



# REFOREST

Organisation: Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association



## D1.2

### Innovation network

Date 20.06.2025  
Doc. Version 03



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101060635 (REFOREST). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



UK partners are funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee [grant number 10039700].

## Document Control Information

Settings	Value
<b>Deliverable Title</b>	Innovation network
<b>Work Package Title</b>	Co-creation, Capitalisation, and Dissemination
<b>Deliverable number</b>	D1.2
<b>Description</b>	A network of practitioners aimed at fostering innovation will be established and supported
<b>Lead Beneficiary</b>	EMEA
<b>Lead Author</b>	EMEA – Christine de Visser, Tiago Zibecchi
<b>Contributor</b>	CZU – Martin Lukáč
<b>Submitted by</b>	Christine de Visser, Tiago Zibecchi
<b>Doc. Version (Revision number)</b>	03
<b>Sensitivity (Security):</b>	Public
<b>Date:</b>	20/06/2025

## Document Approver(s) and Reviewer(s):

NOTE: All Approvers are required. Records of each approver must be maintained. All Reviewers in the list are considered required unless explicitly listed as Optional.

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## Document history

The Document Author is authorised to make the following types of changes to the document without requiring that the document be re-approved:

- Editorial, formatting, and spelling
- Clarification

To request a change to this document, contact the Document Author or Owner.

Changes to this document are summarised in the following table in reverse chronological order (latest version first).

Revision	Date	Created by	Short Description of Changes
<b>03</b>	20/06/2025	EMEA – Christine de Visser	Final version
<b>02</b>	20/06/2025	CZU – Martin Lukáč	Minor edits
<b>01</b>	16/06/2025	EMEA – Christine de Visser, Tiago Zibecchi	Initial version

### Configuration Management: Document Location

The latest version of this controlled document is stored in

<https://czuvpraze.sharepoint.com/teams/fld-t-reforest/Sdilene%20dokumenty/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Nature of the deliverable		
<b>R</b>	Report	
<b>DEC</b>	Websites, patents, filing, etc.	
<b>DEM</b>	Demonstrator	x
<b>O</b>	Other	

Dissemination level		
<b>PU</b>	Public	x
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report forms part of the deliverables from the REFOREST project which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101060635. The Community is not responsible for any use that might be made of the content of this publication.

More information on the project can be found at: <http://agroreforest.eu/>

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ReForest Innovation Network is a cornerstone of the ReForest project's mission to foster systemic, transdisciplinary collaboration for the advancement of agroforestry (AF) and sustainable land use across Europe. Conceived not as a one-off deliverable but as a lasting community of practice, the Innovation Network brings together a wide range of stakeholders: farmers, researchers, public authorities, NGOs, businesses, and projects to co-create knowledge, share resources, and build pathways for long-term transformation in land management.

As of May 2025, the network comprises 61 active organisations spanning multiple countries and sectors, supported by a growing online community of over 116 individual members on the ReForest Co-Creation and Engagement Platform. The network has materialised through a combination of strategic activities: partner-led stakeholder engagement, the formation of thematic working groups, participation in and organisation of events and policy debates, collaboration with Living Labs, and structured synergies with complementary projects. Five core Working Groups were initiated by ReForest partners, covering key themes such as agroforestry finance and policy, training and upskilling, institutional barriers, productivity and product valorisation, and dynamic tool development. Two additional groups emerged through collaboration with external actors, highlighting the network's responsiveness and openness. Together, these groups enable deep engagement and contribute directly to the development of tools, methodologies, and policy recommendations. The Innovation Network also supports ReForest's outreach and advocacy through its involvement in high-level policy debates, including events at COP28 and COP29, and strategic collaborations such as joint workshops with DigitAF, participation in the Agroecology Cluster, and co-organisation of a major living lab encounter from the agri-food sector. These activities have played a vital role in informing policy development, fostering peer learning, and creating lasting relationships with a key network of experts. The Living Labs, situated across eight countries, serve as the on-the-ground testing grounds of ReForest's innovations and are deeply integrated into the network's activities. They provide critical data, enable experimentation, and serve as bridges between science, practice, and policy. Their contributions are reflected in the growing set of co-creation factsheets being published through the Knowledge Hub and online platform. Finally, the ReForest Engagement Platform provides the digital infrastructure supporting the network. It hosts newsfeeds, event calendars, a knowledge repository, a member directory, community maps, and interactive tools such as the FarmTree digital tool and upcoming decision-support resources. The platform fosters real-time collaboration, knowledge sharing, and continued engagement well beyond the project's duration.

Looking ahead, the Innovation Network will play a key role in the final delivery phase of ReForest. It will facilitate continued policy dialogue at COP30, the EMANES Conference, and



the ReForest Final Event, for which working groups will define advocacy priorities and communicate results. Through its structured, inclusive, and forward-looking approach, the Innovation Network not only contributes to the success of ReForest but also sets the stage for long-term impact across Europe's agroecological transition.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
<b>AF</b>	Agroforestry
<b>CEPS</b>	Centre for European Policy Studies
<b>CIHEAM</b>	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
<b>CZU</b>	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
<b>EMEA</b>	Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association
<b>EURAF</b>	European Agroforestry Federation
<b>GID</b>	Groupeement Interacadémique pour le Développement
<b>LL</b>	Living Lab
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>ORC</b>	Organic Research Centre
<b>PES</b>	Payment for Ecosystem Services
<b>UCPH</b>	University of Copenhagen
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UPM</b>	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>WG</b>	Working Group



## 1. REFOREST INNOVATION NETWORK: CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVE

The ReForest Innovation Network is conceived as a dynamic, inclusive, and cross-sectoral community of actors united by a shared mission: to promote sustainable land management practices in Europe, with a central focus on advancing agroforestry (AF) systems. More than a temporary project outcome, the network is intended to serve as a lasting platform for collaboration, learning, and advocacy well beyond the duration of the ReForest project.

The Innovation Network strengthens ReForest's implementation by actively mobilising a wide range of stakeholders across sectors and disciplines, while laying the groundwork for a sustainable, long-term ecosystem for innovation. It facilitates co-creation and knowledge exchange while enabling strategic feedback loops across the project's work packages. In doing so, the network not only supports internal project objectives but also fosters enduring partnerships that can continue to drive sustainable land-use transitions. It connects agroforestry practitioners, researchers, businesses, and policymakers from across Europe, both as individuals and as representatives of organisations, initiatives, and projects, working collectively to mainstream and scale agroforestry systems.

The network is envisioned not merely as a project tool, but as a community of practice, one that enables continuous engagement, innovation, and shared learning around climate-resilient, biodiversity-enhancing land systems.

## 2. HOW THE NETWORK MATERIALISED

The Innovation Network has taken shape through a combination of structured activities, including partner-led engagement, bilateral exchanges, synergy-building meetings with complementary EU-funded projects, participation in webinars and policy debates, and the active involvement of Living Labs. These efforts are supported by an online co-creation and engagement platform, which provides a wide range of pages to facilitate collaboration among members.

ReForest registers a large network, with a list of 91 organisations identified, 61 have an active synergy and collaboration with ReForest. Organisations involved in the Innovation Network have been characterised based on their nature and following categorisation as defined in M1-M2 Co-creation and knowledge capitalisation strategy and AF Co-creation guidelines (Table 1).

Type of Organisations	Number of Org.
NGO	7
Private sector actors	8
Projects	21
Public sector	8
Scientific community	11
Farmers and landowners <sup>1</sup>	6
<b>Total general</b>	<b>61</b>

*Table 1: Types of organisations part of the Innovation Network.*

<sup>1</sup> These relate to Farmers and Landowners outside of ReForest's living labs.

These 60 Organisations are geographically spread around Europe and beyond. (See Table 2)

Country or Region	Number of Org.
Belgium	7
Czechia	1
Denmark	3
Germany	3
Greece	1
Hungary	1
Italy	1
Poland	3
Regional EU	6
Regional EU + Balkans	2
Regional EU + MENA	2
Regional EU + UK	2
Regional EU + UK + SWISS	3
Slovenia	1
Spain	10
UK	12
France	2
Morocco	1
<b>Total general</b>	<b>61</b>

*Table 2: Number of organisations within the Innovation Network per country or region.*

The types of synergies with ReForest have been regrouped and categorised as much as possible, leading to the following list:

Type of Synergies with ReForest	Number of Org.
Communication, Advocacy & Networking joint efforts	14
Contributed to results through working sessions and consultations	31
Joint Event - Stakeholder engagement	6
Upcoming Joint Event & Stakeholder Engagement from Public Authority	1
Willing to join efforts regarding training and upskilling farmers	4
Policy Debate & Consultation	5
<b>Total general</b>	<b>61</b>

*Table 3: Number of organisations within the innovation network per type of synergies  
(Note the list offers only a minimal snapshot of the innovation with external organisations, some of which have engaged in multiple and varied activities)*

For detailed information about the organisations involved in the project, please see the ReForest project internal records, ReForest project website, [www.agroreforest.eu](http://www.agroreforest.eu), ReForest Engagement Platform, <https://reforest.euromed-economists.org/>, and information available on the ReForest Social Media: LinkedIn, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/agroforesteu/>; X (formerly Twitter), <https://x.com/ReForestTweets>; Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/agroforesteu/>; Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/agroforesteu/>; YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/@AgroReForest>.

Following the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the ReForest Ethics Protocol, any names and any affiliations of participants who have not had obtained an explicit consent via the ReForest project available public channels by providing clear, direct and unambiguous agreement to a specific action, in particularly concerning the use of personal data, the records are safely and securely kept on the ReForest internal registry. As per ReForest project General Agreement, those records could only be made available either upon the request of the European Commission or its authorised representatives for audit or verification purposes and in line with the applicable legal and ethical standards of full compliance.

## 2.1 PARTNER-LED ENGAGEMENT

ReForest consortium members have actively involved external experts, practitioners, farmers, and local institutions with co-creation activities to support their research. This ensures that insights from across the value chain inform project outcomes and that stakeholder voices are embedded into the process. As of May 2025, 31 individual external organisations have been collaborating in what has been characterised by our data as “Contributed to results with working sessions and consultations”, as shown in Table 3.

To support the objectives outlined above, a series of thematic working groups were launched and given a dedicated online closed space for collaboration on the ReForest co-creation and engagement platform described below. The first Working Groups emerged through the initiative of ReForest partners: *Agronomic productivity and valorisation of agroforestry products in the network of living labs* (22 members), *Training & Upskilling farmers for AF* (27 members), *Agroforestry Sector Finance and Policy* (28 members), *Institutional barriers in European Countries* (13 members), *Parameterizing dynamic tools for country or living lab-specific agroforestry systems* (19 members) (See Table 4).

In addition, a working group was initiated by DigitAF, such as the *Tools for Tree Species Selection for Agroforestry Systems* group (11 members). Another established through mutual agreement between ReForest and external organisations that identified both the need and opportunity for more targeted collaboration, for instance, the *Network and Engagement* Working Group launched at the end of May 2025 (4 members on the platform, 12 stakeholders from different organisation and project have expressed interested in joining), which emerged to enhance joint outreach, advocacy, and coordination efforts.

Working Groups	Agroforestry Sector Finance and Policy	Agronomic productivity and valorisation of AF product in the network of living labs	Institutional Barriers in EU countries	Parameterising dynamic tools for country or living labs	Tools for tree Species Selection for Agroforestry Systems	Training and Upskilling Farmers	Network and engagement
Countries							
Albania	1						
Belgium	3	1	1		2	1	

Bulgaria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Czechia	2	1	1	1		1		
Denmark		1						
England						1		
France					1		1	
Germany	3	2	3	4	1	4		
Greece	4	1		2	1	2		
Hungary	1	1		1	1	1		
Netherlands	3	4	2	4	1	3		
Poland	2	2	2	2		2		
Portugal					1			
Spain	4	2	2	3	2	3	2	
UK	4	5	1	1		6		
US		1				2		
Female	13	9	7	8	6	12	3	
Male	15	13	6	11	5	15	1	
Total general	28	22	13	19	11	27	4	
								Average:
% of women in each WG	46%	41%	54%	42%	55%	44%	75%	<b>51%</b>

*Table 4: Composition of Working Groups Disaggregated by Country and Gender.*

Additionally, project partners have participated in numerous external events to present their work and preliminary results. As of May 2025, they have taken part in over 30 events. These engagements have been instrumental in meeting key experts, receiving feedback, discussing methodologies and common challenges, and building lasting relationships.

As project partners begin to finalise the results of their work and research, we are compiling factsheets that document the co-creation and collaboration processes carried out throughout the project. Several of these factsheets are already available (see Appendix 2 – Co-creation Factsheet Examples) and will be published on the platform and in the knowledge hub between June and August 2025, following a structured communication plan. The factsheets provide an overview of the consultations that led to key results across different work packages:

- Towards the development of a Consultancy Business Model to enhance the uptake of agroforestry in Europe.
- Towards the enhancement of the FarmTree Tool and Living Lab integration in the ReForest project.
- Towards the development of a Financial Scheme and Policy Recommendations to enhance the uptake of agroforestry in Europe.
- A minimum of 4 additional Factsheets will be delivered to reflect on the work done for monitoring and verification, toward Semi-autonomous Remote sensing-based AF system verification tool, AF system performance, Knowledge Base and transfer, and around Integration and Innovation.

## 2.2 SYNERGY-BUILDING MEETINGS WITH COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS

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ReForest has engaged in several bilateral exchanges and synergy-building meetings with complementary projects. These interactions have helped avoid duplication, foster collaboration around shared goals, such as policy advocacy and knowledge dissemination, and identify opportunities for joint actions.

As a result of these efforts, ReForest partners have been invited to and co-organised multiple events to present the project, share preliminary results, and establish valuable connections with experts from various fields. The below list depicts some of the most important collaborations and events ReForest partners have been invited to or co-organised between ReForest other EU projects.

### **ReForest and DigitAF Co-Organised Workshops – Czech Innovation Network**

**Date of the workshops:** 4 May 2023, 17 October 2023, 24 September 2024, and 10 April 2025

**Synergy:** A notable area of practical collaboration since the start of the ReForest and DigitAF projects has been the shared Innovation Network in the Czech Republic. To date, four on-site workshops have been co-organised, with another planned for 2026. These workshops have enabled real-time data gathering, scenario testing, and the alignment of research methodologies between both projects. The events attracted broad participation, with 29 attendees at the first and second workshops, 17 at the third, and 40 at the most recent session. Each workshop included representatives from key stakeholder groups: policymakers (2–7 per event), farmers and advisors (5–13), and a diverse group of other stakeholders, including students (4–20), alongside DigitAF and ReForest members. This collaboration has significantly strengthened stakeholder engagement in the region and enhanced the scientific and practical value of both projects. Detailed outcomes and participant insights are available in the corresponding workshop reports available on the project website.

### **Joint Advisory Board Meeting – ReForest and DigitAF**

**Date of the event:** 2023, 2024, and early 2025.

**Synergy:** ReForest and DigitAF have established an ongoing collaboration through joint Advisory Board meetings since 2023, which serve as key moments to align strategy, tools, and outreach. The 2025 meeting focused on strengthening communication and dissemination efforts, resulting in a Joint Action Plan structured around seven pillars, including shared policy briefs, educational materials, and long-term outreach strategies. As a first milestone, a joint newsletter was launched, and further co-branded outputs were created to unify messaging around agroforestry across both projects.

### **Agroecology Cluster Webinars – Digital Tools & Sustainable Farming**

**Dates of events:** March 2025 and April 2025

**Synergy:** ReForest has actively engaged with the Agroecology Cluster, an informal network of Horizon Europe projects. In collaboration with cluster partners, ReForest co-organised two webinars: “Digital Tools in Agriculture: Perceptions and Barriers to Adoption” (March 2025), presenting insights from ReForest’s FarmTree tool and Living Lab experiences; “Digitalisation of Sustainable Farming Practices” (April 2025), where ReForest shared methodologies and results from data-driven agroforestry planning. These events helped position ReForest as a project integrating digital innovation with



agroecological approaches and expanded its outreach to researchers and relevant networks for its engagement activities.

ReForest partners expect to participate in the Cluster Annual Conference in November 2025, chairing a session on mainstreaming agroforestry. This event coincides with ReForest's peak delivery phase, providing a strategic opportunity to disseminate tools, share Living Lab outcomes, and reinforce the project's influence in EU-level policy discussions.

**ReForest at the “Living-Labs for Mitigating Climate Change in Agriculture” Event, Barcelona.**

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Synergy: EMEA met with Naked Innovation and had ReForest join the organising committee composed of individual organisation, EU projects, Research Centres, and public entities for “the Living-Labs for Mitigating Climate Change in Agriculture” event, which hosted 120 participants with a large presence of European Living labs for sustainable land management and food value chain. The University of Copenhagen (UCPH) presented findings from the ReForest Living Lab in Denmark, through one oral presentation and two scientific posters, highlighting innovative approaches to regenerative agriculture and agroforestry, and ReForest partners from University of Marburg, Europroject, EMEA, University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Trakia University were actively involved in the discussions of all working groups.

From this event, started a new collaboration between ReForest and Naked Innovation in order to promote stakeholder engagement and joint efforts in terms of outreach.

**ReForest at the AgroDeltaLab – Regulation Synergy Sandboxes in Viladecans, Spain.**

Invited on the 16<sup>th</sup> May

Date of the event: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

Synergy: EMEA was invited to present ReForest as a whole and promoted the Co-creation and engagement platform, bringing new members to register and engage. The AgroDeltaLab has emerged as a strategic Living Lab, aiming to protect and regenerate the unique territory of the Delta while promoting it as a leading innovation hub for sustainable and regenerative agriculture. AgroDeltaLab functions as an open and collaborative space where stakeholders including farmers, research institutions, companies, technology providers, logistics operators, public authorities, and citizens come together to co-create, test, and scale innovative solutions under real-world conditions. The Lab fosters technology-driven advancements that remain grounded in the socio-ecological realities of the Delta.

As of May 2025, ReForest is actively engaged with 20 Projects from different sectors relevant to ReForest and intends to continue strengthening these ties to ensure complementarity and mutual reinforcement. Existing collaborations with EU projects have included activities such as joint communication, advocacy and networking initiatives, contributions to results through working sessions and consultations, co-organised stakeholder engagement events, and joint commitments to training and upskilling farmers as depicted in Table 5.

Nature of Collaboration with other Projects	Number of Projects
Communication, Advocacy & Networking joint efforts	12
Contributed to results through working sessions and consultations	5
Joint Event - Stakeholder engagement	2
Willing to join efforts regarding training and upskilling farmers	2
<b>Total general</b>	<b>21</b>

*Table 5: Snapshot of the Nature of Collaboration with other Projects.*

## 2.3 ORGANISATION AND PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEBATES AND POLICY-RELATED EVENTS

As part of its commitment to fostering policy innovation, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge exchange, ReForest convened three high-level policy debates. These events were strategically organised to bring together experts from academia, civil society, government, and the private sector to discuss the future of agroforestry in Europe and the broader Euro-Mediterranean region. Each session focused on a distinct dimension of the agroforestry transformation agenda. These dialogues have played a key role in informing the ReForest project's recommendations and co-creation activities, while contributing to ongoing debates at both EU and global levels. The following summaries provide an overview of the objectives, key messages, and outcomes from each event.

### **Agroforestry sector in the EU: Towards novel policies and financing frameworks (Barcelona, June 2023)**

As part of its core activities to promote policy dialogue and knowledge exchange, ReForest hosted a hybrid policy session titled "Agroforestry Sector in the EU: Towards Novel Policies and Financing Frameworks" on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Organised within the framework of the ReForest project, the session convened leading experts and institutional representatives working on agroforestry across Europe. The event was moderated by Prof. Consuelo Varela Ortega, Professor Emeritus at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) and Executive Board Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). The discussion aimed to assess the current state of agroforestry-related policy and finance in the EU, and to explore strategies for unlocking its full potential as a multifunctional land-use system.

The panel featured expert contributions from Dr. Enrique Doblas (CREAF), Andrea Casadesús Cabral (BETA Technological Centre), Dr. Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat (European Forest Institute), Dr. Jaime Coello (Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia – CTFC), Dr. Gerry Lawson (European Agroforestry Federation – EURAF), and Milan Elkerbout (Centre for European Policy Studies – CEPS). Speakers addressed a range of critical issues, including the lack of tailored financing mechanisms for agroforestry, the need to integrate the economic value of ecosystem services into policy frameworks, and the opportunities for incorporating agroforestry into carbon markets and carbon farming initiatives. The discussion highlighted key policy gaps at both national and EU levels, and offered forward-looking recommendations to scale up financing, harmonise regulatory frameworks, and strengthen the position of agroforestry within the broader EU Green Deal and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) agendas.



See the link to the recording in Appendix 1.

### **Agroforestry sector in the Euro-Mediterranean: Towards novel policies, cooperation and financing frameworks (Dubai COP28, December 2023)**

As part of its international outreach and policy engagement efforts, ReForest participated in the COP28 side-event titled “Agroforestry Sector in the EU and Beyond: Towards Novel Policies and Financing Frameworks,” held on 9 December at the Mediterranean Coalition Office. Co-organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the event brought together leading experts to discuss the critical role of agroforestry in responding to climate change, biodiversity loss, and food insecurity across the Euro-Mediterranean region. The session was moderated by Yasmine Seghirate, Administrator at CIHEAM Headquarters, and featured a panel including Ivan Hajdukovic, Researcher at EMEA; Prof. Martin Lukac, Professor of Ecosystem Science at the University of Reading and Coordinator of the REFOREST project; Rico Hübner, Researcher at Deutscher Fachverband für Agroforstwirtschaft (DeFAF); Thierry Dupeuble, Director of CIHEAM Montpellier; Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux, Vice-President of the Groupement Interacadémique pour le Développement (GID); Jacques Brulhet, also Vice-President of the GID; and Martin Heibel, Communication Manager at the Interreg NEXT MED Programme.

The panel explored the potential of agroforestry to serve as a central pillar in the Euro-Mediterranean green transition. Speakers called for integrated policy frameworks that bridge food systems, agriculture, forestry, and rural development, while emphasising the importance of monetising the ecosystem services agroforestry provides—such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection, and water retention. Presentations highlighted key REFOREST contributions, including the development of a hybrid carbon farming financing scheme and tools to support farmers’ decision-making. Other key themes included the need for policy coherence, tailored advisory services, farmer training, and co-creation through Living Labs. Panellists also stressed the role of education, legal reform, and regional cooperation in unlocking the sector’s full potential. The session concluded with a series of forward-looking recommendations and a commitment to deepening collaboration in the lead-up to COP30, where forests and agroforestry will take centre stage.

See the link to the recording in Appendix 1.

### **Financing Agroforestry: Exploring Diverse Financing Schemes for Sustainable Land Use (Online at COP29, November 2024)**

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote sustainable land use systems, REFOREST participated in a COP29 side-event on Agroforestry Financing, organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). This high-level panel brought together experts from research institutions, policy networks, and the private sector to address one of the key barriers to agroforestry adoption: access to finance. The session was moderated by Yeganeh Forouheshfar, Senior Researcher at EMEA, and featured contributions from Tiago Zibecchi (EMEA), Enrique Doblas (CREAF), Martin Lukac (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague; REFOREST Coordinator), Hafsa El Bekri (Positive Agenda), Marek Chalupnik (DeepRoots), Gerry Lawson (EURAF), and Andrea Casadesús (BETA Technological Center).



The discussion explored a range of innovative financing models tailored to agroforestry's long-term nature and multifunctional benefits. Key themes included the economic and environmental advantages of agroforestry, public and private financing mechanisms such as green bonds and carbon credits, and emerging models in blended finance and impact investing. Particular attention was given to improving smallholder access to finance, along with the use of financial tools such as payment for ecosystem services (PES), sustainability-linked loans, and agroforestry insurance. The panel also reflected on the challenges and opportunities for scaling agroforestry, highlighting the importance of regulatory alignment, long-term investment strategies, and strengthened cross-sector collaboration.

See the link to the recording in Appendix 1.

As ReForest approaches the peak of its result delivery, additional policy debates will be organised to present findings and engage relevant public sector actors. COP30, the upcoming EMANES Conference, and the ReForest Final Event are key occasions where new policy discussions are expected to take place. The Working Groups on Finance and Policy and Institutional Barriers will collaborate to define the topics of these debates, aligning them with project outcomes and identifying key advocacy priorities. These efforts aim to support the development of an enabling public framework to scale up agroforestry across Europe.

## 2.4 VALORISATION OF LIVING LABS

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At the centre of the ReForest project lies a network of eight Living Labs (LLs), designed to bridge scientific research with on-the-ground agroforestry practice. These Living Labs represent a rich diversity of systems, silvopasture, silvohorticulture, and silvoarable, and are situated across distinct environmental, social, and policy contexts in Europe. Their purpose is to serve as real-world testbeds for agroforestry innovation, enabling the co-creation of knowledge between farmers, researchers, policymakers, and civil society actors.

The structure of the Living Labs varies. In some countries, they are organised around a central research farm that acts as a hub, connecting with surrounding communities through outreach and demonstration activities. In others, they operate as networks of agroforestry practitioners collaborating with scientists, advisory services, and industry partners. Despite these differences, all ReForest Living Labs are designed to generate robust, evidence-based insights into the benefits and challenges of agroforestry and to support open, constructive knowledge exchange between practice and science.

The Living Lab network was established at the inception of ReForest, with a dedicated kick-off meeting held in February 2023. During this meeting, expectations were clarified, and LL leaders participated in a self-assessment exercise facilitated by ORC to align efforts and identify development pathways. A second LL meeting followed in May 2023, organised online under ORC's coordination, laying the groundwork for data collection and case study development. These efforts culminated in the creation of Living Lab profiles and the publication of Living Lab booklets on the ReForest website and Knowledge Hub in 2024.

Due to the wide geographic and linguistic diversity of the Living Labs, local engagement has been led by national partners to overcome language barriers and ensure effective collaboration. Despite these challenges, the Living Labs have played an instrumental role in supporting ReForest’s research activities by providing critical data, enabling experimentation, and contributing to methodological development. As such, they are key actors within the ReForest Innovation Network and have been central to the project’s achievements and collaborative impact. This collaboration is further illustrated in the co-creation factsheets, where partners detail how Living Labs were consulted at various stages of their work.

## 2.5 CO-CREATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

The ReForest Engagement Platform serves as the digital space of the Innovation Network, an environment designed to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and co-creation among stakeholders committed to advancing agroforestry and sustainable land use. As of May 2025, the platform hosts 116 active members, with a diverse user base comprising 53% men, 39% women, and 8% non-disclosed, spread geographically, with a strong presence in Europe.

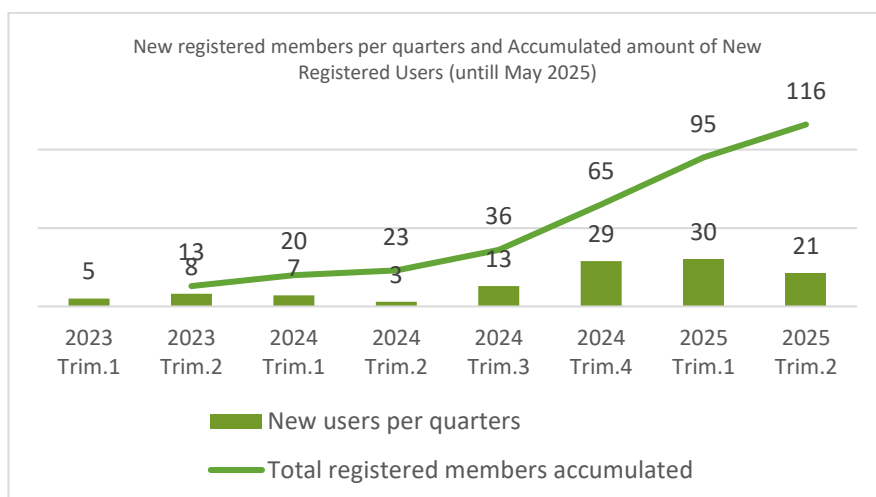


Figure 1: Overview of Platform Registered Members over time.

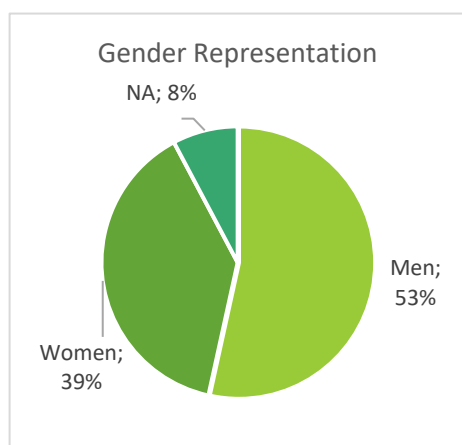


Figure 2: Gender Representation of Platform Registered Members.

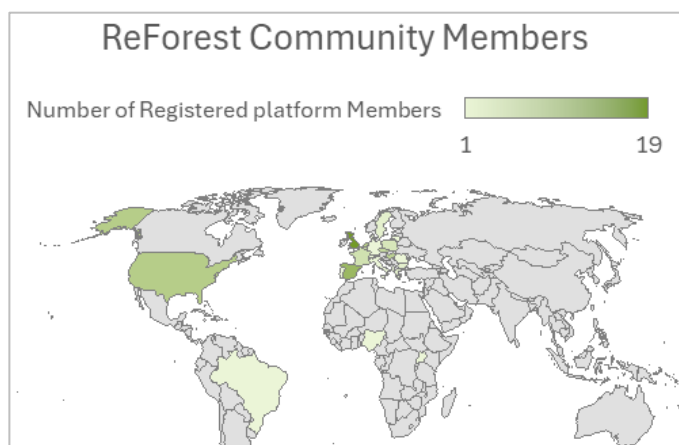
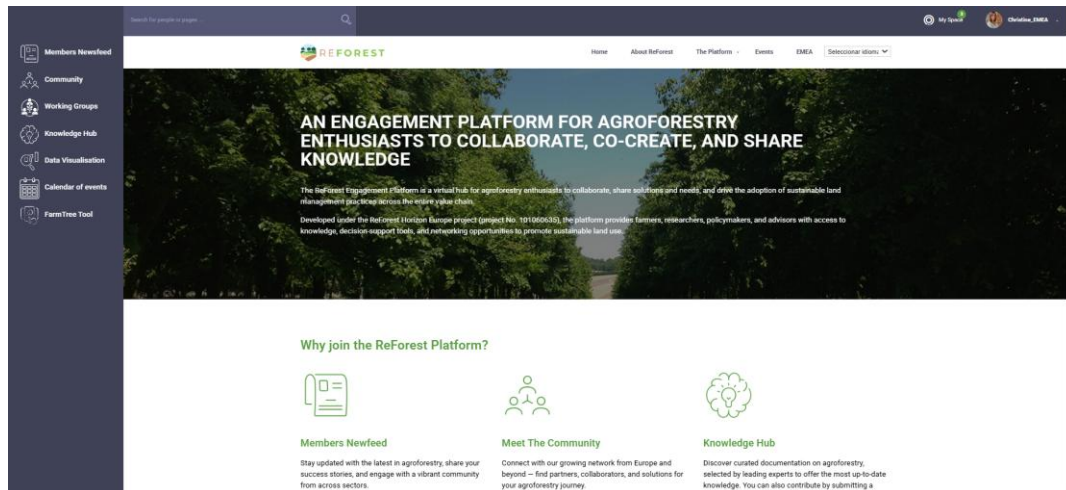


Figure 3: Geographic spread of Platform Registered Members.

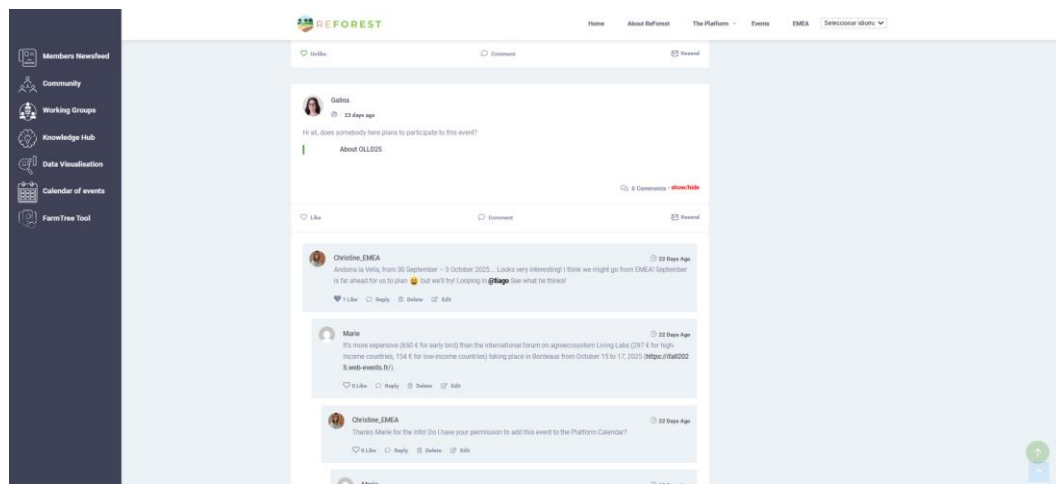
Structured to facilitate meaningful interaction and real-time collaboration, the platform features several key pages that respond to the needs of its user community:

- **Home page:** Landing page that introduces the platform, its different pages, the reason and invitation to join, and a brief presentation of the ReForest Project.



*Figure 4: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform - Home Page.*

- **Members' Newsfeed:** Anchored in an open-science philosophy, the newsfeed allows members to share experiences, post updates, and request expertise from peers. It acts as a lively forum where success stories, questions, and project developments are exchanged, helping to keep the community informed and engaged with the latest trends and events in agroforestry.



*Figure 5: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform – Members' Newsfeed.*

- **Calendar of Events:**

The platform features a calendar of events designed to keep the ReForest community informed about activities relevant to agroforestry and sustainable land use. It includes a wide range of events — from high-level political forums on climate change to more targeted,

community-led initiatives such as working group meetings and member-organised workshops.



Figure 6: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform – Calendar of Events.

- **ReForest Knowledge Hub:** This curated repository offers expert-verified resources on agroforestry practices, research findings, and policy developments. Through an intuitive filter system, users can easily navigate content relevant to their interests. Members are also encouraged to contribute new resources, which are reviewed by ReForest experts before publication, supporting a participatory approach to knowledge-building.

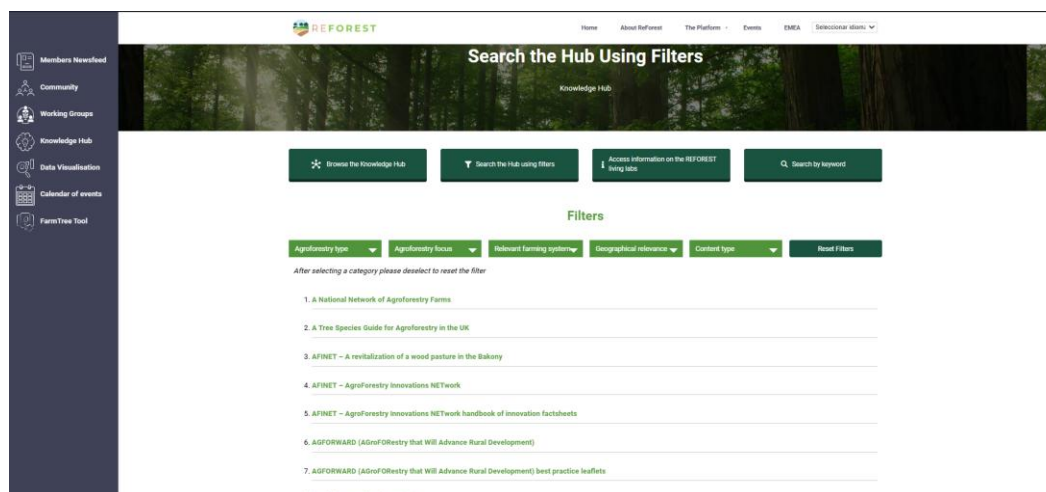


Figure 7: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform – Knowledge Hub.

- **Community Map and Member Directory:** The platform provides an interactive map and searchable member list that allows users to explore ReForest's growing network. Users can filter by sector, expertise, or geographic region, making it easier to identify relevant partners, collaborators, or experts in specific fields.

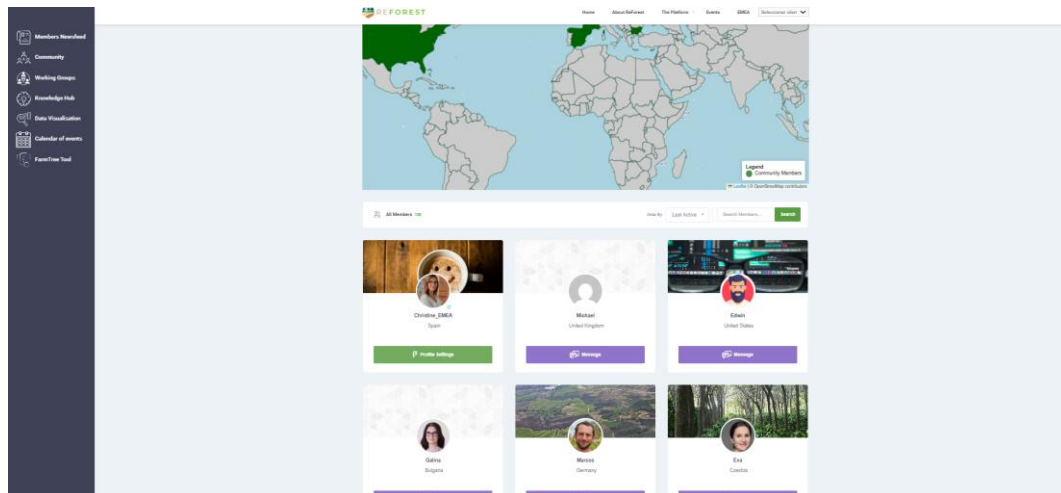


Figure 8: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform – Community Map and Member Directory.

- Working Groups:** These closed, topic-specific groups enable deeper engagement and sustained dialogue among experts. The platform currently hosts seven active working groups: five launched internally to support core ReForest research areas, one initiated by an external project focused on tree species selection, and one jointly established working group on *Network and Engagement*, created in response to shared challenges identified across EU-funded initiatives promoting sustainable practices.

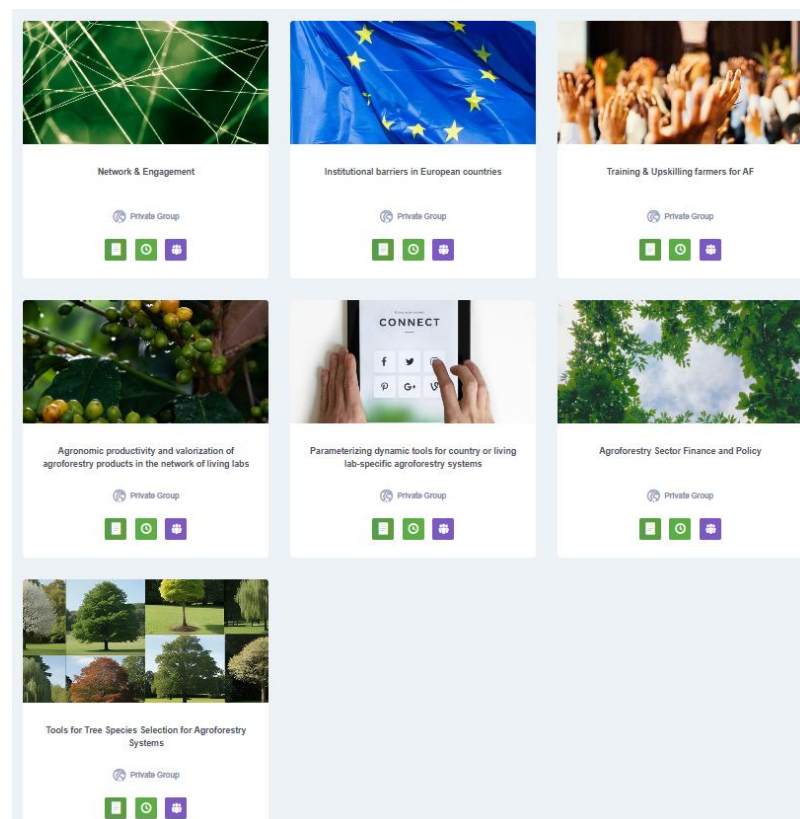


Figure 9: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform – Working Groups.



- **Data Visualisation Page:** Developed by ReForest’s research team, this page showcases visualised insights drawn from both publicly available datasets and Living Lab contributions. It enables users to interact with key data points related to land use, productivity, and ecosystem services, supporting evidence-based dialogue and decision-making.

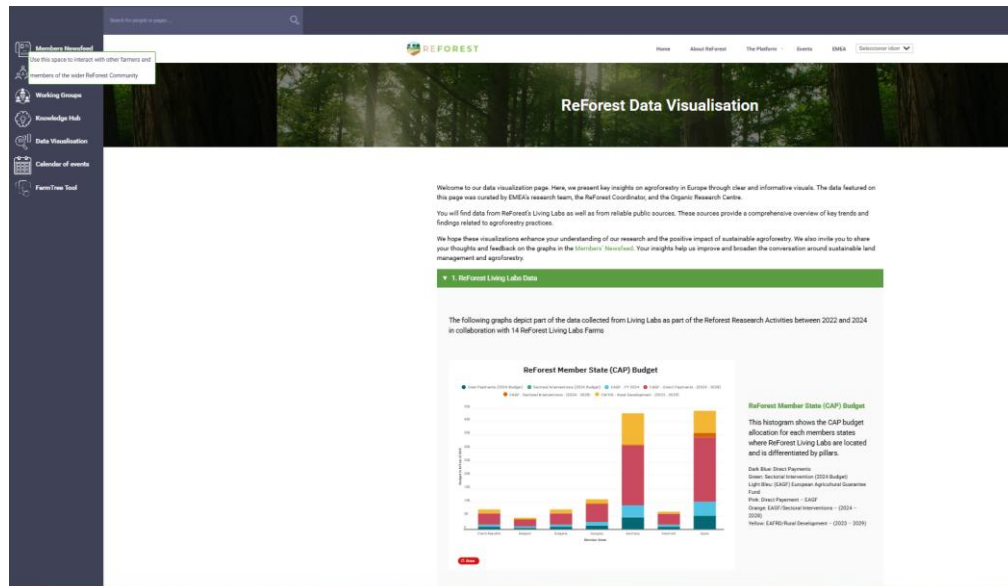


Figure 10: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform – Data Visualisation Page.

- **Digital Tools for Agroforestry Planning.** This upcoming section will host a portfolio of digital tools tailored to agroforestry decision-making, from return-on-investment simulations and yield prediction models to carbon capture estimators and crop suitability assessments. The page aims to empower users with practical, data-driven instruments to inform agroforestry project planning. At present, the page features the FarmTree digital tool. ReForest project partners are developing a broader toolbox that will include multiple tools, each designed to support stakeholders in selecting the most relevant solution for their needs. This toolbox will be accompanied by a roadmap, curated resources, and case studies covering key aspects of the agroforestry journey and critical decision-making points. Additionally, the activity will invite members from DigitAF to ensure complementarity with their Digital Tool Catalogues.

Current page showcasing the FarmTree Digital tool:

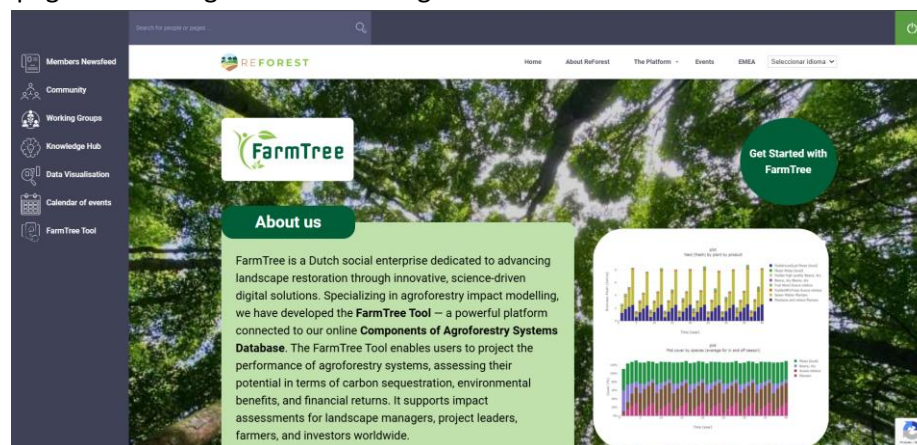


Figure 11: Engagement and Co-Creation Platform – Digital Tool (Currently: Farm Tree Tool).

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

The ReForest Innovation Network has emerged as a dynamic, cross-sectoral mechanism that connects practitioners, scientific community, the public sector and similar projects committed to advancing agroforestry and sustainable land use systems in Europe of +60 Organisations. Throughout the lifetime of the project, the network has demonstrated its capacity to mobilise expertise, foster collaboration, and generate co-created knowledge, strengthens stakeholder engagement, and supports innovation with the engagement of Living Labs.

By combining in-person collaboration with a robust digital infrastructure, the Co-Creation and Engagement Platform, the network has enabled continuous interaction across geographies and sectors. The formation of thematic working groups, strategic synergies with other projects, and active involvement in high-level policy events have all contributed to embedding ReForest in a broader ecosystem of change. This inclusive and flexible structure has allowed the partners to respond to stakeholder needs, co-develop new tools and methodologies, and contribute meaningfully to emerging debates around agroforestry.

As ReForest moves into its final implementation phase, the Innovation Network will play a central role in the project's delivery, dissemination, and legacy-building efforts. It will support upcoming policy dialogues at COP30, the EMANES Conference, and the ReForest Final Event, ensuring that the project's results are communicated to relevant decision-makers and embedded in future action. Beyond the life of the project, the Innovation Network is expected to remain an active community of practice, anchored by shared values, empowered by practical tools, and positioned to continue shaping the agroecological transition across Europe and beyond.

## APPENDIX 1: REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

ID	Reference or Related Document	Source or Link/Location
<b>1</b>	Agroforestry sector in the EU: Towards novel policies and financing frameworks (Barcelona, June 2023)	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzgrIMK70N4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzgrIMK70N4</a>
<b>2</b>	Agroforestry sector in the Euro-Mediterranean: Towards novel policies, cooperation and financing frameworks (Dubai COP28, December 2023)	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcPwhBT05pk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcPwhBT05pk</a>
<b>3</b>	Financing Agroforestry: Exploring Diverse Financing Schemes for Sustainable Land Use (Online at COP29, November 2024)	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/live/VWEevMhfzRk">https://www.youtube.com/live/VWEevMhfzRk</a>



## APPENDIX 2: CO-CREATION FACTSHEET EXAMPLES

### Co-Creation Factsheet: Toward the development of a **Consultancy Business Model** to enhance uptake of agroforestry in Europe

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#### What will be produced

- Description of an agroforestry consultancy business model
- Assessment of current strengths and weaknesses of agroforestry advisory and knowledge exchange in Europe
- Identify areas for the improvement of agroforestry advice and knowledge sharing

#### Who contributed to the work<sup>2</sup>:

##### REFOREST Partners

UREAD | INAGRO | OSA | UCPH |

##### External Stakeholders and Expert Collaborators

Private farmers and advisors (1 in UK, 2 in Denmark, 3 in Poland) | Woodland Trust (UK charity / advisory service) | Soil Association (UK charity / advisory service) | Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (UK charity / advisory service) | Shropshire Council (UK local authority) | Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) (research institute) | Bos+ (NGO) | Innovation Centre for Organic Farming (ICOEL) (research institute)

#### How?

- Kick-off meeting among REFOREST partners on 05 September 2024
- Wider stakeholder engagement via AFN Network+ Webinar on 28 October 2024
- Interviews with external stakeholders and expert collaborators from January 2025 to June 2025
  - Six interviews in UK
  - Three interviews in Belgium
  - Three interviews in Poland
  - Two interviews and one group workshop in Denmark
- Follow-up meeting among REFOREST partners anticipated in July 2025
- Feedback of preliminary results to external stakeholders and expert collaborators in August/September 2025.

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<sup>2</sup> The reports produced are the sole responsibility of its authors; external collaborators and partners were consulted to support their development, but are in no way liable or responsible for the content of the reports.

Snapshot from each contributor:

### REFOREST Partners

REFOREST PARTNERS	UREAD	Planning and coordinating task activities, carried out expert interviews and workshop, leading analysis and reporting
	INAGRO	Provided input into task planning, carried out three expert interviews, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results
	OSA	Provided input into task planning, carried out three expert interviews, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results
	UCPH	Provided input into task planning, carried out two expert interviews, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results

Private farmers and advisors	Participation in expert interviews in UK, Belgium, Poland and Denmark, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS AND EXPERTS
Woodland Trust	Participation in two expert interviews in the UK, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	
Soil Association	Participation in an expert interview in the UK, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Participation in an expert interview in the UK, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	
Shropshire Council	Participation in an expert interview in the UK, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	
Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Participation in an expert interview in Belgium, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	
Bos+	Participation in an expert interview in Belgium, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	
Innovation Centre for Organic Farming	Participation in an expert workshop in Denmark, will be invited to provide feedback on preliminary results	

## Co-Creation Factsheet: Toward the development of a **Financial Scheme and Policy Recommendations** to enhance uptake of agroforestry in Europe

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### What was/will be produced

- Mapping Reports on Agroforestry Sector Finance and Policy
- Application Report on the Agroforestry Financing Model
- Policy Recommendations (plan for 2026)

### Who contributed to the work<sup>3</sup>:

#### REFOREST Partners

EMEA | CZU | UREAD | ORC | | SOE | TRAKIA UNI | UBO | UCPH | FarmTree | EP

#### External Stakeholders and Experts Collaborators

5 European Guarantee Institutions and 2 Regional | CREAM (External Expert Institution) | DigitAF Project Partners & Financial Tools Owners | Private Company in Biodiversity & Carbon Credit Sector, Naturise | DeepRoot | Private company dedicated to promoting and facilitating investment in Nature Capital

### How?

- Working Group Meetings (21 active members, 13/21 women) through the ReForest Platform
  - Kick-off Meeting in December 2024
  - Second Meeting in February 2025
- Bilateral Meetings with five guarantee institutions from Europe and one regional one.
- Bilateral meetings with private actors dedicated to enhancing investment in nature capital and involved in biodiversity and carbon credit
- Data collection through a survey from 38 farms (Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Hungary and UK) and 6 Interviews (UK, Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, Czechia)
- Participation in knowledge events and policy debates to enhance the understanding of the financial landscape and regulation from the Agroforestry sector.
  - Agroforestry sector in the EU: Towards novel policies and financing frameworks (Barcelona, June 2023)
  - Agroforestry sector in the Euro-Mediterranean: Towards novel policies, cooperation and financing frameworks (Dubai COP28, December 2023)
  - Agroforestry in Europe (Portugal, September 2024)
  - Presentation of the finance scheme at the MICEB conference (Nis, September 2024):
  - Presentation of the finance scheme to the CROSS REIS experts (Barcelona, October 2024).

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<sup>3</sup> The reports produced are the sole responsibility of its authors, external collaborators and partners were consulted to support their development but are in no way liable or responsible for the content of the report.

- Financing Agroforestry: Exploring Diverse Financing Schemes for Sustainable Land Use (Online at COP29, November 2024)
- DigitAF Workshop (Cranfield UK, February 2025)
- Living Labs for Climate Change Mitigation Workshop (Barcelona, April 2025)

Snapshot from contributors:

REFOREST PARTNERS	CZU	<p>Participation in Working Group Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kick-off Meeting in December 2024</li> <li>- Second Meeting in February 2025</li> </ul> <p>Conducted Interviews with farmers from Czechia LL about the Sustainable AF Financing Scheme</p> <p>Helped disseminate and translate ReForest Survey for Farmers.</p> <p>Additional bilateral meetings to discuss the scheme.</p>
	UREAD	<p>Provided feedback on Survey and Interview Guidelines.</p> <p>Additional bilateral meetings to discuss the scheme.</p>
	ORC	<p>Conducted Interviews with a farmer from the UK LL about the Sustainable AF Financing Scheme</p> <p>Helped disseminate ReForest Survey for Farmers</p>
	SOE	<p>Participation in Working Group Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kick-off Meeting in December 2024</li> <li>- Second Meeting in February 2025</li> </ul> <p>Conducted interviews with farmers from Hungarian LL about the Sustainable AF Financing Scheme</p> <p>Helped disseminate and translate ReForest Survey for Farmers.</p>
	TRAKIA UNI	<p>Participation in Working Group Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kick-off Meeting in December 2024</li> <li>- Second Meeting in February 2025</li> </ul> <p>Conducted Interviews with farmers from Bulgarian LL about the Sustainable AF Financing Scheme</p> <p>Helped disseminate and translate the ReForest Survey for Farmers.</p> <p>Participation in knowledge event - Living Labs for Climate Change Mitigation Workshop (Barcelona, April 2025)</p>
	UBO	<p>Participation in Working Group Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kick-off Meeting in December 2024</li> <li>- Second Meeting in February 2025</li> </ul> <p>Helped disseminate and translate ReForest Survey for Farmers.</p> <p>Additional bilateral meetings to discuss the scheme.</p>
	UCPH	<p>UCPH contributed to M3 Interim assessment and report on networking impact and D5.2 Mapping Reports on AF Sector finance and policy 2. The reports were reviewed for the accuracy of information provided.</p>
	FarmTree	<p>Offered its tool to help build the Financing Scheme. We were able to access the financial and economic projections of ReForest LLs</p>
	EP	<p>Offered support in organising working group meetings and dissemination efforts</p>

Guarantee Institutions	One-to-one consultation meeting with Guarantee Institutions provided an in-depth understanding of the opportunity and existing mechanisms to enhance access to finance through guarantee products	EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS AND EXPERTS
CREAF	Several one-to-one consultations with various experts at CREAM provided detailed knowledge, experience, and recommendations on the finance scheme. - Kick-off Meeting in December 2024	
DigitAF Project Partners & Financial Tools Owners	Familiarisation with financial tools from the DigitAF partnership and close collaboration in the definition of the financing scheme. - Kick-off Meeting in December 2024 - Participation in a workshop on digital tools	
NATURISE	Consultation, which provided an in-depth understanding of the carbon and biodiversity credit market.	
DeepRoot	Provided consultation and recommendations in the development of the report on the Financing Scheme regarding financial projections	
Private company dedicated to promoting and facilitating investment in Nature Capital	Consultation with an existing investment company facilitating investment in Nature Capital, exploration of their solution as a potential enabler to unlock finance for Agroforestry projects.	

## Co-Creation Factsheet: **FarmTree Tool Enhancement** and **Living Lab Integration** in the ReForest Project

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### What was/will be produced

- Enhanced FarmTree Tool with expanded functionality for European silvo-arable system and other agroforestry designs
- Living Lab scenarios for improved reporting and comparison analysis
- ReForest webinar: "Designing your agroforestry system with the FarmTree Tool - A case study from the UK Living Lab"
- Scientific paper on the FarmTree Tool (in collaboration with ReForest partners)

### Who contributed to the work:

#### **REFOREST Partners**

FarmTree | UCPH | UK Living Lab Partners | All Living Lab Partners

#### **External Stakeholders and Experts Collaborators**

DigitAF Project Partners | UK Agroforestry Practitioners (through Living Lab engagement)

### How?

- **Living Lab Integration:** Created detailed scenarios of living lab farms to improve modelling capabilities and decision-making processes
- **Tool Enhancement:** Added flexibility for designing silvo-arable systems based on improvement suggestions initiated by UK Living Lab partners and feedback from ReForest consortium
- **Database Development:** Integrated key European temperate species data and product pricing (e.g., apple prices) into the FarmTree's Component of AgroForestry Systems (CAFS) Database, with species calibration supported by UCPH data collection
- **Knowledge Sharing Events:**
  - Participation in DigitAF Workshop (Utrecht, Netherlands, 2024)
  - Creation and delivery of ReForest webinar demonstrating FarmTree Tool using UK Living Lab scenarios
- **Collaborative Research:** Planning scientific paper on FarmTree Tool in collaboration with UCPH
- **Scenario Development:** Created alternative scenarios for comparison analysis to support better agroforestry planning decisions

Snapshot from each contributor:

### REFOREST Partners

REFOREST PARTNERS	UCPH	Provided data collection support for FarmTree Tool enhancement. Contributing to planned scientific paper on the FarmTree Tool and provided essential data for calibrating European temperate species in the CAFS database.
	FarmTree	Led tool enhancement, database integration, scenario creation, and webinar delivery. Provided technical expertise in agroforestry system modelling and decision support tools.
	UK Living Lab Partners	Initiated suggestions for tool improvements and provided real-world farm insights. Participated in webinar case study demonstration and contributed to UK Living Lab scenario development.
	All Living Lab Partners	Collaborated on creating scenarios for their respective living labs, providing local knowledge and farm-specific data to enhance scenario accuracy and relevance.

DigitAF Project Partners	Shared knowledge and best practices in digital agroforestry tools during workshop participation. Provided insights for tool enhancement and integration approaches.	EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS AND EXPERTS
UK Agroforestry Practitioners	Contributed practical knowledge through Living Lab engagement, informing realistic scenario development and tool functionality requirements.	