The project C-FARMs, co-funded by the 2020 LIFE Programme of the European Commission, supports the design and implementation of targeted payments for the application of Carbon Farming practices through the development of a regulatory framework for the certification of Carbon removals (or Carbon non-emissions) based on a robust and transparent carbon accounting scheme in connection with the national GHG inventory.

The project aims to work in close connection with:

- the Institutions with the official responsibilities of GHG reporting,
- the offices from Regional authorities dealing with agricultural themes (e.g. CAP payments)
- the Institutions dealing with the certification systems

C-FARMs will also involve public Institutions, Universities and research centres, private companies and farmer and woodworking industry associations working specifically on themes related to the LULUCF sector (Land-use, Landuse change and Forestry)



The **LIFE Programme** is the EU's funding instrument for the **environment** and **climate action**.

The **LIFE programme** co-finances projects in the areas of urban adaptation and land-use planning, resilience of infrastructure, sustainable management of water in drought-prone areas, flood and coastal management, resilience of the agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors, and/or support to the EU's outermost regions: preparedness for extreme weather events, notably in coastal areas.

It provides action grants for best practice, pilot and demonstration projects that contribute to increase resilience to climate change.



Contacts and Info Website: <u>www.c-farms.eu</u> Facebook page: <u>www.facebook.com/LIFECFARMs</u>





SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

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The Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP -COM/2020/98 final), as well as the Farm to Fork strategy (COM/2020/381 final) have indicated the certification system as a prerequisite for the activation of a regulatory framework that incentivises the carbon removed or carbon emission reduced from agricultural and forestry activities.

Agriculture and the land sector in general, are key to meet the carbon neutrality, the long term goal of the Paris Agreement, that requires a substantial amount of nature based solutions to remove CO2 emissions from the atmosphere and also to compensate for the remaining GHG emissions, mainly from non-GHG emissions.

C-FARMs also **involves the wood industry** in order to **incentivize the use of local wood**, creating an increment in demand that can stimulate the plantation of new areas, with an overall carbon and environmental benefit.





According to the Communication on sustainable carbon cycles released by European Commission On 14th December, carbon farming can be defined as a green business model that rewards land managers for taking up improved land management practices, resulting in the increase of carbon sequestration in living biomass, dead organic matter and soils - by enhancing carbon capture and reducing the release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, in respect of ecological principles favourable to biodiversity. Carbon farming is paving the way to more climate-conscious practices in agriculture. Agriculture and the land sector in general, are key to meet the carbon neutrality, the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement, that requires a substantial amount of nature based solutions to remove CO2 emissions from the atmosphere and also to compensate for the remaining GHG emissions, mainly from non-GHG emissions.

C-FARMS PILOT AREA

In this context Lombardy Region can represent an interesting test for a pilot system of carbon farming certification. Lombardy ranks first in agricultural production in Italy, due to the abundance of fertile soils and availability of irrigation water in the Po valley and it is at the top of the Italian regions in the production of maize, rye, barley, wheat, rice and, especially in the meadows, forage for livestock.

In particular, **the different tree plantations** in the area will be **characterized** in terms of carbon stocks and fluxes in main pools (living biomass, litter, soil and HWP) during the plantation cycle and post harvesting use. This will be possible through an **update of the mapping of poplar plantations**, as this represents the major plantation type in Lombardy. Particular attention will be given to the **analysis of the current use of Harvested Wood Products** (HWP) produced in the area on a representative sample of farms, thus including also the HWP contribution in the analysis of carbon mitigation potential of the tree plantations including post-harvesting processes.



Objectives

- Creating an high-resolution demonstrative geospatial information system (GIS-FARMs), which will identify the mitigation potential of the agricultural sector of Lombardy region
- Systematising existing knowledge and data with relevance for the area of interest useful for the creation of the high-resolution demonstrative geospatial information system (GIS-FARMs)
- Identifying information and research gaps
- Supporting the development of a regulatory framework for a carbon certification system in collaboration with relevant actors and institutions
- Exploring the possibility of use of common methods and/or reference data and/or data sets in combination with GHG reporting institutions as well as an exchange and information mechanism related to greenhouse gas inventories from the agricultural sector
- Supporting the design and implementation of targeted payments for the application of Carbon Farming practice

Outcomes Of The Project

- Creation of a methodological framework universally applicable to enable a wider uptake of Carbon Farming practices.
- Creation of the high-resolution demonstrative geospatial information system (GIS-FARMs), which will identify the mitigation potential of the agricultural sector of the selected region.
- Development of a regulatory framework for a carbon certification system in relation to carbon farming practices.