

Coop Support Programme for agroforestry



Agroforestry in its initial stages. Trees planted in autumn 2017 on the Barilier family's fields in Romanel sur Morges. Foto: myclimate

The Coop support programme for agroforestry supports agricultural Bio Suisse or Miini Region businesses in the planting and caring of trees on areas in agricultural use. The focus here is on wild fruit trees and trees that can be used for domestic timber production - trees, in fact, that are rarely planted these days. Anyone who is interested can register for this climate protection programme now.

Agroforestry refers to the planting and caring of trees on areas in agricultural use. This form of dual use offers numerous advantages for the environment: Trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere and thus act as CO₂ stores. They offer habitats for animals and thus increase biodiversity, which strengthens the natural resilience of the cultivation area. They also protect fields from ground erosion and reduce discharge of nutrients and pesticides into groundwater and surface water.

Agroforestry was common in Switzerland over centuries and characterized the landscape in many places. It serves primarily for fruit production, which is nurtured this way alongside cattle-rearing, arable farming and vegetable production. Since the 1950s, however, the number of trees in agricultural areas has fallen dramatically. Due to financial strains and cultivation techniques, more and more farms shifted away from agroforestry. Since the 1990s, farmers have been able to apply for grants as part of the direct support scheme for agriculture, but wild fruit and timber varieties in particular, which are more labour-intensive to cultivate than standard fruit trees, are still planted very rarely.

We have planted eleven different tree varieties, including sweet cherry, chequer tree, wild pear, sweet chestnut, common oak and wild apple. With these trees, we're making long-term investments in the

Project type:

Land Use and Forestry

Project location:

Switzerland

Annual CO₂ reduction:

4,500 t (over 50 years)

Situation without project

Despite support efforts involving direct payments, agroforestry systems with a focus on quality wood and wild fruit are very rarely implemented.

Contribution to the SDGs



Project standard

VER

Partner



BIO SUISSE



Impressions

business.

Jonathan Barilier, Romanel sur Morges

With the Coop climate protection programme, farmers have an incentive to establish new agroforestry concepts on arable and pastureland again. The work for planting new trees and their regular care is supported with CHF 75 per tree (minimum of 20 trees per farm). The support from Coop is cumulative with direct payments from the federation, canton or municipality, as well as any payments from non-profit groups.

In order to ensure the longest possible carbon capture and a contribution to biodiversity, the focus is on the planting of timber and wild fruit trees, which can be planted in combination with standard fruit trees. Even if the trees are felled later on, a lot of carbon remains captured: in the roots and in the timber used for furniture or construction. Felled trees should be replaced so that new trees can capture more carbon.

The project contributes to both climate protection and biodiversity.

Christian Som, WWF Project Manager in the area of consumption and economy

Participating farmers get a free initial and follow-up consultation, in which the tree varieties, location and cultivation are discussed.

Register now!

Are you interested and are you an Bio Suisse or Miini Region supplier to Coop? Check the additional terms of participation in the registration form and send us your completed form today and don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions!

Contact

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Jonathan Barilier checks a wild fruit tree in his wheat field – one of around 80 trees that he planted the previous autumn as part of the Coop agroforestry programme. Foto: myclimate



Walnut trees for timber in the canton of Lucerne. An example of a previously established agroforestry area four years after planting. Foto: Mareike Jäger/AGRIDEA



Apple trees with additional agricultural benefits (fallow rotation) in the canton of Lucerne. Foto: Mareike Jäger/AGRIDEA