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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

## Forest Practices & Climate Change

### Which new management practices and tools can improve the climate mitigation and adaptation potential of EU forests?

The EIP-AGRI Focus Group on 'New forest practices and tools for adaptation and mitigation of climate change' brought together 20 experts in order to exchange on forest practices and tools to tackle climate change and to explore successful experiences and innovation in practice. They focused mainly on three aspects:

- ▶ how adaptation strategies are selected and implemented
- ▶ the use of decision support tools to bridge scientific knowledge and practice
- ▶ training approaches and ways of sharing experiences

The challenges posed by climate change, although global, show strong regional differences. Considering the diversity of forest types and different management traditions across Europe, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies must fit the region-specific climate change effects expected and local circumstances. The final report of this Focus Group, published in January 2019, presents some suggestions on good practices and strategies for the future of our forests, as for example:

- ▶ Improving forest management at stand level with special attention to small scale forests. Climate smart silviculture, genetic resources and decision support systems (DSS) and tools can highly contribute to this objective
- ▶ Scaling up management and tackling climate change risks by an integrated landscape management and the implementation of early warning and innovative risk management strategies (eg. for pests or forest fires)
- ▶ Fostering adaptation and mitigation by promoting good practices for forest fires prevention (e.g. silvopastoralism), economic incentives to promote adaptation (climate smart silviculture, payment for ecosystem services) and/or Innovative value chains to enhance climate change mitigation (e.g. new products and uses of wood)
- ▶ Enhancing knowledge exchange and awareness about climate change beyond the forest community by finding and using effective communication methods and bringing together views from science, policy and practice

*"Because of climate change, single species conifer stands are at risk. This encouraged me to collect acorns of Quercus robur and grow the seedlings at my tree nursery. Every forest owner can take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change."*

- Gunilla Holmberg (Finland), expert from the EIP-AGRI Focus Group on Forest Practices & Climate Change -

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## Ideas for Operational Groups

- ▶ Explore methods to boost the use of broadleaf species by increasing their potential in forest regeneration
- ▶ Develop or gather resources and tools to foster local adaptation in forest management by enhancing awareness and peer to peer learning
- ▶ Test methods to improve assisted regeneration or afforestation in drought-prone areas
- ▶ Develop a user-friendly early warning system on local forest health issues which can help to assess the situation and raise the alarm when necessary
- ▶ Explore ways to enhance landscape management by helping individuals to make decisions aligned with strategies to fight climate change
- ▶ Develop collective and effective plans to mitigate climate change effects (drought, forest fires), promote actions to increase ecosystem resilience and awareness of all actors
- ▶ Analysis of mitigation options along specific value chains (e.g. for pine) to improve carbon balance

## Research needs

- ▶ Local/regional guidelines for the implementation of innovative silvicultural practices to adapt the forests to the expected future conditions
- ▶ How to make climate change adaptation incentives more effective and efficient?
- ▶ Study carbon dynamics related to the fire regime: forest species (fire-prone vs. resistant), land uses and practices (e.g. monocultures, agroforestry) and management options (e.g. wild vs. prescribed fire)
- ▶ Evaluate how to mainstream knowledge exchange, including a forester exchange programme
- ▶ Participatory research on climate change effects and measures that can be taken at farm/plot level
- ▶ Characterisation of existing collective approaches effectively improving forest management in a context of climate change

## More ideas for Operational Groups and research needs available in the Focus Group report



### More information

<a href="#">Focus Group webpage</a>	<a href="#">EIP-AGRI workshop 'New value chains from multifunctional forests'</a>	Inspirational ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <a href="#">Preventing forest fires in Portugal</a></li><li>- <a href="#">Forests for wood, water, food and fun</a></li><li>- <a href="#">Reviving former links between forest and agricultural land</a></li></ul>
<a href="#">Focus Group report</a>	<a href="#">EIP-AGRI Brochure on Creating diverse forests with multiple benefits</a>	
<a href="#">Mini-papers</a>		

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