



Start date:
2013

ONGOING

UNITED KINGDOM

Smart Planting

Fruits from trees will allow income diversification for participating farmers

Pioneering models of agroforestry while restoring ecosystems in the United Kingdom



PROJECT OFFICER, EUROPE
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PROJECT TYPES

 Agroforestry

ACTIVITIES

- Agroforestry with Perennial Crops
- Agroforestry with Annual Crops
- Silvopasture

FARM PRODUCTIONS

 Fruits

 Livestock



Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Context

In the United Kingdom, 70% of the land is farmed with intensive monocultural farming, leading to ecosystem degradation. Developing agroforestry systems in the country is therefore essential to deliver broader conservation objectives.

PUR Projet and the **Woodland Trust**, one of the UK's leading environmental charities, are operating the **Smart Planting** project since 2013.

The **Smart Planting** project provides funding to farmers who want to implement agroforestry systems on their farms.

Participating farmers act as ambassadors for agroforestry in the UK, hosting farm visits for their peers and policymakers, sharing good practices and planting outcomes through case studies and media, and speaking at farming conferences and events.



Key goals

- **Preserve biodiversity**, soil, water resources and improve animal welfare.
- **Support income diversification** through fruit production and crop diversification.
- **Implement and promote sustainable food production** through agroforestry models.
- **Restore ecosystem** and improve landscape scenic beauty through tree planting.



Trees planted on pastures provide shade for the cattle during the summer months

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Smart Planting project seeks to support the following Sustainable Development Goals as set by the United Nations.





David Rose planted trees with the project on his farm in 2013

Optimism

“Agroforestry is a way of improving our economic margins and enhance the environmental aspects of the farm. We also involve people of the community to help, so there are as well social benefits.”

— David Rose

2019 activities – Focus on diversification

For farmers, diversification of their business model is critical if they are to secure future success and trees can help deliver this. The development of new food and drink products using fruit and nuts harvested from native tree and shrub species is an important part of this diversification.

For example Rachel and Roger Howison plan to produce 100% locally produced cider and Stephen Briggs has opened a farm shop through which he sells apples and apple juice from his silvoarable scheme.



Fruit trees planted on David Rose's farm

“Alley cropping gives us more yield, yet we’ve only lost five per cent of the barley to do it. For us it was a win-win. We still want to be an arable farm but with an interest in forestry.”

— Roger Howison, participating farmer in 2019



119 150

Trees planted so far



180

Hectares of parcels impacted by the project



74

Farmers involved



219

Species planted

Local partner



Key funder



We estimate that for 1,000 planted trees the results could be:

CLIMATE



385

Total estimated tCO2 removed from the atmosphere in the long term (LT)



17

tCO2 removed from the atmosphere/year



181

tCO2 removed from the atmosphere until now, if the plantation was in 2010

SOIL



1.3

Hectares of soil being restored



TWO TIMES

Increase of earthworms in the long term

SOCIAL



1 to 2

Farmers involved

BIODIVERSITY



64

Different species planted or cultivated (minimum)



67%

Increase bird species in the long term



80%

Increase of pollinator insects in the long term

Tree species

List of most common species planted by the project.



APPLE TREE
Malus domestica



EUROPEAN PEAR
Pyrus communis



SMALL-LEAVED LIME
Tilia cordata



BLACKTHORN
Rubus spinosa



SILVER BIRCH
Betula pendula



DOUGLAS FIR
Pseudotsuga menziesii



SYCAMORE
Acer pseudoplatanus



SESSILE OAK
Quercus petraea



HAWTHORN
Crataegus monogyna



ALDER
Alnus glutinosa



Pear tree planted in a meadow