

# **Global Research Alliance Croplands Research Group**

Agroforestry Network

- *Aims of the Network*
- *Last year activities*
- *Future activities*

# Aims and last year results of the Network

- Identify different the regional systems represented increasing region participation



Spain	United Kingdom	Belgium
Portugal	Poland	Hungary
Italy	France	Finland

**Establish and coordinate an European innovation network to foster the knowledge transfer between scientists and practitioners in agroforestry**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727875.

# Aims and last year results of the Network

- Identify the impediments to adoption

- ✓ AFINET has 9 Regional Agroforestry Innovation Networks (RAINs) across Europe
- ✓ 300 stakeholders meet every six months



## First Rain Meeting



Which are the main challenges to foster agroforestry in Europe?

## Second Rain Meeting



Solutions to the challenges were discussed and a provisional list of innovations was produced

## Third Rain Meeting



Validation of the innovations list

## Fourth Rain Meeting



Establishment of synergies

## Fifth RAIN Meeting

The dissemination materials produced will be presented

Challenges could be summarized in four main topics: (i) Technical (ii) Economic (iii) Education (iv) Policy



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727872.

# Aims and last year results of the Network

- Finalise the factsheet to share with the Croplands Research Group

## Handbook

### Index:

- 1. Defining agroforestry
- 2. Agroforestry Practices
  - 2.1. Silvopasture
  - 2.2. Silvoarable
  - 2.3. Forest farming
  - 2.4. Homegardens
  - 2.5. Riparian buffer strips
- 3. Land Practices
  - 3.1. Design
  - 3.2. Fertilization and admenments
  - 3.3. Species/variety selection
  - 3.4. Pruning
  - 3.5. Water management
  - 3.6. Pest and disease control
  - 3.7. Agroforestry species
- 4. Bioeconomy
- 5. Social
- 6. Economy
- 7. Policy

## IMPORTANCE OF BROWSING ON SHRUBS

Opportunities for animal nutrition and conservation of shrublands silvopasture systems

**AFINET**  
ANALYSING AND FOSTERING INNOVATION




### THE WHAT AND WHY

#### Browsing shrubs as a food resource and management tool

European heathlands are usually linked to land use practices as cutting, burning and grazing, and are supported by the EU within the high nature value farming framework. Nonetheless, the rural depopulation and abandonment of management practices contribute to large accumulations of highly flammable phytomass in heathlands and other shrublands of the Atlantic area of EU, thus being more susceptible to wildfires.

Grazing by livestock can improve rural sustainability while controlling the accumulation of flammable woody vegetation. It can also be a sustainable management tool for shaping and maintaining semi-natural habitats, and promoting greater biodiversity and multifunctionality.

There is a social demand of organic products, which includes meat obtained from free-range livestock management. Rustic local breeds can benefit from browsing on different shrubs that not only cover their austere nutritional needs, but also provide with natural antibiotics compatible for an organically grown animal production.



Local breed Cachena, a rustic traditional cattle located in areas bordering the National Park Kuriá/Peneda-Gerês.  
<http://www.werlinbiocoop.com/cachena>

Native and rustic Cudalés from NW Spain, registered as one of the various European endangered cattle breeds.  
<http://www.werlinbiocoop.com/cudales>

### HOW IS THE CHALLENGE ADDRESSED

#### The chance for traditional rustic animal breeds


European local cattle breeds (e.g. Vianesa, Frieirasa, Cachena, Maronesa or Arouquesa, in NW Spain and Portugal) are recognized by their important environmental, social, cultural, market and public values, and have the protected geographical status from the European Commission. Over the past decades, its population has suffered a drastic decline and there is great interest in their recovery. These traditional breeds are very rustic and their nutritional requirements, frequently expressed as protein and energy needs, are easier to manage. They are adapted to browse on plants considered of "limited" nutritional value (heaths, gorse and hard grasses). Free ranging horses are also compatible with heathland conservation management, maintaining biodiversity values and animal production in Europe. They can effectively reduce gorse biomass (Ulex), a leguminose shrub that they prefer instead of heaths.

Keywords: Browsing, extensive livestock production, Atlantic heathlands, heaths, woody legumes

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[euroagroforestry.eu/afnet](http://euroagroforestry.eu/afnet)



# **Aims and last year results of the Network**

- New research to understand what happens at the tree-crop interface, addition of trees to systems and how to alter them.

***96 Innovation and Research needs where identified by stakeholders that has to be developed***



# Agroforestry book

BURLEIGH DODDS SERIES IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

## Agroforestry for sustainable agriculture

Edited by Professor María Rosa Mosquera-Losada  
University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Dr Ravi Prabhu, World Agroforestry Centre, Kenya



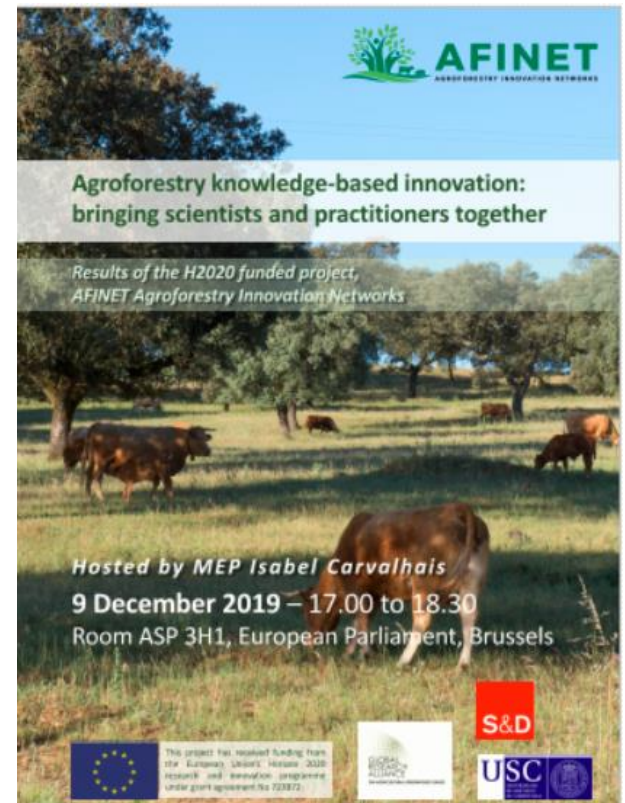
**bd** burleigh dodds  
SCIENCE PUBLISHING

People from all over the world

Launched mid 2019

# *Future activities*

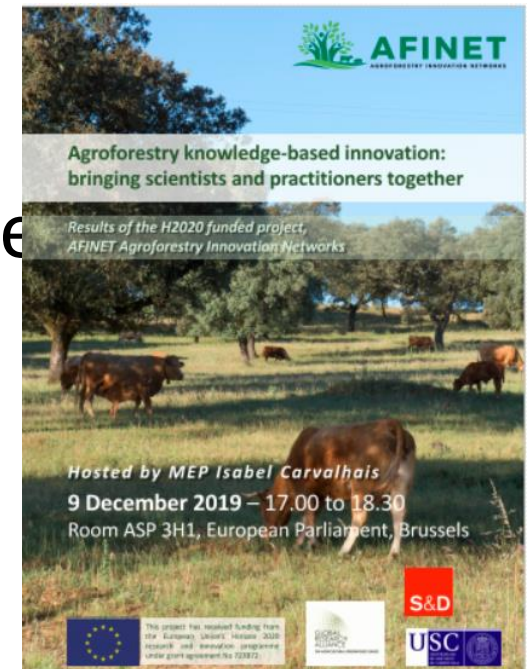
- Agroforestry and soil management. Springer.  
Please inform me if you are interested
- Make a review related with metadata analysis  
on soil carbon
- Parliamentary session
- Final Conference Brussels  
Please register.....





# *Future activities*

- Agroforestry and soil management. Springer. Please inform me if you are interested
- Make a review related with metadata analysis on soil carbon
- Parliamentary session
- Ask for projects that may include
  - CLA 10 and CLA 15
  - RUR 08
  - RUR 11



# Agroforestry Network

## Thanks!

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