

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: Pathways, Motivations, Support Systems, and Experiences of Current Agroforestry Practitioners in the Eastern United States

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INTERVIEW GUIDE

INTRO

Thank you—how are you—did you read the consent document?--do you have any questions?--remember this data will all be anonymized—you may withdraw your information at any time—stop the interview at any time—skip any question—to thank you for your time, I'd like to send you a \$25 gift card—can I confirm your address? ☒

Section One: Pathways

I am going to start by asking some questions about your farm and your path to farming.

1. Can you paint a verbal picture for me of your current farm or forestry operations?

a. How many acres do you operate?

i. *How many are forested?*

b. How is the land used?

c. What are the main things you sell from your land?

d. To what extent does your household rely on income from the farm?

2. Can you tell me the story of how and when you started farming?

- a. **How did you acquire or gain access to this land?**
 - b. What challenges, if any, did you need to overcome to get started?
- 3. In what ways are you practicing agroforestry on your land?
 - a. What made it possible to incorporate agroforestry on your land?

Why did the practices you chose make the most sense?

 - b. *Legacy/returners:* What changes, if any, did you need to make to transition to using these practices?
- 4. How have your agroforestry practices changed since you started (if at all)?
 - a. What have you learned in the process?

Section Two: Motivations

Thank you for sharing that. Next, I'd like to discuss your motivations for doing this work.

5. Why did you decide to be a farmer? How would you describe your primary motivation for being a farmer/managing your land?
 - a. Shifting to agroforestry specifically - What is the most personally satisfying aspect of practicing agroforestry?
6. How has agroforestry helped you achieve your goals?
 - a. *In what ways are trees important to you or your land?*
7. How do you think your agroforestry practices have impacted the economic viability of your farm or household?
 - a. *Has your financial stability changed at all since implementing agroforestry?*
8. How do you think your agroforestry practices have impacted the ecology and environmental outcomes on your land?
 - a. *Have you noticed changes in wildlife or insect presence? Soil quality?*
9. Overall - How do you think your agroforestry practices have impacted your quality of life?

10. How satisfied are you with what you currently receive from your land, be it financial income or other rewards?

Section Three: Support Systems

Thank you. I'd like to know more about the support system you have that helps you accomplish your land management goals.

11. Did you have any **farmer mentors or role models** who inspired you to begin practicing agroforestry?

a. What about them inspired you?

b. Are you still in touch?

12. Can you tell me about any specific person in your life who you trust and rely on for support? This could be a friend, a partner, a neighbor, or a peer farmer. What role has this person played in your personal journey as a farmer?

a. Thinking about motivations again: If this person asked you why you practice X here, how would you explain your motivations to them?

13. Have you attended any **workshops** related specifically to agroforestry?

- a. *If so:* Were they helpful? In what ways did they change your practices, if at all?

14. In what other ways have **local, state or federal government agencies, land grant universities, or non-profit organizations** been helpful to you as you've implemented agroforestry? *This includes the county, state DNR, NRCS, university extension, Savanna Institute, or other nonprofit groups.*

- a. Are there any ways you think these institutions **could better support** agroforestry practitioners like you?

- b. How/where did you learn about the Catalyzing Agroforestry Grant Program?

15. As you learned how to implement (agricultural practices) have any books or websites been helpful?

If so, can you think of any right now that you would recommend? We would like to put together a list of recommended resources for agroforestry practitioners. (If you think of any later, you can email them to me.)

16. How have other farmers you know, both those practicing agroforestry and those who are not, been helpful to you as you've managed this land?

- a. In what ways have they been the most helpful?

17. Imagine you find a disease or pests on one of your plants that you don't recognize, which seems to be harming the crop. **What would you do to find out what it was and how to treat it?**

- a. *Who would you talk to? If they weren't helpful, who then?*
- b. What sources do you trust the most for information about agroforestry implementation?

18. *What would you do if a piece of equipment, such as a tractor or a mower, broke down and you weren't sure how to fix it?*

19. Are your agroforestry practices visible to your neighbors?

- a. Have they ever asked about or commented on your practices?
- b. **Is there anything you wish they knew about agroforestry?**
- c. Are there any ways you think your neighbors, fellow farmers, or other parts of your community **could do more or better support** agroforestry practitioners like you? Remember that your answers are confidential.

Section 4: Outlook

Thank you. I have a few more regular questions, and then I'll ask you a few quick multiple-choice style questions.

20. What does the future of agroforestry look like on this land?

a. *Do you plan to stop or change any of your current agroforestry practices?*

21. What obstacles do you worry about, if any, when you think about the next ten years of managing this land?

22. What will your land look like in ten years, if everything works out the way you plan?

Section 4: Discrete Data

Thank you so much. Finally, I'm going to ask you a short series of close-ended questions. These help me get consistent types of information about all the interviewees to make comparisons easier. These questions will only take a few minutes. Some of them might seem repetitive from the interview, but I just want to confirm a few details for the record.

1. Did your parents, grandparents, or another close family member farm during your childhood? YES or NO:
2. Did you study agriculture or a related field at a formal institution? YES or NO:
3. How many years have you been the primary manager (or one of the primary managers) of this land?
 - a. (for analysis) >5, 5-10, 10+
4. Approximately what percentage of your household income comes from agricultural activities?
5. This last question is about how agroforestry has impacted the viability of your operation. I have five possible answer categories that range from (a to e)...The question is: **In your experience, how has implementing agroforestry impacted your operation? Has it made it (____)?**
 - a. Much more viable
 - b. Slightly more viable
 - c. No difference
 - d. Slightly less viable
 - e. Much less viable
 - f. Unsure

Thank you for spending some of your time with me today. Before we close,

- Do you have any questions for me, or additional comments I didn't ask about that you would like to include?
- I would like to interview agroforestry practitioners who did not apply for the CAGP. Do you know of any other agroforestry practitioners who maybe did not participate in CAGP, who you think I should interview for this project?