

Unit 5. Non timber forest products

Livestock and forest management

Description

The context of climate change and its effect on forest fires, the Forest Research Center of Lourizán, dependent on the Galician Food Quality Agency (AGACAL), is looking for new methods to make the forest masses of the Atlantic and sub-Atlantic areas more resistant to climate change, while the forests are used for livestock, preventing fires, increasing biodiversity and ensuring the provision of ecosystem services (such as regulating the flow of water or protecting the soil).

The project brings together partners from universities, forest managers and public administrations.

This project, part of LIFE-Silfore, will focus on the application of silvopastoral measures that also promote the development of the rural and local economy. That is, forest production and grazing are combined on the same land area to create opportunities and increase profitability. The LIFE Silfore project, which has a total budget of €2,599,081.36, is aligned both with the general objectives of the LIFE program and with the priorities of the LIFE Climate Action sub-programme.

For this, the LIFE-Silfore project will develop a network of demonstrators in 4 regions of the Atlantic-Sub-Atlantic area covering a total of 92.4 hectares: it will be in the north of Portugal, Galicia, Asturias and the Basque Country. In this way, a large part of the ecological variety of the forests of the Atlantic-sub-Atlantic and socioeconomic areas is included.

The CIF of Lourizán will develop three demonstrators. In the Pontevedra municipality of Moaña, the focus will be on the use of the undergrowth of pine forests and scrub by means of native breed goats. The second one in Cenlle (Ourense) implements silvopastoring in leafy oak forests, characteristic of the Atlantic area of Ourense, in Cenlle, using Celtic pig breed pigs. Finally, in Monte Grande (Ribira de Piquín), Celtic pig grazing is implemented in masses of pine and scrub.

Goals

The objective is to combine silvopastoral tasks and forest production to improve the development of the rural and local economy.

Activities

- Forest production management.
- Combined livestock and forest management



Source: Centro investigación forestal Lourizán

Impact

- A reduction in the volume of combustible biomass by 40-60%" is foreseen and, therefore, "a lower risk of fires.
- A reduction of the carbon footprint in livestock farms.
- Increasing the diversity of tree species with different drought tolerances, which will help maintain the forest mass and reduce the spread of diseases that affect trees.
- Use of animals of indigenous breeds in danger of extinction, rustic and well adapted to the environment. In the case of Galicia, these are Galicia goats and Celtic pigs

Social Media

<https://lourizan.xunta.gal/gl/novas/bosques-mais-resistentes-ao-cambio-climatico-combinando-produccion-forestal-e-pastoreo-proxecto>

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