



REFOREST POLICY SESSION

Agroforestry sector in the EU:
Towards novel policies and
financing frameworks



REFOREST Policy Session

Agroforestry sector in the EU:

**Towards novel policies and financing
frameworks**

28th June 2023, Recinte Modernista Sant Pau, Barcelona Hosted
and organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Report compiled by:

Kirsty Fairhurst, Assistant Project Officer, EMEA, and

Riccardo de Angeli, Junior Researcher, EMEA



INTRODUCTION:

The policy session titled "Agroforestry sector in the EU: Towards novel policies and financing frameworks" was held on June 28th, 2023, at EMEA Headquarters in Barcelona. Organised as part of the REFOREST project, funded by Horizon Europe, the session aimed to explore innovative financial instruments and policy recommendations for promoting agroforestry systems in Europe. REFOREST aims to promote innovation, and knowledge exchange, and empower farmers in achieving multiple objectives like food production, carbon capture, and biodiversity enhancement through agroforestry.

The European Green Deal's ambition to tackle climate change and environmental degradation necessitates policy initiatives and sustainable practices for a resource-efficient and competitive EU economy. Agroforestry, a multifunctional system, holds significant potential to contribute to this transition by offering environmental, economic, and social benefits.

The policy session aimed to connect experts in the field and foster knowledge exchange on finance and policies related to the agroforestry sector in the EU. It focused on the current regulatory framework, financial mechanisms, carbon markets, and recommendations for novel policies and financing frameworks in the EU agroforestry sector. Renowned research organisations specialising in agroforestry across Europe participated in the session. The event was held in a hybrid format, allowing for both physical and virtual attendance.

The session covered several key topics, including the latest developments and knowledge on finance and policies applicable to the agroforestry sector, the role of agroforestry in EU policies, gaps in financing mechanisms and policies, strategies for effective and sustainable financing, agroforestry's contribution to climate change mitigation, and anticipated changes and recommendations for novel policies and financing frameworks in the EU agroforestry sector.



SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

Ivan Hajdukovic, Researcher at the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA) opened the session and welcomed all participants. Setting the scene, he explained that the aim of the policy session was to connect experts in the field and facilitate the exchange of the latest developments and knowledge on agroforestry in Europe. He then introduced **Consuelo Varela Ortega**, Professor at the University Polytechnic of Madrid and a member of the Executive Board of EMEA, to moderate the session.

REFOREST Policy Session:

Agroforestry sector in the EU: Towards novel policies and financing frameworks

To address the improvement of the policy framework, the initiative has identified nine thematic working groups. Each working group will define its methodology and concentrate on specific aspects of agroforestry, aligned with the topics discussed during the seminar. By the end of the year, each working group is expected to produce a draft report tailored to the objectives of their respective projects. These reports will serve as deliverables for the individual projects, streamlining the participants' efforts.

With the interventions from panellists now concluded, **Consuelo Varela-Ortega** moved the session to open discussion. She began by highlighting the importance of combining the effects of major policies such as the Green Deal and the CAP. She mentioned the positive contributions of these policies to agroforestry and the production of ecosystem services. She also emphasised the significance of capacity building and connecting with farmers. **Marcos Jiménez Martínez**, from the University of Bonn, primarily researching savanna ecosystems and agricultural productivity, sought more details about the project discussed by **Andrea Casadesús Cabral**.



