

Workshop 11: Agroforestry and agroecology

Convenors: María Rosa Mosquera-Losada (University of Santiago de Compostela), Anastasia Pantera (TEI Stereas Elladas, Greece), Nuria Ferreiro-Dominguez (University of Santiago de Compostela)

Impulse talks:

- María Rosa Mosquera-Losada (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain) - "Agroforestry as a tool for ecoinintensification" -
- Antoine Marzio (Divaporc, France) - "The future of agro-forestry local breeds pig farming in Region Auvergne Rhône-Alpes"
- Pierre Costet (Valrhona, France) - "Cacao Forest: Innovating together for the sustainable cocoa of the future"
- Sara Burbi (Coventry University, UK)- "Transition to agroforestry: current challenges and opportunities for the adoption of agroforestry as a carbon sequestration strategy"
- Anastasia Pantera (TEI Stereas Elladas, Greece) - "High Value Tree Agroforestry Systems in Europe: from tradition to modern environmental and socio-economic needs"
- Rodrigo Olave (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, UK) - "The potential of agroecology and silvopasture to enhance the resilience of grassland systems in the island of Ireland"

Several researchers shared their experience on agroforestry in different talks. The meeting was initiated with an explanation of what agroforestry is and the potential it has across Europe. A French project (DIVAPORC) showed how traditional robust pig breeds are adapted to be used for the re-allocation of profitable livestock on rural areas, along with trees. This creates new local economic activities and premium quality meat. In the Dominican Republic, the Cacao Forest project is designing edible forest containing a high diversity of local fruits (for the local market) and cocoa trees (to market high-quality chocolate). In Ireland, a 25 years long research project showed how silvopasture was enhancing the resilience of grassland systems, and policies are currently being adapted to support agroforestry. Many examples were shown from Mediterranean regions where livestock or crops could be added to orange, walnut or olive-tree crops in order to diversify the production and to increase revenues. Agroforestry has been shown to improve Carbon sequestration and field-biomass and to decrease soil erosion and nutrient leaching. The challenges of agroforestry are the need for long-term data and for more integration of traditional knowledge. More evidence about the economic and environmental benefits is needed to support policy change at local scale, and on the European level, a lot more strategies are needed to foster further education and implementation of agroforestry. There is a need of developing a European Agroforestry Strategy tackling policy promotion (CAP), education (integrating agricultural and forestry knowledge), innovation (i.e. EIP-Agri activities) and research (think globally and act locally). The EURAF was created in 2010 for that purpose.