania, Bulgaria)
- Schemes for extensification, creation and maintenance of hedges, (wooded) buffer strips etc



# Welcome elements relating to agroforestry in CAP proposal

#### Pillar Two

- A single measure for forestry, including a provision for 'creation of agroforestry combining extensive agriculture with forestry' (Art 24)
- Recognition for the benefits of *collaborative action at the landscape scale*

#### **Cross-compliance**

- GAEC for the retention of landscape features now also includes a welcome 'ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season and possible measures for avoiding invasive species and pests'; etc
- Quantitative obligation on MS to maintain the share of permanent pasture

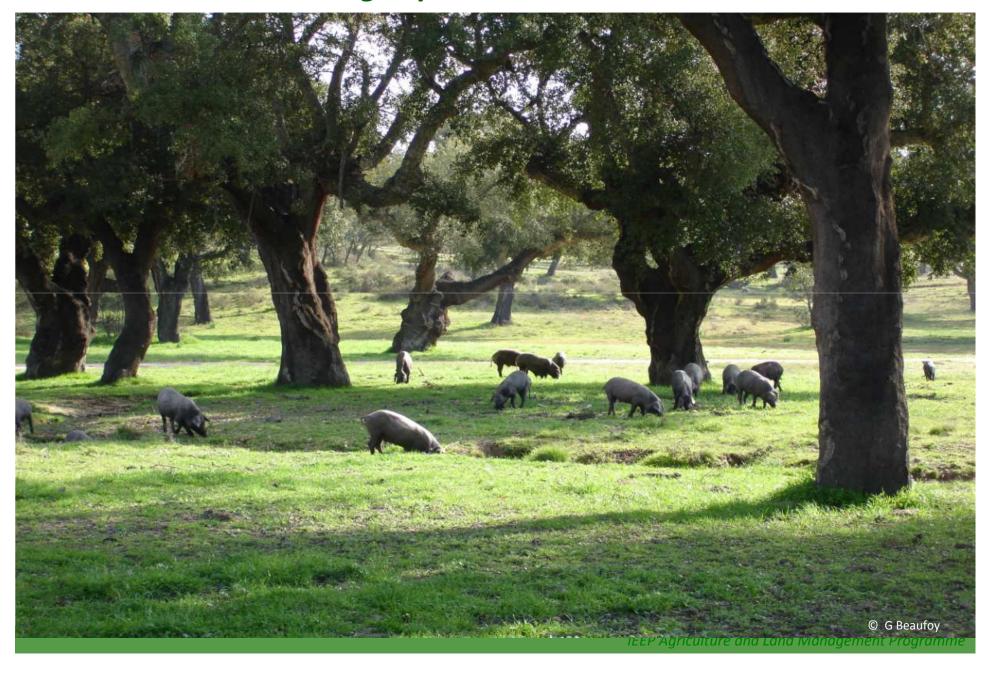


#### Pillar One

 Green payment (including maintenance of permanent grassland, EFAs eg landscape features, wooded buffer strips as well as areas afforested using funding from P2)



## What needs resolving in post 2014 CAP



# What critically needs resolving in CAP regulations

- Clear recognition for the benefits of trees/woodland features in P1 eligibility rules and GAEC standards to avoid conflict with P2 agroforestry;
- Clear recognition for trees / woodland features in definitions:

Article 4(1e): "agricultural area" means any area taken up by arable land, permanent grassland, permanent crops, or a combination of these in agroforestry systems;

Article 4(1h): "permanent grassland" means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or longer; it may include other species, including woody species, suitable for grazing or shelter, provided that the grasses and other herbaceous forage remain predominant.

### .... and what is equally important to ensure



• Under Rural Development to provide a safeguard to avoid support to fast growing species through the agroforestry measure.





- Under Green Payments:
  - Ensure design of EFAs so that existing trees/woodland features count;
  - Resolve issues of equivalence if payment to 'green by definition' is allowed; to avoid deadweight;

### Other issues need addressing in CAP implementation



- Raise awareness at MS level about benefits of traditional agroforestry systems that may sometimes have more than 200 trees per hectare;
- Under Basic Payment implementation
  - o To develop helpful rules on the extent to which trees/hedges, wooded areas count;
  - o To address IACS, LPIS issues;
- Ensure good measure/scheme design at MS level; availability of advice, training, information; institutional capacity with biodiversity knowledge;
- Encourage sufficient uptake for the agroforestry measure;
- Ensure implementation of other policies (eg Art 6 Habitat Dir);
- Invest into research on resilience of woodland/trees to future threats in a changing climate; and
- Ensure biodiversity proofing and climate proofing of CAP expenditure at national/ regional/EU level – to achieve policy coherence and avoid inappropriate rules.









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