

## **Policies, frameworks, and other factors hindering and supporting the adoption of agroforestry systems**

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Agroforestry is a land use system that intentionally integrates woody perennials (e.g., trees) into animal and/or crop systems to take advantage of economic or ecological interactions among the components. Its potential benefits include improved soil and water quality, carbon sequestration, improved habitat for biodiversity, expanded economic opportunities for farmers, diversified products, improved animal welfare, landscape beautification, and improved farm-level circularity. However, there are a range of technical, practical, cultural, legal, political, economic, and other barriers to agroforestry adoption, which vary according to the country or region or other contextual factors.

It is especially important to understand how current regional, national, international, and other policies hinder or support farmers in incorporating agroforestry in their agricultural systems. **To reach that understanding, this task includes a systematic review of relevant regional, national, international (e.g., the CAP), and other policy frameworks, plus relevant scientific and other literature.** The task focuses on one or more of the following countries: Germany, Italy, the UK, and the Netherlands. Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina are also potentially possible. While the thesis should include this core task and relevant data should be gathered and analyzed accordingly, the student can tailor/expand the research question depending on personal research interests. Other countries not listed here could be included in the thesis for a comparative analysis, as long as one of the core countries (ideally one of the European countries) above are included. The student should possess the relevant language skills in order to read through national and regional policy and other documents. As part of this thesis work, there would be the opportunity to contribute to a dynamic international project with consortium members from the above-mentioned countries, and to gain experience in a rapidly-growing area of research.

***Type of project:** Systematic review (literature based) with potential field research depending on the parameters of the research question.*

***Project duration:** The thesis project could be started immediately, with a start date to be determined by agreement. Please note: This MSc thesis is part of a bigger project. This requires that you deliver certain (partial) data and assessments in accordance with the project timeline and needs, but you are free to finish the thesis depending on your own schedule. Relevant timelines will be communicated by the supervisors to you in a timely way, so you can plan accordingly.*