

# Does Timber Have a Role to Play in Agroforestry?

**Farm Woodland Forum**  
**Allerton Project, Loddington, Leicestershire.**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

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**The Forest Service**

# Background

- Studied Forestry UCD, Masters in Forestry, Marketing, GIS and Biodiversity.
- Worked with Forest and Wildlife Service, Coillte (Research) and now the Forest Service.
- District Forestry Inspector in South West Ireland (24 years). Processing planting grants, felling licences, plant health and policy formulation.
- Interacting with farmers and forest companies on the ground.
- Agroforestry – Simply believed in it from the start.

# EURAF

## Conferences

- Attended 4 conferences
- Learning cliff
- Lobbying the EU
- Mentioned in the RDP

## Brussels 2014



# Cottbus, Germany



Biomass from trees for power



Development of vines



Pure forestry



Spreewald



# Montpellier, France



Rows of Walnut



Vegetables with Olive trees.



UNESCO, scrub control/chips/pigs

# Nijmegen, The Netherlands



Apple trees /large cattle/hens



Fruit production



Vines/vegetables/biomass/fruit

# Timber?

- The forgotten component?
- Why – Possible reasons
  1. Agriculture at EU level under pressure to clean up act. Environmental and food aspects of trees attractive.
  2. Research funding usually from agriculture sources
  3. Most agroforestry initiatives on the EU level are driven from the agriculture sector.
  4. Long term nature of quality timber production.
  5. Foresters perhaps not convinced of potential.

# Woodland v Forestry

- Forests – ‘A large area covered chiefly with trees and undergrowth’ (Oxford dictionary)
- Woodland – ‘Land covered with trees’ (Oxford dictionary)
- Forestry – ‘The science or practice of planting, managing and caring for forests’ (Oxford dictionary)
- Agroforestry – ‘Agriculture incorporating the cultivation and conservation of Trees’ (Oxford dictionary)



# Agroforestry

- *“the deliberate integration of **woody vegetation (trees and/or shrubs)** as an upper storey on land with an agricultural crop or pasture in the lower storey which is consumed by domestic animals. The woody species can be evenly or unevenly distributed or occur on the **border of plots**. The woody species can deliver forestry or **agricultural products or other ecosystem services** (i.e. regulating or cultural)” EURAF 2017*

# Spacing of Trees



Trees with a lot of space - good for agriculture



Trees with less light-not so good for agriculture.



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So what is so bad about forestry  
and timber production?

# Perception

- Woodland



- Forestry



# Titles

- Woodland Trust.
- Farm Woodland Forum.
- Coed Lleol, small woods.
- Small woodland owners group.
- Llais y Goedwig- the voice of community woodlands in Wales.
- Native Woodland Scheme (Ireland)
- Neighbourwood Scheme (Ireland)
- Woodlands of Ireland





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Forestry is far more adaptable!

# Is there a role for timber ?

## Examples

Christoph Eisel & Jaap van Hemmen



Elm € 800/M<sup>3</sup>.  
Harvest in 25 years.  
Crop value € 320,000.  
Minus costs ,Profit € 215,000  
Shropshire sheep.



*Paulownia tomentosa.*  
Germany big interest.  
High quality dry, pale timber.  
Shropshire sheep.

# Examples



**Tom Cosby**  
Eco-tourism,  
Llelyn sheep,  
Oak



**Leo Murphy**  
Prime Kildare land 5 ha.  
15% fruit/nut trees.  
Oak

# My own experience



Cherry 22 years old  
DBH average 23 cm  
Top Height 15 metres  
Average tree vol. 0.5m<sup>3</sup>  
Yield Class 6



Cut in lengths and allowed  
To dry



Split further drying  
Use approx. 2,700 kg/year  
Saving approx. €1,500/year  
Last 10 years €15,000 saved.

# Estimate of Yield/Income

Species	Age (yr)	Sawlog (SL) M <sup>3</sup> /tree	Firewood (FW) M <sup>3</sup> /tree	Total SL @ €80 & FW @ €30	150 Trees/ha	Veneer + 30% (€)
Sycamore	60	2.0	2.0	220	33,000	42,900
Cherry	60	1.5	3.0	210	31,500	_____
Oak	60	1.0	1.0	110	16,500	21,450
Ash	60	3.0	4.0	360	54,000	70,000
Birch	30	1.0	2.0	140	21,000	27,300
Scots Pine	30	3.0	2.0	300	45,000	_____

\*All approximate figures

\*Ireland – income from forestry is tax free



# Conclusions

- Timber should be an integral part of agroforestry.
- Monocultures to be avoided due to disease and market trends.
- Forestry sector should feed more into research.
- More of a long term focus.
- Great potential for veneer quality timber.



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# Thank You

