

# NEWSLETTER

March 2026



## REFOREST

### ReForest: Strengthening Agroforestry Across Europe



When [ReForest](#) was launched, the ambition was clear.

We wanted to support the integration of trees into European farming

landscapes in a way that is viable for farmers, beneficial for the environment, and sustainable in the long term.

Three years into the project, this ambition is steadily being translated into sustainable practices across a diverse range of regions, climates and farming systems across Europe.

## **Living Labs as Spaces for Collaboration, Data Collection and Practical Innovation**

A central element of ReForest's progress has been the establishment and development of its [network of Living Labs](#). In ReForest the Living Labs provide reliable data, which was needed, so that we can ground the advantages of agroforestry into science, but also create structured environments where farmers, researchers, advisors, landowners and policy representatives can exchange knowledge and experience in a practical setting.

Through webinars, workshops, field visits and thematic working groups, participants engage in open discussions about the opportunities and challenges of agroforestry. This collaborative approach has enabled partners to test and refine agroforestry systems under real farming conditions, explore business opportunities, and identify pathways that ensure agroforestry can be both environmentally meaningful and economically sound. Over time, these interactions have contributed to the development of a growing European community centred on agroforestry and long-term landscape sustainability.

## **Making the Full Value of Agroforestry Visible**

One of the persistent challenges in promoting agroforestry is that many of its benefits, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement and improvements in soil health, are not immediately reflected in conventional economic assessments.

A key objective of ReForest has therefore been to improve the visibility and measurability of these benefits. The project has developed and refined [digital tools](#) designed to assess the full performance of agroforestry systems. These tools integrate environmental indicators such as carbon storage and biodiversity impacts with economic parameters including productivity and profitability.

The continued development of the [FarmTree](#) tool into an accessible digital platform represents an important step in this direction. It enables farmers, advisors and decision-makers to evaluate different agroforestry designs in a structured and transparent manner, supporting informed planning and investment decisions. By combining environmental and financial perspectives

within a single analytical framework, the tool contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of agroforestry's value.

## Addressing Financial and Policy Frameworks

Beyond technical and ecological considerations, the successful adoption of agroforestry depends on supportive financial and policy environments. ReForest has therefore examined how existing national and European policy instruments influence agroforestry uptake in the countries participating in the project.

The project has analysed funding mechanisms, assessed institutional barriers, and explored innovative financial approaches that could facilitate wider adoption. By linking field-based experience with financial modelling and policy analysis, ReForest aims to contribute to the development of enabling conditions that support long-term implementation. Especially interesting in that direction is the [AF Sustainable financing scheme](#) suggested by the project.

## Sharing Knowledge and Strengthening Networks

Effective knowledge exchange remains a cornerstone of the project. The [ReForest engagement platform](#) continues to expand as a space for dialogue, training materials and practical resources. Especially important are the [working groups](#) that provide a space for collaboration on the various aspects of Agroforestry, as well as the [ReForest Toolbox](#), which is an excellent starting point for exploring the benefits of the existing digital tools.

As the project enters its final year, the focus is on consolidating achievements, improving the accessibility and usability of developed tools, strengthening cross-Living Lab collaboration, and further advancing business and policy pathways that support agroforestry implementation.

ReForest's progress demonstrates that integrating trees into farming systems is not only an environmental objective, but a structured and collaborative process that combines scientific evidence, practical experience and institutional dialogue.



**Business  
success**



**Food  
production**



**Multifunctional  
landscapes**

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## Insights from our LivingLabs: Small actions with a big impact for the wild bees in the INAGRO Agroforestry Plot



### Nature in action on Inagro's agroforestry plot

Wild bees do not have an easy time these days. Yet boosting their habitat does not have to be complicated at all. We proved that recently on Inagro's demonstration and research plot for agroforestry. In January 2026, the Inagro team invited bee specialist Stephanie Martens from the Interreg project *PolliConnect*, to help them identify how we could make the plot and its surroundings even more attractive for the many bee species buzzing around. The result? With just a spade, pruning shears, and a bit of attention for what nature provides spontaneously, we got surprisingly far.

### Bare soil patches, the perfect construction sites for ground nesting bees

Many wild bees nest underground, but they are quite selective: they prefer sunny, loose soils. Luckily, such areas are present around the agroforestry plot. Stephanie's main tips? Do not disturb! Leave these little hotspots as untouched as possible. Where possible, lightly loosen the topsoil in a few quiet, sunny

spots. This creates ideal nesting places. Machine tracks do not help, as they compact the soil too much.

### **Steep soil banks for spring bees**

Wild bees love vertical, south-facing soil banks. Especially in spring, several species use these banks to dig their nests. And as luck would have it, there was already such a bank at the edge of our plot. A simple action with the spade, making the slope a bit steeper, turned it instantly into prime nesting ground for springtime bees.

### **Native shrubs and rough herbaceous edges**

The native shrubs and rougher herb patches along the agroforestry plot proved to be a real hit. Hollow stems of herbs or shrubs are favorite nesting spots for various species. Broken stems can serve as ready-made nest cells. And did you know that many species even gnaw their own nest cavities in sturdy stems such as teasel?

Willows are also extremely important, providing essential pollen and nectar early in the early season. Our hedge along the plot scored a well-deserved 10/10! A rich mix of useful species that not only offer nesting opportunities but also guarantee a long, continuous flowering period. Stephanie's management tip, prune in phases so that flowering is never completely lost in a single year.

And even pruning waste turned out to be gold. Beetles drill tunnels in dead wood, and the abandoned holes become perfect nesting places for some wild bee species. A chaotic brush pile or a few logs tucked into a corner makes more difference than you might think. It was a tip we immediately put into practice!

### **Inagro rolled up its sleeves**

With these simple, natural measures, we will turn our agroforestry plot and its surroundings into an even more genuine paradise for wild bees. It requires little time or resources, but the impact on biodiversity is enormous. Thank you, Stephanie!

<https://polliconnect.nweurope.eu/>

As highlighted above, ReForest Living Labs are not only spaces for discussion and experimentation — they are active and evolving communities where agroforestry is tested, refined and demonstrated under real farming conditions.

Their social dimension is just as important as their scientific role. Through peer-to-peer learning, regular field visits and open, informal exchanges, the Living Labs foster trust among participants. This environment of collaboration and mutual learning plays a key role in encouraging agroforestry adoption at local level across the countries involved in the project.

To provide a closer look at this work on the ground, we are pleased to share a series of short video updates from several of our Living Labs with the others to be published in the upcoming months.

### Belgium – Inagro Living Lab



Following the recent insights from the Belgian Living Lab shared above, this video introduces the experimental field platform managed by Inagro. The Belgian Living Lab operates as a real-world testing environment where agroforestry practices are explored under practical farming conditions. It brings together a strong network of farmers who exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and jointly explore solutions relevant to their own contexts.

The video also highlights the interdisciplinary collaboration that characterises the Living Lab: experts from different fields work alongside farmers to address emerging technical and management questions. At the same time, the field data generated in Belgium feeds directly into ReForest's broader research activities, contributing to the development of tools, models and evidence-based recommendations.

Watch the video to see how the Belgian Living Lab connects field experimentation with European research.



### **Czech Republic and United Kingdom – Regional Perspectives within a European Network**

The Living Lab approach is adapted to different landscapes and farming realities across Europe. The following video updates from the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom present recent developments in these regions.

Both videos illustrate how local stakeholders are engaging with agroforestry in practice through experimentation, dialogue and collaboration between farmers and researchers. They demonstrate how region-specific challenges are addressed within a shared European framework.

Discover the latest updates from the Czech and UK Living Labs below.



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## Sharing Key Results Through International Webinars

In addition to field-based activities, ReForest places strong emphasis on structured international knowledge exchange.

Two recent webinars marked important milestones in disseminating core ReForest outcomes and attracted participants from across Europe and beyond, demonstrating the global interest in agroforestry development.



REFOREST



DigitAf

## Digital Innovation for Scaling Agroforestry

Harness digital tools to cut costs, maximise impact, and make smarter agroforestry decisions.



18 February 2026



15:00 CET



Funded by  
the European Union



UK Research  
and Innovation

Organized by:



This webinar focused on one of the central pillars of ReForest: strengthening decision-making through digital innovation.

The session presented how modelling approaches and digital tools developed within the project support the assessment of agroforestry systems. Participants were introduced to methodologies that integrate environmental indicators such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity with productivity and economic performance metrics.

The discussion highlighted how digital platforms can improve transparency, comparability and evidence-based planning, thereby supporting the scaling of agroforestry across different regions.

The strong international participation with attendees joining from multiple continents reflected the growing global relevance of digital solutions for sustainable land-use planning. The exchange of questions and experiences during the session further demonstrated the demand for practical, science-based tools that can support implementation on the ground.

Webinar presentations and link to the recording are available here:

[Webinar presentations](#)

**Agroforestry as a Viable Business: From Concept to Practice**



# REFOREST

## Agroforestry as a Viable Business:

Value chain integration, advisory services, and economic valuation.



20 January 2026



15:00 - 16:00 CET



Funded by  
the European Union



UK Research  
and Innovation

Organized by:



Another webinar addressed another key dimension of the project: the economic viability of agroforestry.

This session explored how agroforestry systems can be integrated into sustainable farm business strategies. It presented financial modelling approaches, examined value chain opportunities, and discussed how policy and funding frameworks influence long-term profitability.

By combining practical examples with analytical insights, the webinar demonstrated that agroforestry is not only an environmental strategy, but also a structured economic option when supported by appropriate planning and enabling conditions.

The wide international participation once again underscored the strong interest in business-oriented approaches to agroforestry. Participants engaged actively in discussions on investment perspectives, risk management and policy support mechanisms.

Together, these two webinars represent important steps in sharing ReForest's most significant results with a broad international audience. They illustrate how the project connects scientific research, practical experience and economic analysis — and how knowledge generated within ReForest contributes to a wider European and global dialogue on sustainable agriculture.

Webinar presentations and link to the recording are available here:

[Webinar presentations](#)

# ReForest Consortium meeting in UK:



As ReForest is entering the final phase of its implementation, with a strong focus on consolidating results and ensuring long-term impact. An important step in preparing for this stage was the 4th consortium meeting, held in the United Kingdom in September last year.

Bringing together partners from across Europe, the meeting provided a structured opportunity to review progress, align priorities and coordinate the final phase of implementation. It served as a moment to consolidate the work carried out in the Living Labs, assess the advancement of digital tools and modelling approaches, and ensure that dissemination and policy engagement activities are strategically aligned.

Discussions focused on strengthening agroforestry communities through the established Living Labs and enhancing participation at local level. Partners reviewed the further development of the ReForest Engagement Platform as a central resource for knowledge exchange and access to tools. Considerable attention was given to results on agroforestry system performance, including productivity, profitability, carbon sequestration, biodiversity indicators and institutional barriers to adoption.

The consortium also examined progress on key project tools such as FarmTree, the Agroforestry Map of Europe, the Public Goods Tool, the Carbon and Biodiversity Estimator and the dynamic farm-level management tool. At the same time, they coordinated communication and dissemination efforts to ensure that webinars, workshops, policy briefs and participation in high-level events contribute effectively to the visibility and uptake of project results



The meeting reinforced the consortium's shared commitment to delivering practical, evidence-based outcomes in the final project year. By aligning efforts across work packages and countries, the consortium strengthened the foundations for long-term impact beyond the lifetime of the project.

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**Training and Upskilling:  
Improving the Capacity for Agroforestry**

# Implementation

Beyond research, modelling and field experimentation, ReForest places strong emphasis on training and capacity building. Supporting farmers, advisors and other stakeholders in understanding and applying agroforestry practices is a central component of the project's long-term impact strategy.

The [ReForest Platform](#), which brings together digital tools, the Knowledge Hub, and decision-support resources in a structured and accessible format. The objective is not only to provide information, but to support practical decision-making and real-world implementation connecting both people just interested in Agroforestry but also experienced professionals.

## Developing the ReForest Training Approach

A dedicated Working Group on training and upskilling farmers has been actively shaping the project's learning strategy. Through a series of structured discussions and collaborative exchanges, the group has worked towards developing a practical decision-support toolbox that clearly links ReForest tools to the different stages of agroforestry decision-making. This structured approach helps users navigate from initial interest and system design to management and long-term evaluation.

In parallel, the group has examined and compared different formats for agroforestry learning, drawing on practical experience from across Europe. These include farm walk-and-talk sessions, advisory visits, webinars and self-led learning pathways. By analysing the strengths and limitations of each format, the group has contributed to a more flexible and inclusive training strategy that reflects the diverse needs of farmers.

The Working Group has also contributed to refining the [ReForest Toolbox](#), ensuring that tools are clearly described, visually accessible, and aligned with farmers' decision-making needs.

This collaborative process reflects the project's co-creation approach: training materials are not developed in isolation, but in dialogue with practitioners and advisors.

# REFOREST TOOLBOX FOR AGROFORESTRY

The REFOREST Toolbox will help to steer your agroforestry journey by pointing you to real-world case studies, resources in our Knowledge Hub and some digital tools, all relevant to your specific interests and needs.

Case Studies

Knowledge Hub

Digital Tools



## Exploring agroforestry

An introduction to the different components of an agroforestry system, as well as a range of agroforestry types and the objectives that they can help meet.



## Financial Considerations

The importance of identifying market opportunities and an outline of what needs to be considered in a cost-benefit analysis.



## Environmental Considerations

The farm level and wider environmental benefits of agroforestry, and also potential impacts of weather extremes and climate change, and the value of tools to help quantify the benefits.



## Practical Considerations

The decisions that need to be made in relation to tree species choice, planting design, sourcing tree stock and capital items, establishment and management methods, and how these affect the overall economic potential.

## Case Studies

Discover how farmers have evaluated these different considerations in real life cases

EXPLORING AGROFORESTRY



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS



**ReForest at the Agroforestry Show 2025**

## Agroforestry Show 2025



A major milestone in outreach was ReForest's leadership of the Training Hub at the Agroforestry Show 2025 at Woodoaks Farm in the United Kingdom.

At this event, the project presented its tools and decision-support resources directly to farmers and land managers. The Training Hub created a dedicated space for practical exchange, discussion of design options, and exploration of digital tools supporting agroforestry planning.

Participation in the show demonstrated how ReForest's research outputs can be translated into hands-on learning opportunities, bridging scientific development and farmer engagement.

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## Where to find us in the upcoming months: Events



REFOREST



## Upscaling Agroforestry in Europe – Policy Dialogues on Regulation and Finance

Organised by: the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association



26 March 2026



Funded by the European Union



UK Research and Innovation

On 26 March 2026, ReForest will organise a policy dialogue in Brussels. The event will bring together policymakers, experts and project partners to discuss how the project's results can inform future policy development and support the wider adoption of agroforestry across Europe.

Further information and registration details will be available soon on the ReForest website.

*In the next months, ReForest will also be presented in a number of external events. Some of the most important ones are:*



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# 3RD EUROPEAN CARBON FARMING SUMMIT

17–19 March 2026

PADOVA CONGRESS  
PADUA, ITALY



## 9th International Symposium on Woody Root research

3-5 June 2026, Como, Italy

9th International Symposium on Woody Root Research – 3-6 June 2026

### EURAF 2026

7th European Agroforestry Conference 2026



## Agroforestry at the Heart of Europe 2026

8th European EURAF Conference

22 - 26 June 2026 in Neuchâtel, Switzerland

EURAF 2026 – 22-26 June 2026

Check the EVENTS section on our website for the latest updates and information on how ReForest will be presented!

Events

## ReForest online:

To keep up with the latest updates from our Living Labs, upcoming events and newly released tools and resources, we encourage you to regularly visit the ReForest website and explore the Engagement Platform.

[Visit the ReForest Website](#)

[Explore the Engagement Platform](#)

## Follow us to find more:

You can also follow ReForest on social media to stay connected with our ongoing activities and developments across Europe.



[Cordis](#)

[Zenodo](#)



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