

# The German Association for Agroforestry – Profile & Mission

## Who we are

The German Association for Agroforestry (DeFAF – *Deutscher Fachverband für Agroforstwirtschaft e.V.*) is dedicated to promoting the broader adoption of agroforestry as a sustainable land use system in Germany. Founded as a registered non-profit association in 2019, DeFAF now represents more than 550 members from across the agricultural and rural development sectors.

DeFAF's core activities include providing expert advice and fostering dialogue, gathering and disseminating knowledge on agroforestry practices, offering planning support and guidance, and carrying out educational and public outreach efforts. DeFAF serves as a trusted contact and representative voice for farmers and land managers with an interest in agroforestry. We also collaborate closely with other associations and public authorities at both national and international levels.

DeFAF serves as the official German representative organisation in the European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF), actively contributing to the upscaling of agroforestry across Europe. The strategic management of the association is shaped by an advisory board and council made up of the heads of DeFAF's nine departments.

## What we do

At DeFAF, we offer a wide range of services to support the advancement and implementation of agroforestry in Germany and beyond. We provide reliable, up-to-date information and respond to all inquiries related to agroforestry, offering diverse materials and interactive online formats to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue. Making agroforestry knowledge tangible and applicable is our mission. Through field days, excursions, and workshops, we promote both technical expertise and peer-to-peer exchange. We run Germany's only comprehensive training program focused on planning and implementing agroforestry systems. Every two years, we host Germany's largest agroforestry conference, which serves as a vital platform for sharing the latest research and practical experiences.

We foster interdisciplinary cooperation by connecting stakeholders from various professions to generate synergies and develop innovative approaches for scaling up agroforestry. In parallel, we actively advocate for improved policy frameworks and financial incentives, representing the interests of our members at the political level. DeFAF is also a committed partner in national and international research projects ([List of Projects](#)). We contribute to monitoring the impacts of agroforestry systems and help ensure that results are published and accessible to inform future practice.



## Selected national & international projects

Funding	Project Title	Duration
European Union / Agroecology Partnership	<b>EELAP</b> – Enriching European landscapes with agroecological practices	05/2025 – 04/2028
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture / FNR	<b>MODEMA</b> – Establishment of a nationwide model and demonstration network for agroforestry in Germany	06/2024 – 96/2027
Federal Ministry of Education and Research / WIR	<b>AgroWert-Regio</b> – Agroforestry-based value creation for regional and sustainable agriculture	02/2023 – 12/2025
Federal Office for Nature Conservation / Federal Programme for Biological Diversity	<b>SEBAS</b> – Stabilising and increasing biodiversity and ecosystem services on agricultural land by creating diverse agroforestry use structures	09/2022 – 08/2027
European Union / Horizon Europe	<b>DigitAF</b> – DIGItal Tools to help AgroForestry meet climate, biodiversity and farming sustainability goals: linking field and cloud	07/2022 – 06/2026
European Union / Horizon Europe	<b>ReForest</b> – Agroforestry at the forefront of farming sustainability in multifunctional landscapes in Europe	07/2022 – 06/2026

## Selected international publications

The **Info Library** on the website of DeFAF offers a broad selection of publications available for free download on our website, mostly in German. These include practical guides, policy briefs, scientific reports, fact sheets, and position papers covering a wide range of topics related to agroforestry. We also contributed to a number of international publications (selection):

- Gosme, M., et al. (in prep.). AgroforesTreeAdvice: a co-design learning process on aligning and combining heterogeneous knowledge resources into a decision support tool for tree species selection in agroforestry systems. *Agroforestry Systems*.
- Reissig, L., et al. (in prep.). Social and psychological factors influencing the use of digital technologies in agroforestry: results from the DigitAF project. 30<sup>th</sup> European Society for Rural Sociology Congress. Riga, Latvia.
- Lawson, G. et al. (2025). Options for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Agroforestry Carbon Farming in the EU. EURAF Policy Briefing #20. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.13771253](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13771253).
- Hübner, R., et al. (2025). Evaluating soil and biomass to determine climate effects of agroforestry. 2<sup>nd</sup> European Carbon Farming Summit. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.14965041](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14965041).
- Hübner, R. & M. Tylkowski (2024). Agroforestry map of Europe – moving from a basic map to an advanced database. EURAF 2024 – Abstract Book. B. Lojka & Š. Hoffmannová. Brno, Mendel University in Brno: 415-416. DOI: [10.11118/978-80-7509-982-2](https://doi.org/10.11118/978-80-7509-982-2).
- Mayer, S. et al. (2022): Soil organic carbon sequestration in temperate agroforestry systems – A meta-analysis. In: *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment* 323. DOI: [10.1016/j.agee.2021.107689](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2021.107689).
- Tsonkova, P. et al. (2019). Managing hedgerows to optimise ecosystem services in agroforestry systems. *Agroforestry for sustainable agriculture*. M. R. Mosquera-Losada & R. Prabhu. Cambridge, Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing. 1: 39-88. DOI: [10.19103/as.2018.0041.03](https://doi.org/10.19103/as.2018.0041.03).

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