

# Agroforestry in the new Portuguese Rural Development Plan (2014-2020)

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The implementation of article 44 of the EU Regulation 1698/2005 was transposed into the Portuguese law during the period 2007-2013.

Although these efforts have taken Portugal to a leading position on this transposition at an European level, the expected increase of the Agroforest area in the country was not achieved. Reasons concerning this low success have been analyzed by EURAF and an audience was asked to the the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Land Planning (MAMAOT) in March 2013. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2013, EURAF had a meeting in MAMAOT with interpretations of the current legislation and identification of possible of obstacles for the unsuccessful measure in order to adjust it to improve the implementation of new agroforestry systems during the time of preparation of the new rural development plan. The meeting seemed to be constructive. EURAF resumed the meeting discussing points and sent to MAMAOT again. No further questions were made.

The transposition of the EU Regulation 1307/2013 into the Portuguese Rural Development Plan is under process and a preliminary version submitted to Brussels has been released. This version is explicit concerning a direct reference to the implementation of the article 23 supporting the establishment of agroforestry systems and includes a specific "Action" for their support.

The current version of the Portuguese RDP, includes a similar measure (now called Operation 8.1.2) for the installation of Agroforestry areas.

Some important differences have been included that may contribute to increase the adoption and installation of new agroforestry systems by farmers:

- Measure 2.3.2.2 from the previous RDP included both support to forestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land, as well as support for the installation of agroforestry areas. The current RDP distinguishes these two types of supports, and operation 8.1.2 is exclusively dedicated to the installation of agroforestry areas.
- Operation 8.1.2 includes 80% support to farmers, instead of the 50% value from the previous RDP
- Minimum area allowed for applying for support was reduced from 5 hectares to 0,5 hectares. This value is important since around 75% of Portuguese farms have less then 5ha (corresponding to 11% of Utilised Agricultural Area).
- The definition of agroforestry system maintains the limit of 250 tree/ha, in accordance to EU recommendations made at the final version of the Measure Fiche related to Article 23 "Establishment of agroforestry systems" (2nd pillar of the new CAP)
- Other operations regarding knowledge transfer at national and international level have been presented, and may allow for the dissemination of knowledge between countries. This may help the recognition and dissemination of new agroforestry systems in Portugal (for instance alley cropping etc) and the use of other species.

## **Two main concerns still persist:**

- The existence of a forest management plan is still compulsory, referring minimum of 25 ha and to the Regional Forest Territorial Plan (PROF). Therefore some inconsistency prevails on the minimum area
- It is still not clear if maintenance support will continue to be incompatible with Single Farm Payment.

## NEXT:

The new RDP is still being studied and the identification of agroforestry systems in a broader definition combining trees/crops/livestock can be also be found through the document. For example in Measure 7 (Agriculture and Natural Resources), Operations 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.2, 7.6.1 and 7.7.2. We will continue to work on the interpretation to extract where agroforestry systems are present in the document and understand how they are being supported/implemented.

A non-official translation of the Operation 8.1.2 of new Portuguese RDP into English is presented below. Nevertheless a version of the document of the 5th May 2014 is available online (in Portuguese): <http://www.gpp.pt/pdr2020/index.html>

### Versão Portuguesa

#### **Operação 8.1.2 - Instalação de Sistemas Agroflorestais**

Código CE 8.2 - Apoio aos custos de implantação/manutenção de sistemas agroflorestais

#### DESCRIÇÃO DA OPERAÇÃO

Promover a criação de sistemas agroflorestais, nomeadamente montados, sistemas que

combinam a silvicultura com práticas de agricultura extensiva, reconhecidos pela sua importância para a manutenção da biodiversidade e pela sua adaptação às áreas com elevada suscetibilidade à desertificação.

#### TIPO DE APOIO

- Apoio à instalação de sistemas agroflorestais de carácter extensivo, com recurso a espécies bem adaptadas às condições locais.
- Manutenção através de um prémio de manutenção até 5 anos.
- Elaboração de Plano de Gestão Florestal (art.45 e 35.) - Apoio à elaboração de Planos de Gestão Florestal para explorações individuais, para ZIF e para áreas agrupadas no caso da elaboração de PGF não associados a investimento, os mesmos são elegíveis apenas no âmbito do art.26.
- Ajudas concedidas sob a forma de subsídios não reembolsáveis.

### English Version (non official)

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#### **Operation 8.1.2 - Establishment of Agroforestry Systems**

CE Code 8.2 - Support at installation/maintenance costs of Agroforestry Systems

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION

To promote the implementation of Agroforestry Systems, particularly montados, systems combining silviculture with extensive agricultural practices, known for their importance for the preservation of biodiversity and for their adaptability in areas with high risk of desertification.

#### TYPE OF SUPPORT

- Support at the installation of extensive Agroforestry Systems, based on species well adapted to local conditions.
- Annual prize for maintenance support through a maintenance premium with a duration of 5 years.
- Elaboration of the Forest Management Plan (art. 45 and 35) - Support to the elaboration of the Forest Management Plan (FMP) for individual farms, ZIFs (Forest Intervention Areas) and grouped areas within the production of the FMP and non-subjected to investment, those being eligible only under the scope of

## BENEFICIÁRIOS

Detentores privados, municípios ou suas organizações, de terras agrícolas e não agrícolas.

## DESPESA ELEGÍVEL

- Custos de instalação incluindo materiais florestais de reprodução, análises de solos, preparação do solo, regas, micorrização, mão-de-obra, fertilização, protetores individuais das plantas, ou redes de proteção e retancho.
- Prémio anual por hectare (durante 5 anos) - custos de manutenção incluindo controlo da vegetação espontânea, podas, desramações, limpeza do povoamento.
- Custo de elaboração do Plano de Gestão Florestal ou de instrumentos equivalentes .

## CONDIÇÕES DE ACESSO

- Área mínima de investimento de 0,5 hectares.
- Densidade deve respeitar os seguintes limites:

-Folhosas e pinheiro manso: 80 – 250 árvores/ha

-Outras espécies florestais: 150 – 250 árvores/ha

- Deter comprovativo de comunicação prévia, para os projetos que se encontrem nas condições previstas no regime Jurídico de Arborização e rearborização (artigo 5o do Decreto- lei no96/2013, de 19 de julho) ou deter, quando aplicável, autorizações previstas na legislação aplicável, da autoridade competente, para a operação de florestação as decorrentes do Regime Jurídico de Arborização e Rearborização, da Rede Natura 2000 e Áreas Protegidas.

- Apresentação de Plano de Gestão Florestal (PGF) nos termos da Lei quando os investimentos incidam em explorações florestais ou agroflorestais com área igual ou superior à definida em PROF (Plano Regional

art.26.

- The support is given under non reimbursed subsidies

## BENEFICIARIES

Private owners, local councils and related organizations, of arable and non-arable land.

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Installation costs including forest reproductive material, soil analysis, soil preparation, irrigation, mycorrhization, hand labor, fertilization, plant protectors or protection nets and replanting.
- Annual prize for maintenance support per hectare (for 5 years) - Maintenance costs including the control of spontaneous vegetation and pruning.

- Costs associated to the elaboration of Forest Management Plan or similar management tools.

## ACCESS CONDITIONS

- Minimum area of investment of 0,5 hectares.
- Tree density must remain between the following limits:
  - Broadleaves species and stone pine: 80 – 250 trees/ha.

-Other forest species: 150 – 250 trees/ha

- To hold proof of prior notification for projects included in the legal afforestation and reforestation regime. (Article 5 of Decree Law nº 96/2013, of July 19th) or to hold, when applicable, the requirements under the current relevant legislation of the competent authority, for the operation of afforestation, related to the legal afforestation and reforestation regime, Natura 2000 network and protected areas.

- To present the Forest Management Plan (FMP), under the terms of the law, when investments are made in forestry or agroforestry farms with an area equal or greater than the set in PROF (Regional Forest

de Ordenamento Florestal).

### CRITÉRIOS DE SELEÇÃO

- Áreas com gestão florestal certificada por sistemas identificados pelo ICNF (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas).
- Áreas de ZIF.
- Áreas de elevada suscetibilidade à desertificação (PNACD - Programa Nacional de Ação de Combate à Desertificação).
- Áreas classificadas ou submetidas ao regime florestal.

### NÍVEIS E TAXAS DE APOIO

- Ajudas concedidas sob a forma de incentivos não reembolsáveis até ao limite máximo de 2 500 000 euros/beneficiário (total para o conjunto das operações de 8.1.1 - Florestação de terras agrícolas e não agrícolas, 8.1.2 - Instalação de Sistemas Agroflorestais, 8.1.3 - Prevenção da floresta contra agentes bióticos e abióticos, 8.1.4 Restabelecimento da floresta afetada por agentes bióticos e

abióticos ou por acontecimentos catastróficos, 8.1.5 - Melhoria da resiliência e do Valor ambiental das florestas and 8.1.6 Melhoria do valor económico das Florestas).

- Apoio ao investimento - taxa máxima de 80%.
- Prémio de manutenção – 150 euros/ha.

### INFORMAÇÃO ESPECÍFICA DA OPERAÇÃO

Lista de espécies elegíveis para instalação de sistemas agroflorestais:

- Espécies florestais: *Quercus suber*, *Quercus rotundifolia*, *Quercus faginea*, *Quercus pyrenaica*, *Quercus robur*, *Pinus pinea*, *Larix spp.*, *Castanea sativa* e outras folhosas e resinosas indicadas nos PROF como sendo espécies a privilegiar na constituição deste tipo de sistemas de produção.

- Espécies arbustivas: *Arbutus unedo*, *Juniperus spp.*, *Phillyrea spp.*, *Pistacia spp.*, e outras indicadas nos PROF para as regiões em

Territorial Plan).

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- Areas with forest management certified by systems identified by the ICNF (Forests and Nature Conservation Institute).
- Areas included in forest intervention zones (ZIF)
- Areas with high risk of desertification (PNACD – Plan of Action to Combat Desertification).
- Areas classified or submitted to the forestry regime.

### LEVEL AND SUPPORT

- Non reimbursable support granted until a maximum value of 2 500 000 Euros per beneficiary (total sum value given for operations 8.1.1 – Forestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land, 8.1.2 - Installation of Agroforestry Systems, 8.1.3 – Forest prevention measures against biotic and abiotic agents, 8.1.4 Restoration of forest affected by biotic, abiotic agents or catastrophic events, 8.1.5 - Improvement of the resilience and environmental value of forests and 8.1.6 - Improvement of the economic value of forests).

- Investment support - maximum support of 80%.

- Maintenance support - 150 Euros/ha.

### SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE OPERATION

List of eligible species for the implementation of agroforestry systems:

- Forest species: *Quercus suber*, *Quercus rotundifolia*, *Quercus faginea*, *Quercus pyrenaica*, *Quercus robur*, *Pinus pinea*, *Larix spp.*, *Castanea sativa* and other broadleaves and resinous species listed at the PROF as species to be prioritized for the implementation of these types of production systems.

- Shrub species: *Arbutus unedo*, *Juniperus*

causa.

Definição de sistema agroflorestal – superfícies que combinam agricultura com espécies arbóreas na mesma área e cuja densidade do arvoredo não ultrapasse 250 árvores por ha nem seja inferior a 80 no caso das folhosas e do pinheiro manso e 150 árvores/ha, no caso das restantes espécies.

spp. *Phillyrea* spp., *Pistacia* spp, and other species listed at the PROF for the concerned region.

Agroforestry system definition – surfaces combining, within the same area, agriculture and tree species, where density of trees respects the following limits: under 250 trees/ha and above 80 trees/ha in the case of hardwoods and stone pine and under 150 trees /ha in the case of the remaining species.