

Animal welfare, society friendly, environment

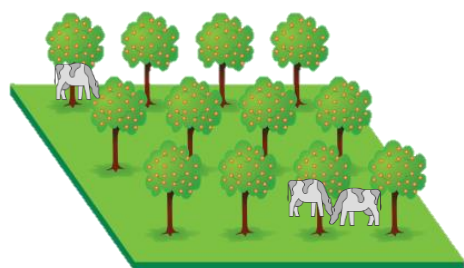


Background

For several decades, plots of land have been grouped together, and trees have been pulled down to facilitate the cultivation of agricultural land. Nowadays, some farmers are experimenting with planting trees/hedges within plots for various reasons: **to provide shade for the animals, to create a microclimate favourable to grass growth, to increase biodiversity, to diversify production** (e.g. orchards, wood chips as bedding material).

General principle

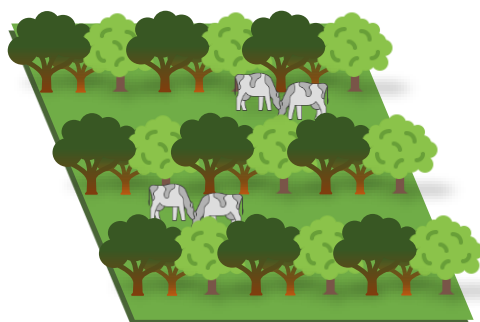
Agroforestry consists of planting lines of trees within an agricultural plot. Several types of agroforestry exist depending on the needs of the farmers and the geographical context.



**The orchard-grassland**  
The main objective is to build a double production system (grass and fruit). The density of fruit trees vary according to the type of production.

The intra-plot tree alignment

On grassland or crops, the aim is mainly environmental, i.e. developing biodiversity, sequestering carbon, limiting erosion. For livestock systems, it also provides shade and feed (browsing) during periods of drought.



Building your project

Before developing a project, it is necessary to address several questions and define your objectives:



Technical issues

- Is the land suitable for trees or orchards (climate, soil, slope)?
- What are the technical constraints for the cultivation and harvesting work for both trees and grassland?
- What type of grassland management (grazing, harvest) ?



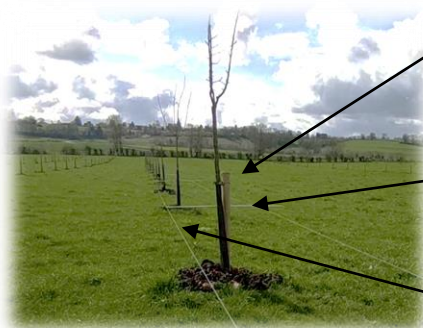
Economic and social issues

- What will be the cost of maintaining the trees planted, and harvesting in the case of orchards?
- What additional labour is needed for maintenance and harvesting?
- Are there existing channels for the valorisation of products and byproducts (cider production, biomass plant, woodchips, firewood, etc.)?

Specific advice

- Ask local authorities about potential subsidies for the re-planting of hedges and trees. In some countries, the cost of planting is fully subsidised.
- The development of these agri-ecological structures can increase the amount of EU CAP aid.

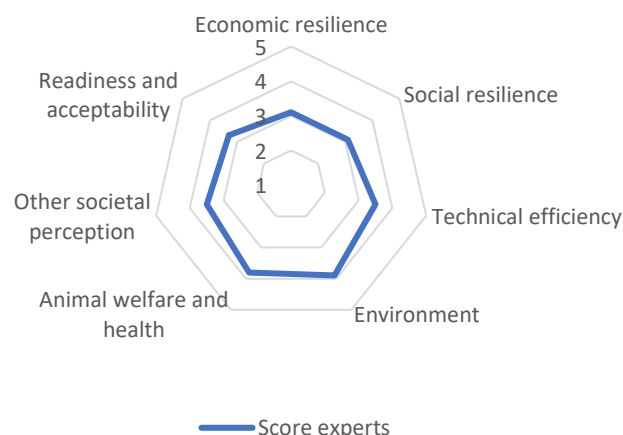
Be careful, especially on these points



1. First fix a wooden post at the trunk of the tree
2. Fix a stick perpendicular to the post
3. Pass an electric wire at each end of the post

This system of protection of the newly planted trees will allow a real saving of working time for maintenance because it is possible to mow the grass under the wire, without removing the sticks.

Assessment of method



More info:  
[https://www.agricology.co.uk/sites/default/files/SOLID\\_technical\\_note12\\_agroforestry.pdf](https://www.agricology.co.uk/sites/default/files/SOLID_technical_note12_agroforestry.pdf)  
<https://www.agforward.eu/agroforestry-with-ruminants-in-france.html>

*“The wood cut from orchards and hedges is shredded into woodchips and used as litter for cattle. Mixed with manure it goes back at the feet of the trees. It’s a good example of circularity”.*  
**Bertrand Cailly, French Pilot farm Merval.**