### STAR FOREST

Adult training for the use of multifunctional forests as a source of employment, sustainability and social inclusion

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Forests are vital ecosystems that store carbon, purify water, regulate climate, and support diverse life forms. Multifunctional forests — those serving multiple roles like timber production, recreation, and conservation — are key to maintaining these benefits.

Biodiversity enhances forest resilience, enabling ecosystems to better withstand climate change and threats like pests. Yet, forests face pressures from deforestation, climate impacts, and unsustainable practices.

Sustainable forest management balances production with conservation. Key strategies include selective harvesting, protecting native species, adaptive management, and involving local communities. Certification programs like FSC and agroforestry systems also play a vital role.



Multifunctional forests provide vital ecosystem services but are increasingly threatened by climate change. Rising temperatures, droughts, and pest outbreaks are putting their health and resilience at risk.

Adaptation is key. Strategies include planting diverse, climate-resilient tree species, adjusting forestry practices, conserving water, and maintaining wildlife corridors. Continuous monitoring and research help anticipate and manage new challenges. Involving local communities and strengthening policy support are also crucial. With shared effort and smart adaptation, forests can continue to thrive in a changing world.













## Chestnuts & Nuts: From Forest to Fork – Training for Sustainable Impact





<u>AN ADULTTRAINING PROGRAM</u>

As part of our commitment to sustainable forest product management, the latest training module under the CORANE project focuses on the management, harvesting, processing, and commercialization of chestnuts and other dried nuts (almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts). This unit blends theoretical lectures with hands-on activities, including field demonstrations, market research, and culinary workshops.

This training is designed for producers, forest owners, agri-food entrepreneurs, and community members who seek to turn chestnuts, almonds, walnuts, and hazelnuts into valuable assets for both ecological preservation and rural prosperity.



#### Participants will learn about:

- Understanding Nut Species and their nutritional, ecological, and economic value.
- Sustainable harvesting and post-harvest practices.
- Market trends, consumer preferences, and business opportunities.
- Culinary uses of chestnuts through practical cooking sessions.

By blending traditional knowledge with innovation, this training empowers local actors to generate added value while conserving natural resources. It supports economic resilience, especially in mountain and rural regions, and positions non-wood forest products as key drivers of sustainable development and green jobs.

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# 3rd Transnational Project Meeting Held in Bragança

The third face-to-face transnational meeting of the STAR FOREST project was hosted by CoraNE in Bragança, Portugal, on June 5–6. This technical meeting brought together project partners to assess progress, align on upcoming tasks, and reinforce collaboration.

Key topics included a review of project activities, objectives, and deadlines, along with discussion of the periodic report and project evaluation. The partners analyzed the status of dissemination efforts and reviewed the progress of Work Packages 2, 3, and 4. The PILOT COURSE was also discussed in detail, with tasks and timelines defined. Budget and financial matters were addressed, including economic justification procedures.





Beyond the formal agenda, the welcoming atmosphere of Bragança and the hospitality of the hosts created an ideal setting for exchange and connection. Informal moments allowed participants to strengthen bonds, share perspectives, and enjoy the cultural richness of the region—reinforcing the spirit of partnership that drives the STAR FOREST project forward.



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