CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

2nd European Symposium on 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
At the 1st European Symposium on Pollarding, that took place in Boursay, France in 2006, a comprehensive inventory of existing pollarding practices across Europe was compiled, opening up abundant opportunities for new developments.

The aim of this 2nd Symposium is to place pollarding once again in a central role for enhancing sustainable agriculture at farm and landscape level, promoting the preservation of natural resources as well as the enrichment and diversification of farm incomes.

Pollarding is a traditional technique formerly used by farmers throughout Europe but, for a number of reasons, is no longer practiced so widely. For successful rehabilitation, it is essential for those practices to be culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable. This symposium will explore ways of utilising the multiple products of pollards to develop value chains to support the local economy, while showing that these are true “working trees” and effectual allies of farmers and all land users by playing a valuable role in delivering essential ecosystem services including: biodiversity, water and climate regulation, carbon storage, soil fertility, etc.

The rediscovery and development of agroforestry in recent years has reinforced the visibility and value of pollards in rural landscapes and highlighted exciting innovative practices and management strategies. This 2nd European Symposium aims to provide further opportunities for the sharing and cross-fertilisation of recent innovations in pollarding best practice.

CONTENT

- 3 half-days indoors: series of presentations (20 minutes + 20 minutes of Q & A);
- 2 half-days in the field: exploration of local tree patrimony, tree pruning demonstration (including with the most advanced machines available on the market), discussions.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Farmers, extension advisors, natural resource managers, ecologists, researchers and decision-makers, etc.

PARTICIPATION

> Who can participate

All contributions aiming to provide examples of the active reintegration of pollards into the rural economy (and beyond) are welcome. The goal is to share and reflect on a wide variety of approaches and experiences and to identify practical solutions to remaining barriers and challenges. We welcome contributions from within Europe but are also keen to learn about wider international practice.

> Topics

- Use of pollards in agricultural systems: arable farming, vegetable gardening, vineyards, orchards, pastures, beekeeping, etc.
- Use of pollards in sustainable land and resource management: riparian zones, road verges, natural areas, etc.
- Economic value of pollards, from the farm scale to the landscape level: fuelwood, fodder, fruits, wood bedding for livestock, ramial chipped wood (RCW), etc.
> Experiences to share
Practical and transferable experiences on:
- Management techniques and equipment trials for maintenance and harvest operations;
- Development of value chains for pollard products (production, transformation and distribution);
- Techniques for “productive” rehabilitation of pollards in rural areas and beyond.

Technical and scientific research on pollard physiology with practical relevance for farmers, natural resource managers, etc.

This is not an exhaustive list – other suggestions welcome.

> Response format
Draft abstracts should be submitted in English or French to colloquetrognes2018@gmail.com by October 28, 2017, in a short text of 3,000 to 5,000 characters. The proposal should include a clear title, and the author’s contact details (name, surname, institution – if any –, mailing address and e-mail). Figures, pictures or illustrations and a reference list/bibliography can be added. Proposals will be selected by the organising committee by November 15, 2017. Speakers will be asked to submit an article detailing the content of their presentation by January 15, 2018.

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