

Agroforestry in Slovakia: current state, potential and needs

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What is going on in Slovakia in the field of Agroforestry?

- **Slovak Agroforestry Association**, since **2021**
- **20** members/**2** conferences for farmers/, **one webinar** for farmers on how to apply for subsidy on agroforestry/**1 excursion** for farmers to see Agroforestry systems in Slovakia/Czech Republic
- **Public discourse** – optimal implementation of agroforestry in Slovakia (legislation, funding)
- **3 pillars** – **legislation, farmers for farmers, research and innovation**
- **networking** – main players in Slovakia – SUA, NLC, Ecotrend, Ekopolis, BROZ, ASYF (Slovakia is small, „everybody knows everybody“)
- Members of **EURAF, Slovak Agriculture and Food Chamber**

Húšky (Sanagro s.r.o.)



- 1750 laying hens
- 1 hectare
- Different crops/poplars, elms, black locust
- 3 yrs
- Due to big demand next year another plot (same size)
- Benefits : animal welfare, better microclimate (shade), stable egg production, and the clients like it



Velkolélsky ostrov - BROZ



- 250 ha island on Danube
- Environmental purposes
- Bratislava Regional
Nature Protection
Association NGO
- Silvopastoral systems for
landscape management
– invasive species
management
- Biodiversity research
- Studies on herbivore
parasites



Farm with a view (Kežmarok)



- Silvopastoral system 30 ha – since 2018
- White plots (abandoned agricultural landscape with non forest woody vegetation) – small landscape features + grazing
- Subsidy for next year for 16 ha



Juniper + Grazing (NLC)



Photo credit: TASR/Radovan Stoklasa



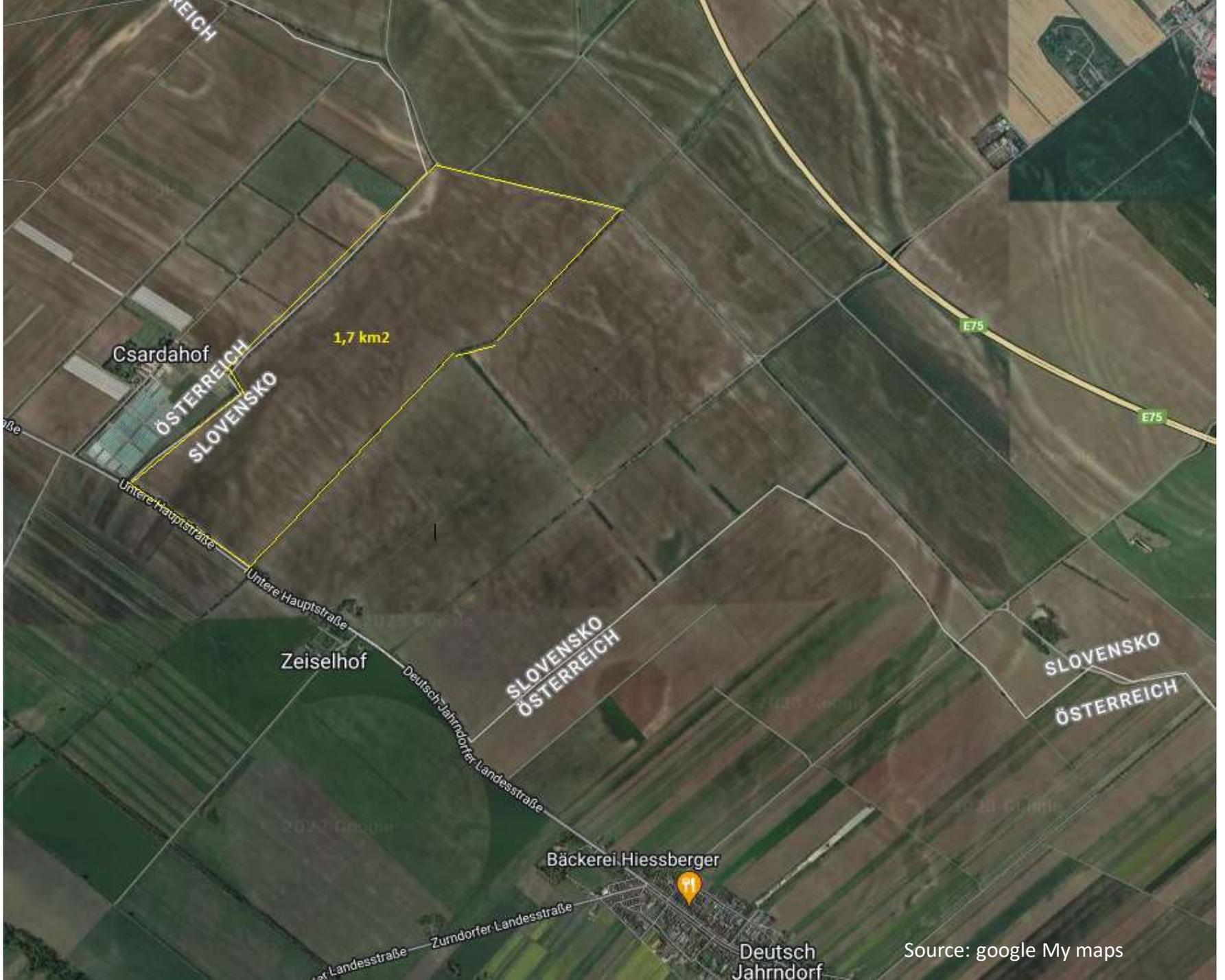
Photo credit: J. Košťál <http://sbs.sav.sk/atlas/detail.php?rowid=681>

- Pastoral systems with juniper (Natura 2000: 5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands)
- 3 research plots (3 x 1ha namely Devičie, Šiašov and Spišská Belá)
- Slovakian genotypes have higher content of essential oils, sugar and fat contents in the drupes as the imported ones from Albania



Needs / opportunities

- **We need to improve the legislation** and a clear definition of agroforestry system – **production is the main function and it is not about landscape features**
- **Opportunities – white plots (cca 300 000 ha abandoned agricultural land)** and their legal transformation towards agroforestry, Danube lowland – fragmentation of large blocks
- Problems with **ownership – land consolidation**
- Current intervention 73.01 Establishment of an agroforestry system proposes to support it **only on 1350 ha** (CAP SP Slovakia 23-27), or 0.07% of the total land devoted to agriculture in Slovakia. This year 1st subsidy series for agroforestry – 16 subjects (5 years duration)
- **Farmers motivation** (mostly financial) must be addressed towards farmers – currently the „motivation“ is low – subsidy conditions are not optimal, „mildly said“ – 2400 EUR establishment/500EUR maintenance – nonsensical restrictions (tree species, design, use)



Source: google My maps