



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

What support for agroforestry under a greener CAP?

Jana Poláková, IEEP

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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.

What support for agroforestry under current CAP?



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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**
 - 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

What support under post 2014 CAP?



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Welcome elements relating to agroforestry in CAP proposals



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)



Improved **Farm Advisory System**

What needs resolving in post 2014 CAP



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IEEP Agriculture and Land Management Programme

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
 - To develop helpful rules on the extent to which trees/hedges, wooded areas count;
 - 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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