

Patrick Worms, World Agroforestry

Agroforestry is paradoxical. On the one hand, there is massive evidence from a plethora of contexts that mixing things up, whether crops and trees or animals and trees (or animals and crops and trees), leads to a number of extremely desirable benefits ranging from higher aggregate yields to better protection against extreme weather via ecosystemic and financial resilience. Nevertheless, as a practice, agroforestry is still very rarely embraced by extension services, agribusiness and commercial farmers. In Pillar II of the common agricultural policy of the European Union, it had one of the lowest updates of any of the greening measures, despite being subsidised. My talk will focus on the reasons for this sorry state of affairs, broach the problem of business models, incentives, contextual and institutional factors, and ultimately the extremely strong role of pathway dependency in agriculture - and how to break it.