2nd European Symposium on Pollarding

Pollarding – towards a circular economy at the landscape level

1st, 2nd & 3rd March, 2018
Sare (Basque Country, France)

Open to all and focused on actionable information
Affordable registration fees
Simultaneous translation between English, French and Basque
« Trees surround and infiltrate all rural activities » Fernand Braudel, historian.

« Agriculture is nothing without trees. Forestry is nothing without agriculture. The only thing that exists is agroforestry. » Dr. Paul Burgess, Cranfield University

Contact details

Euskal Herriko Laborantza Ganbara
Zuentzat, 64 220 Ainhice Mongelos, France - www.ehlgbai.org

Contacts:
Joana Hoqui – Agroforestry facilitator - +33 (0)5 59 37 18 82 - joana@ehlgbai.org
(French-speaking contact)

Association Française d’Agroforesterie
93 route de Pessan 32 000 Auch - www.agroforesterie.fr

Contacts:
Fabien Balaguer - Director - +33 (0)6 27 39 48 72 - fabien.balaguer@agroforesterie.fr
(English-speaking contact)
POLLARDS: TREES WITH A THOUSAND USES

PROVIDING A SOURCE OF TIMBER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Pollards are local renewable production plants, producing timber and other products such as animal bedding. In addition, with appropriate management, pollarded trees can meet local energy needs by providing fuelwood and animal fodder.

IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH

Pollards contribute to the enrichment of the soil, by providing leaves and annually decomposed thin roots, and also restore valuable mineral elements to the land. Green shoots and ramial chipped wood can be used as mulching material and improve soil health. In addition, the roots of the trees link to the fungi of the soil to form mycorrhizae. These mycorrhizal networks increase the soil’s ability to absorb water and nutrients.

ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Pollarded trunks tend to form many cavities and cracks which offer important spaces for many species of fauna to live, feed or hide. They are attractive for cave-dwelling species, insectivorous passerines and nocturnal birds of prey such as owls. In addition, they provide homes for squirrels, martens and bats, not to mention beetles, bees and other pollinating insects beneficial to agricultural production.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Growing trees is a sustainable way of storing the carbon dioxide responsible for global warming. There are many additional benefits of managing trees on a farm. Trees can improve the infiltration of water into soils, create microclimates and reduce the rate of water evaporation in during warm summer months.

Pollards stand at the crossroads of agriculture and environment sectors. The symposium will provide the opportunity for greater dialogue and cooperation between the two sectors and advance our understanding of the role of productive trees in meeting the challenges of global change.
A SECOND EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM TO BRING POLLARDS BACK INTO PRODUCTION

The first European symposium on pollarding was organised by the “Maison Botanique de Boursay” in 2006. It was held at the Agricultural High School in Vendôme. It involved 24 speakers from 8 European countries and attracted over 250 participants from various backgrounds, including researchers, farmers, ecologists and policy-makers. The workshop brought an awareness of the continuing importance of pollarding to a wider public, and motivated many European rural development organisations to include pollards on their agenda.

The recent interest in agroforestry has drawn attention to the practice of pollarding in our rural landscapes. Bringing neglected pollards back into production will help to safeguard the conservation and regeneration of cultivated trees of historic value. This second symposium aims to provide the technical and organizational tools required to achieve the reintegration of pollards into our farming systems, and to improve current practices where pollarding continues to exist.

This event will provide the opportunity to assess technical and scientific knowledge. It will turn the spotlight on exciting innovations in pollarding management which have emerged in response to recent economic and environmental change. By exploring traditional use of pollards, as well as illustrating innovative management approaches, the symposium will demonstrate the benefits of integrating pollarding into modern farming practices, including its role in enhancing biodiversity, carbon capture, biomass production, and water conservation.
The decision to launch the Second Symposium was based on the closely aligned interests of seven organisations at the forefront of agroforestry development in France and Europe. This complementarity will provide the basis for effective sharing of knowledge, and ensure engagement with the key stakeholders at local, national and European level.

**AGROFORESTERIE**

**French Agroforestry Association (AFAF)**

Since 2010, AFAF has been working on the development of agroforestry in France, both on the agricultural and policy scenes, and with the objective of reaching/involving a more general audience.

The association is a platform for exchange and partnerships between farmers and agricultural practitioners, natural resources managers, researchers, policy-makers, local, government offices, operating both at national and international level. It is committed to ensuring that trees are recognized as having a central and critical role in sustainable agricultural systems.

Through its extensive network, AFAF will be able to identify innovations from France and Europe, bring its experience in organising international events, and skills in communication to relay information to a wide audience.

**Contact persons:** Fabien Balaguer, Director / Séverin Lavoyer, Communication manager

**Euskal Herriko Laborantza Ganbara (EHLG)**

The Euskal Herriko Laborantza Ganbara Association supports the development of sustainable agriculture in the Basque Country.

EHLG’s main areas of expertise relate to agricultural policy, farm installations and transmission, land-use planning, and the creation of added value through better control of production costs and product processing and marketing. EHLG has supported farmers in the development of agroforestry practices on farms since 2016.

Pollarding played a very important role in the agricultural systems of the Basque Country until the last century. EHLG will share its knowledge of the region to highlight this historical heritage and mobilize the local actors through the event.

**Contact persons:** Panpi Olaizola, Member of the Bureau / Joana Hoqui, Agroforestry facilitator / Iker Elosegi, Coordinator

**Maison Botanique de Boursay**

The “Maison Botanique de Boursay” works with different audiences to raise awareness about the multiple relationships that exist between humans and plants (wild or cultivated flora), and to nature in general.

It has been campaigning for more than 20 years for a better knowledge and use of pollards. Its role in the development of the “Pollards’ Pathways”, the creation of the European Centre for Pollarding, and the organisation of the first European Symposium on Pollarding, have all contributed to its in depth knowledge of the subject and an extensive network of partners at the European scale.

The Maison Botanique will play a key role in activating a network of European pollarding specialists and will share its experience to support the logistics of running the symposium.

**Contact person:** Dominique Mansion, volunteer in charge of the symposium organisation
Arbre et Paysage 32

The Arbre et Paysage 32 association is a field operator for rural trees and agroforestry. It has been involved in consulting missions, diagnoses, information and education, dialogue with local government offices and R&D activities for 25 years. Each year it designs and supports the implementation of many projects relating to advising farmers and other landscape users in the planting and management of woody vegetation.

Arbre et Paysage 32 will leverage its experience in the field, in a multi-partner approach, which will include farmers, land managers, researchers, to identify the key approaches being used to bring pollards back to production on farms and in rural territories.

Contact person: Alain Canet, director

European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF)

EURAF has 280 members from 20 European countries. It was set up in 2011 to promote agroforestry practices, in particular to the European authorities, in order to have these farming techniques recognised within the formal framework of agricultural policies.

EURAF will use its network to relay information to the public and mobilise partner organisations at a European scale.

Contact person: Dr. Rosa Mosquera-Losada, président

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

The World Agroforestry Centre is a centre of scientific excellence possessing the world’s largest repository of agroforestry science and information in tropical countries. The Centre generates science-based knowledge about the diverse roles that trees play in agricultural landscapes, and uses its research to advance policies and practices, and their implementation that benefit the poor and the environment.

ICRAF will bring a non-European scope to the symposium and help link the latest innovations on pollarding in temperate countries with similar experiences in the tropics.

Responsable: Dr. Sammy Carsan, Agroforestry Researcher

Organic Research Centre (ORC)

The Organic Research Centre (ORC) is the UK’s leading independent research centre for the development of organic and agroecological food production and land management solutions. Its research directly addresses key global issues including climate change, soil and biodiversity conservation, and food security. ORC is assessing a range of agroforestry systems through its current research, which involves assessment of their productivity, environmental and economic impacts, and as sources for biofuels and other products.

ORC will use its extensive research and stakeholder network to help identify key sources of information on international pollarding systems, and provide robust evidence and advice as to the ways in which they may be integrated into modern farming systems in Europe.

Responsable: Dr. Jo Smith, Principal Agroecological Researcher / Dr. Kevin Waldie, Agroforestry Research Communicator
THE SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES

The second European Symposium on Pollarding is to establish a better understanding of the potential benefits of pollarding and to identify ways of extending its practice through exchange and dialogue. It will achieve this by providing an interactive forum for lively and informed exchanges between farmers, agricultural and environmental organisations, associations, research bodies, government and local authorities. It will explore the experiences across different European countries in order to provide each actor with the necessary tools to develop sustainable management systems for pollarding at multiple scales.

TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES

Identifying and disseminating technical tools for farmers and their support organisations:

- Innovative technical equipment for farmers (e.g. reduction of work-intensity, improve energy transition);
- Different products and new sources of income (e.g. fuelwood, wood-bedding for livestock, fodder, ramial chipped wood).

Identifying and making available tools for the development of efficient market channels across territories:

- Approaches to equipment sharing;
- Harmonising development of supply and demand (e.g. producer organization, installation of boilers and heating networks);
- Organization of market channels.
Crossing views and sharing methods

The symposium will bring together presenters and participants from various backgrounds: farmers, researchers, technical advisors, decision-makers, policy-makers, etc. The programme will be organized in a balanced and participatory way to ensure effective communication between all the stakeholders. This diversity of skill and experiences of the participants will provide the basis for informed and critical discussion of the possible approaches to return pollards into productive sustainable use.

Enhancing European cooperation

This symposium will provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders committed to advancing the understanding of pollarding throughout Europe to come together under one roof. Open spaces in the workshop schedule will be provided to provide opportunity for networking and informal exchanges, which will lead to greater cooperation and knowledge exchange between the participants after the symposium.
Gathering stakeholders

300 people from many European countries are expected to attend across the three days. Manufacturers will also be invited to exhibit harvesting/processing machinery and follow the debates in order to gain a better understanding of current needs and interests of their potential customers.

Raising awareness among future generations

In order to raise awareness about pollarding among young people we will involve educational institutions in the organisation of the symposium. This will include primary schools, agricultural schools, schools of fine arts, schools of journalism, agroforestry students, etc. Young people will be given the chance to bring their contributions to the symposium according to their skills and interests: drawing and painting, video interviews of participants, writing of press articles, etc.

Transcribe and disseminate information

Some of the presentations and other exchanges will be recorded on video and broadcast on the AFAF website after the event. The proceedings of the symposium will be published to bring together all the presentations, exchanges and technical data in an accessible document.

EURAF, ICRAF and AFAF, using their strong presence on social media, websites and their contacts with the press and their European partners, will relay information of the Conference to the wider public.
The symposium will deliver the following:

A technical guide for the creation, management and valorisation of pollards, explaining the principles of pollarding, including thinning and other innovative value-adding methods.

A proposal of a European policy measure to incentivise the reintegration of pollards into farming systems, and the development of new product streams to help increase their economic value, and offer ways of diversification of farms' incomes.

Testimonies of farmers, technicians, researchers and managers, who are involved in the production and/or management of the pollards on their farms and their territories, in order to capture success stories of contemporary pollard management.

Demonstrations of equipment and pruning techniques underlining the evolution of traditional practices and the need to adapt to and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Workshops, Open Space and World Café exchanges to explore possible co-operation and set common objectives between European actors.

A walk through the forest of Sare to discover a rich natural heritage, and understand the central role that pollarding has played in shaping the countryside of the Basque Country.

Publication of the symposium proceedings (English, Basque and French languages) to provide a technical reference and to disseminate innovative practices throughout Europe.

A dedicated page on the website « agroforesterie.fr » to share videos and technical documents to a large public (30,000 visits per month, constantly increasing).

Publication of articles in general and technical magazines.

TV and radio coverage, at the local level and beyond.

And much more: agroforestry, locally-sourced meals, movies, exhibitions, informal exchanges...