

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: GERMANY

Visualising the multifunctionality of agroforestry systems with citizen science

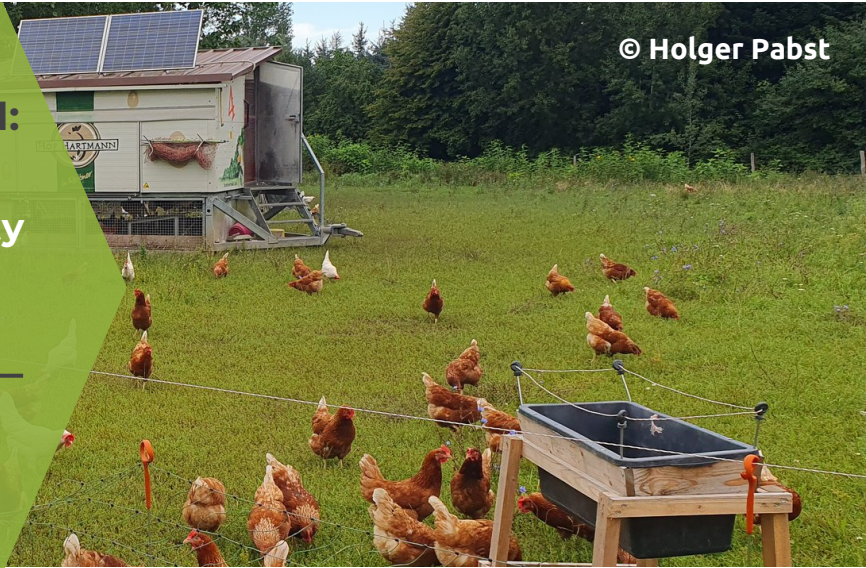
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A team from the University of Münster developed a citizen science approach for monitoring agroforestry systems. Their aim is to encourage cooperation between agriculture, science and civil society and jointly generate new knowledge.

A crucial role herein assumes civil society by involving volunteers in scientific activities - irrespective of their prior knowledge. With the approach being particularly practical, citizen scientists and farmers communicate intensively, enabling on-site studies to be adapted to the agricultural management cycles. This creates cooperation at eye level. Moreover, the joint learning is central in understanding different points of view, be it with regard to livestock and plants, farming methods and decisions or biodiversity.

The advantages are obvious: on the one hand, the generation of important data on agroforestry systems. On the other hand, the sensitisation of all stakeholders to each other's concerns leads to a joint dialogue in order to develop solutions for existing challenges.

The MIXED project supported the agroforestry monitoring approach, which explicitly is not a project outcome. The entire conception, elaboration, and implementation as well as any rights rest with the University of Münster and agroforst-monitoring.

For more information, see here: <https://agroforst-monitoring.de/>



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MIXED'
NETWORK FROM GERMANY**





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ABOUT THE PROJECT

MIXED (Multi-actor and transdisciplinary development of efficient and resilient MIXED farming and agroforestry systems), an EU-project, is supporting the development of European Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems (MiFAS) that are more efficient and resilient to climate changes.

7M€
BUDGET

19
PARTNERS

10
COUNTRIES

ABOUT MIXED IN GERMANY

In Germany, MIXED is collaboratively implemented by the Institute for Rural Development Research and the Swabian Donaumoos Association. The project is working with two groups of farmers practicing MiFAS (Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems) in different ways.

In Germany, MIXED partner IfLS cooperates since April 2022 with the team of agroforst-monitoring, a project by students of landscape ecology at the University of Münster, Germany. The project is all about active participation of volunteer citizens and associations in the research of agroforestry systems; and as such, a comprehensive and user-friendly catalogue of methods enables citizen scientists to capture eight dimensions of agroforestry systems through simple experiments. For the MIXED project, this citizen science approach offers the possibility of direct dialogue with different stakeholders of mixed land use systems.



The agroforst-monitoring team, together with interested citizen scientists take soil samples in an agroforestry field (© agroforst-monitoring.de)

MIXED partners from Germany:

