



Press release #1

AGROMIX: Participatory research to drive the transition towards resilient and efficient land use in Europe

28 partners from 14 countries launch 12 agroforestry and mixed farming pilot sites across Europe to unlock the synergies and environmental services of these alternative farming systems.

On 1st November 2020 the AGROMIX project was launched with a virtual kickoff meeting. The AGROMIX Consortium is coordinated by Coventry University (UK) and is composed of 28 partners including universities, research centres, government agencies, and on-the ground farming associations.

With a budget of 6.9 million euros – granted by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2030 – the project aims to drive the transition towards resilient farming, efficient land use, and more sustainable agricultural value chains in Europe by delivering practical solutions that support the proposed revisions of the EU CAP 2020.

The project uses a transdisciplinary and participatory approach to unlock synergies in agroforestry and mixed farming, to achieve environmental and socio-economic resilience in the context of climate change. AGROMIX plans to reach over 10,000 stakeholders including 2,000 farmers in Europe, increasing their knowledge of resilient farming systems through its communication channels and knowledge hubs. The project will also impact policy-making by providing policy briefs to influential groups and individuals, and will increase understanding of the benefits of agroforestry and mixed farming by publishing both scientific and non-scientific publications, as well as practical guidance for their implementation.

Dr Sara Burbi – Project Coordinator and Assistant Professor at Coventry University’s Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience of Coventry University – explained during the online kickoff meeting: *“We know about the impact of some land uses and that we need new options. Mixed farming and agroforestry can help building climate resilient farming systems. But we don’t know if these new options are economically viable and the environmental, socio-economic and policy contexts that would make them viable. We need to join the dots and fill the gaps. AGROMIX project aims to fill such gaps in our knowledge about the synergies at play within these farming systems and reduce uncertainty around how we can unlock their full potential in a participatory way that support our communities”.*

The project’s methodology will integrate evidence-based contributions from different disciplines (from biosciences to social sciences) with an innovative co-design approach that considers multiple stakeholders. This methodology will be developed and tested at 12 pilot





sites across Europe – selected from the 83 long-term experimental sites managed by the partners – and will increase understanding and acceptance among the relevant actors across agricultural supply chains.



Location of the 12 AGROMIX case studies

The project will also use innovative approaches and technologies – such as serious games and augmented reality – to create immersive, interactive experiences for stakeholders, to increase engagement and demonstrate the benefits of agroforestry and mixed farming.

Over the next four years AGROMIX will develop and promote value chains and infrastructure for agroforestry and mixed farming systems that increase income stability and socio-economic and environmental sustainability, and will share these resilience frameworks with a wide audience. Partners will design new tools to assist farmers, land managers, and others in implementing and monitoring smart solutions for farm and landscape management. The project will identify and model key transition scenarios towards climate-smart land use, value chains, and infrastructure to provide policy recommendations and action plans for the transition towards more resilient agriculture.

ABOUT AGROMIX

Coordinated by Coventry University, AGROMIX project aims to drive the transition towards resilient farming, efficient land use management, and more sustainable agricultural value chains in Europe. Funded by the Horizon 2020 European Union's Research and Innovation Programme, the project brings together 28 partners from 14 countries that will explore multi-actor co-design methods to promote and implement mixed farming and agroforestry practices across Europe.

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement 862993.



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