



## Add value to the agroforestry timber produced on the farm with a collective approach: the example of the organization Bois Paysan in France

[www.eurafagroforestry.eu/afinet/](http://www.eurafagroforestry.eu/afinet/)

Bois Paysan is a group of 30 farmers in the region of Ariège in France, which is focused on increasing the wood resources in the region and climbing up the value chain of this wood produced on the farm. The idea came from the decrease of timber availability in the region which will soon lead to scarcity, and hence opportunity. From this purely economic observation piles up the numerous agronomic advantages of agroforestry.

Created in 2013, the organization began its actions by refurbishing existing hedges and then evolved to promote new agroforestry plantations and knowledge transfer. Thirty-five hectares of land were converted in agroforestry in 2015, including 4 km of hedges. Nowadays, ten of the farmers gathered into a distribution company to process and sell directly high-value products from this “farmers’ wood”, bypassing intermediates and aggregating value. This company already signed 20 offtake contracts with gardening and hardware stores for products like mulch (ramial chipped wood), wood charcoal, timber...

Bois Paysan is an inspiring initiative, linking agronomic good practices with economic outlets, hence verticalizing the whole agroforestry value chain. This with a farmers’ led collective approach.

For more information:

Video about Bois Paysan (French):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYCEABsNmtE>

Facebook page of the initiative:

<https://www.facebook.com/BoisPaysanDistribution/>



Figure 1. Members of the association “Bois paysan”

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