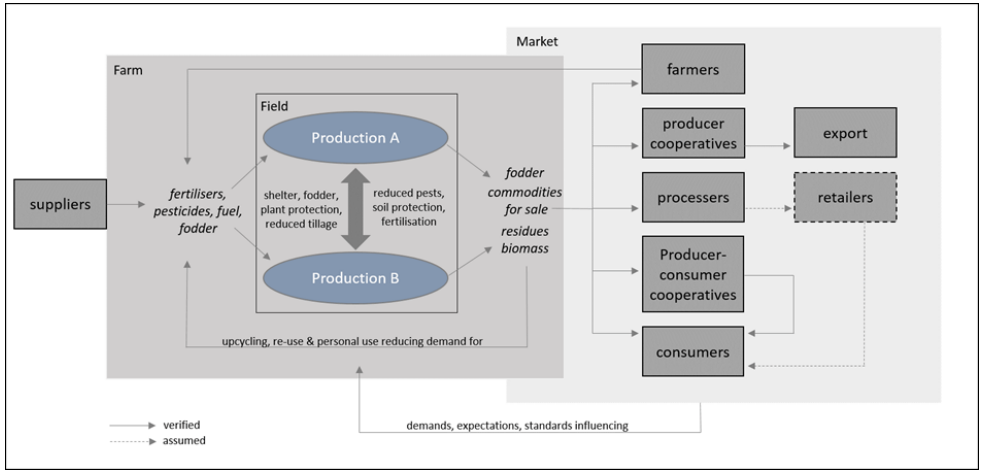
About the Project activities in Poland

A network of farms and stakeholders has been created in order to estimate the functionality of selected agroforestry systems (SRC biomass crops integrated with arable crops production, fruit trees intercropped with vegetables, production of wood in silvopastoral system) in terms of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Objectives

- To add value to on-farm woody resource
- To assess sustainability of agroforestry farms
- To improve farmers' awareness about efficiency and resilience of agroforestry systems



Factsheet

SRC BIOMASS CROPS INTEGRATED WITH ARABLE CROPS PRODUCTION, POLAND

SUSTAINFARM

SRC willow and arable crops

Farms combining production of willow short rotation coppice (SRC) and arable cropping. Integration is at the farm level.

Coppice material can be chipped for use in a biomass boiler on farm or for sale to smaller heating stations.

At the same time, efficiency and profitability of alley cropping systems used potentially by farms combing both crops at field level is assessed.

Strengths and weaknesses

The main strengths: ability to reduce costs in heating farm buildings; reducing environmental impact of energy production by substitution of coal with Renewable Energy Sources (biomass); product diversification; reduced pollution and growing biodiversity.

The main weaknesses: lack of support for SRC crops production and agroforestry; unfavourable and unstable conditions for RES support; low farmers' awareness of ecological issues.

Contact: Robert Borek, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute (IUNG-PIB, Poland) e-mail: rborek@iung.pulawy.pl

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Factsheet

SILVOPASTORAL SYSTEM WITH CATTLE AND SHEEP GRAZING AND WOOD PRODUCTION

Limousine cattle and sheep grazing on permanent pastures with difficult access and patchy landscape

Silvopastoral system integrating managed wooded grasslands and beef cattle/sheep grazing.

Wood is harvested for farm buildings heating or for sale to local buyers.

Beef/lamb meat is sold to counterparties as a high-quality organic product.

Strengths and weaknesses

The main strengths: diversification of production on permanent grasslands with difficult access; high-quality meat products; soils and water protection; lower costs of heat production on farm; greater biodiversity of grasslands; local social added value; increased local employment.

The main weaknesses: low/lack of support for woodland management; labour-intensity; high start-up costs; high labour costs; regionally differentiated wood prices and demand; different productivity and species composition of woodland/private forest habitats.

Factsheet

FRUIT TREES INTERCROPPED WITH VEGETABLES

Apples and cherries with cucumber, cabbage, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, leeks and onions

Agroforestry organic farm integrating production of fruit trees and vegetables at field level. Farm is manufacturing processed goods, offering high quality products/high standards.

Dried cherry stones and wood pieces/ chips from thinning orchard and farm forest are burned in a boiler.

Strengths and weaknesses

The main strengths: wide range of high-quality products, produced on a small area of land in response to market demand, price development and weather conditions (agroecological production); reducing soils and water pollution, increased biodiversity and soil water absorption; lower costs of heat production on farm; positive impact of renewable energy production.

The main weaknesses: lack of support for agroforestry; broad agroecological knowledge and experience on species interaction in local environment; high labour costs; high investment in marketing strategy.

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