4th World Congress on Agroforestry
20-22 May 2019
Le Corum – Montpellier, France

Agroforestry innovation network Session Description

Tuesday 21 May, 4:30 to 6 pm - Room Joffre 4 (level 1)

Chair: Anastasia Pantera

Speakers:
AFINET Results: Rosa Mosquera: 10 min
AFINET Results in Italy: Andrea Pisanelli 5 min
AFINET Results in Belgium Bert Reubens: 5 min
AFINET Results in UK: Ian Knight: 5 min
AFINET Results in Portugal: Joana Amaral Paulo, 5 min
AFINET Results in Hungary: Andrea Vityi, 5 min
AFINET Results in Poland: Robert Borek, 5 min
AFINET Results in France: Fabien Balaguer, 5 min
AFINET Results in Finland: Michael der Herder, 5 min
AFINET Results in Spain: Nuria Ferreiro and Javier Rodríguez Rigueiro, 5 min
General discussion: 35 min

Summary
Agroforestry (AF) is a climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practice of deliberately integrating woody vegetation (trees or shrubs) with crop and/or animal systems to benefit from the resulting ecological and economic interactions. AFINET is Based on the economic and environmental relevance of this activity, a consortium of 13 partners from 9 European countries, launch AFINET (AgroForestry Innovation NETworks), a thematic network aiming to foster the exchange and the knowledge transfer of agroforestry among scientists and practitioners in Europe. Two main aspects were delivered by AFINET: (i) The creation of a European Interregional network, composed of 'Regional Agroforestry Innovation Networks (RAINs)', working groups created in 9 strategic regions of Europe (Spain, UK, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Hungary, Poland, France, and Finland). (ii) The creation of a European Innovation Knowledge Reservoir of scientific and practical knowledge of agroforestry with user-friendly access (the 'Knowledge Cloud'). This Innovation Knowledge Reservoir is created and have hundreds of documents already uploaded.
Regional Agroforestry Innovation Networks met every six months to focus on different aspects of the project in each AFINET region. The average number of participants in each of the nine RAIN was 30 people that represented over 500 actors talking and discussing about agroforestry The meetings have similar aims in all EU regions that use to include a set of presentations by agroforestry experts (researchers and practicioners), Discussion sessions and Farm visits where agroforestry practices are implemented.
Main results of the challenges and bottlenecks to uptake agroforestry by practicioners in Europe where: technical, economical, education and communication and policy. During the RAIN meeting sessions, people from a variety of backgrounds have worked hand in hand with a common goal: to promote and enhance the implementation of agroforestry. Members confront despair bottlenecks, such as economic, technical or policy-related, however they have leveraged each other's strengths to work together for solutions. This session will present the main AFINET results based on the 9 participant countries.