

Poster session

TITLE: EU habitats wooded pastures and meadows as nature based paradigm of sylvopastoral agroforestry systems – existing positive examples for promoting of agroforestry practice

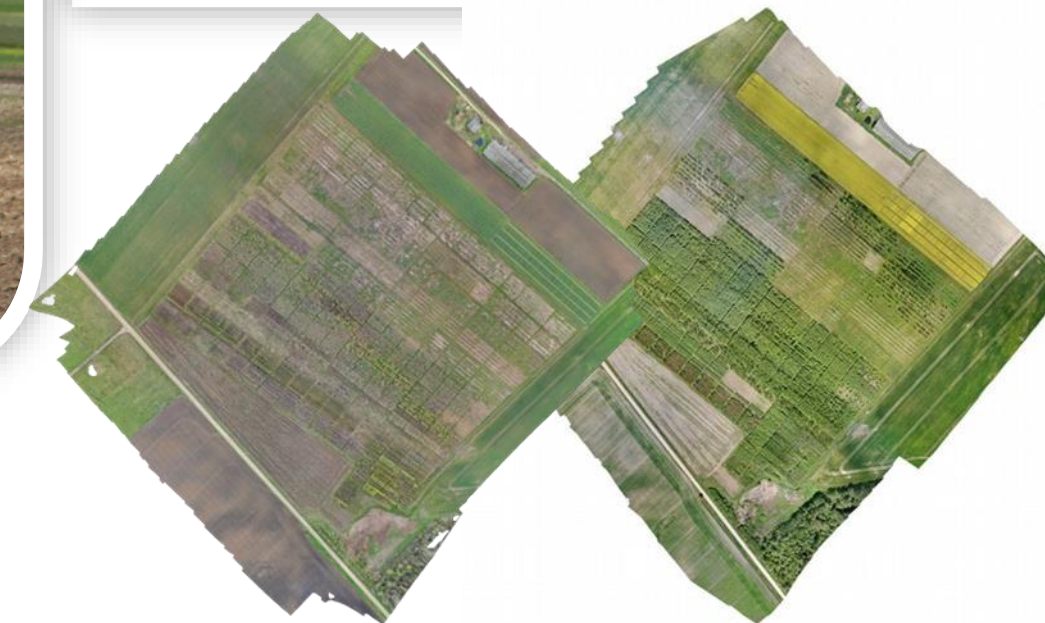
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Existing practices as heritage fitting to definition, but not recognized as agroforestry

Agroforestry in Research first time - Finished agroforestry research projects:

2011-2013

Elaboration of models for establishment and management of multifunctional plantations of short rotation energy crops and deciduous trees. LSFRI Silava, 2010-2013, European Regional Development Fund project No. 2010/0268/2DP/2.1.1.2.0/10/APIA/VIAA/118



Agroforestry in Research - Ongoing research projects:

2021-2023

Establishment of innovative agroforestry systems of white willow - perennial grass in marginal mineral soils fertilized with mixture of wood ash and less demanded fractions of peat. LSFRI Silava, 2020 - 2023, European Regional Development Fund project No. 1.1.1.1/19/A/112.

Evaluation of climate change mitigation potential of agroforestry systems with mineral and organic soils No. 1.1.1.2/VIAA/4/20/684

Less traditional practices close to agroforestry

Although agroforestry management approaches are not defined as agroforestry systems based on legislation and are not accounted at national level, there are several both historical (e.g., riparian forest buffers, windbreaks, shelterbelts) and innovative (e.g., silvopasture, alley cropping) agroforestry practices in Latvia.



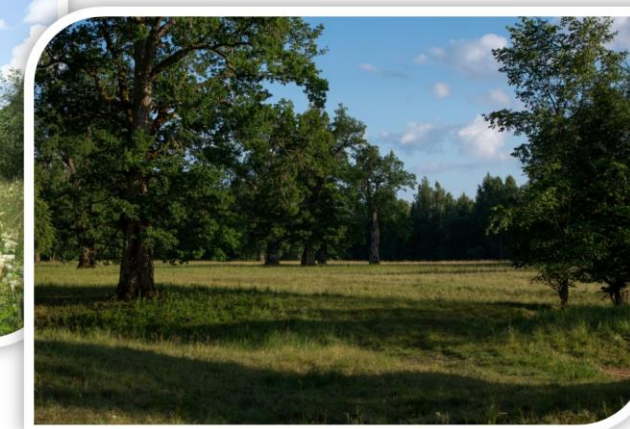
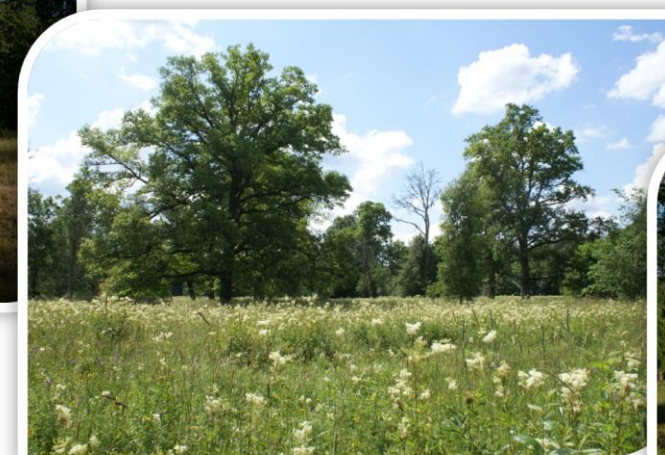
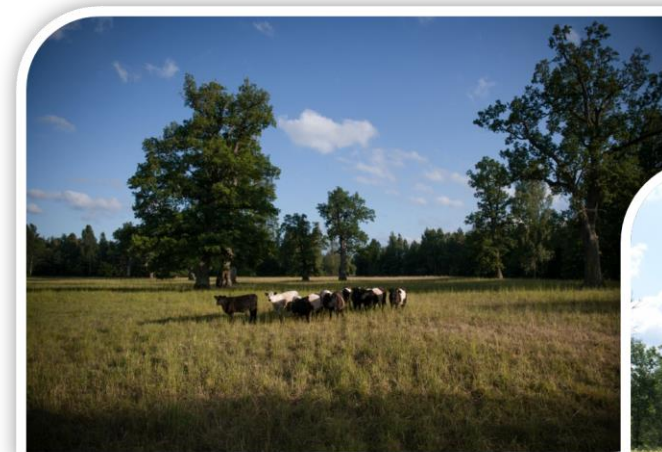
Example of innovative alley cropping agroforestry practices - rows of spruce with melon grown in the alleyways between the rows. Source (in Latvian): <https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/dzive--stils/ikdienai/latvijas-arbuzi-un-melones-sak-konkuret-ar-sveszemju-razu.a369197/>

Suitable agroforestry system for Latvia

The most suitable agroforestry system for Latvia farming traditions seems to be silvopastoral systems. That is already adapted and listed as habitat (EC 2013a) 6530* Fennoscandian wooded meadows or (2013b) 9070 Fennoscandian wooded pastures. Both of them are a vegetation complexes consisting of amusement trees or groups of trees and shrubs as mosaics in open areas. Typical tree species are *Quercus robur*, *Tilia cordata*, *Ulmus laevis*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, also *Pinus sylvestris* and *Salix alba*, are presented in such systems typical for Latvian rural landscape, a small part of this habitat is managed.

Habitat of the Year 2020 in Latvia - Agroforestry Parkland System (EU Habitat Fennoscandian wooded meadows (6530*)).

Photos and source (in Latvian): <https://ldf.lv/lv/article/gada-dzivotne-2020-parkveida-plava>



The habitat does not include abandoned and wooded open grasslands overgrown with birches, willows, alders and some small broadleaves characteristic to mentioned before habitat, but those areas has high potential to be transformed in juvenile silvopastoral system - having potential to became habitat in future. Because with special management and altitude to the trees, those areas have potential to became same as habitats - woody pastures and forest pastures. Educational activities focused on farmers and policy makers auditoria could improve the situation and raise awareness and promote visibility of agroforestry system.

AGROFORESTRY, EDUCATION, DISSEMINATION

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<http://www.agroforestrylatvia.com/>

<http://www.silava.lv/23/section.aspx/View/276>

