EURAF would like to share with you the potential of agroforestry systems. The core message is that **agroforestry reconciles productivity with the protection of the environment**. Well designed agroforestry systems are actually significantly more productive than monocultures, so they are a form of **ecological intensification**. As such, agroforestry is perfectly in line with the aims and ambitions of the European Commission for the new Common Agricultural Policy while meeting farmer concerns that land shouldn't be taken out of production.

**EURAF is convinced that agroforestry fulfils greening requirements:**

- Agroforestry has been used historically **throughout Europe**. Today’s agroforestry systems however, have been adapted to modern day farming techniques.
  
  [see agroforestry fact sheet, short presentation and pictures of agroforestry landscapes]

- **Administratively**, a simple and efficient control mechanism exists, which is called the Habitat Ratio. It is the proportion of farmland which serves as habitat for biodiversity.
  
  [see how this works – note that the Habitat Ratio is called 'BIH/UAA']

- The **environmental benefits** of agroforestry are widely recognized and include:
  
  - higher biomass production
  - better resource efficiency
  - water quality and regulation (tree roots trap nitrates, increase infiltration,...)
  - erosion control (reduction of soil runoff and windblown soil)
  - substantial carbon sequestration (more than any other agri-environmental measure)
  - microclimate modification (windbreak, livestock shelter, animal welfare,...)
  - biodiversity regulation (corridors, new and integrated habitats, structural diversity)
  - climate resilience (buffering extreme weather events, preventing forest fires)
  - pest and disease regulation (research is limited but ongoing)
  - soil formation, increased organic matter and better nutrient cycling
  - air quality regulation
  - cultural services (heritage value, aesthetic value, recreation, tourism)
  - carbon substitution (biomass that doesn't compete with food production)
  - reduced dependency on wood products imports & stimulus for green growth

[see the following scientific papers recently published – they are attached to the email]

- 2012 – Reconciling productivity with protection of the environment: is temperate agroforestry the answer?
- 2012 – Past, present and future of agroforestry systems in Europe
- 2009 – Agroforestry systems in Europe: productive, ecological and social perspectives

**Policy proposals**

EURAF has gathered concrete policy changes that we want to suggest in this separate document. The French Agroforestry Association has also produced a document on policy suggestions, which is signed by EURAF.

We would be happy to provide further clarification.

On behalf of EURAF,

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