

Webinar
EU Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting Guidelines
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Agroforestry practices

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Agroforestry in EU Guidelines

- ❑ EU Guidelines on “Afforestation, reforestation and tree planting” are biased towards forests and favourable climates while agroforestry is restricted only to agricultural land.

Specifically:

- In dry climates such as the Mediterranean open forests functioning as agroforestry systems should be pursued in order to cope with drought and forest fires. The document does not discuss the issue of **tree density**.
- Agroforestry is mentioned only in relation to tree planting in agricultural land but it can be also applied in **forest land**.
- Agroforestry is mentioned as a practice in settlements in the form of home gardens but it can be also applied in the **urban-forest interface**.

Agroforest vs forest ecosystems



- ❑ In dry areas such as the Mediterranean region afforestation and reforestation should aim at establishing **open forests** in order to ensure increased biodiversity and resistance to wildfires.
- ❑ Open forests can be maintained through appropriate livestock grazing as **agroforestry (silvopastoral) systems**.

Agroforest vs forest ecosystems

- ❑ **Open forests are traditional** in the Mediterranean region and in other parts of Europe and very often function as agroforestry (silvopastoral) systems.



Agroforestry in forest land



- ❑ **Degraded forest land** due to communal overgrazing can be restored through establishment of agroforestry (silvopastoral) systems.
- ❑ Planted trees can be protected from animal damage with special degradable **plastic tubes** which also enhance early tree growth.

Agroforestry in forest land

- ❑ Agroforestry (silvopastoral) systems in **permanent grasslands** in forest land are traditional in Greece and other Mediterranean countries.



A typical silvopastoral system in forest land



Cattle grazing in such a system

Agroforestry in urban-forest interface



- ❑ **Forest fires** are a big problem in the Mediterranean region.
- ❑ Those on the **urban-forest interface** are the most dangerous.
- ❑ Establishment of **agroforestry systems** in this interface is the only solution.



Agroforestry in arable land

- ❑ Arable land is **devoid of trees** more than any other type of land.
- ❑ Trees are particularly necessary in arable land with **environmental problems** (e.g. soil erosion, salinization, nitrate pollution).
- ❑ Agroforestry (silvoarable) systems can successfully **alleviate** all these problems.
- ❑ Emphasis should be given on planting **trees outside the forest** and mainly in intensively cultivated agricultural land.



National reforestation plan of Greece

- ❑ In November 2020, the Forest Service of the Ministry of Environment announced the reforestation of 50,000 hectares of land **by planting 30 million trees** by 2030.
- ❑ The program is restricted to forest land. **Agricultural land is not included** apparently because it is administered by another Ministry (of Agriculture) showing up the problem of “silo thinking” between Forest and Agricultural services.
- ❑ **Agroforestry** is not mentioned in the program.
- ❑ There is an urgent need for the Member-States to be informed by the EU that the program on “Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting” should be applied **in a global and holistic way** in order to meet its targets.



Thank you !