

AGRICULTURAL REPORT 2017 COMPACT



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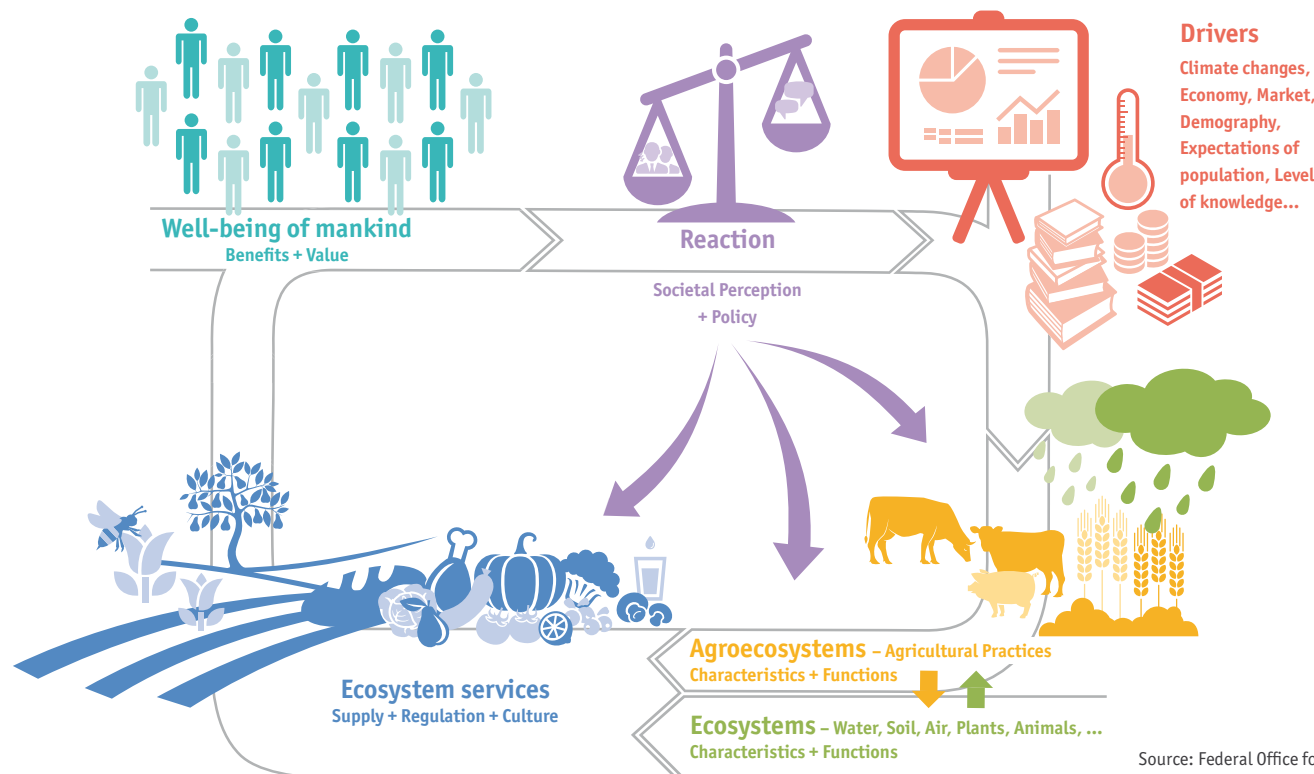
The agroecosystem at the service of mankind

People receive a variety of services from ecosystems that contribute to their well-being. Agroecosystems are regarded as a subset of these ecosystems and are used and protected by the stakeholders in agriculture. The resulting services and benefits include the supply of food, valuable habitats to preserve biodiversity, fertile soil and cultivated landscapes.

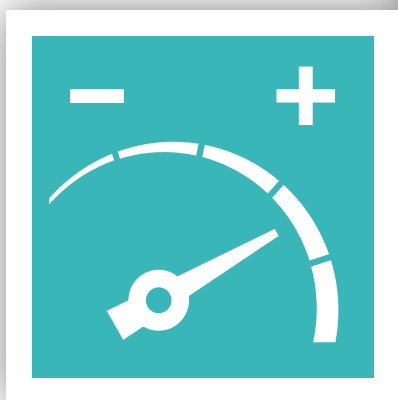
On the one hand, agriculture uses the natural resources of ecosystems to provide crop and livestock products and on the other hand, farmers intervene in natural processes. Excessive intervention can have an adverse effect on ecosystems and

deplete other services equally expected from society. The goal is to avoid a one-sided increase in farming production at the expense of other supporting, regulating and cultural services. Similarly, production output should be given its rightful place in the ecosystem.

The Agricultural Report 2017 gives an insight into the various areas of activity in Swiss agricultural policy which aim to maintain this balance for the well-being of society. The “Agricultural Report 2017 compact” illustrates a selection of topics.



Source: Federal Office for Agriculture



Most satisfied with family, health and education

Quality of life

Since spring 2001, the Federal Office for Agriculture has been commissioning a survey at four-yearly intervals on the quality of life, financial situation, working situation, social inclusion and positive and negative aspects of the farming profession. The aim of this survey is to compare the living situation of the farming population with that of the remaining population. This survey was last carried out in spring 2017.

In response to the question concerning satisfaction in 12 given areas of life, it would appear that the farming population and indeed the remainder of the population are most satisfied with “family”, “health” and “education”. Both groups were most dissatisfied with “stable political and economic basic conditions” and “having enough time”. On the whole, the farming population makes a much stronger distinction in these assessments than the remaining population. The ranking of satisfaction with the various areas of life has remained much the same over the last 16 years.

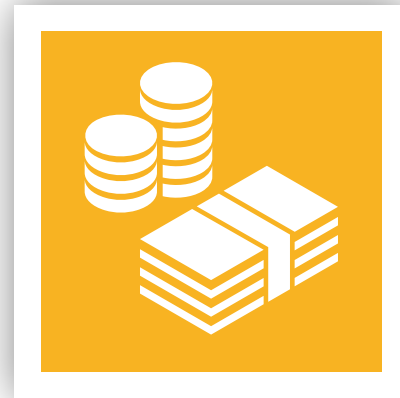


Farming income

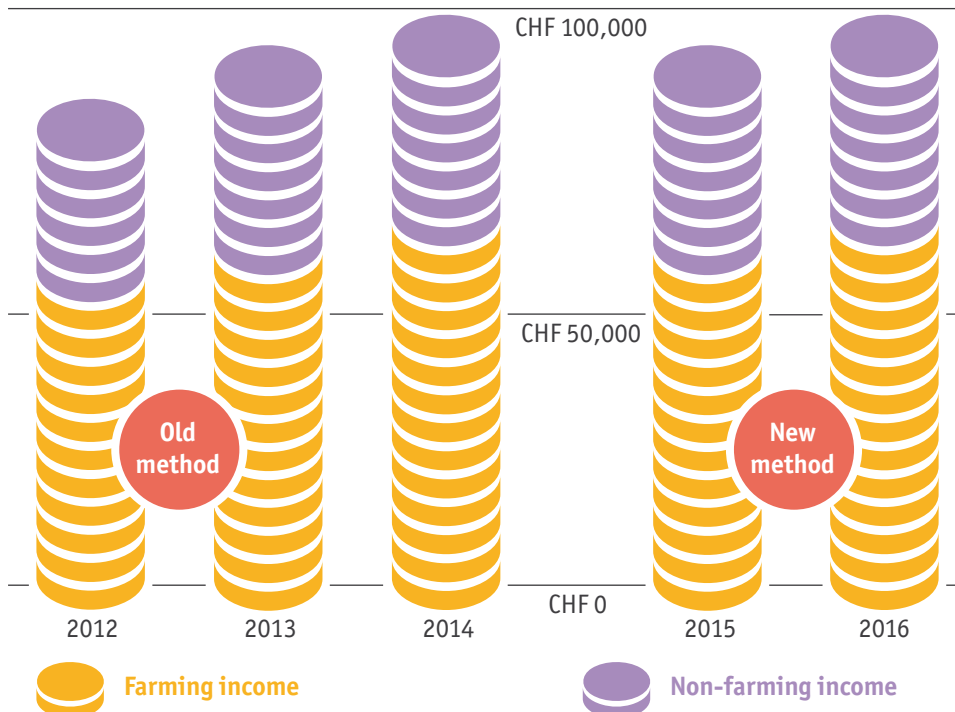
During the analysis, the data from the individual farms was weighted so that the income of Swiss farms could be portrayed as close to reality as possible.

The results on farming income in 2016 were based on a sample of 2,100 selected farms.

Farming income in 2016 amounted to around CHF 64,300 per farm on average. It had risen by 4.7% compared to the previous year.



**2016:
CHF 64,300
per farm**



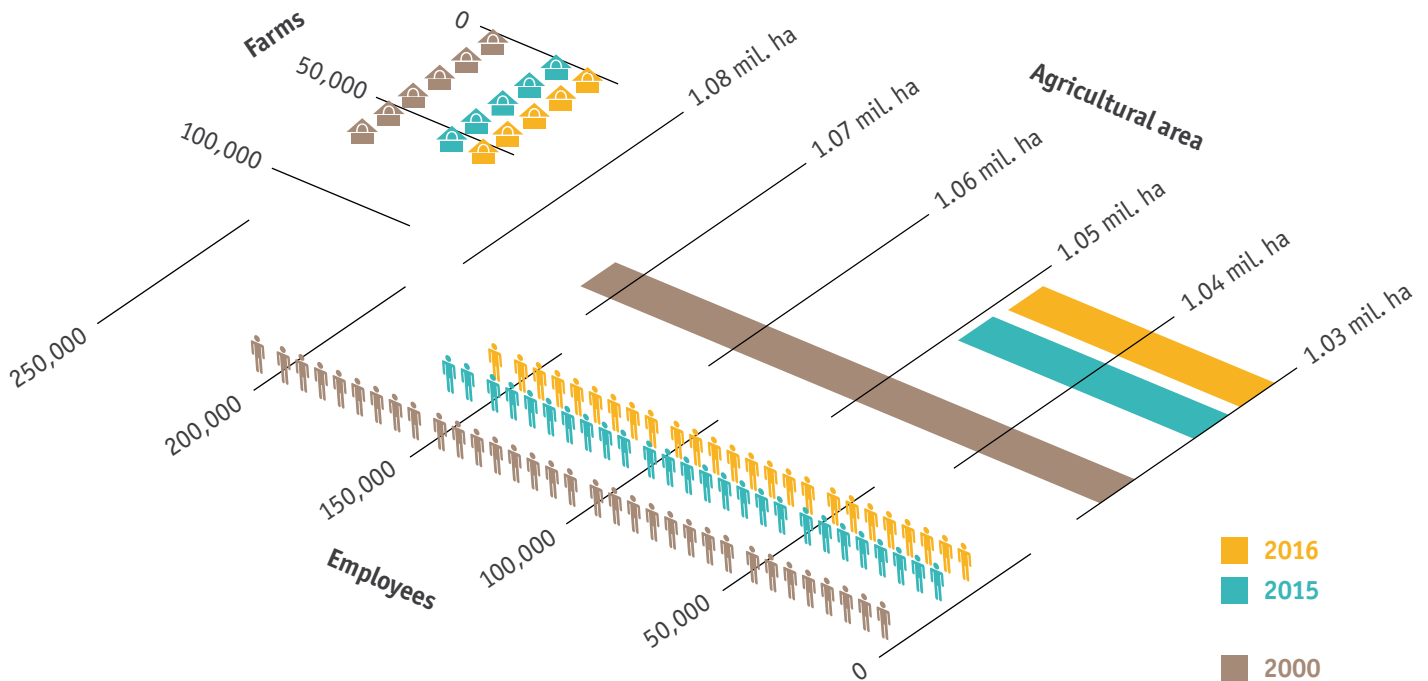


52,263 farms
153,359 employees
1,049,071 ha agricultural land

Structural change

There were around 52,300 farms in Switzerland in 2016. That is 1.9% less than the previous year. These farms managed agricultural land of 1.05 million hectares. One farm cultivated land of 20.1 hectares on average. Since the turn of the millennium, the number of farms has decreased by 18,300 units or by 1.9% annually.

In 2016, 153,400 people were working in the farming industry, 1.3% less than the previous year. Compared to the year 2000, there were around 50,400 fewer people working in the industry in 2016.

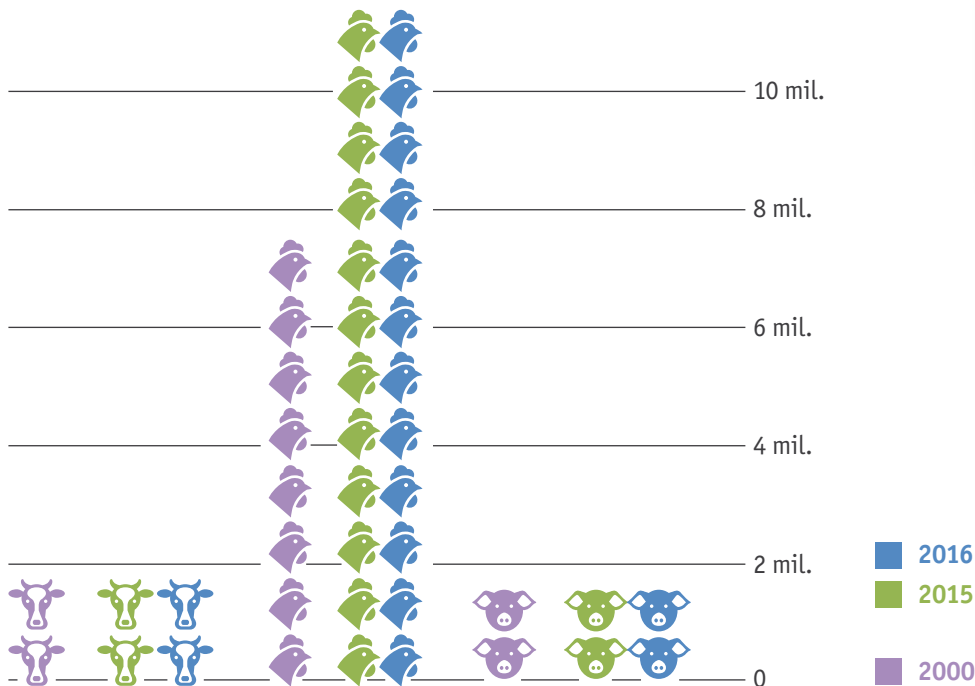


Source: Federal Statistical Office

Livestock farmers and livestock holdings

The number of livestock farmers has been on the decline for years. In the year under review, more than 36,100 farms kept cattle, around 6,600 kept pigs and almost 12,400 kept chickens.

Livestock holdings have developed in different ways in recent years. The cattle population has dropped slightly and numbered around 696,600 animals in 2016. Pig stock decreased by 2.8% and amounted to around 1.45 million animals in 2016. Poultry stock on the other hand has been growing for years and there were 10.89 million animals in 2016.



**2000/02–2016:
poultry stock
+57%**



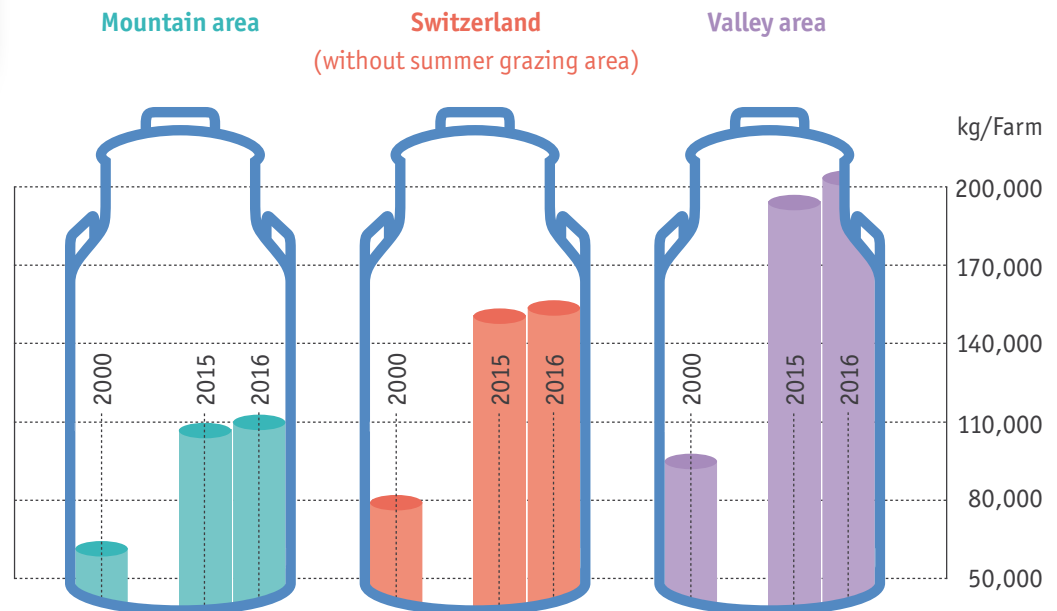
Better development opportunities in valley areas



Milk production

Dairy farming is the most important branch of the Swiss farming sector with a share of around 20% of the entire agricultural sector. Total milk production amounted to around 4 million tonnes in the year under review.

There were around 21,100 milk producers in Switzerland in 2016, 11,200 of these were based in the valleys and 9,900 in the mountain areas. On average, a valley farm brought around 200,200 kg to market and a mountain farm 108,200 kg. Over the last ten years, the quantity of milk supplied from valley farms has increased by 63% and that supplied from mountain farms by 45%.



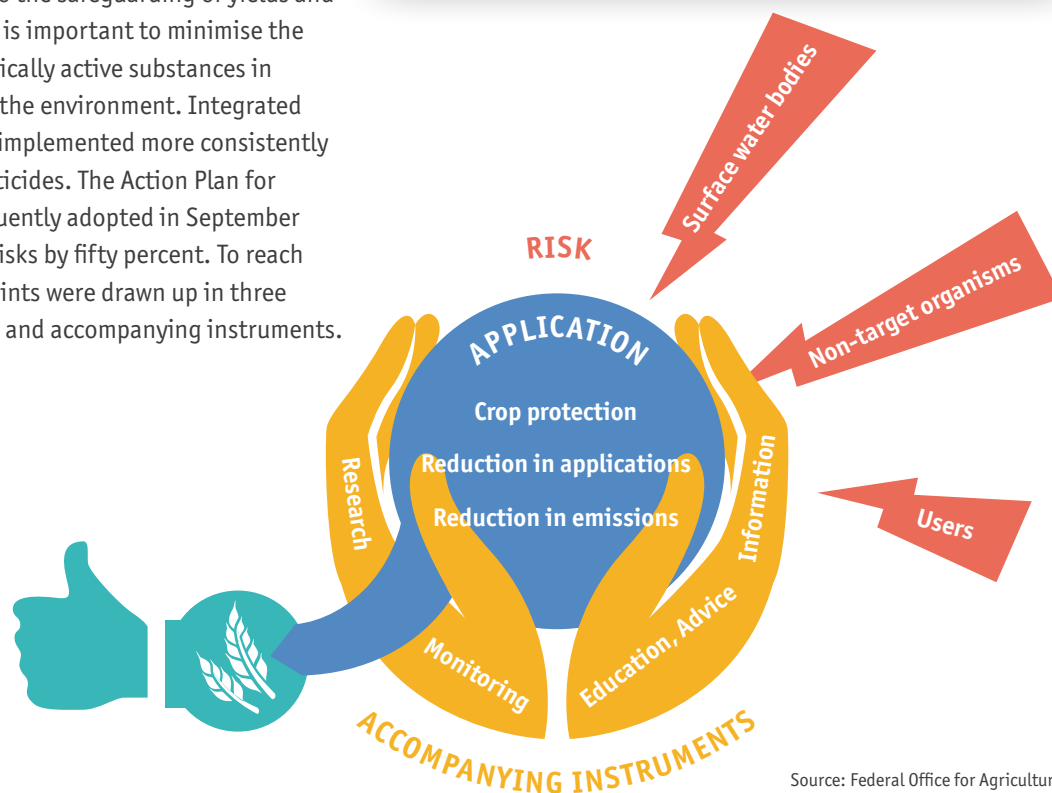
Action plan for pesticides

Plants and crops need to be protected against diseases and pests as well as weeds that may compete with the crops. Switzerland has gradually been introducing integrated plant protection for this purpose over the last few decades. The principle here is that chemical control measures are only used as a last resort when preventive and non-chemical measures no longer offer sufficient protection.

New pests and high pest pressure mean that farmers are still in no position to completely dispense with the use of pesticides. They make a vital contribution to the safeguarding of yields and the quality of crops. However, it is important to minimise the unwelcome effects of the biologically active substances in pesticides on man, animals and the environment. Integrated plant protection should also be implemented more consistently to further reduce the use of pesticides. The Action Plan for Pesticide Reduction was consequently adopted in September 2017. The goal is to reduce the risks by fifty percent. To reach this goal, a total of 50 action points were drawn up in three areas: application, specific risks and accompanying instruments.



Goal: To reduce the risks by fifty percent

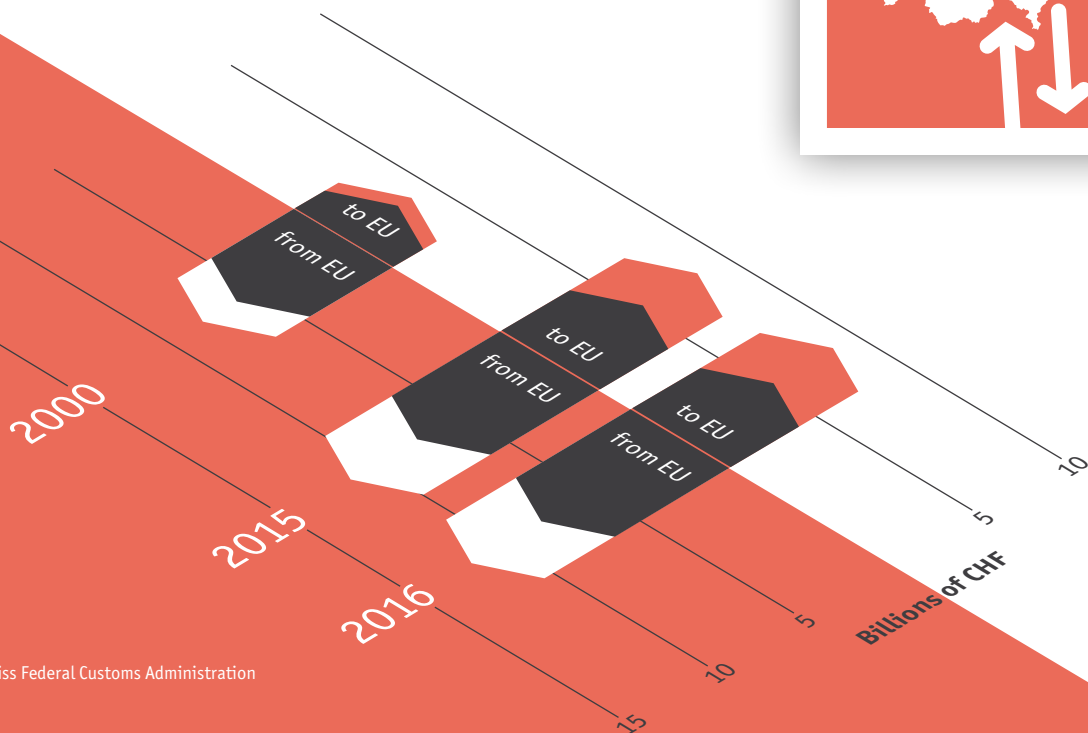
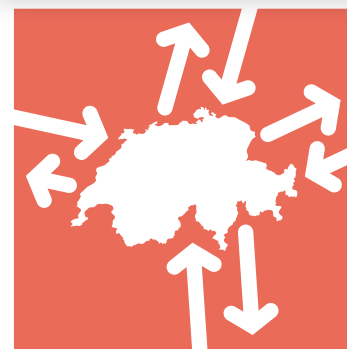


International trade with agricultural products

Trade with agricultural products generally enjoyed dynamic growth in 2016. Compared to 2015, the value of imports rose by CHF 0.4 billion to CHF 11.9 billion and exports rose CHF 0.2 billion to CHF 8.7 billion. Since 2000, the value of imports has risen by CHF 3.4 billion to CHF 11.9 billion and exports have risen by CHF 5.2 billion to CHF 8.7 billion.

In 2016, 74.5 % of imported agricultural products came from the EU. In return, 60 % of exports went to the EU.

The EU is Switzerland's most important trading partner



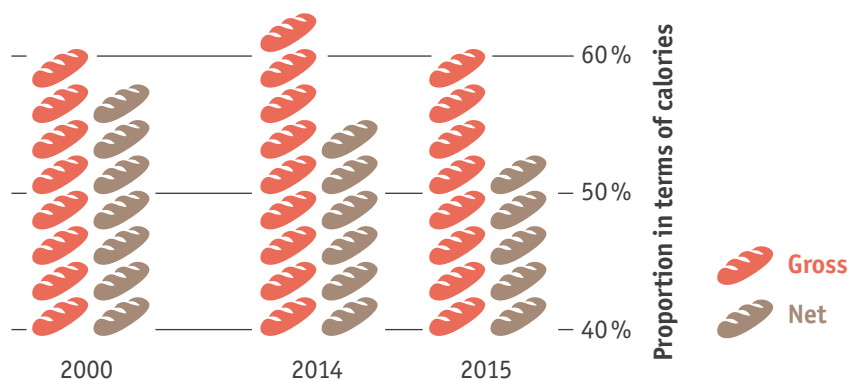
Source: Swiss Federal Customs Administration

Level of self-sufficiency

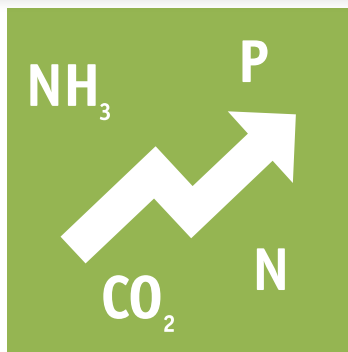
The degree of self-sufficiency is defined as the ratio of domestic production to domestic total consumption. A distinction is made between the gross and the net level of self-sufficiency. The net level of self-sufficiency takes into account that a part of domestic production relies on imported feeding stuffs. Consequently, when calculating the net level of self-sufficiency, the animal domestic production is reduced by that portion which is produced with imported feeding stuffs.

The gross level of self-sufficiency was 59% in 2015. That is 4 percentage points less than the previous year. Taken over a longer period, the gross level of self-sufficiency has remained at about 60%.

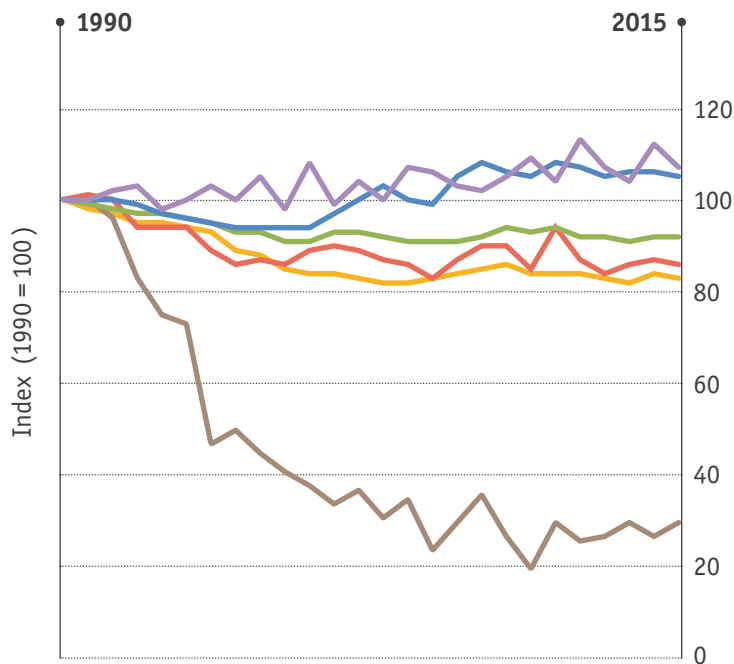
The net level of self-sufficiency reached 51% in 2015 and was therefore, like the gross level of self-sufficiency, 4 percentage points less than the previous year.



**Gross level of
self-sufficiency
59% in 2015**



No reductions in emissions for 10 years



Agri-environmental indicators

An agri-environmental profile has been compiled for Switzerland since 1990 using the indicators energy consumption and production, nitrogen and phosphorous balance and ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions.

The overall picture shows clear reductions in emissions, nitrogen and phosphorous surpluses (input minus output of N and P) and energy consumption in the years 1990 to 2000. These indicators have flatlined since 2000 with the exception of energy consumption which rose between 2000 and 2007. These observations need to be seen in the light of the particularly strong growth in agricultural production since the year 2000. For example, nitrogen and phosphorous efficiency (output divided by input of N and P) showed a slight and steady rise while energy efficiency (ratio of produced to consumed energy) remained stable.

As at 2015

52 011 TJ	Energy consumption
23 312 TJ	Energy production
8,2 Mt CO ₂ -equiv.	Greenhouse gas emissions
111,7 kt	N balance
47,7 kt NH ₃	Ammonia emissions
6,1 kt	P balance

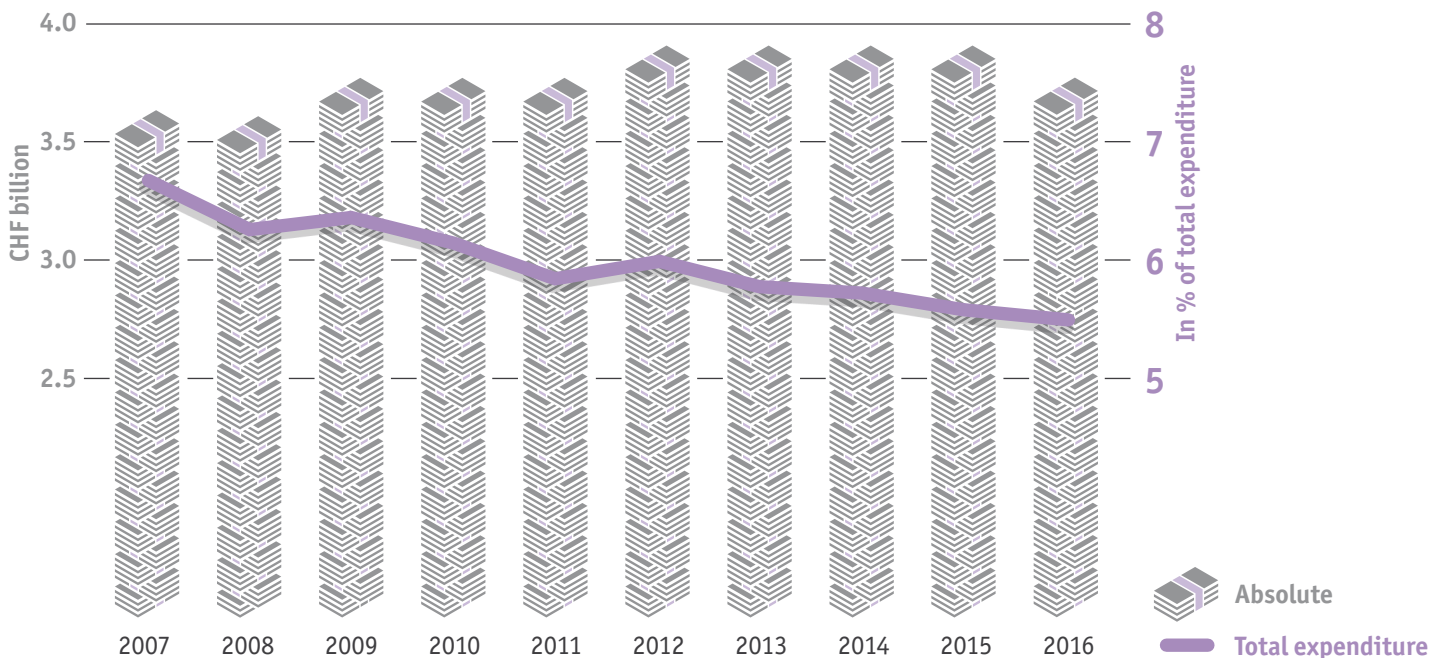


Expenditure on agriculture and food

The Federation spent around CHF 3.7 billion on agriculture and food in 2016. The expenditure on agriculture and food is therefore ranked sixth after social services (CHF 22.532 billion), finance and taxes (CHF 9.152 billion), transport (CHF 9.104 billion), education and research (CHF 7.133 billion) and national defence (CHF 4.631 billion).

The percentage of the total federal expenditure allotted to agriculture and food was 5.5% in 2016.

2016:
CHF 3.659 billion





Sustainable and resilient food systems for an effective change

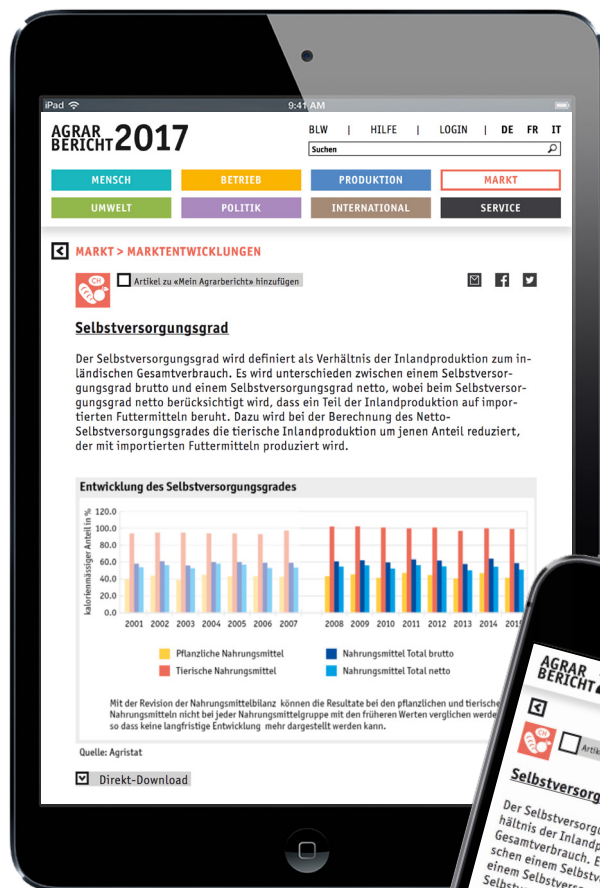
Hunger, malnutrition and agriculture's huge ecological footprint are problems that do not recognise national borders. The associated challenges can only be tackled at a global level and by joining forces.

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its Sustainability Goal 2 aims to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition for all human beings by the year 2030. This requires a change towards more sustainable food systems and more resilient agricultural practices. The United Nations' 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP) offers a specific mechanism to support the necessary change. The Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme in the 10YFP promotes sustainability by adopting a holistic systems approach along the entire value-added chain from farm to table. The promotion of sustainable and healthy nutrition patterns as well as the reduction in food waste are also on the agenda in this multi-stakeholder partnership.

A world without hunger and malnutrition by 2030

2 ZERO HUNGER





Agricultural Report 2017

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