Agroforestry Working Groups: Case Studies & Lessons Learned

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PNW Workshop
May 14, 2013
Agroforestry Working Groups

Why form an agroforestry working group?

• Desired outcome: increased adoption of agroforestry by landowners & communities

• How can a regional working group help?
  ✓ Increase agroforestry awareness & literacy
  ✓ Share agroforestry information across traditional programs/disciplines (forestry, agriculture)
  ✓ Advance agroforestry science and practice
  ✓ Address an important regional issue
Agroforestry Working Groups

• 1890 Agroforestry Consortium
• Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group
• Chesapeake Bay Agroforestry Team
• Forest Farming Community of Practice
• Pacific Islands Agroforestry Working Group
• Northeast Silvopasture Forum
1890 Agroforestry Consortium

Members: 1890 Land Grant universities and USDA partners

Mission/purpose: Advance agroforestry research and teaching using multi-disciplinary teams of faculty and staff; key customer is limited resource/minority landowners in Southeast region.

Governance/structure: Informal, periodic meetings; chair rotates (currently Gwen Boyd, Alcorn State University)

Key Activities (2000-2013): 7 workshops; published Profitable Farms and Woodlands: A Practical Guide in Agroforestry for Landowners, Farmers and Ranchers

Website: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/forests_if_1890agro.html
Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group (MAAWG)

**Members:** Land Grant universities (Iowa State, University of Missouri, University of Minnesota), USDA agencies, landowners

**Mission/purpose:** “...help advance the science, practice and adoption of agroforestry by natural resource professionals and landowners in the Midwest region of the United States.”

**Governance/structure:** Monthly conference calls; facilitated by Iowa State, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

**Current focus:** Agroforestry Academy (week-long training sessions for professionals five Midwestern states: August 2013 in Missouri and 2014 in Minnesota)

**Website:** [http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/midamerican-agroforestry-working-group](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/midamerican-agroforestry-working-group)
Chesapeake Bay Agroforestry Team

**Members:** Land Grant universities (e.g., Cornell, Penn State, Virginia State, Virginia Tech) USDA agencies, State forestry agencies (e.g., PA Bureau of Forestry), NGOs

**Mission/purpose:** Accelerate forest restoration in the Bay (2012 *Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy*, 2009 Executive Order)

**Governance/structure:** Periodic conference calls; current chair is Tom Ward, NRCS; facilitated by USFS Northeastern Area.

**Current focus:** Agroforestry actions in *Strategy* (e.g., training sessions, demo sites, Bay Branding of agroforestry products)

Forest Farming Community of Practice

Core Members (17): 12 Land Grant universities; 2 USFS; 2 businesses (from across US with experience farming & studying edible, medicinal, decorative/craft-based products)

Mission/purpose: Share information with woodland owners and managers about growing and selling high-value non-timber forest products (startup, best practices, markets and policies)

Governance/structure: Led by John Munsell, VA Tech Coop Extension (per eXtension CoP requirements)

Current activities: Forest farming videos, CoP newsletter

Website: http://www.extension.org/pages/62959/forest-farming-community
Pacific Island Agroforestry Working Group

Members: USFS Pacific Southwest Region and Research Station, University of Hawaii, NRCS, USDA National Agroforestry Center

Mission/purpose: Agroforestry as means to address climate change impacts; improve Island food security, health, nutrition; increase awareness of Pacific Island agroforestry on mainland.

Governance/structure: Informal, periodic teleconferences

Key Activities (2011-2013):

• Agroforestry survey of Pacific Island Foresters and partners
• Proposed: two regional agroforestry positions (extension specialist and scientist - climate change, atoll islands)
• Pacific Islands Working Trees brochure
Northeast Silvopasture Forum

Members: Universities, USDA, landowner/ producers, others?

Mission/purpose: Forum for sharing information, Q&A, upcoming workshops, etc., regarding silvopasture in the Northeast

Governance/structure: informal, web-based; site created and maintained by Peter Smallidge, Cornell Coop Extension

Website: http://silvopasture.ning.com/profiles/members/
Agroforestry Working Groups

Lessons learned?

• Many working models
• Led/facilitated by Land Grant university
• USDA involved (USFS, NRCS)
• Some involvement by landowners, NGOs
• Important to have central focus/project
• Most have web presence
• Regularly scheduled meetings
Comments?

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