

What are the perceived knowledge gaps reducing farmer uptake of in-field agroforestry in the UK?

Dear participant, please read through the following information.

This interview is for farmers who are not currently practicing in-field agroforestry, or who are practicing it and are considering adopting a new type of in-field agroforestry (e.g. currently doing silvopastoral and considering adopting silvoarable). We will discuss your eligibility now.

Research has shown that knowledge gaps and lack of funding are the primary barriers to agroforestry uptake in the UK. This project aims to identify these knowledge gaps and help to fill them. It consists of several stages:

1. This interview, which will be conducted with ~40 farmers to identify perceived knowledge gaps.
2. Interview results will be taken to an in-person multi-stakeholder workshop in December where options to address these knowledge gaps will be identified.
3. The results will be presented in a scientific paper and disseminated via social media and conferences. Training resources will be made to train farmers in identified knowledge gaps.

This project is funded by UKRI's [Future of UK Treescapes Programme](#) and conducted by researchers at the University of Reading. For further information, contact Millie Hood: a.s.hood@reading.ac.uk

Participation is voluntary and you can stop the interview at any time without an explanation. Once you have finished the interview, you will not be identifiable and your data cannot be withdrawn.

Data storage and handing

Your data will be stored on a secure drive only accessible to the University of Reading (Dr Amelia Hood). Data will be published alongside the scientific publication in an anonymised manner that does not allow for individual identification, either by retracting answers to specific questions or aggregating values of others. The raw data will be deleted once this paper has been published (estimated December 2024). By participating you are consenting to these terms of data storage and use which have been approved by the University of Reading's Ethics Committee.

You have certain rights under data protection law which are:

- Withdraw your consent
- Access your personal data or ask for a copy
- Rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you
- Be forgotten, i.e. remove your details from our systems
- Restrict or object to uses of your data

Some restrictions apply to the above rights where data is used for research. You can find out more about your rights on: <https://ico.org.uk>. You have a right to complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how your data has been handled. Please contact the University Data Protection Officer in the first instance at imps@reading.ac.uk.

Please date this to show your acceptance of these conditions: _____

A. FARM CHARACTERISTICS

1. What is your farm size?

Owned (ha): _____

Rented (ha): _____

2. What is your farm type (please tick)?

- ☐ Arable
- ☐ Mixed
- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Forestry
- ☐ Other (open text)

3. What is your farm management (please tick)?

- ☐ Organic (certified)
- ☐ Conventional
- ☐ Integrated
- ☐ Transition (conventional to organic)

DEFINITION OF IN-FIELD AGROFORESTRY

For the purpose of this survey, this includes **having multiple** trees, shrubs, or woody perennials in arable, pastoral, poultry, or mixed systems. This:

- includes productive (e.g. timber or food) and non-productive trees
- includes regular (e.g. alley-cropping) and irregular (e.g. shelterbelts) planting arrangements
- **excludes hedgerows**
- **excludes riparian (riverside) strips that do not have crops/livestock in them**

4. What type of in-field agroforestry are you currently practicing, what area, and for how long (please skip if none)?

	Area (ha)	Year first adopted
Silvoarable (trees with arable or horticulture fields)		
Silvopastoral (trees with livestock/grassland)		
Silvopoultry (trees with poultry)		
Agrisilvopastoral (trees with with arable <u>and</u> livestock)		

5. What type of in-field agroforestry are you interested in adopting/expanding (please tick multiple if applicable)?

	Adding trees into crop/animal systems	Adding crops/animals into tree systems
Silvoarable (trees with arable or horticulture fields)	☐	☐
Silvopastoral (trees with livestock/grassland)	☐	☐
Silvopoultry (trees with poultry)	☐	☐
Agrisilvopastoral (trees with with arable <u>and</u> livestock)	☐	☐
Unsure at the moment, possibly some of the above	☐	
None	☐	

B. PERCEPTION MATRIX

Please fill in the perception matrix following the instructions given by the interviewer. In particular:

- This task is about your perceptions, it is not about hard facts and you can't give a wrong answer. Please choose the answer that first comes to your mind.
- Please read both opposing statements and topics carefully.
- Please fill in every square.
- Any questions, please ask!

Perception Matrix

Knowledge about these topics may influence your likelihood to adopt in-field agroforestry. How do you perceive these topics in relation to each other?												
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
	Agroforestry funding	Tree species and variety selection	Tree planting arrangement (density, orientation)	Tree pest and disease control	Tree pruning and harvesting	Tree understory management	Agroforestry inputs (e.g. irrigation, fertiliser)	The impact to adjacent crops or livestock of adopting in-field agroforestry	The wider environmental & ecological impacts of adopting in-field agroforestry	Markets for agroforestry products	The long-term financial impact of adopting in-field agroforestry	The legal and regulatory impact of adopting in-field agroforestry (e.g. tax, Env. Impact Ass., permanency)
	1 -point end											5 -point end
1	Knowledge about this is important for successfully adopting/managing in-field agroforestry on my farm.											Knowledge about this is not important for successfully adopting/managing in-field agroforestry on my farm.
2	I already know about this in the context of adopting/managing in-field agroforestry on my farm.											I do not know about this in the context of adopting/managing in-field agroforestry on my farm.
3	I think advice/information on this would be readily available to me.											I think advice/information on this would not be readily available to me.
4	I think finding reliable advice/information on this I can trust would be easy.											I think finding reliable advice/information on this I can trust would be difficult .
5	Finding time to access advice/information on this would be easy.											Finding time to access advice/information on this would be difficult .
6	I think affording advice/information on this would be easy (includes free information).											I think affording advice/information on this would be difficult (includes free information).
7	I think understanding advice/information on this would be easy.											I think understanding advice/information on this would be difficult .
8	The thought of learning about does not feel daunting .											The thought of learning about this feels daunting .

6. For the topics that you would like to know more about, what would be the **single** best way for you to learn about them?

7. Do you have any additional comments (e.g. do you think there's another aspect of knowledge or learning constraint which we should have included)?

C. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

8. What is your gender (please tick)?

- ☐ *Woman*
- ☐ *Man*
- ☐ *Non-binary*
- ☐ *Prefer not to disclose*

9. How long have you been a farmer (please tick)?

- ☐ *<1 Year*
- ☐ *1-5 Years*
- ☐ *6-10 Years*
- ☐ *11-20 Years*
- ☐ *>20 Years*

10. How old are you (please tick)?

- ☐ *<19 Years*
- ☐ *20-29 Years*
- ☐ *30-39 Years*
- ☐ *40-49 Years*
- ☐ *50-59 Years*
- ☐ *60-69 Years*
- ☐ *70-79 Years*
- ☐ *>80 Year*

11. What is your highest general education (following ISCED 2011)?

- ☐ *None*
- ☐ *Primary education*
- ☐ *Secondary education*
- ☐ *Post-secondary non-tertiary education (programs that prepare for labour market)*
- ☐ *University degree, subject: _____*
- ☐ *Other: _____*

12. What is your highest agricultural education?

☐ *None*

☐ *Family/traditional knowledge*

☐ *Farmer education programme*

☐ *University degree / Other: _____*