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**AGROFORESTRY UPDATE**

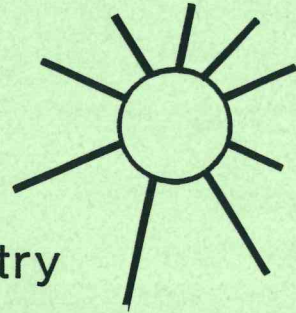
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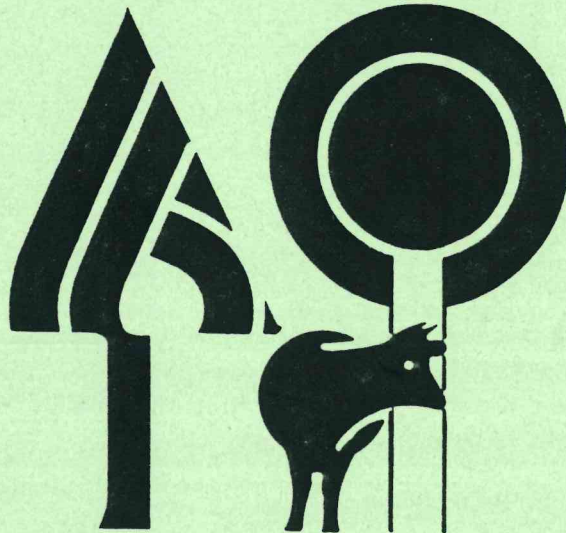


# Agroforestry Update



Newsletter for Agroforestry

Researchers and Practitioners



Department of Conservation and Land Management

Department of Agriculture

C.S.I.R.O

Western Australia

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DRAFT STRATEGY PLAN FOR AGROFORESTRY  
by Richard Moore

The National Agroforestry Working Group has prepared "A Draft Strategy Plan for Agroforestry" as part of the "Year and Decade of Land-care". The Plan is based on a report to the Standing Committee on Forestry and the Standing Committee on Agriculture in June 1989 (outlined in "Agroforestry Update" No. 9).

The summary of the "Draft Strategy Plan for Agroforestry" is set out below;

"Agroforestry has been recognised in this document as the deliberate integration of tree growing within normal farming practices and is seen as a vital element in land-care proposals in Australia.

There are several alternative approaches to agroforestry that might be employed by farmers including:-

1. widely-spaced trees for timber with pasture for grazing
2. shelterbelts managed for erosion control, shelter and timber
3. woodlots managed for timber production, plus control of salinity and loss of nutrients
4. revegetation of degraded areas, and
5. trees and shrubs for fodder and salinity control

A strategy plan has been developed which aims to place agroforestry high on the national agenda for land-care.

The essential elements of this plan are as follows:-

1. Agroforestry representation is required on State Steering Committees set up for the "Year and Decade of Land-care".
2. These representatives (1) to provide the agroforestry component to state action plans.
3. Members of NAWG and state agroforestry working groups to assist with publicity for the "Year and Decade of Land-care".
4. NAWG to review existing agroforestry research and demonstrations and to encourage new research and demonstrations where necessary.
5. State agroforestry working groups to translate the latest findings about agroforestry into practical information for advisors and farmers.
6. Information on agroforestry needs to be incorporated into whole-farm planning. Training of agroforestry advisers and farm planners in each others field is needed to improve integration of skills.
7. Examples of agroforestry need to be established to treat notable areas of land degradation and for use in extension and staff training.

8. A strengthening of advisory services is required to translate the soil conservation initiative into action on the ground.
9. NAWG and state agroforestry working groups to establish in-service courses on agroforestry.
10. Tertiary institutions to be encouraged to introduce agroforestry courses.
11. All states should establish inter-agency agroforestry groups to co-ordinate and monitor research and extension activities.
12. Much of this strategy plan can be carried out by NAWG through its members in each state. However, further resources are required to strengthen advisory services".

The Plan is being considered by the Standing Committees. The Standing Committee on Forestry has indicated their general support. In particular, the Committee is keen for a National Conference on Agroforestry to be held - preferably in 1991. The National Agroforestry Working Group has commenced planning a conference.

#### OPINION

K.F. Wells (Hobart)

Editors note: Reprinted from "Bark" No 196, Oct. 1989

It was reassuring to see the recognition given by the committee reviewing the Division of Forestry and Forest Products of the urgency for redressing land degradation in Australia. The draft Review Report (June 1989) intimated (p.91) the Division does have a role to play through research into alternative silvicultural systems which yield wood whilst at the same time rehabilitating degraded land. When employed in conjunction with agriculture, as it would be on the majority of lands, this amounts to agri-forestry. As Wilf Crane points out (Bark No. 188, July 1989), this is not getting the attention it deserves. I earnestly hope that, in the review of the Division's research on eucalypts which is to be carried out (Recommendation 3 of the Review), this type of forestry will get a guernsey.