REFOREST

North of England Agroforestry Living Lab

Trees for food, carbon and biodiversity

Are you practising or interested in agroforestry? Have you found successful routes to market for your agroforestry products? Keen to explore with others how trees can add value to your farm…your wider environment…your community?

The Organic Research Centre and the EU Horizon Europe-funded REFOREST project are looking for agroforestry farmers and stakeholders to be part of the North of England Living Lab.

REFOREST is a four-year European project (2022-2026) that aims to share innovations and experience in agroforestry and see trees being integrated into farm systems across Europe.

What is a Living Lab?

A network of farmers and other stakeholders who share knowledge and experiences to co-develop strategies for design of successful agroforestry systems in their region.

What will it involve?

Living Labs are being established in eight different countries and we would like you to be part of the UK lab. Your main role will be to:

- Share insights and ideas on the challenges and opportunities of implementing agroforestry at specific sites and help to promote more extensive adoption of agroforestry.
- Co-design apps (digital decision-support tools) alongside researchers and other lab members, to help design and implement agroforestry. Apps will address issues decided by you and other group members that are relevant to agroforestry in the north of England, with a particular focus on food production, carbon capture, and biodiversity.

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You can be:

- A farmer in the north of England with a mature or immature agroforestry system, or a farmer interested in the carbon and biodiversity value of trees on your farm such as traditional field edge trees and hedgerows.
- Any other agroforestry stakeholder in the north of England involved in or interested in food production, carbon capture, or biodiversity in agriculture, and agroforestry systems in particular.

Your time commitment to this work can be as little or as much as you desire, researchers will work with you to facilitate data collection for your farm and agroforestry site (if you are a farmer). You will be invited to attend regular workshops to share your experiences with the Living Lab network and have various other opportunities to engage as much or as little as you like. Our living lab has budget to support some costs of meet-ups, field visits and other events.

What will you gain?

The living lab will allow you to:

- Be regularly informed of the latest knowledge and developments in agroforestry
- Have access to expert advice on implementing agroforestry
- Be part of new innovative research
- Meet and network with local like-minded practitioners in the industry and engage with other stakeholders, providing inspiration through cross-fertilisation of ideas
- Have the opportunity to publicise your own agroforestry project (if relevant and desired), for example through it being featured as a case study or demonstration site
- Help you fulfil SFI payment requirements

If you would like to add value to your business and be at the forefront of temperate agroforestry research, please join this exciting Living Lab community of practice.

Please contact the Organic Research Centre:
reforest@organicresearchcentre.com
Or fill in our 'Keeping In Touch' form by scanning the QR code or visiting:
https://tinyurl.com/ReForest-ORC-signup

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