



Research Project Title:

**Perspective of Agroforestry in  
Thessaly region: a research on  
social, environmental and  
economic aspects to enhance  
farmer participation (acronym:  
AgroThes)**

**Principal Investigator:**  
**Vassiliki Kleftoyanni**



**Popular Title:**  
**Agroforestry in Thessaly region**

**Scientific Field:**  
**Social sciences, Agricultural sciences**

**Host Institution:**  
**TEI of Thessaly**



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

Agroforestry, a novel and well-promising practice in reshaping the countryside of Greece, comes along with parallel benefits in environmental, social and economic terms. Agroforestry is defined as the composite agronomic practice of triple temporal or/and spatial combination of two or three distinct land uses and farming activities, i.e. crop cultivation, or/and forest tree growing, or/and domestic animal breeding. It is an effective form of land use that achieves increased output and ecological stability contributing to environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation, but also creating social capital and economic opportunities.

Taking into account the fact that the EU, recognizing the added value of Agroforestry, promotes and financially enhances it through the CAP, installation of Agroforestry Systems may contribute in addressing the current economic crisis regarding the agricultural section. Agroforestry adoption by local stakeholders depends on social, environmental and economic factors. AgroThes project examines the perspective of Agroforestry in Thessaly region, aiming at enhancing farmer participation, by using the novelty of High Nature Value farming.

The project includes: i) a comprehensive social research on the potential of Agroforestry adoption, detecting efficiencies and highlighting motivations, ii) an environmental research consisting of a land use survey, including mapping and modeling in the frame of a PhD, and a chemical soil quality analysis, and iii) an indicative financial analysis of the anticipated impact of Agroforestry adoption. The project also proposes informational activities, through social media (facebook page), leaflets and informational events. The resulting Guidelines that will encapsulate the knowledge and experience acquired throughout the separate aforementioned surveys, will be transferred to local stakeholders through info/educational events, as well as widely communicated through distinct dissemination activities, i.e. publications and participation in conferences.

The project, aiming at promoting Agroforestry and enhancing farmer participation, is accompanied by significant social benefits. The impact of the project on society is linked to development aspects -of great importance in these times of economic recession- given that Agroforestry, as a high prospect for rural development, improves the possibilities of creating new jobs. At the same time, it supports a variety of rural development resources, leading to more stable agri-business and rural communities, and secures the livelihood of local people in terms of human health, infrastructure, and mitigation of adverse environmental impacts. In addition, by preserving traditional agro-forest systems, the cultural value of the rural landscape is enhanced, as well as its value as a recreational area. Particularly important, however, is the extensive social research that will be carried out within the project and the sensitization of the local community through targeted informative / educational events.

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As a postdoctoral researcher, active in participatory environmental management, I recognize the need to strengthen free research and support scientists in the country. The funding of H.F.R.I. meets this need, not in a conventional, but an innovative way of dual character in regard to the role of the postdoctoral researcher: on the one hand it gives me the opportunity to coordinate and be the Principal Investigator for the realization of a research idea, and on the other hand it allows me to select the Host Institute and the associates to form the appropriate research team; by combining different scientific sectors, which can successfully meet the project requirements. Such supportive initiatives can bring research ideas out of the drawers and effectively enhance scientific synergy and creativity, with multiple benefits for society.

*The Principal Investigator,  
Vassiliki Kleftoyanni*

## Funding

Amount: **210,000 €**

Duration: **36 months**

Foundation: **H.F.R.I.**





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