

Statement of EURAF-Conference 2018

The 250 participants (farmers, researchers, NGOs, advisors, policy developers) of the 4th bi-annual Conference of the European Agroforestry Federation, held in Nijmegen, European Green Capital (The Netherlands), 28-30 May 2018,

with the explicit focus on **'Accelerating inspiring transitions towards agroforestry as sustainable land use, including the role that agroforestry can play in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change'**,
and the aim of **'having 50% of farmers adopting Agroforestry by 2025'**,

acknowledge that:

- a) Agroforestry is a sustainable agricultural land use system that deliberately integrates the woody component (trees or shrubs) with crops and/or livestock that deliver agricultural products from the lower storey for food products.
- b) Agroforestry has a range of ecological, environmental and climate benefits: increasing carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation, efficient use of resources (light, nutrients, water), enhancing biodiversity, air and water quality and retention improvement, erosion control and the provision of microclimates.
- c) Agroforestry increases economic and ecological farm resilience, reduces the impact of extreme events and creates rural employment opportunities.
- d) Agroforestry contributes to many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- e) Europe has a unique heritage of traditional agroforestry systems with a high degree of innovation and can take a leading role in creating a critical mass of agroforestry farmers to show that a sustainable alternative is available to conventional farming.

And conclude that a European Agroforestry Strategy should include following actions:

- a) Define a set of policy measures that stimulate agroforestry practices at farm level and support farmers in switching to agroforestry practices, with special attention to the needs for investment and maintenance funds.
- b) Accelerate transition and scaling up agroforestry in all Europe through facilitating intense exchange between farmers, researchers, advisors, policy developers, industry, business and consumers.
- c) Devote CAP 2021-2027 to support agroforestry on a large, European scale.
- d) European policy measures in CAP have to provide space for flexible national plans, stimulating farmers in their search for applying agroforestry and helping to develop feasible business models.
- e) Agroforestry has to be integrated in the education system at all desired levels.
- f) Develop a research agenda that together with the current Rural Development Measures linked to EIP-Agri helps to foster knowledge and to implement of agroforestry innovations at large scale.

