

AGRICULTURAL REPORT 2019 COMPACT



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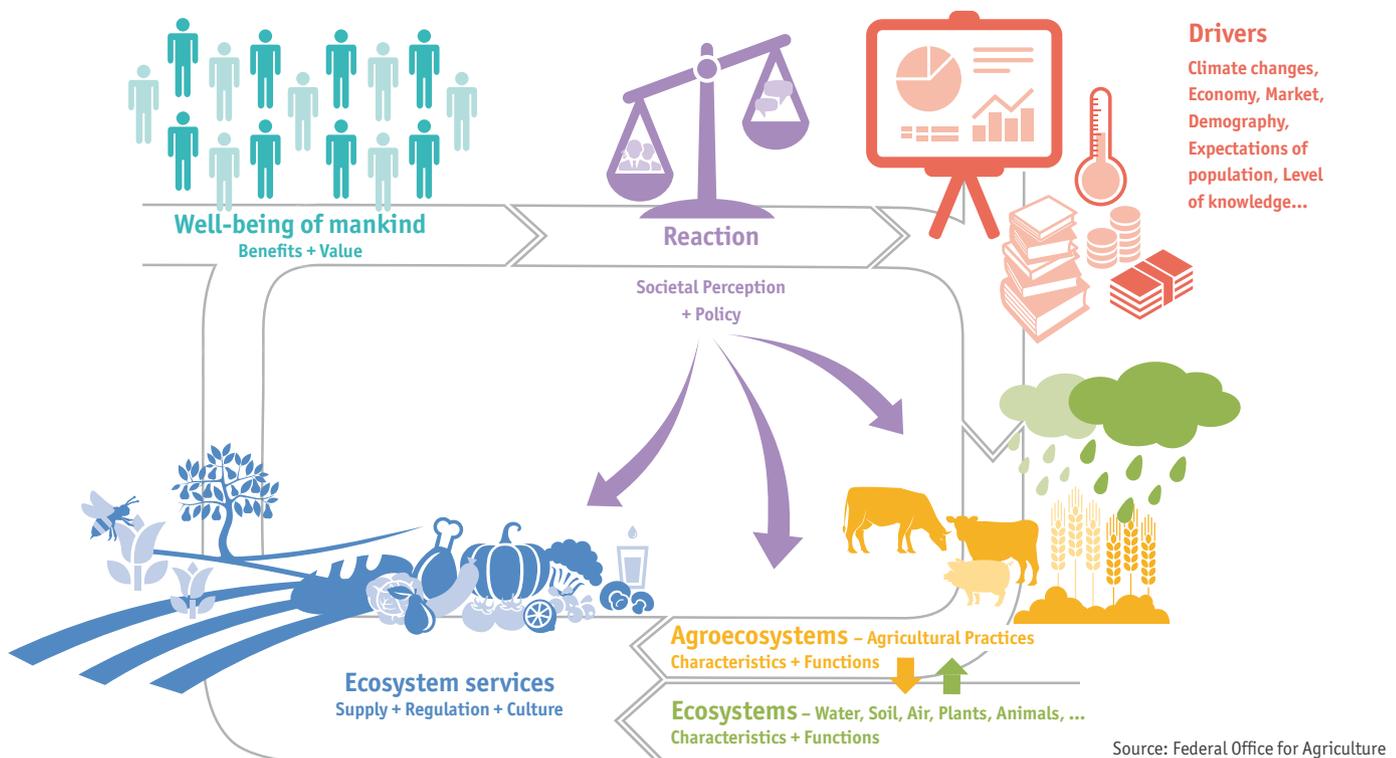
Agroecosystems benefiting humankind

Ecosystems – including agroecosystems – provide a wide variety of services which contribute to human welfare. Agroecosystems are used and protected by agricultural actors. The services provided include the supply of food, valuable habitats for biodiversity preservation, fertile soils and managed landscapes.

While agriculture uses the natural resources of ecosystems to provide crops and animal products, it also interferes with natural processes. Excessive disruption can adversely affect ecosystems and impair other services also required by society.

It needs to be ensured that agricultural production is not pursued at the expense of these other – supporting, regulating and cultural – services. At the same time, production (provisioning) services need to be accorded their rightful place within the ecosystem.

The Agricultural Report 2019 gives an insight into the various areas of Swiss agricultural policy designed to maintain this balance for the benefit of society. This compact edition focuses on selected topics.



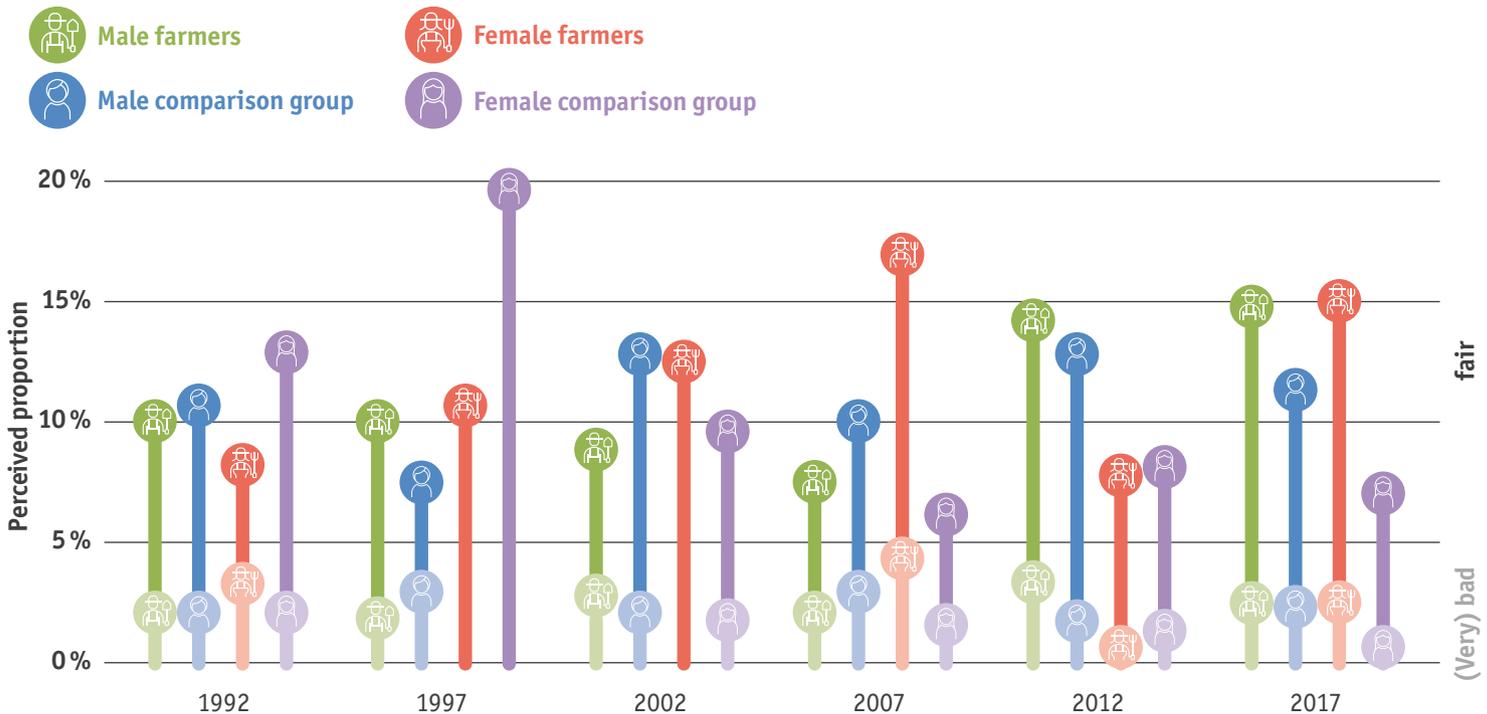


Variable health overall over the past 25 years

Farmers' health

Studies show that people are able to realistically assess their general state of health. As a result, data on self perceived health provides a reliable picture of a group's general health status.

In 2017, the proportion of male and female farmers who rated their health as "fair" or "very bad or bad" was higher than in the comparison groups. Over the past 25 years, however, the proportion of male and female farmers perceiving their health as "very bad or bad" was consistently below 5%. This is shown by the Swiss Health Survey, conducted every five years by the Federal Statistical Office.



Source: Federal Statistical Office

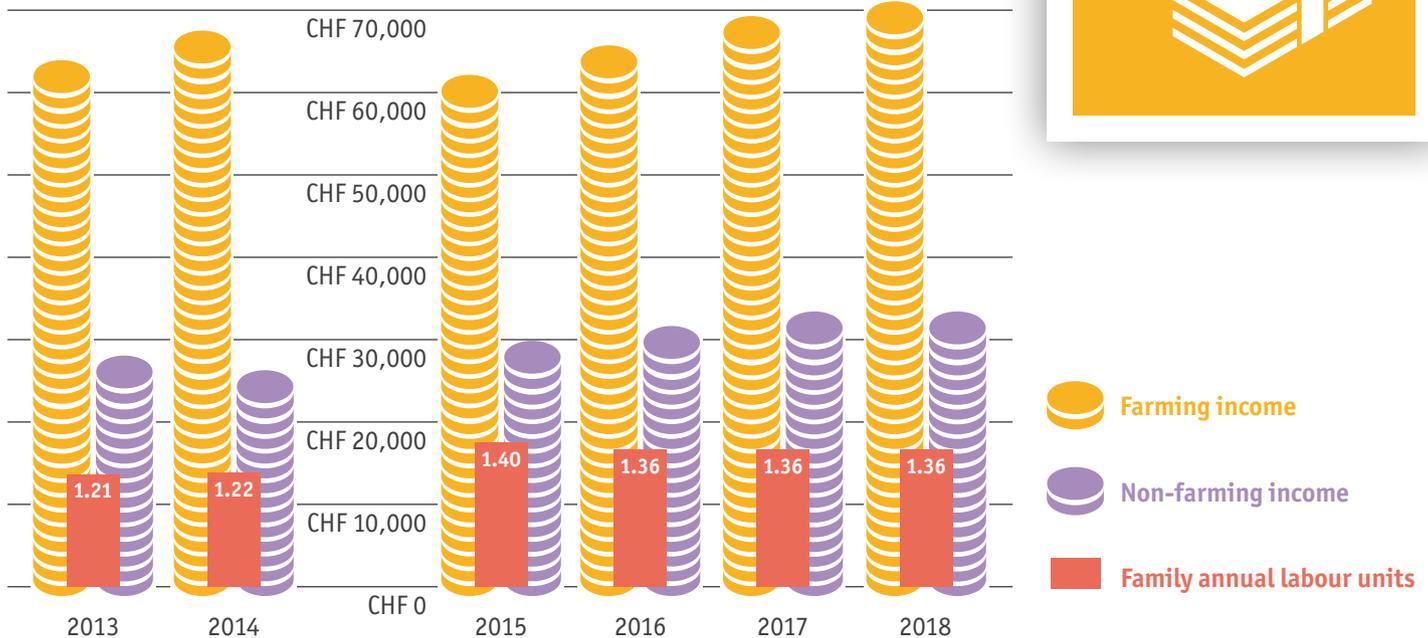
Agricultural incomes

In the analysis, the individual-farm data is weighted to provide as realistic as possible a picture of Swiss agricultural incomes.

The findings on agricultural incomes in 2018 are based on a random sample of 2,475 farms.

On average, agricultural income in 2018 was around CHF 70,600 per farm, compensating 1.36 working members of the farming family. It increased by 4.1% compared to the previous year.

2018:
CHF 70,600
per farm



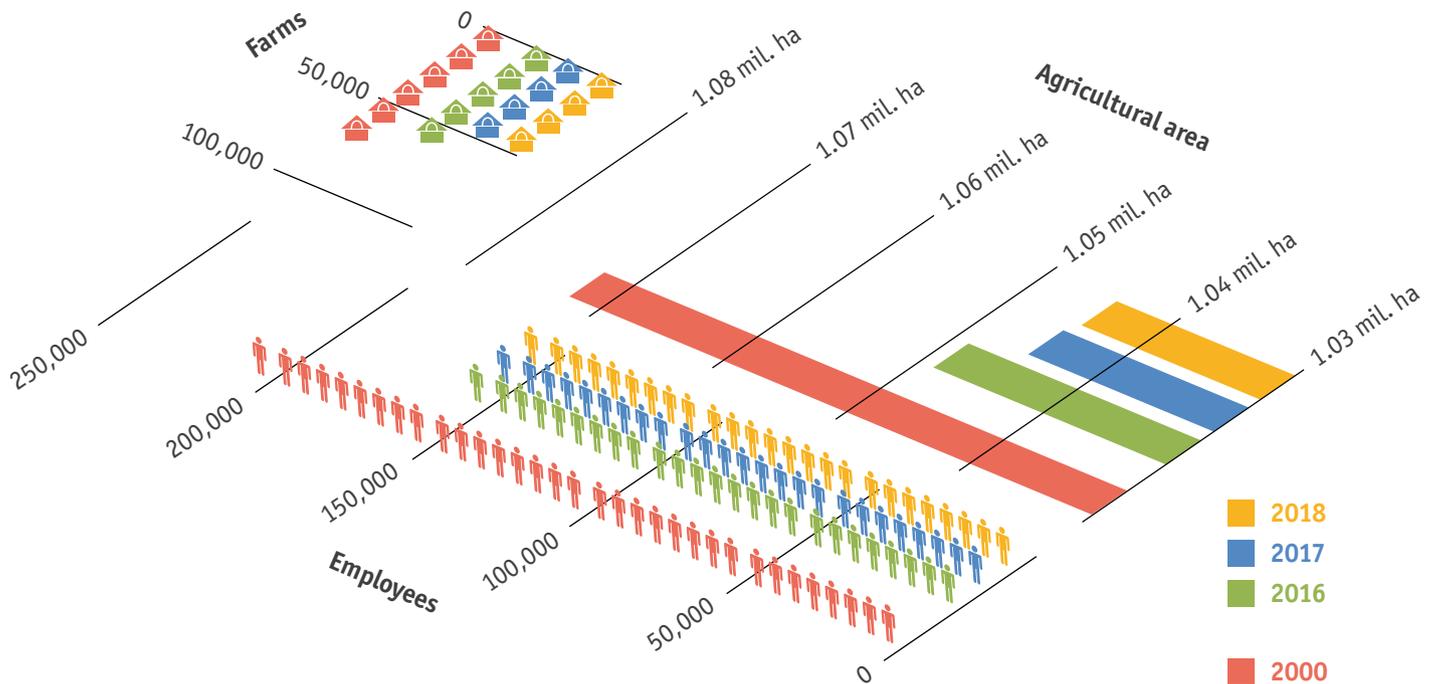
Structural change

In 2018, the total number of farms in Switzerland was around 50,850 – 1.5 % less than in the previous year. The total utilised agricultural area was 1,045,000 hectares. The average area operated per farm was 20.5 hectares. Since 2000, the number of farms has decreased by almost 20,000 units, or 1.8 % per year.

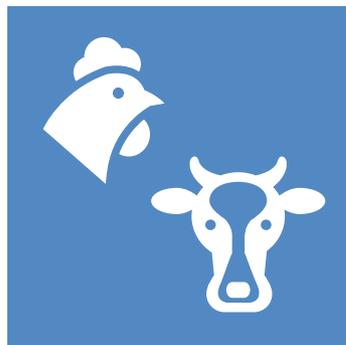
In 2018, around 152,400 people were employed in agriculture – 0.9 % less than in the previous year. The total in 2018 was around 51,400 lower than in 2000.



2018:
50,852 farms
152,442 employees
1,044,976 ha agricultural area

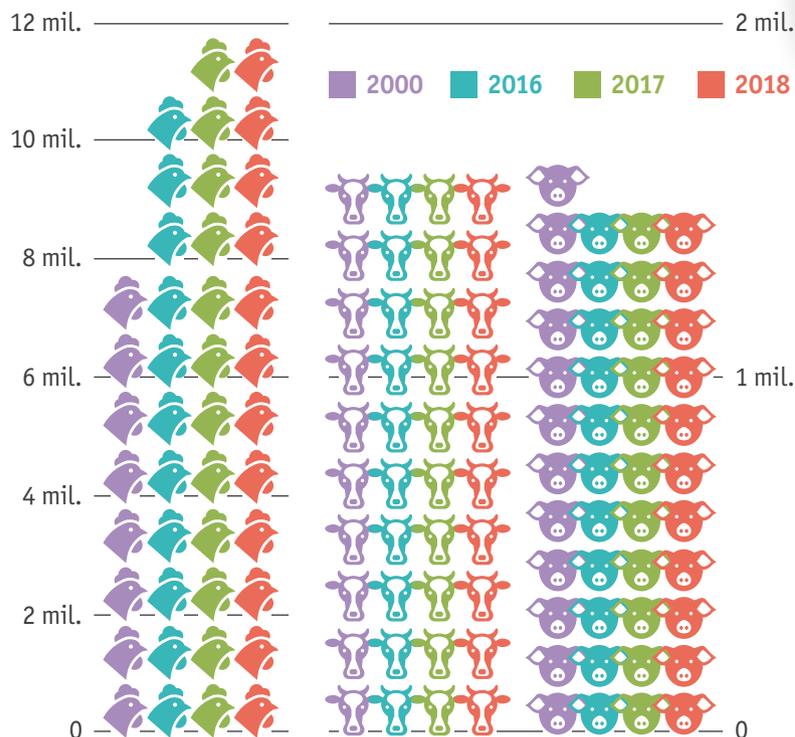


2000/02–2018:
poultry
numbers +66 %



Livestock farmers and livestock numbers

The number of livestock farmers has been declining for many years. In the year under review, almost 35,500 farms still kept cattle, around 6,200 kept pigs and over 12,900 kept chickens. For some time now, ongoing structural change has led to an increase in the average numbers of livestock held.



Quantity of
milk supplied
has doubled

Milk production

In the year under review, milk deliveries amounted to 3.43 million tonnes – almost as much as in the previous year.

The quantity of milk supplied per farm averaged 168,967 kg in 2018, which is around twice as much as in 2000. At the same time, the number of milk producers has almost halved over this period.

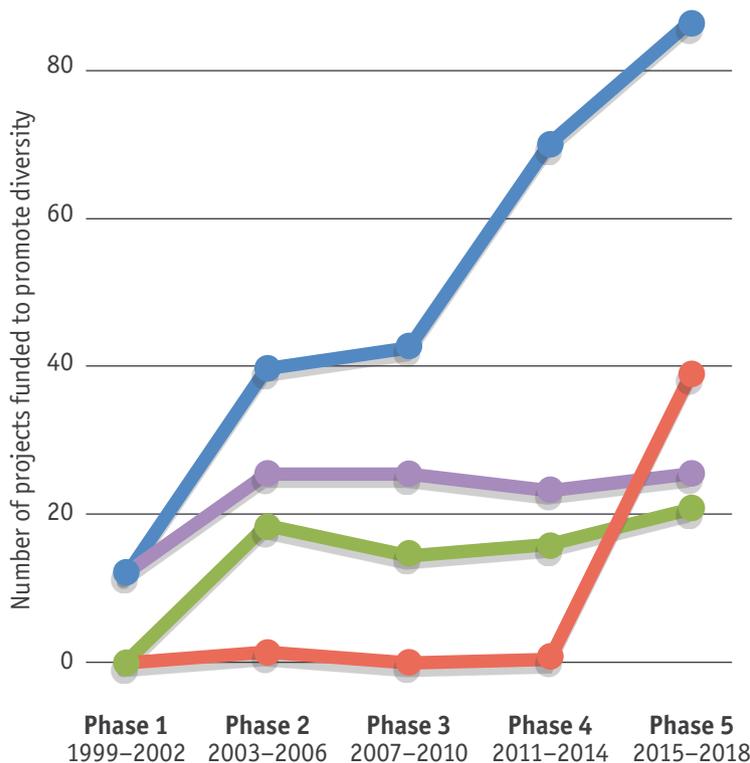
In 2018, there were 19,966 milk producers in Switzerland, with 9,681 in mountain and 10,285 in lowland regions, and 1,886 summer grazing farms.

Organic milk accounted for around 7 % of total milk production in 2018.

More than
400 projects
over 20 years



-  Conservation
-  Description
-  Awareness-raising
-  Use

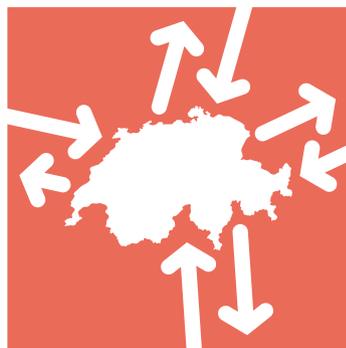


Crop diversity

The crop diversity which has developed over the centuries is immense. In the 20th century, however, numerous local varieties were in danger of disappearing altogether as a result of changes in cultivation and production conditions. But a high degree of within-species diversity is essential for effective adaptation to changing environmental conditions and for the breeding of adapted varieties.

Since 1999, efforts to combat the loss of crop diversity have been pursued under the National Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (NAP-PGREL). Over the last 20 years, support has been provided for more than 350 one- to four-year projects undertaken by associations, foundations, public institutions and SMEs, in which remaining diversity has been identified, conserved in collections and described. Such projects are vital to enable the future use of traditional varieties.

These efforts have borne fruit. In 2018 alone, funding was provided for over 30 projects aiming to bring greater diversity back to the market.

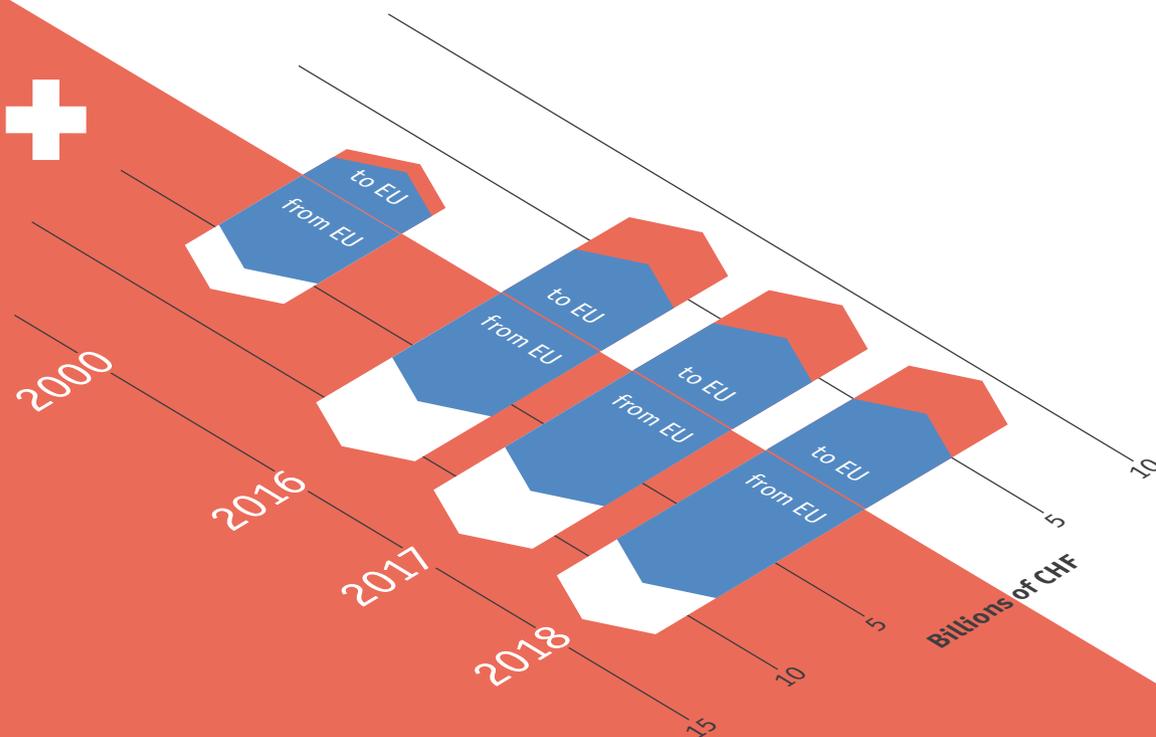


EU is Switzerland's most important trading partner

Foreign trade in agricultural products

Overall, trade in agricultural products saw dynamic growth in 2018. Imports of agricultural products to Switzerland totalled CHF 12.8 billion – CHF 0.4 billion more than in 2017. Beverages and fruits were the largest imports. Agricultural exports in 2018 totalled CHF 9.4 billion – an increase of CHF 0.3 billion over the previous year. By far the largest exports were luxury goods, coffee in particular.

In 2018, 75% of imported agricultural products came from the EU, while around 59% of exports went to the EU.





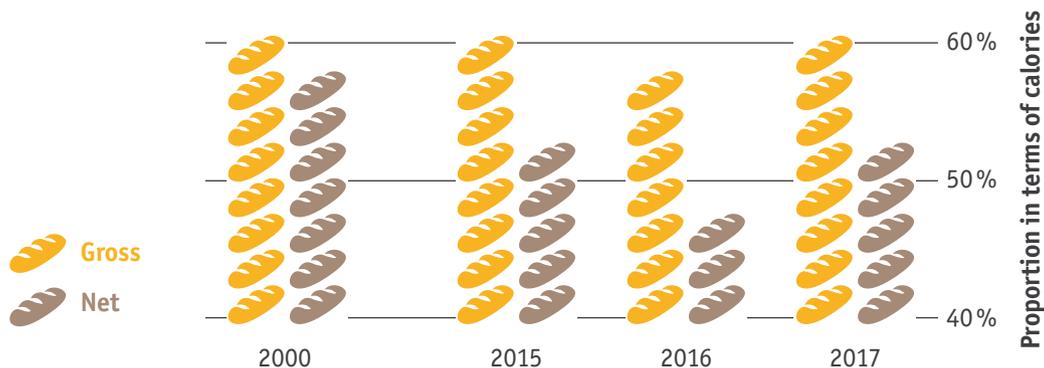
Gross self-sufficiency rate 59 % in 2017

Self-sufficiency rate

The degree of self-sufficiency is defined as the ratio of domestic production to total domestic consumption. A distinction is made between gross and net self-sufficiency: the fact that some domestic production relies on imported animal feed is taken into account in determining the net self-sufficiency rate: domestic animal production is thus reduced by the proportion produced using imported feed.

The gross self-sufficiency rate in 2017 was 59%, 3% higher than in the previous year. Viewed over the longer term, the gross self-sufficiency rate hovers around 60%.

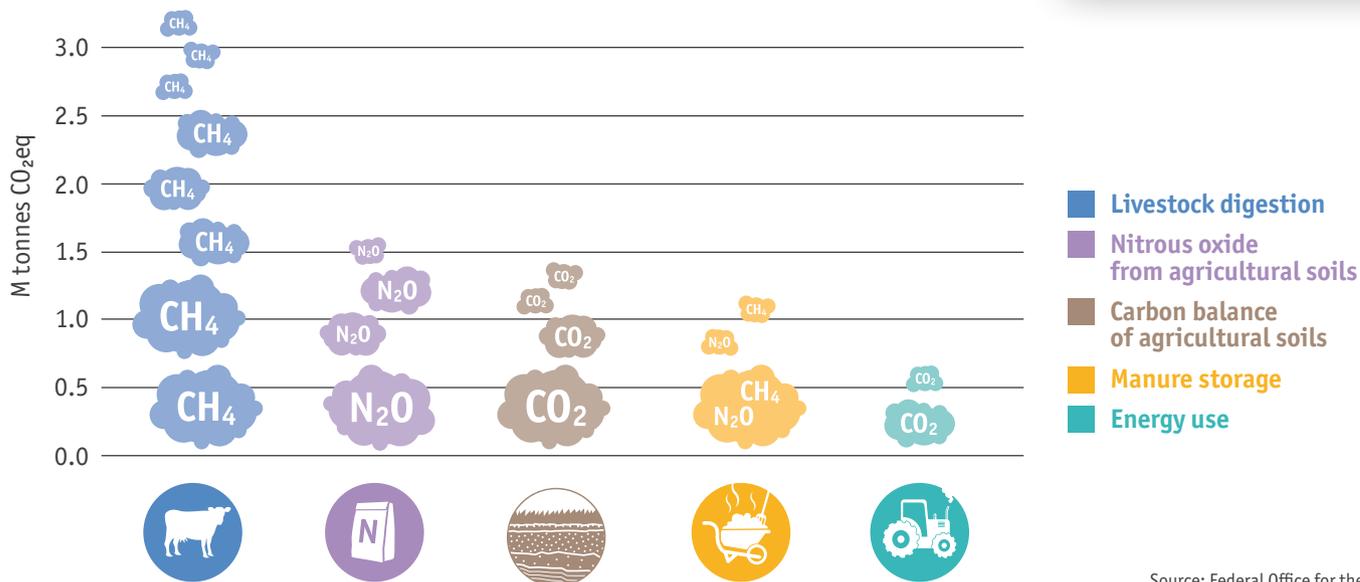
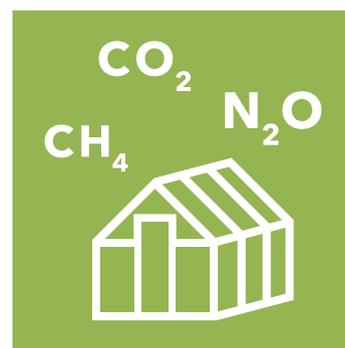
The net self-sufficiency rate in 2017 was 52%, 4% higher than in the previous year.



Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture

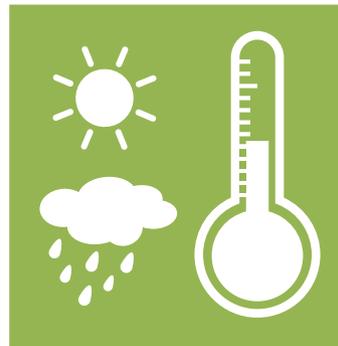
In 2017, methane and nitrous oxide emissions from Swiss agriculture amounted to 6.08 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent, representing a reduction of 0.69 million tonnes CO₂eq or around 10% compared to 1990. Emissions declined in the 1990s and have since stagnated. The development of emissions reflects in particular changes in the numbers of cattle held and in the use of nitrogen fertilisers. The most important sources are emissions of methane from livestock digestion and nitrous oxide from soils. Both of these gases are also released from manure storage sites. In addition, CO₂ emissions due to energy consumption and the release of carbon trapped in agricultural soils amount to nearly 2 million tonnes of CO₂eq (provisional value). Through increases in efficiency and adjustments in intensity, the agricultural sector can and should make further contributions to climate mitigation.

13 % of Switzerland's total emissions

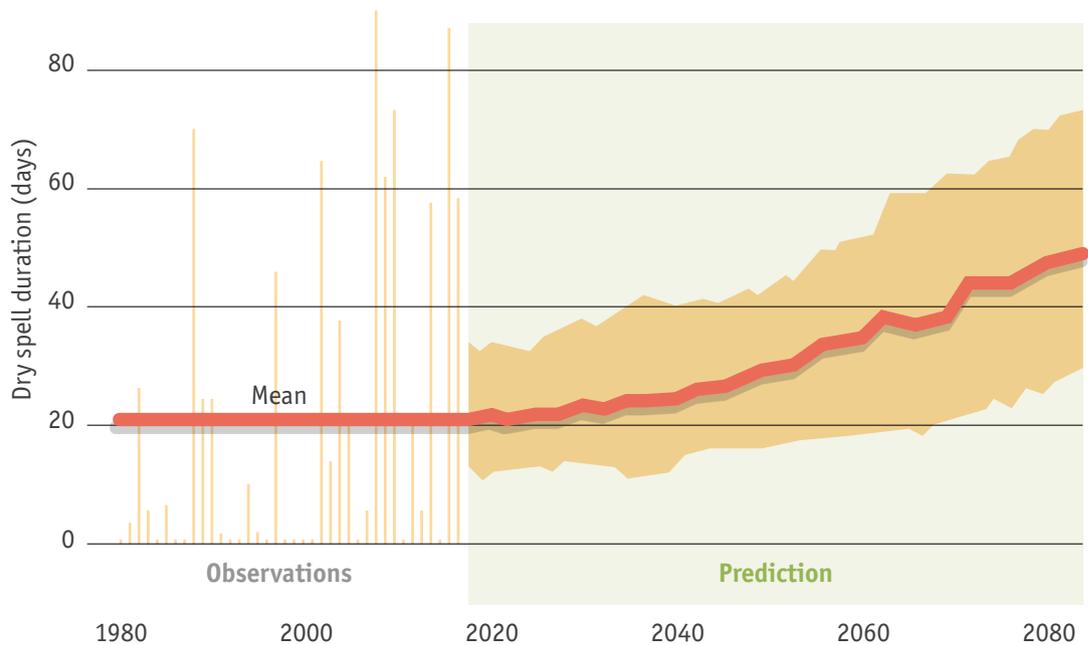


Effects of climate change on agriculture

Climate change leads, in general, to a shift in areas suitable for agricultural production and, in the short term, has both positive (e.g. extended vegetation period) and negative effects (e.g. pest pressure due to milder winters). In the longer term, owing to an increase in extreme weather conditions such as heat and drought, an increased risk of crop losses is also to be expected in Switzerland. By adapting in advance to changes in the climate, agriculture can take advantage of any opportunities arising and mitigate negative impacts on yields and the environment. Here, climate services can provide valuable support.



Increases forecast in the length of dry spells in arable areas





**2018:
CHF 3.6 billion**

Expenditure on agriculture and food

Federal expenditure on agriculture and food amounted to around CHF 3.6 billion in 2018. It thus ranks in seventh place behind expenditure on social welfare (CHF 22.3 bn), transport (CHF 10.4 bn), finances and taxes (CHF 9.9 bn), education and research (CHF 7.7 bn), security (CHF 5.6 bn) and international relations (CHF 3.8 bn).

Agriculture and food accounted for 5.2% of total federal expenditure in 2018.

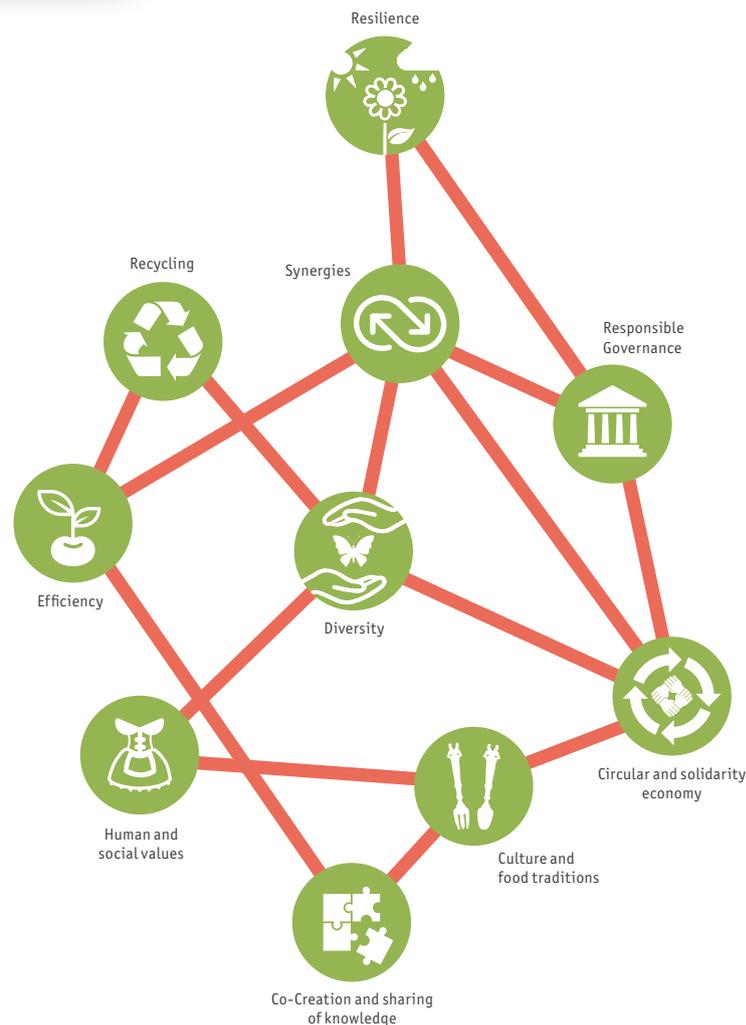


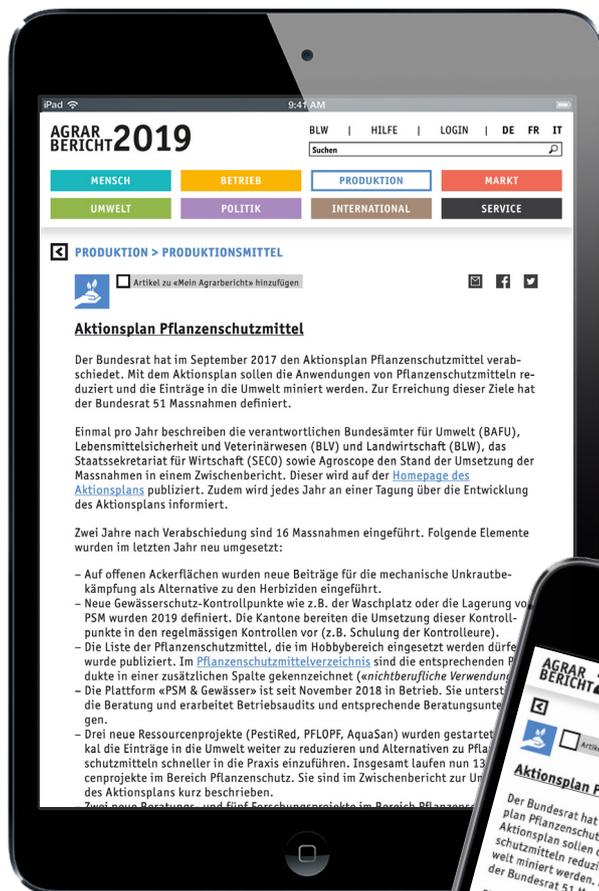
Agroecology: a means to achieve sustainable food systems



Agroecology

Over the past year, there have been growing calls from participants at international gatherings and forums for existing agriculture and food systems to be transformed in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Challenges at the global – and national – level include the sustainable use of natural resources, ensuring food security and providing livelihoods for all actors. In its international activities within the FAO, the OECD, the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme of the One Planet Network (10YFP) and other forums, Switzerland is therefore playing a leading role in pressing for this urgently required transformation. Agroecology can make a significant contribution to sustainable food systems, as shown by the recently published discussion paper “Agroecology as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, prepared by the Swiss National FAO Committee (CNS-FAO). The CNS-FAO serves as a consultative body to the Federal Council on questions of food security and sustainable food systems.





Agricultural Report 2019

The online version of the complete Agricultural Report (available in French, German and Italian) provides easy, rapid access according to your individual requirements. The clear, simple design enables you to find the information you need quickly, even on the go.

Using the “My Agricultural Report” tool, you can also create a personalised copy, selecting the topics you are interested in. Find out more about the important issues at www.agrarbericht.ch. We hope you enjoy reading it!

