

## The Agrof-MM project at the EURAF Congress

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF) in Montpellier, Professor Charles Burriel of the Dijon AgroSup Institute presented the Agrof-MM project to the round table titled "*Agroforestry - the experiences of farmers and instructors*". In its content on land management, this conference enabled a better understanding of the potential uses of agroforestry training throughout the sites concerned, including: the Vézénobre sites (an INRA site where grain is harvested under poplars), the Maraussan sites (where there are three different silvopastoral innovative operations: the alignment of trees, the combining of cereals with walnut trees, and the combining of vegetables with olive trees), and also in the vicinity of Restinclières (the combining of cereals with walnut trees, and the combining of trees with vineyards).

This last site, or area, aims specifically to demonstrate the link between the five components of innovation in agriculture: farmers and future farmers, teachers and instructors, advisors and actors in the transferring of development, researchers, and also political and administrative authorities. The plots under "experimental research" are structured over two surfaces: one of which holds the research-experimentation section which experiments by combining agricultural production with trees, the other is the control plot where agricultural production is conducted without the use of trees.

At least three groups of actors are associated with each plot:

- The agricultural operator - who manages the plot, harvests it, and contributes to the research and to the transferal of knowledge
- The advisors and actors in the transferal of development. In this particular case, these include the Chamber of Agriculture and a CRPF forest management technician, who both guarantee the monitoring of woody species
- The researchers who define the protocol of the research, conduct it, and carry it out and gather data, analyse it and interpret it.

One of the objectives of this research is to establish the interactions between tree growth and the harvesting of grapes for wine production.

Today, the operators, the actors in the transferal of knowledge and training, and the social actors are seekers of reference documents which permit, for example, either a farmer to decide if a particular research result is applicable to their operation, or an instructor to explain to their students under what conditions a new method of production may be developed for a particular plot. The group of actors under the category of "Education – professional training" were until recently taken into minimal consideration with the steps in "research and experimentation". This absence is beginning to be integrated into the research programs of the European Union. Agrof-MM will thus explore other paths in order to fill this gap and to link the research with transfers in professional training.

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