

to graze on forest land defined in Forestry Act of Bulgaria). The uptake of best practices is hindered by the respective **complex administrative procedures** and there is **lack of knowledge** about the benefits of agroforestry systems among stakeholders. The **CAP-RDP measures** to support the establishment of agroforestry systems is (could be) the only significant incentive in the current regulatory regime. However, their budgeting and implementation has been only partial and under-utilised in the countries under review. The expansion of **agroforestry systems is excluded from land use options** by either agricultural land use legislation, forestry regulations or conservation law.

Conclusion of the study

- **A clear formal definition at national level would be an important basis for promoting activity and for the formulation of respective legal and regulatory environment.**
- Framework given in EU policy documents is not fully exploited in the implementation at national level in the countries of the macro-region.
- **It would be important to represent the potential of agroforestry systems toward climate change adaptation at the national level policies, to promote specific activities.**
- There is a need to develop spatially differentiated agroforestry strategies within the macro-region.
- **It would be important to implement respective CAP measures at the national level, effectively, with the consideration of national specificities. Countries should ensure that agroforestry activities in agricultural land is eligible for direct payment.**
- There is a need to create type-specific stakeholder networks which include representatives of relevant farmers, forest owners, consultants, experts, professional trainers and decision-makers.

The study was commissioned by the **BIOEAST** Thematic Working Group on Forestry and performed by Csaba Gyuricza, Anett Parádi-Dolgos, Arnold Csonka, Tibor Bareith and Mónika Varga.

The study will contribute to the **BIOEAST Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** being developed in 2022.

Contact the authors via

Kocsis-Kis Mónika

Kocsis-Kiss.Monika@uni-mate.hu

Contact **BIOEAST** Thematic Working Group on Forestry via

Rastislav Raši

rastislav.rasi@nlcsk.org

Read the full study on the **BIOEAST** website

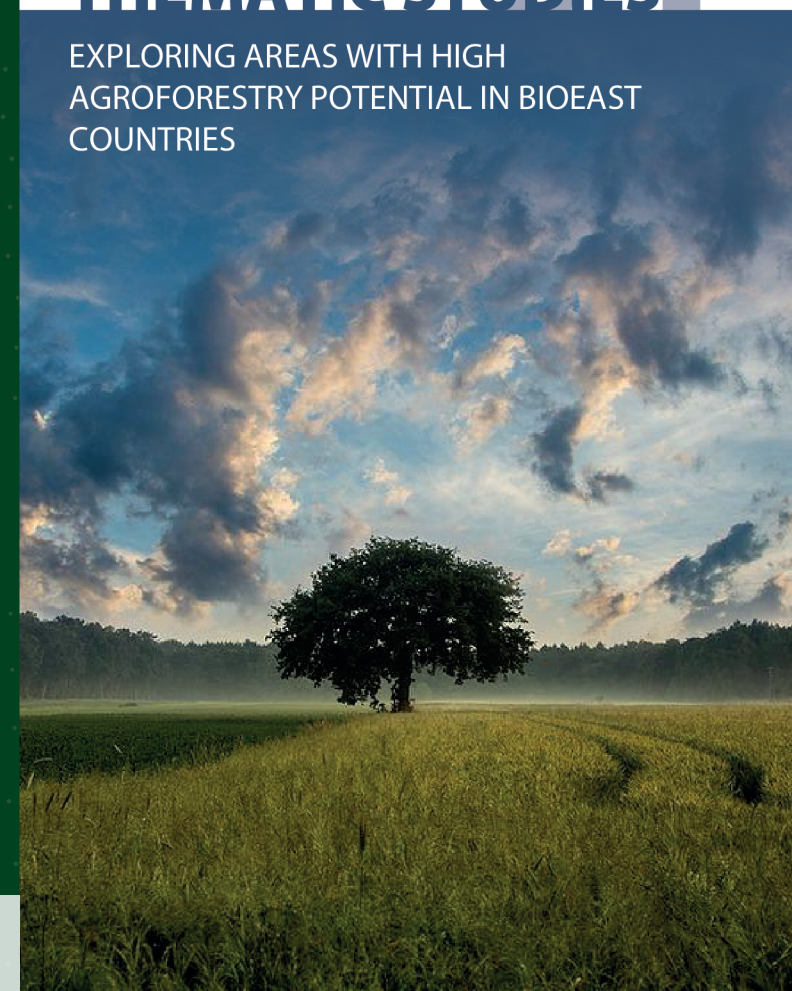


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 862699



BIOEAST #4 THEMATIC STUDIES

EXPLORING AREAS WITH HIGH AGROFORESTRY POTENTIAL IN BIOEAST COUNTRIES



What is the study about?

Agroforestry is a land management practice which intentionally integrates woody vegetation with crop and/or livestock farming to benefit from the resulting ecological and economic interactions. Agroforestry systems are supported by the EU's rural development policies (RDPs) since they play a relevant role in producing positive social, economic, and environmental externalities. Moreover, agroforestry system is an alternative way of utilization for lower quality areas for biomass production. The study focuses on the **overview of current state-of-art** of agroforestry related activities and the related **legal and regulatory frameworks and measures**, applied in the **BIOEAST** countries. The study also examines the **potential of agroforestry** activities and makes **recommendations** for the implementation of agroforestry to the CAP national strategic plans.

Current state of agroforestry in BIOEAST countries

Varying climatic and natural conditions, but also by the diversified traditions and cultures result in **significant differences** of **agroforestry systems** in the

BIOEAST countries. While agroforestry practices are traditional in southern regions, hemi-boreal and boreal climatic conditions limited development of such practices. Bulgaria has 0.9 million ha of cultivated agroforestry area, Romania has the third largest area of livestock agroforestry on sparsely wooded grassland in the EU.

Support for implementation of agroforestry

In the context of the organic economy and climate change, several isolated agri-forestry initiatives have appeared in the recent years, and good examples for agroforestry-related activities can be found in almost all **BIOEAST** countries. Research activities and establishment of agroforestry sites are supported from EU funds (CAP, EAFRD, INTERREG, URBACT, ERDF, LIFE, H2020, etc.) Regarding the CAP, supporting measures 221-223 and 8.1-8.2 were specifically dedicated for agroforestry related developments, however, 223 and 8.1-8.2 were limitedly budgeted in **BIOEAST** countries. Afforestation of agricultural land (221) has been one of the most successful CAP projects, with over 1 million hectares of agricultural land afforested.

Agroforestry potential in BIOEAST countries

Forestry and conventional agricultural zones are the most prevalent in the central, large belt, which implies both a high risk of conflicts with agroforestry and good conditions for the spread of silvoarable systems, still, silvopastoral systems are favourable and the best in the south. The agroforestry measures of the CAP rural development policy have been budgeted for and implemented by the **BIOEAST** countries at a low level compared to their potential. It is a realistic and desirable expectation that agroforestry, as a special and multifunctional form of land use, should be included in the regulations in the current and next planning periods and it would be important to simplify the respective supporting measures. The study presents potential of agroforestry systems implementation and related trade-offs in five strategic agroforestry clusters: i) Conventional Crop Farming Zone, ii) Forestry Dominated Zone, iii) Extensive Land Use Zone, iv) Livestock and Mixed Farming Zone, v) Silvopastoral Target Zone.

Regulation of agroforestry in the BIOEAST macro-region

The regulatory environment has so far been a **significant barrier** rather than a facilitator to the expansion of agroforestry systems in many **BIOEAST** countries. In most countries, **term of agroforestry is vaguely defined or not used at all** (except of Hungary and Bulgaria). The **legal and regulatory frameworks are ill-defined or not exist at all** (considering only separate categories of forest and agricultural land with trees in agricultural production blocks and grazing in forest strictly prohibited), and national legislation doesn't support agroforestry development (except of some countries with strong agroforestry background, e.g. agroforestry included in the Romanian agricultural development strategy, conditions allowing

EXISTING AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES OF BIOEAST COUNTRIES

COUNTRY	SILVOARABLE AF	FOREST FARMING	RIPARIAN BUFFER STRIPS	IMPROVED FALLOW	MULTIPURPOSE TREES	SILVOPASTURE
Romania		✓	✓		✓	✓
Bulgaria		✓	✓			✓
Hungary	✓	✓	✓			✓
Slovenia		✓	✓			
Slovak Republic		✓				✓
Czech Republic		✓	✓			✓
Poland	✓		✓		✓	✓
Croatia					✓	✓
Estonia		✓				✓
Lithuania		✓				✓
Latvia		✓				✓