



Alley cropping is an agroforestry practice that integrates rows of trees or shrubs with crops grown in the “alleys” between them. © Alta Films

Expanding Agroforestry

Resilience, Revenue and Regeneration

The Expanding Agroforestry Project helps farmers achieve both economic and environmental benefits. By integrating trees with crops and livestock, producers can diversify revenue, build resilience, and benefit nature. Through incentives, technical assistance, and market development, this project is scaling agroforestry adoption across working lands in the United States.

About the Program

The Expanding Agroforestry Project is a three-year effort to help farmers adopt agroforestry practices that increase profitability and deliver environmental benefits. Funded through the USDA's Advancing Markets for Producers initiative, the project aims to establish tens of thousands of acres of new agroforestry plantings in 30 U.S. states.

The effort supports farmers through a comprehensive approach that combines financial incentives, technical assistance, and market development. Participants gain access to regionally tailored guidance and peer learning networks to support successful adoption.

By connecting producers with supply chain partners and expanding markets for agroforestry products—such as nuts, fruits, timber, and livestock—the program is creating new economic opportunities while helping build more resilient farming systems and healthier working lands.

Collaborating for Success

The project is led by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with a nationwide network of nonprofits, universities, businesses, and regional leaders. Together, partners provide technical expertise, on-the-ground support, and market connections—ensuring farmers have the resources needed to adopt and scale agroforestry practices across diverse agricultural regions.

What We're Doing

The Expanding Agroforestry Project is working to scale a proven approach that helps farmers improve the resilience of their operations and the health of their land. Through a coordinated effort across partners and regions, the project is building the systems, support, and markets needed to make agroforestry a practical option for producers.

Supporting Farmers

At the core of this work is direct support for farmers. The project is providing \$39 million in incentive payments to help offset the upfront costs of planting trees and establishing agroforestry systems. Producers also receive regionally tailored technical assistance, ensuring practices are suited to their land, growing conditions, and operation. Peer learning opportunities help farmers see agroforestry in action and build confidence to adopt new approaches.

Improving Productivity

The project focuses on three core agroforestry practices—alley cropping, silvopasture, and windbreaks—each designed to integrate trees into working lands in ways that improve productivity and diversify revenue. These systems allow farmers to generate income from multiple sources, including livestock, crops, and tree products such as nuts, fruits, and timber.

Strengthening Markets

Beyond the farm, the project is strengthening markets for agroforestry products. Project partners are working with companies and supply chain leaders to expand demand, build reliable market pathways, and create long-term economic opportunities for producers.

Together, these efforts deliver measurable benefits—from improved soil health and water quality to enhanced wildlife habitat—while helping farms become more resilient. By establishing tens of thousands of new agroforestry acres and building a scalable model, the project is laying the foundation for adoption across millions of acres of U.S. farmland.

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Visit nature.org/ExpandingAgroforestry to explore how agroforestry can strengthen your operation.

For more information, contact ExpandingAgroforestry@tnc.org

This project is designed to support farmers in adopting one or more of three core agroforestry practices that are best suited for their land.



Alley cropping: Rows of trees or shrubs planted between crops improve soil health, reduce erosion, and diversify farm income while maintaining annual crop production. © Alta Films



Silvopasture: Trees, forage, and livestock managed together provide shade and shelter, improve animal welfare, and enhance soil, water quality, and overall farm productivity. © Harry Greene/ Propagate



Windbreaks: Lines of trees or shrubs reduce wind speed, protecting crops, soil, and livestock while conserving moisture and improving farm resilience. © USDA