

Agroforestry workshop

October 21-22, 2014

Corvallis, Oregon

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen workshop participants,

I welcome you to the agroforestry workshop organized by Pacific Northwest Agroforestry Working Group. The objectives of this workshop are to bring together landowners, crop consultants, conservation planners, students and presenters to give you a hands-on experience of the basic concepts of Agroforestry, expose you to the practical application of agroforestry, and consider different design considerations when planning agroforestry practices on your private or public lands.

In this workshop, the different agroforestry practices such as alley cropping, silvopasture, riparian management, and urban forestry will be presented and discussed by experts in agroforestry. We will also introduce the different agroforestry planning and design options, discuss the financial aspects of agroforestry and incentives for land owners to practice agroforestry.

Among us we have Ms. Kate MacFarland from the USDA National Agroforestry Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. She will present information about Agroforestry policy

and the view from Washington D.C. to promote agroforestry education, research and out-reach and the future prospect of agroforestry in the United States and the PNW region in particular.

Agroforestry is an intentional integration of trees, crops and livestock in the same unit of land to optimize the ecological, economic and social benefits of land. This integrated land-use system has been practiced by Native Americans and European pioneers for millennium. The widespread use of this strategy however, largely disappeared during the last century with the concurrent development of separate agriculture and forestry research and management practices.

Agroforestry address the following major problems in the United States. They include wind and water erosion, water pollution from agricultural run-off, winter temperature moderation, income generation, economic risk reduction and carbon sequestration to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Agroforestry practices used today in the Pacific Northwest include silvopasture for economic production, riparian buffers to create fish habitat while addressing water pollution, and erosion control, forest farming for mushrooms and floral greenery,

and whole farm diversification with woody crops and income diversification including bioenergy crops.

This afternoon we will visit the Peter Kenagy agroforestry farm. Peter has been a good steward of the land by farming and practicing sustainable agroforestry systems. I have the opportunity to know Peter for the 20 plus year and he is very generous with his time and shows students his farm while they ask questions. He is truly a steward of the land and great citizen.

I hope during these two days you will actively engage in the discussions and explore the practical application of agroforestry in our region.

Thank you,

Badege Bishaw