



Planting4Future - 2022

Summary and recommendations from working conference

(March 22nd, 2022) - **Planting4Future 2022** followed the successful 2021 P4F first working conference.

A year ago, we discussed with a broad audience of stakeholders how to scale up tree planting by involving the European Civil Society, and how to shape the 3 billion trees EU Green Deal initiative so that it is more inclusive and it builds on local tree planting initiatives in member states (see conclusions and participants [here](#)).

In November 2021, the 3 billion trees pledge was officially launched by the EU Commission on their website ([3 billion trees \(europa.eu\)](#)).

The 2nd P4F conference looked at the first experience with the campaign, reflected challenges, and discussed the opportunities to increase the number of “additional” trees either through public policies or private initiatives at all levels.

This year, the working conference focused on two major aspects:

1. **Where is the biggest potential for tree planting and how to involve the whole society**

Data on plantations, motivation of key planting actors to share the data, how to involve all member states, and how to ensure that only additional trees are counted; not the reforestation or business as usual.

2. **Carbon offsetting as one of the motivators for participation of companies in tree planting**

Offsetting into regenerative agriculture, forestry or carbon farming. Realistic expectations from carbon sequestration in various ecosystems. Reputation risks if the rules for carbon farming are not based on proper control tools.

The conference was opened by **Commissionaire Sinkevicius** and moderated by **Ladislav Miko**.

The two working groups were addressed by **2 keynotes**:

- **prof. Claire Chenu** from INRAE (France's National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment)
- **Miroslav Kundrata** from CEPF (Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation)

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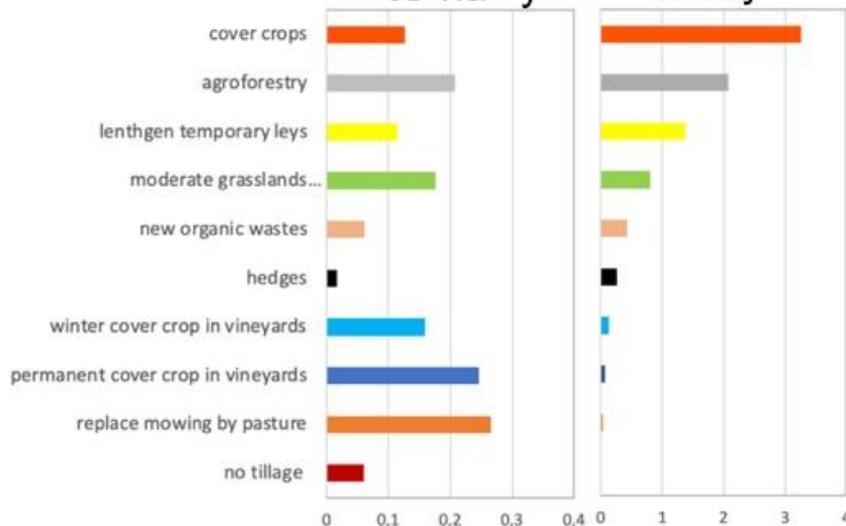
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Respected French pedologist, **prof. Claire Chenu** provided an overview on carbon offsetting potential of various agricultural management both per hectare, and both for the French agricultural landscapes. Later she mainly focused on **agroforestry** as one of the most promising ways to improve agricultural landscape, as well as to sequester carbon.

SOC storage technical potential

Additional SOC storage mainland France, 2030
tC ha⁻¹ y⁻¹ MtC y⁻¹



Pellerin et al. 2019, 2020

INRAE 4p1000 assessment

<https://www.inrae.fr/en/news/storing-4-1000-carbon-soils-potential-france>

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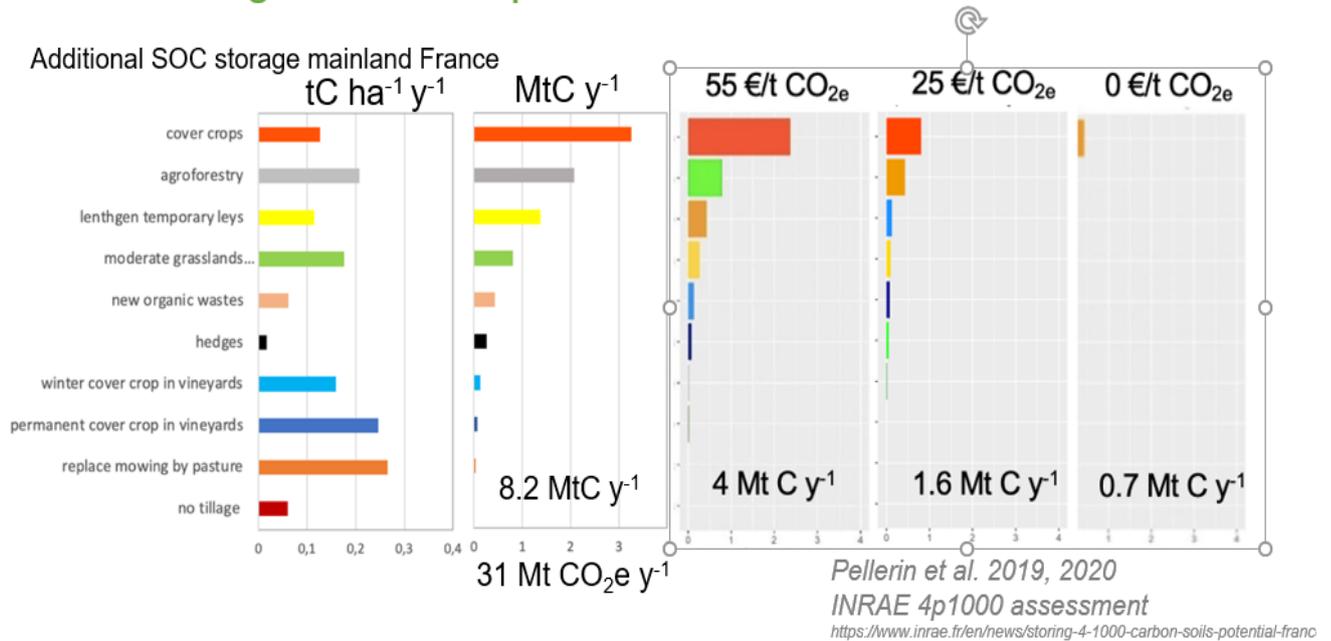
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SOC storage economic potential



Cost of SOC storing management options – Incentives needed

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The other working group (WG1) theme was addressed by **Miroslav Kundrata** from Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation. Looking at the 3 years history of their national tree planting campaign, he also confessed some outcomes from the previous year conference.

As opposed to reforestation centralized data (over 200 million forest seedlings planted in the 10 million country in 2020), the information on tree planting in open landscapes and cities is very fragmented, and it is extremely difficult to get and integrate data from thousands of planting stakeholders.

In the 3rd year of the Czech P4F campaign, almost a million newly planted trees were registered. The estimated annual amount of trees planted annually is about 2 million. Still a lot of work to get them registered. Citizens and communities are very important for the promotion of the national campaign, but the majority of trees are planted by big institutions (almost 70%), for instance as after mining landscape revitalisation.

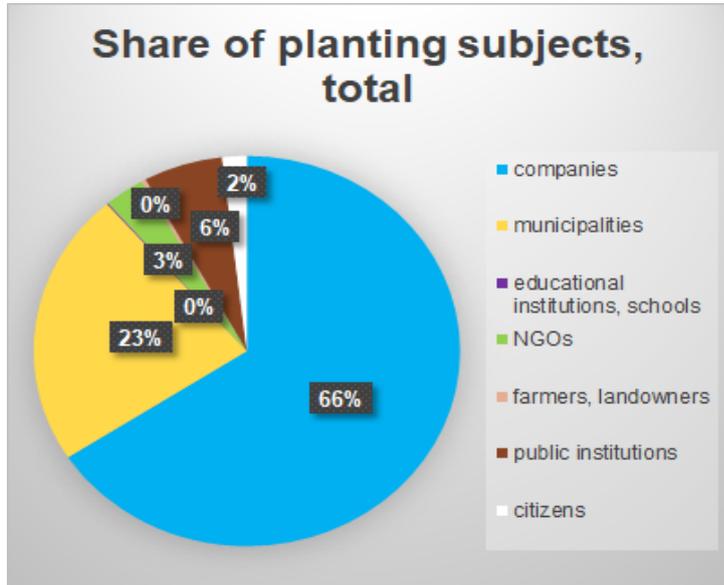
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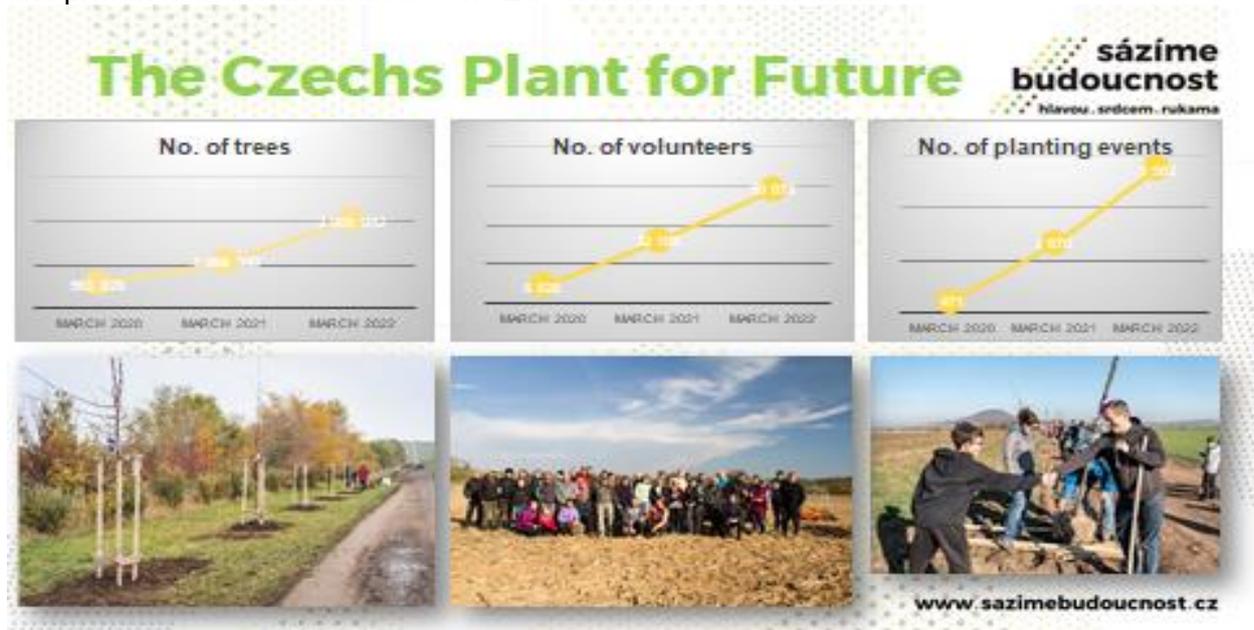
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The success is determined by very strong networking, coordination and proactive recruiting of the whole range of partners (a couple dozen thousands) on a national level. These integrated and proven data can be loaded to the EU 3 billion trees database.



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WG 1: Data on plantations, motivation of key planting actors to register

Moderated by **SVEN KALLEN**, Life Terra

Biggest potential for planting:

There is **enough potential** to turn this initiative successful - **4.2 million ha of agricultural land identified in the EU as potentially interesting for trees** (agroforestry, afforestation).

Incentives are needed!

In UK rural areas - 8% of farmland - hedges, agroforestry.

Agroforestry, but also individual gardens, kindergartens, schools.

Abandoned agricultural dryland (often supported by the government). Possible to create jobs for people in remote areas.

The European Commission sees the potential for planting:

- 1) urban and artificial environment
- 2) potential for agroforestry to raise forest land in the EU by 2-3%!

Largest institution planting trees:

(State) Forest Companies - usually for economic benefits.

Mining companies - recultivations of degraded areas.

Cities and municipalities (Social forests).

Associations, state organizations (nature protection, roads and river basins managers)

Challenges:

More funding is needed, but the biggest problem is the lack of trees to plant! Personnel for tree planting!

Registration tools (platforms) exist in some countries, in others only for carbon offsets.

Recommendations:

Get municipalities involved!

To motivate registrations of tree plantings - introduce **Awarding**: eg. "a price" for municipalities, political incentive, celebration ceremony, positive publicity.

Careful monitoring is needed - especially on big surfaces. Provide user friendly tools!

Identification and individual **communication towards tree planting initiatives** is needed (remind of registrations).

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If not existent, create and support “**tree planting movements**” at national and EU levels it is important to invest in campaigns, have a respected entity to serve as an umbrella, nurture the communication and affiliation to the agenda.

Help **identify land** - the EU and national governments

Create a **task force** at EU / national level and communicate leadership.

It is important to involve communities in order to increase the engagement of citizens and volunteers!

WG 2 - What are the main blockages for farmers against implementing agroforestry principles?

Moderated by **Patrick Worms - EURAF**

Current situation and how can agroforestry and farmers be supported

- **Austria:**
obstacles: **measurements reporting and verification, data** - monitoring and data quality must be improved, and **then we decide what's the best model**
carbon markets - why should we go for voluntary carbon markets, if it isn't reflected in the **EU offset planning?**
- **Czech Republic:**
Starting with agroforestry and carbon farming. Plan not very ambitious: **1,000 ha (of total 4.5 million ha) in the next 5 years.**
Limits - 75% of farming enterprises do not own the land.
- **France:**
Carbon farming certification is also used for agroforestry. **Need to distinguish certification from offsetting - certification as a tool.**
Certification side: a lot of initiatives for certification with uneven quality=> draw upon those existing experiences in particular to find the **right tradeoffs between practicality and the precision**
Voluntary carbon markets have to be understood as **complementary funding for low**

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carbon projects, which needs to be coordinated with other sources of funding

- **UK practice:**

UK Government have provided clarity on agroforestry within the **Basic Payment Schemes (BPS)**, which allows agroforestry plantings as long as agricultural activity continues unchanged (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/agroforestry-and-the-basic-payment-scheme>).

ELMS (environmental land management schemes), the policies that will replace CAP and BPS, will include an **agroforestry standard**.

Still, major barriers exist for farmers to plant trees, primarily related to knowledge and funding. There is great opportunity for the forestry sector to develop niche specialities in Agroforestry to collaborate with farmers on small-scale plantings.

- **EC, DG clima:** Challenge for MRV (measurements, reporting, verification) laying in diversity of carbon removal solutions, plus **heterogeneity of certification mechanisms and in unequal quality. The EU's role could be to provide minimum standards so we can compare.**

A need for:

- reliable governance - public guarantees - to ensure that it is no fraud or double-counting,
- good certification , we need all farmers being able to measure carbon sequestration correctly.

A lot of existing tools are emerging for farmers to measure carbon sequestration. This can be a **basis for result-based payments under the CAP which could simplify rules and increase uptake.**

Recommendations and what participants want to see changed?

- **Less regulations or easier regulations**, better conditions for agroforestry.
- **Diversified approach** depending on the natural condition. (e.g. Sweden has only 8% of farmland and 69% forests)
- Need for **employee engagement**, connecting people with what's happening,
- Need to **focus on land owners** - especially in countries where the majority of land is leased to farming entities. (Diversified counseling to farmers and owners).
- no penalization
- standardized methodologies
- transparent methodology



**TREE
OF THE
YEAR**
EUROPE



**environmental
partnership
association**



ELO
European Landowners' Organization

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- carbon certification
- measurement data
- accessible measurements
- affordable sustainability certification
- quality and standards
- food security - preserve soil quality, stop overproduction
- push our politicians (agroforestry is developing faster in South America or South Africa)
- Some **caution** is required if we **focus** too heavily **on carbon sequestration**, as this may limit the outputs of such systems.

P4F Conference recordings: [Planting4Future Conference – European Tree of the Year](#)

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