



# LITERATURE STUDY AND REVIEW OF RELEVANT RESEARCH PROJECTS ADDRESSING MIFAS (D3.1)

## Summary

The aim of deliverable D3.1 was to make an initial introductory review of research projects and the wider literature on the topic of mixed farming in Europe, to use as a go-to resource for the further work in the MIXED Project and parallel research projects. A literature review covering a large and broad topic such as 'mixed farming systems' is challenging, and the report makes recommendations towards a narrower discipline focused literature search approach. As a research field, mixed farming has increased significantly with a noteworthy leap since 2018. Most of the funding towards mixed farming research is provided by the European Commission and 80% of the research is carried out by 6 countries alone. The data obtained from the literature search shows that agroforestry and mixed farming approaches, which incorporate trees and bushes, hold most of the data. The projects identified within the report also show an overrepresentation of an agroforestry focus and especially research focusing on energy-crops is wanting. Twenty-two projects were discarded from the analysis, due to not disseminating their research in English. All were from France, which highlights a potential barrier for knowledgebase sharing.



## Methods

A systematic literature search was carried out using a search string of keywords developed around the concept term 'Mixed Farming Systems'. Further qualitative refinement insured the regional focus and excluded non-related research. Search was conducted in Web of Science, focusing on peer-reviewed articles (including reviews and research papers). A descriptive analysis was carried out to identify historic, funding sources and geographic trends. Project review:

The project review aims to provide an insight into the landscape of MiFAS research projects in Europe, by identifying and cataloguing relevant current and past projects in a Project Matrix. This was carried out by internet searches and email enquiry to project partners in the MIXED, AGROMIX and STARGATE projects. Full methodology and search string can be found in the report.

## Results & Perspectives

- The analysis yielded 882 literature records and a Project Matrix of 52 projects
- MiFAS is a term and practice that are rapidly growing in recent years, especially since 2018
- Agroforestry accounts for the majority of the data. This could be explained by agroforestry being well-defined as a MiFAS
- 6 countries produce 80% of the MiFAS literature data (Spain, Germany, France, England, Italy and Portugal)
- The many facets of the concept of MiFAS is difficult to capture in one review and the term is not well-defined in many disciplines
- Organic farming systems are particularly sensitive to this, as they often do not identify as MiFAS. Only 38 records (of 882) were identified in the literature search, but organics were well-represented in the project search
- Many projects from especially France do not disseminate in English, which is a barrier for knowledge sharing internationally
- The projects in the Project Matrix were identified into categories as follows: 'Organics' (13), 'Conventional' (3), 'Agroforestry' (21), 'Crop-livestock' (12), 'Energy-crops' (2), 'Networking' (17). Many projects overlapped in the categories