



Organic Production in the EU

How can agroforestry contribute?

Civil Dialogue Group 'Organic' - May 24th 2024



[Secretariat \(at\) euraf.net](mailto:Secretariat@euraf.net)



1. What is Agroforestry?

The CAP Strategic Plans gives [28 new definitions](#)





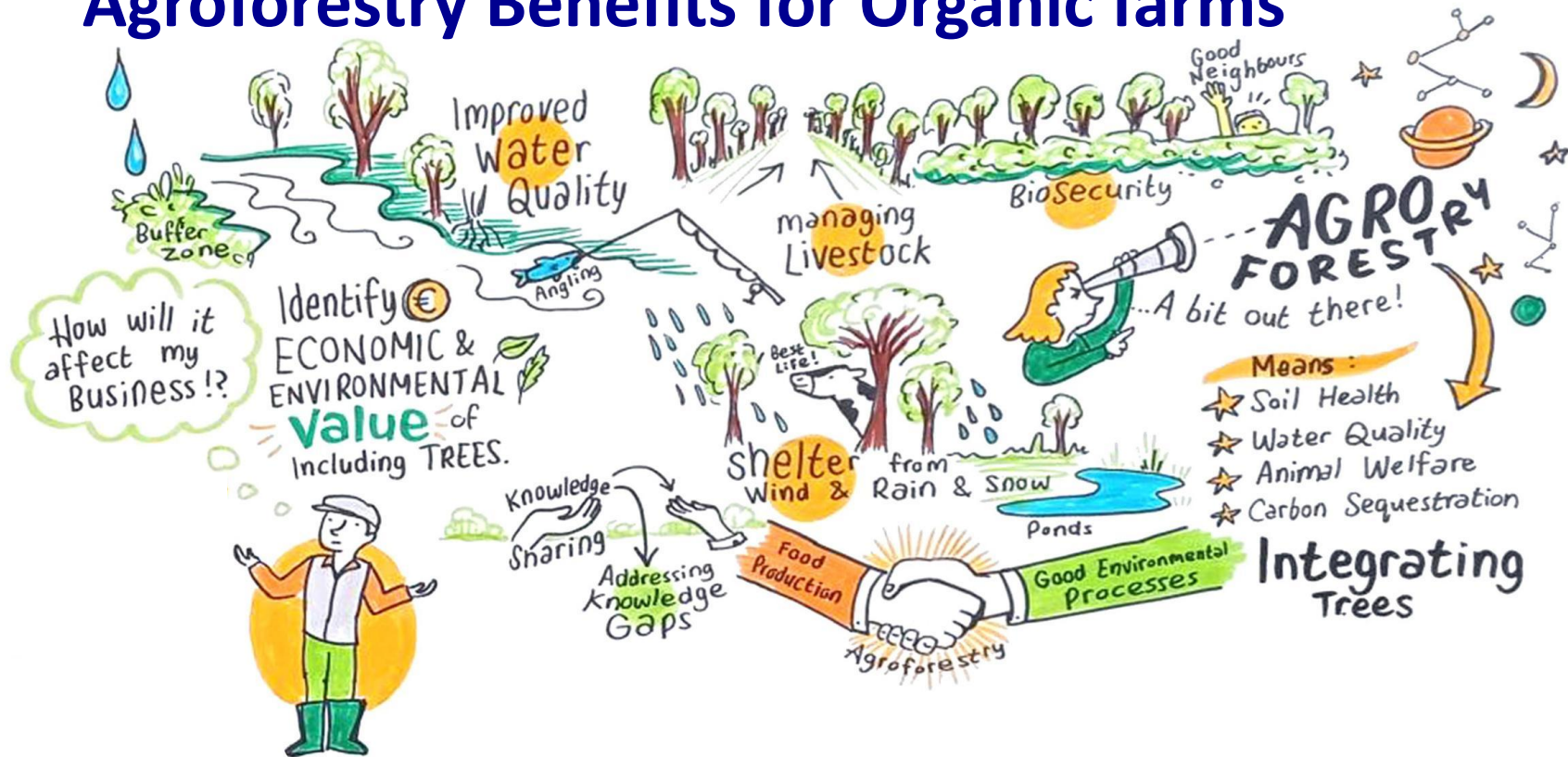
The EU has a simple agroforestry definition in CAP 2017/22

“Land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land (Reg 1305/2013)”.

Agroforestry trees can be inside parcels or on boundaries (e.g. hedges). Agroforestry can be on forest parcels (e.g.

“forest grazing”) or agricultural parcels (e.g. “wood pasture”)

Agroforestry Benefits for Organic farms





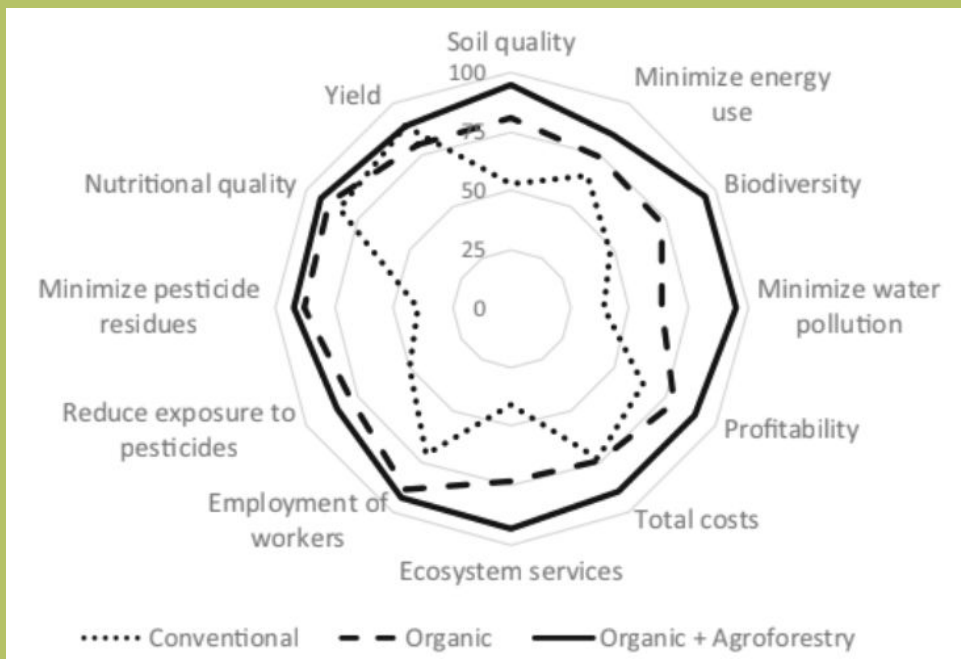
Organic Farms still moving towards mixed farming

- Organic farming can substitute inputs instead of transforming systems so the farm can sustain itself without high cost inputs.
- **Embrace system diversification** and redesign agroecosystems to increase trees for better ecological interactions.
- Many Mediterranean organic farms are stockless, and much organic grain in France and Poland lacks livestock integration. 97% of Ireland's Organic Farms are grassland systems.

Agroforestry Benefits for Organic Farms

- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- **Carbon sequestration**
- Agroecological - Biodiversity benefits including increased **pest control and reduced inputs**
- Improved livestock **health and welfare** -shade and shelter for livestock-medicinal and nutritional value of tree fodder
- **Water, soil health** and permeability
- Extended grazing season (less poaching and **better pasture utilisation**)

Organic Farming in partnership with Trees Increased Ecological and economic benefits.



From Rosati et al (2021) *Agroforest Syst* (2021) 95:805–821
[https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-020-00559-6\(0123456789\(\).,-volV\)\(01234567](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-020-00559-6(0123456789().,-volV)(01234567)

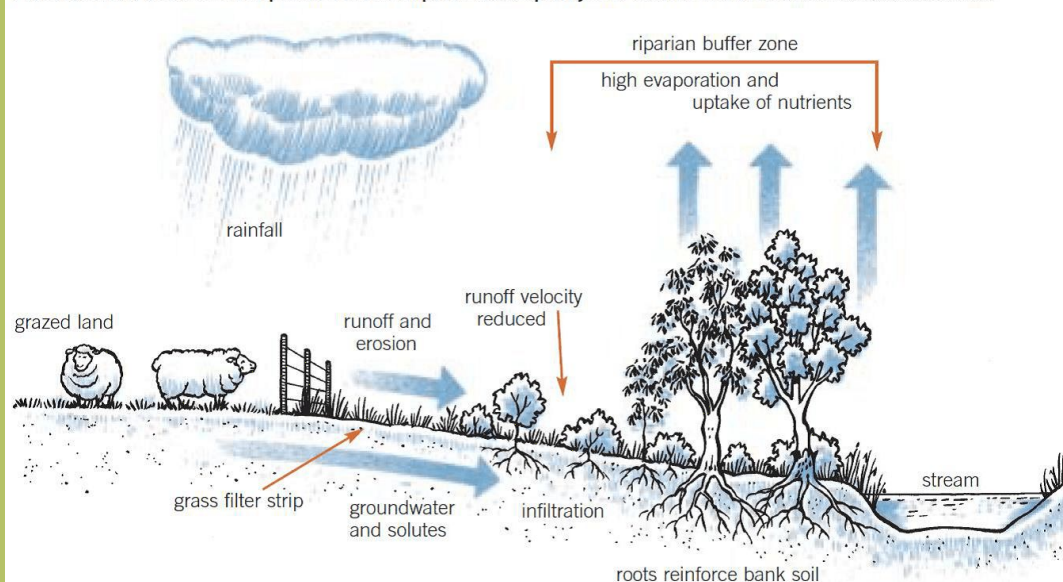
Organic Farming in partnership with trees



Riparian Buffers

- Trees intercept run off from manures e.g slurry.
- Nutrient Reduction: Enhanced Nutrient Cycling
- Stream Bank Stabilisation: Tree roots stabilise banks, reducing erosion.
- Flood Mitigation: Decreases flood frequency and intensity.
- Sediment Prevention: Prevents sediment from entering waterways.
- Erosion control

Processes that occur in the riparian zone to improve water quality and stabilise streambanks. Illustration Paul Lennon.



<https://www.teagasc.ie/about/farm-advisory/advisory-regions/cork-east/farming-for-water-quality---assap/riparian-margins-and-fenced-buffer-strips/>

Organic Farming in partnership with trees

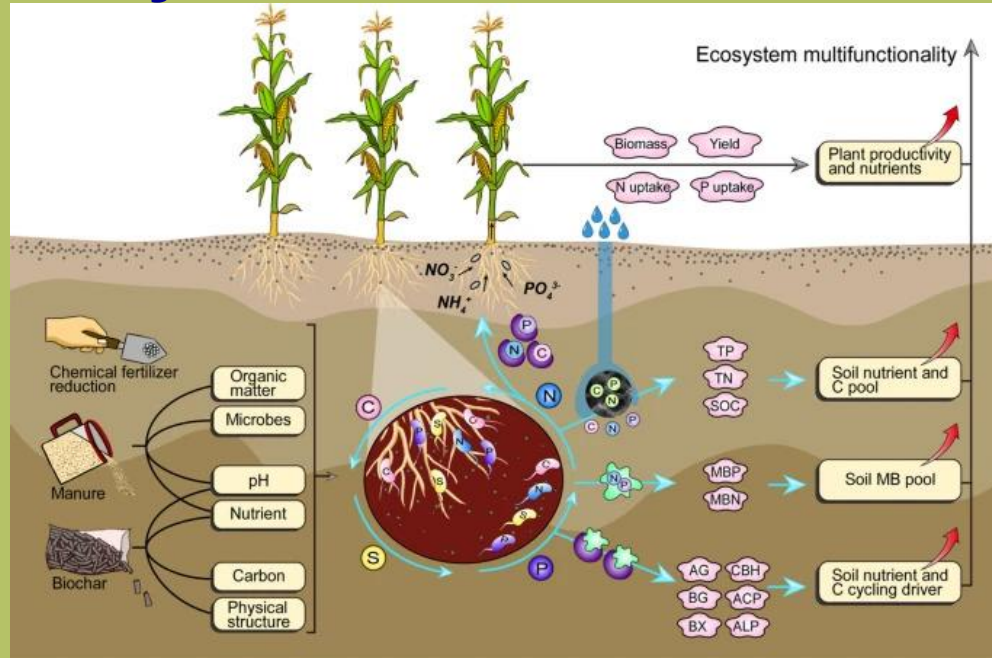


Reduce the Yield Gap with Conventional Agriculture

- Organic farms typically produce less food than conventional ones but are more resilient to drought, wind, and flooding.
- **Agroforestry boosts productivity** by optimising natural resources, leading to sustainable intensification.
- Adding trees to organic systems **diversifies and strengthens** them.

Trees can exploit natural resources that the crop or animal can't access.

Agroforestry products can boost Organic systems.



Biochar can significantly enhance ecosystem functions such as crop productivity, soil nutrient storage, and soil enzyme activities.

From: Hu, W., Zhang, Y., Rong, X. et al (2024). Biochar and organic fertilizer applications enhance soil functional microbial abundance and agroecosystem multifunctionality. *Biochar* 6, 3 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42773-023-00296-w>

Pest control using Trees and Biodiversity.



- Control of ticks and blowfly in organic systems is difficult, particularly in a changing climate with increased temperatures.
- Organic rules limit or restrict use of insect growth regulators and insecticides in organic systems.
- Trees help increase biodiversity.

Toal and McAdam (1995) found that, generally, significantly more birds were recorded on lowland and upland silvopasture than either open pasture or woodland.

Many bird species eat insects, and parasites e.g ticks.

Organic Farming in partnership with Trees



There are examples of organic agroforestry practices in Ireland, Italy, Poland, Hungary, as well as Ukraine, UK, and CH, among others.



From: FIBL Switzerland; BioDiVerger project.



Ireland: Silvopasture - native trees with sheep and Silvoarable - native trees in pasture with aronia berry production.

Organic Farming in partnership with Trees



Organic farming's profitability is often reliant on premium prices and subsidies; integrating agroforestry can enhance profitability by capitalising on organic certification premiums and other farm supports.



System Report: Agroforestry for Organic Egg Production in the Netherlands

Project name	AGFORWARD (613520)
Work-package	5: Agroforestry for Livestock farmers
Specific group	Agroforestry for organic egg production in The Netherlands
Deliverable	Contribution to Deliverable 5.13 (5.1): Detailed system description of a case study system
Date of report	12 November 2015
Authors	Monique Bestman
Contact	m.bestman@louisbolk.nl
Approved	John Hermansen (20 January 2016) Paul Burgess (11 April 2016)



Credit: WTM

Woodland eggs aren't the only way Sainsbury's supports our work

Woodland chicken and turkey were launched with combined sales of over 63 million to date. Donations are also received from Sainsbury's Best of British apples, bags for life and a range of woodland cards.

From: AgForward project

From: Woodland Trust



„Grass-fed” beef products with negative carbon footprint



Silvopastoral system

Cutting and packaging of carcass quarters in farm processing plant.

Parsley Market (Cracow)
BioBazar Market (Warsaw)
Organic shops

Timber, fruits



Local selling

Organic farm OIKOS

Małopolskie Voivodship, Beskid Niski mountains
Demonstration farm, WWF Farm of the year (Polish edition)





Organic Farming with Trees in Ireland

Shows positive policy change



- Silvopastoral Systems (FT 8)
- Establishment grant - €8555/ha
- Premium €975/ha/year for 10 years
- Silvoarable Systems (Pilots)
- Forest Gardening (Pilots)
- Acres/Eco Scheme
- **Woodland Woodland Scrub < 51% still eligible**
- Eligible for BISS
- **Agroforestry now eligible for Organic Premium!**



Organic Farming in partnership with Trees

Policy and Support



Effective policies, increased research, **demonstration** activities, **farmer training**, and awareness within organic farming movements are crucial for promoting agroforestry.

Adequate supports for establishment and maintenance. Subsidies for ecosystem services provided by diverse and sustainable agricultural systems are essential to encourage adoption initially.



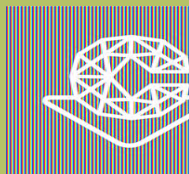
Conclusion

Agroforestry, the agroecological and economic solution for Organic Farms.

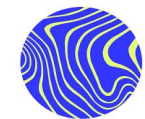
Plant Trees for multi-ecosystem benefits, to improve farm outcomes, sustainability and profit.



Thank you!



ResAlliance



DISTENDER



DigitAF



Funded by
the European Union



European Agroforestry Federation