

# AGROFORESTRY



# Definition:



Agroforestry is the integration of trees in agriculture. It creates synergistic relationships between trees, shrubs, animals and annual crops to make farms more productive, profitable and ecologically sound.



# Why integrate trees in agriculture?

Agroforestry can benefit farms on a variety of scales. Trees provide multiple “ecosystem services” which are beneficial for the farmer and ecology.

Some examples are:

1. Producing food and materials
2. Regulating water cycles
3. Improving soil health
4. Enhancing biodiversity



# #5 Agroforestry Practices

1

## Silvopasture

the managed integration of animals with tree crops

Science shows that trees greatly impact animals' stress levels, social interactions and welfare.

More trees mean healthier animals and increased production for the farmer.



2

## Alley Cropping

the integration of perennial crops into broad-acre cropping systems.

- Trees buffer climatic extremes and can reduce intercrop stress levels
- Enables cash generation in the early years of orchard establishment
- Increases productivity per hectare
- Improves soil nutrient cycling through tree roots

3

**Hedges and windbreaks**  
a barrier of shrubs and trees,  
capable of reducing windspeed up  
to 80%, as well as buffering  
climatic extremes through  
microclimatic effects.

**Multiple functions:**

- **Nutrient leaching barriers**
- **Wildlife corridor**
- **Timber, biomass, or perennial crop production**
- **Soil erosion management**
- **Snow management**
- **Livestock protection and shelter**
- **Blocking unpleasant views and smells**



4

## Support species

trees or shrubs that are planted to support the main production crop. Eg: eucalyptus providing shade to coffee

Support species can provide:

- Biomass for mulching
- Shade and protection
- Symbiotic microorganisms
- Improving water and nutrient cycles
- Nitrogen fixation



5

## Riparian buffers

tree and shrub corridor  
alongside streams and rivers  
that protect riparian ecosystems

- Improved farm resilience
- Increased biodiversity
- Alternative production sites
- Greatly reduces pollution and nutrient leaching





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*The  
**Regenerative  
Agroforestry  
Podcast.***

There are many possibilities to  
integrate trees on a farm providing  
both economic and ecological  
opportunities.

We are on a mission to spread awareness amongst health professionals about the connexion between soil-human health.

**Join us in our mission!**



Coalition of Health Professionals  
for Regenerative Agriculture