



# Report of study visit

October 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024





## Project information

Project title	Agroforestry practices in West Balkan for sustainable development: weaknesses and strengths
Project acronym	AGFORWEB
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Coordinator	University of Belgrade
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## Document control sheet

Title of the Work Package	Study visit
Title of Deliverable	Report of study visit
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## AGENDA

### *Study visit*

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2024	
06:45 – 07:00 h	Departure from the Faculty of Forestry
07:00 – 12:00 h	A visit to a dynamic agroforestry experimental fields in the vicinity of Sremska Mitrovica
	A visit to a shelterbelts at the property of agricultural company Almex near Pančevo
12:30 – 13:30 h	Lunch
14:30 – 16:30 h	A visit to Experimental base of the Faculty of Agriculture "Radmilovac"
16:30 – 20:00 h	Departure to Goč Mt.
20:00 h	Dinner

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	
08:00 h	Departure from the hotel
08:30 – 14:00 h	A visit to the households near Kraljevo as an example of agroforestry practice
14:15 – 15:00 h	Travel to Goč Mt.



Participants from 5 partner institutions - University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry, Serbia (UB); University of Forestry from Sofia, Bulgaria (UFS); Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences (UNIOS) and University of Montenegro Biotechnical faculty (UOM); Croatian Forest Institute, Jastrebarsko, Croatia (CFRI) were present at the study visit. The list of attendees is attached below.

On Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, project participants from the Faculty of Forestry embarked on a day-long field visit to visit agroforestry practices and experimental fields in Western Serbia as part of the ongoing project Agroforestry practices on West Balkan: weaknesses and strengths – **AGFORWEB**.

The visit began early morning, with participants departing from the Faculty of Forestry at 7:00 h. The first stop on the agenda was a **dynamic agroforestry experimental field near Sremska Mitrovica**. This experimental field was established by team from the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops from Novi Sad in cooperation with private owner of the land Ignjat Jurišić. MSc Milorad Živanov from the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops presented the research in the newly established agroforestry system. This site is part of a larger study investigating the potential of dynamic agroforestry systems in the region. Participants explored a hazelnut plantation where a section was designated as an experimental agroforestry system, with poplar, oak, and paulownia, alongside mint and other herbaceous medicinal plants, which the hosts presented. The plantation is still young and developing, where the hosts demonstrated the methods of preparing it for winter and its maintenance (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** Agroforestry experimental field near Sremska Mitrovica

The group visited **shelterbelts on the property of agricultural company Almex near Pančevo**. This site provided insight into one of the most common agroforestry practices in the region—shelterbelts, which are widely used to protect crops from wind erosion and enhance biodiversity. The shelterbelts observed here serve not only as windbreaks but also as a habitat for various species, contributing to the overall health of the agroecosystem. Shelterbelts at this site are being studied as a part of doctoral dissertation of MSc Aleksandar Baumgertel who presented the results of measurement that confirm the benefits of the shelterbelts (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2 Shelterbelts on the property of agricultural company Almex near Pančevo

We also toured the Almex complex, where we were graciously hosted. The visit included an insightful tour of their agricultural and farm production facilities.

After a full morning of field visits, participants took a lunch break from 12:30 h to 13:30 h. The lunch provided an opportunity for informal discussions and networking among project participants, further fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas on agroforestry practices.

In the afternoon, the group proceeded to the Experimental base of the **University of Belgrade Faculty of Agriculture "Radmilovac"** arriving at 14:30 h. The participants toured the entire complex, where Mr. Nikola Filipović, Director of the experimental base "Radmilovac", introduced them to the various experimental projects conducted by the Faculty of Agriculture. At 16:30 h, participants departed for Goč Mountain, where they arrived at 20:00 h. After a long and productive day, the team concluded with a dinner, reflecting on the day's observations and preparing for upcoming project activities (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2 Faculty of Agriculture "Radmilovac"



This field visit provided valuable insights into the practical application of agroforestry in northern Serbia, specifically in Vojvodina.

The second day of the study visit (October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024) began with a scheduled departure from the hotel at 8:00 h, with participants arriving at their first destination, the households near Kraljevo, by 8:30 h.

As part of the visit of agroforestry practices, the group visited two households in the vicinity of Kraljevo. The first stop was at a household in **Dragosinci**, where Uroš Veličanin showcased an agroforestry practice. He demonstrated the traditional, but recently really practiced, practice of raising pigs within an oak forest, emphasizing the integration of livestock and forest resources. Uroš also presented various products he produces exclusively from the animals he is growing and from the resources available on his farm, illustrating the sustainable potential of agroforestry practices (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 4** Agroforestry practice in Dragosinci

Following this visit, the group traveled to **Bogutovac** to meet the Korićanac family. They warmly welcomed us and provided an insight into their farming practices. The family demonstrated their methods for raising sheep and cattle in conjunction with an orchard, exemplifying a mixed farming system. This approach highlights the synergy between livestock farming and fruit cultivation within an agroforestry framework (Fig. 5).



**Fig. 5** Agroforestry practice in Bogutovac

These visits offered participants valuable firsthand experience of successful agroforestry practices, showcasing the benefits of integrating agriculture and forestry in sustainable land use.

After an informative morning and noon, the group traveled to Goč Mountain, where the guest lecture session commenced.

### **ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Vladimir Ivezić	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
2	Predrag Miljković	University of Belgrade
3	Krasimira Petkova	University of Forestry Sofia Bulgaria
4	Georgi Kostov	University of Forestry Sofia Bulgaria
5	Nasko Iliev	University of Forestry Sofia Bulgaria
6	Jelena Lazarević	University of Montenegro
7	Milena Đokić	University of Montenegro
8	Milić Čurović	University of Montenegro
9	Stefan Miletić	University of Belgrade
10	Snežana Belanović Simić	University of Belgrade
11	Teodor Nedelin	University of Forestry Sofia Bulgaria
12	Sara Lukić	University of Belgrade
13	Anton Benko	Croatian Forest Institute
14	Ivana Žegnal	Croatian Forest Institute
15	Josipa Puškarić	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
16	Vladimir Zebec	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
17	Aleksandar Baumgertel	University of Belgrade
18	Danica Borota	University of Belgrade



19	Ivana Maslarević	University of Belgrade
20	Miloš Tomić	University of Belgrade