Support Farmers in Agroforestry development

Conference « Agroforestry: trees for a sustainable European agriculture »

2012/10/10

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French Chambers of Agriculture
Chambers of Agriculture at French and European level

• **French Chambers of Agriculture:**
  - Network of 114 public institutions run by elected members
  - Représentation of farmers and rural world – in front of Local/National/European authorities
  - Broad range of services to agricultural and forestry world (advice, training and coaching to the rural stakeholders)

• **European Chambers of Agriculture network**
  - Chambers of Agriculture network of 14 EU Member States
    - Germany, Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Croatia run by (public/private) elected members.
  - Involved in nearly all agricultural sectors: plant and animal production; agricultural economics; CAP; farm management and strategy; agri-food products; environment and management of natural resources; rural development and local planning; forestry; agri-tourism...
  - Common projects/actions: European twinning and technical assistance projects, collaborative projects, bilateral cooperation projects, common proposals to the European authorities
Chambers of Agriculture involved in 15 French régions

- Agroforestry actions in 15 régions

Agroforestry development actions carried out by Chambers of Agriculture

- Agroforestry actions (15)
- No Agroforestry actions (7)
How to promote Agroforestry among farmers? (1/2)

- Since 2000, driving forces to develop agroforestry in France:
  - **2001 – 2005**: SAFE (*Agroforestry Systems for European Farms*): achievement of key results on agroforesterie, including economic and agronomic aspects
  - **2006-2008** and **2009-2011**: 2 national projects to enhance the relay to farmers
  - **2000 – 2010**: progress on eligibility for direct payments but clarification on the limit of 50 trees/ha
  - **2006 – 2008**: Legal clarification on the status of agroforestry parcel in the framework of French Ministry of Agriculture
  - **2009**: activating agroforestry measurement inside the rural development regulation (EAFRD) (Measure 222 of the french version) to promote agroforestry development

→ The need of a relay towards the ground and a technical support
How to promote Agroforestry among farmers? (2/2)

- Chambers of agriculture technically follow-up agroforestry projects as a relay to the ground:
  - Creation of networks of references parcels
  - Awareness and training
  - Farmers and local support projects: project preparation, planting, follow-up
  - Promote exchanges between farmers/agroforestry owners
  - Participate in Research/Development actions
  - Communication on agroforestry
The Chamber of Agriculture of « Poitou-Charentes » (Region)

- **Creation of networks of references parcels:**
  - 16 experimental parcels – 80 ha

- **Individualized support and awareness of project sponsors:**
  - Visits and spread of evidence and information to identify farmers interested in
  - Projects support

- **Downstream animation: creation of a regional/local group**
  - Create good group dynamics between farmers and owners
  - Facilitate regular exchanges between elected members, associations, local authorities...
  - Organise yearly meetings

- **Research/Development actions**
  - Services provided by insects
  - Improving the agronomic soil quality
  - Agroforestry and second generation bio fuels
  - Measure 222: 34 projects on 250 ha

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Example: Agroforestry in Poitou-Charentes

- The record in Poitou-Charentes:
  - 16 parcels in 2008 on 80 hectares
  - 16 projects since 2010 (2 unfunded) on 153 ha, with 20 225 € (EAFRD)
  - 20 exploring projects on areas of 100 ha
  - Total in 2006 - 2013: 50 projects on 327 ha
Example of an agroforestry parcel in Poitou - Charente
Field trips
Sarthe: agroforestry development in Loué farmers

- **Loué farmers:**
  - Poultry grazing production systems with terms of reference
  - 4500 poultry farmers in Sarthe and Mayenne departments, 3000 rangelands
  - Rangelands of 2 to 6 ha, obligation to plant trees on the periphery or in plots
  - Average of 400 meters hedges and 30 to 200 trees per rangeland

- **Support farmers by the Agricultural Chambers of the Sarthe:**
  - Initial moments: farmers training
  - Pre-related works, related works and post related works to deliver farmers training
  - Encourage natural mixture (trees)
  - In coordination with poultry technicians of Loué

- **Measure 222:**
  - In Pays de la Loire(region), 25 files on roughly 350 ha
  - An effective entry to convince farmers
Farmland in Dissay – plantation on 6 ha since 3 years
Farmland in Laigne (Loué) since 1992 – 4 agroforestry lands of 2 ha
Agroforestry in Hérault (department)

- **Program 2006 – 2008**: surveys among farmers to measure their interest in agroforestry:
  - In the lower Hérault valley: agroforestry virgin sector
  - 30% of farmers interested in the implementation of an agroforestry parcel
  - 30% undecided
  - 40% against

- **Other actions**:
  - Implementation of reference parcels and farmers supports
  - Supports to local authorities who wants to launch collective agroforestry programs
  - Experimental parcels follow-up

- **Measure 222** non activated despite numerous requests
Planting of trees of agroforestry - Hérault
Development of agroforestry in Belgium

• Actions runed by the Development Center of Agroforestry in CHIMAY
  – On 4 pilot sites
  – State of play of agroforestry systems
  – Analysis of priority functions and associated productions
  – Feasibility study based on the business farmland objectives
  – Technical and economic analysis
Leader Transgal project Wallonie/France

« L’arbre en champ : audit agroforestier à la ferme et mobilisation de modèles novateurs »

Action 2 - expertise préalable
- statut lié à l’agroforesterie
- règlements UE (PAC verte)
- problématique foncière

Action 3 - audit rural agroforestier
- questionnaire validé
- enquête agriculteurs
- types agroforestiers en place

Action 4 - guide de faisabilité
- modèles, fonctions & productions
- diagnostic & contraintes
- itinéraire, devis, programmation

Action 5 - vitrines agroforestières locales
- prospection sites publics et privés
- normes de modèles novateurs
- installation et suivi
- sensibilisation et démonstrations
- bilans technico-économiques et écologiques

Action 6 - relais multimédias
- audiovisuel interactif et pédagogique
- format WEB documentaire
- modèles traditionnels et novateurs
- fournitures et opérations culturales
- témoignages et bonnes pratiques
Conclusions/learnings to develop Agroforestry in Europe

• To lift ahead legal constraints in each Member State
• The need to confirm the parcels eligibility to CAP direct payments whatever tree density
• A lasting financial support over the whole European territory:
  – A permanent 2nd pilar measure to support agroforestry
  – A need for strong Member States commitment to activate the measure with a national cofinancing
• A need to animation and vulgarisation means to aware and convince
• Importance of a link between research and development
• European Network : strengthen exchanges on development methods for farmers