

Agroforestry support programme in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein



Agroforestry system with walnut trees in the canton of Lucerne; Copyright: Mareike Jäger/SilvoCultura

This regional climate protection programme for agroforestry offers support funding for planting and maintaining trees on agricultural land in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein. Agroforestry systems draw CO₂ from the atmosphere and therefore act as carbon sinks. Agroforestry also offers valuable habitats for diverse animal species.

Throughout Europe, traditional agroforestry systems represent less than 10 per cent of usable agricultural land. In the four countries eligible for funding – Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein – there are just a few hundred operations per country that have established modern agroforestry systems. Maintenance of these systems comes with high investment costs and additional expenses which are only feasible for agricultural operations in the medium to long term. Promoting new agroforestry systems requires financial incentives such as the ones provided by this programme.

Agroforestry systems present numerous benefits in the responsible use of dwindling water resources. Root penetration promotes distribution of water from deep strata while shading reduces surface water evaporation.

Mareike Jäger, agroforestry expert and General Manager of SilvoCultura)

Support for agroforestry systems

Through this cross-border support programme, agricultural operations will receive financial support for establishing new agroforestry systems. New

Project type:

Land Use and Forestry

Project location:

Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein

Project status:

In operation, credits available

Annual CO₂ reduction:

5,000 t CO₂e (over 50 years)

Partner



Project standard



Impressions



Walnut trees raised for timber in the canton of Lucerne. An example of an area cultivated for agroforestry, four years after planting. Copyright: Mareike Jäger/SilvoCultura

plantations and regular maintenance are supported with an amount per planted tree. This support can be combined with national direct payments (if it can be proven that further support is needed this may be provided by private organisations, for example). Participating operations also benefit from two on-site consultations by SilvoCultura, free of charge, to ensure that agroforestry systems are adapted to local and operation-specific conditions as well as extreme weather conditions, including heatwaves and flooding.

Trees offer a wide range of benefits

The living, woody biomass of fruit, wild fruit and deciduous trees in agroforestry systems draws CO₂ from the atmosphere. The climate impact of agroforestry trees comes from their carbon sink effect, one of the “nature-based” solutions. In addition, the trees offer positive added value in other areas, by reducing nutrient and pesticide deposits in waterways, improving natural nutrient management and providing valuable habitats for diverse animal species. All this means that agroforestry systems help maintain and promote biodiversity.

Register now!

If you are interested in receiving support for your agricultural operation, check the application form to see if you fulfil the approval criteria, and then send the completed application form directly to SilvoCultura. It is important that the trees have not yet been ordered or planted.

Are you just interested in planting standard fruit trees, and not timber trees? Then take a look at our Standard Fruit Tree Support Programme for Hochstamm Suisse members.



Apple trees with secondary agricultural usage in the canton of Lucerne. Copyright: Mareike Jäger/SilvoCultura



A newly established agroforestry system among the wheat. Photo: myclimate

This project contributes to two SDGs:



Carbon sink effect of a total of 25,000 t CO₂.



At least 200 hectares of agricultural land managed sustainably.