

EN

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Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.4.2021)

- 1) The Commission is aware of the multifunctionality of forests. Apart from the role of forests in management of natural resources, forests provide key ecosystem services, such as sequestering carbon, protecting soil and water, preserving biodiversity and supplying energy. In the context of “food forests”, the concept of agroforestry is important, which refers to land use systems where trees are grown in combination with agriculture, and provides multiple benefits, including in the field of climate change and biodiversity.
- 2) Forestry and agroforestry form an integral part of the rural development pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) contributing to the achievement of environmental, societal and economic objectives. Support is available for sustainable management of forests and agroforestry, including for the plantation of multipurpose trees (fruit and timber). Member States can programme such support in line with their specific needs, taking into account the targets of the EU biodiversity strategy.
- 3) There is a series of measures that Member States can chose to include in their Rural Development Programmes: support for agroforestry systems and afforestation, support for non-productive investments (e.g. landscape features) and their maintenance, as well as the restoration of agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and the appropriate prevention actions.