

AGRICULTURAL REPORT 2022 COMPACT



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An overview of 2022

The issue of food security became unusually prominent this year. Following on from the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine presented new fundamental challenges to the international supply chain. Well functioning and resilient trade relations are particularly important for Switzerland as a net agricultural importer. Switzerland's good network ensured consistent food supply and production security. The daily work of the Swiss agriculture and agrifood sectors is just as important as international trade. Within the framework of the current production portfolio and consumer preferences, Switzerland covers 56% of its food needs.

The Federal Council aims to further strengthen food security through sustainable development, and has laid out a longterm perspective for the sector in its report on the future development of Switzerland's agricultural policy (available in German, French and Italian). The Federal Council's agricultural policy strategy is relevant to all stakeholders: farmers, suppliers, intermediaries, processors and consumers. Food security can be further strengthened through cooperation and shared commitment among stakeholders.

This brochure provides a compact overview of selected developments in Swiss agriculture. On behalf of the Federal Office for Agriculture, we hope you enjoy the publication. More detailed information can be found on the www.agrarbericht.ch website. The related QR codes also lead you to more detailed information.

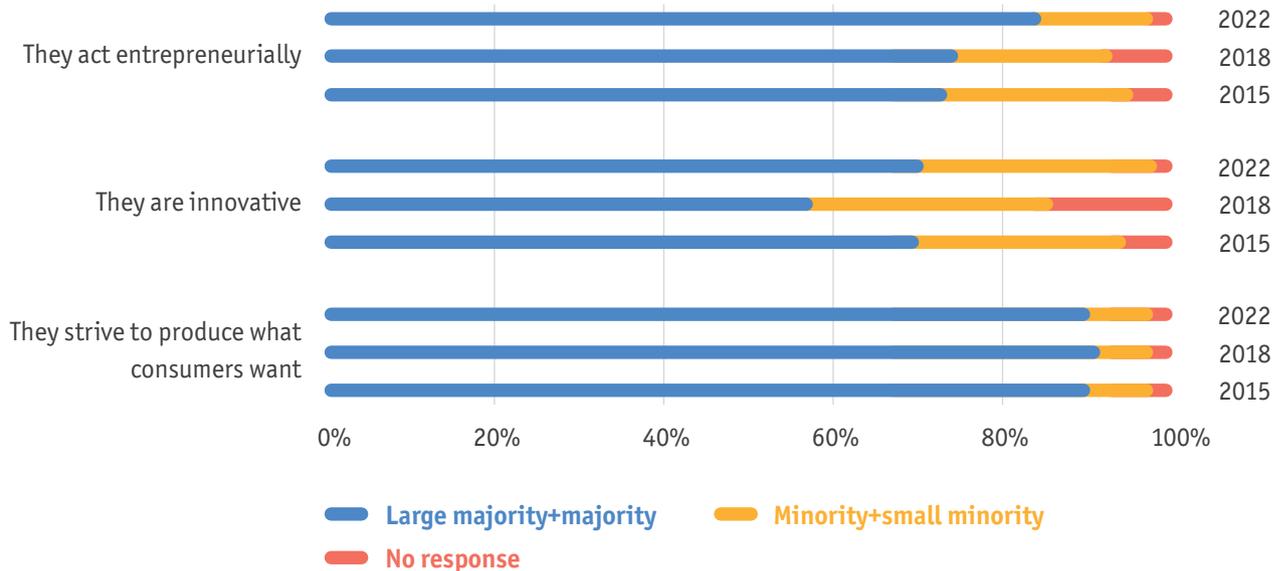


Good reputation among the general public

The public considers three areas of agriculture to be particularly important: food security during times of crisis, food production and animal-friendly husbandry. Compared to the last survey by market and social research institute gfs-zürich, supply in particular is weighted more heavily during a crisis. When asked about their views on the attitude towards farmers, the majority of the 700 respondents had a very positive picture. Nine out of ten people are of the opinion that farmers strive to produce what consumers want. Comparing data spanning from 2009 to 2022, Swiss agriculture also enjoys a very good overall image among the general public. In addition, respondents are somewhat more accepting of opening up markets for agricultural products and foodstuffs than they were four years ago.



Innovative and entrepreneurial



Source: gfs-zürich

Family farms still the cornerstone

The employment trend in agriculture shifted this year, as the number of people working in the industry increased for the first time in several years, reaching 150,200 workers. More than half of employees worked parttime. Family farms are still the cornerstone of Swiss agriculture, with family members comprising more than three quarters of workers. Of the approximately 54,700 women working on farms in 2021, 6% worked as farm managers. The share of farms run by women is increasing slightly, a trend that is most noticeable among small farms. On arable land, 3% more cereals were grown; wheat, oats and spelt wheat showed the greatest increase. There was a sharp decline in area used for sugar beet cultivation (-8%).

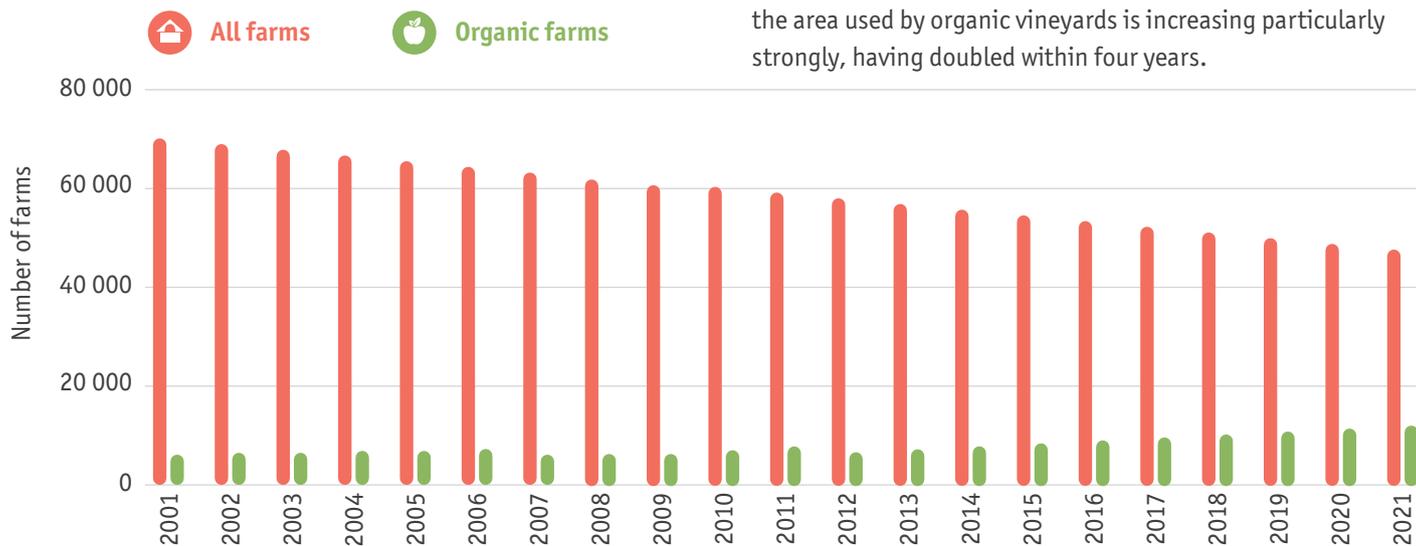
The number of dairy cows remained stable, while the number of pigs and the poultry population are increasing. The number of



More women farm managers

broiler chickens grew by 1.3% due to increasing consumption of domestic poultry.

On the other hand, the overall number of farms continues to decline, albeit more slowly, now at a rate of -1%. The number of organic farms continues to increase. In terms of cultivated area, the area used by organic vineyards is increasing particularly strongly, having doubled within four years.



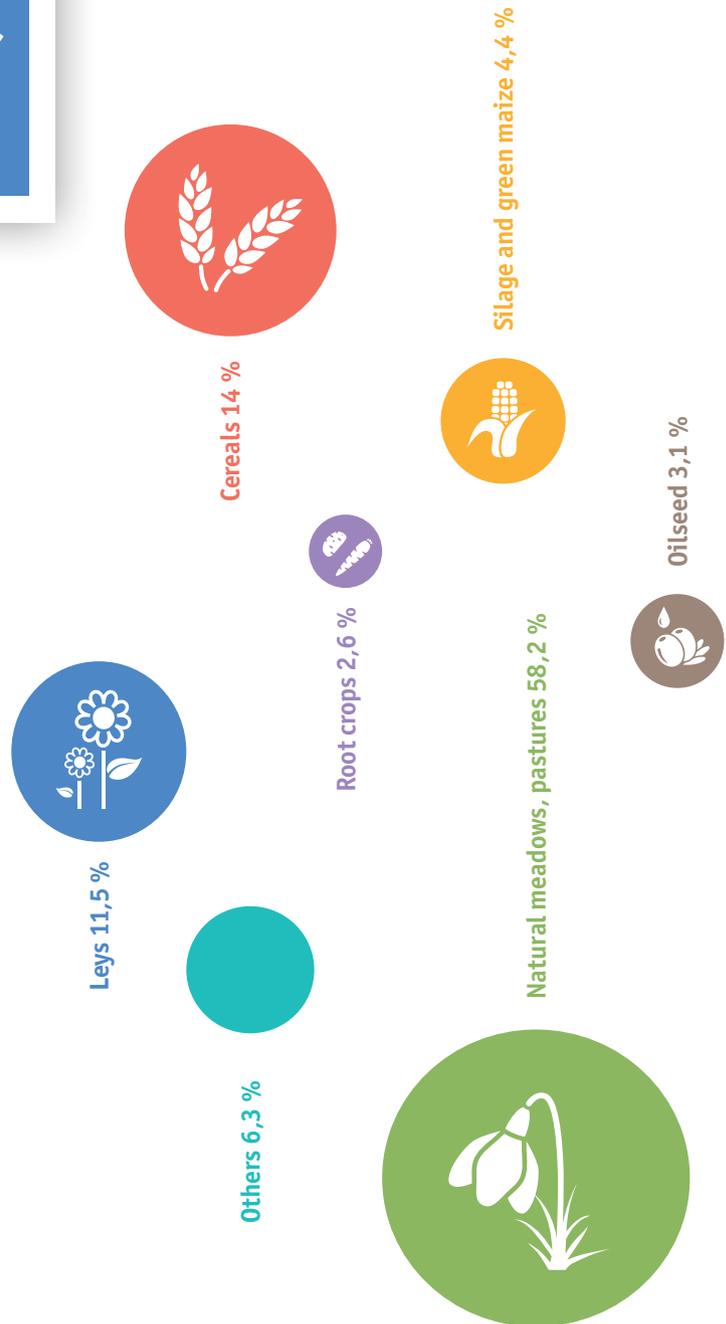


More vegetables and cereals

Agricultural land declines further

An agricultural area is made up of arable crops, permanent crops outside arable land, natural meadows and pastures, as well as areas used for other purposes, including litter and peat land. The overall decline of agricultural land continued in the reporting year, driven by the ongoing expansion of infrastructure and settlement areas.

There were slight shifts within the remaining areas. While the area of open arable land increased slightly again in 2021, the area of leys continued to decline. The area used for cereals, oilseed and vegetables all increased. The area of vineyards and cane fruit remained about the same as in the previous year.



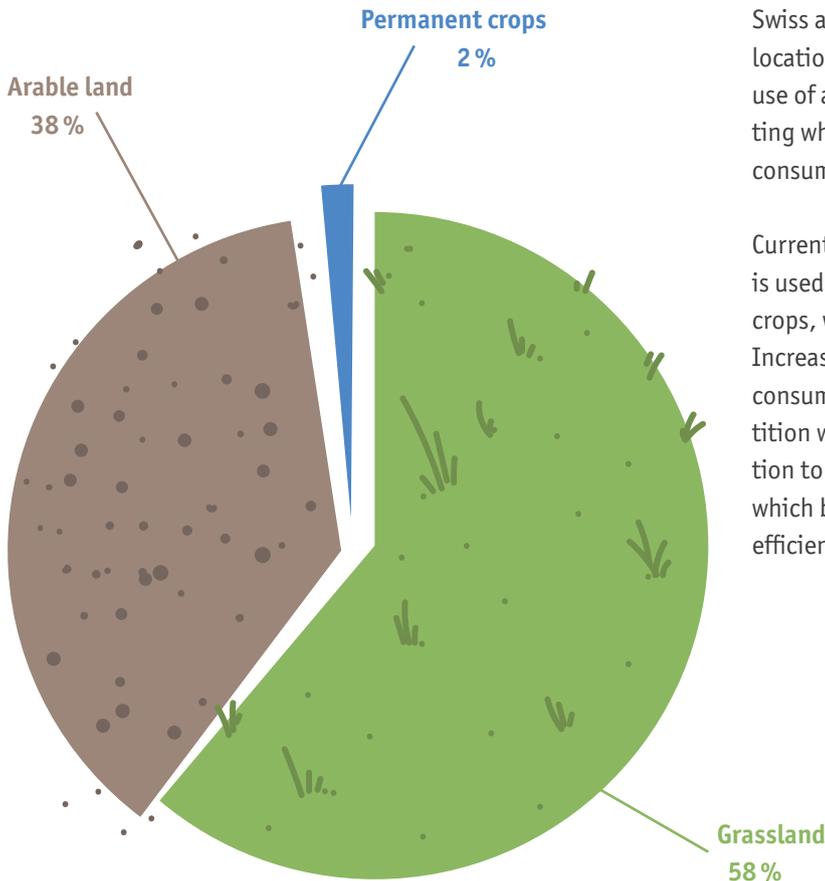
58 per cent
grassland



Sustainable management of agricultural land

Swiss agricultural policy endeavours to adapt production to its location. The FOAG therefore supports efforts to optimise the use of agricultural land. For example, one project is investigating which sites are preferable for growing food for direct human consumption and which are suitable for grassland.

Currently, around 58% of the agricultural land in Switzerland is used as grassland, 38% as arable land and 2% as permanent crops, with 60% of arable land being used to grow animal feed. Increased use of arable land to produce food for direct human consumption while simultaneously reducing feed–food competition would make an important contribution to the transformation to a sustainable food system. The KlimaStaR Milk project, which began in 2022, addresses this potential for greater efficiency.



Monitoring plant health

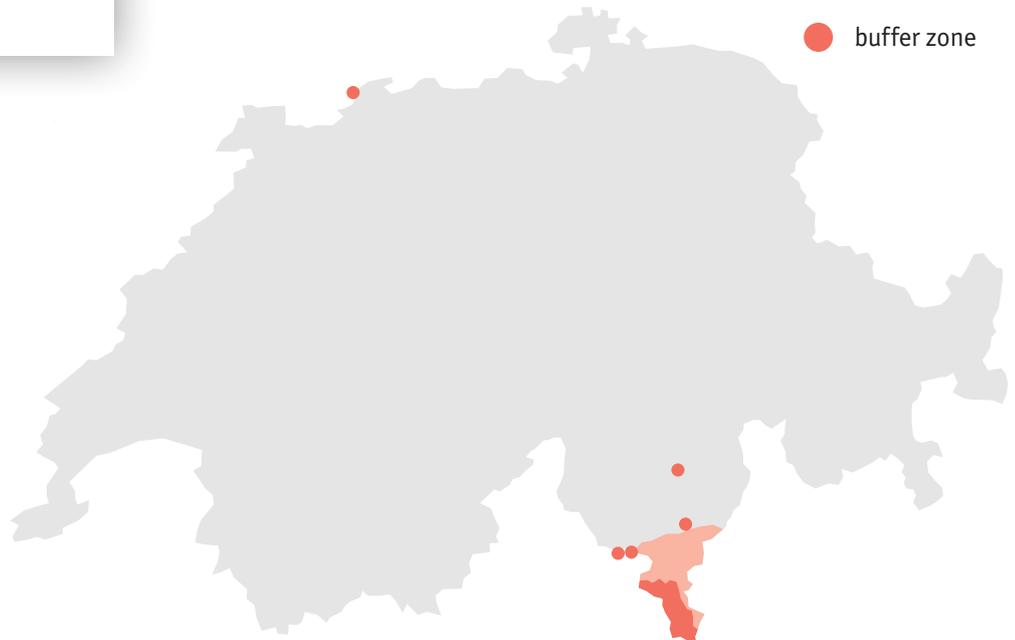
Particularly harmful organisms such as viruses, bacteria and fungi can have a massive impact on agricultural production. The work of the Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service (SPPS) is therefore essential. The SPPS is tasked with preventing quarantine pests from being introduced into Switzerland. The new Plant Health Ordinance that came into force in 2020 strengthens the monitoring and control tasks. There are various ways to track down pests and pathogens. In addition to visual checks (e.g. disease symptoms or feeding damage), attractant traps can be set up, for example.

Fast and efficient action is important in an emergency. In order to control quarantine pests – the Japanese beetle or the Jordan virus, for example – action must be taken as quickly as possible in the event of a positive laboratory finding. The SPPS therefore works closely with the cantonal offices and other experts. It also provides the European Commission with all laboratory data and information collected by the cantons as part of Swiss monitoring. This allows the protection of the common phytosanitary area of Switzerland and the EU. Publicly accessible survey maps are also produced.

Protection against bacteria and pests



- Japanese beetle:
- Infested zone
- buffer zone
- buffer zone

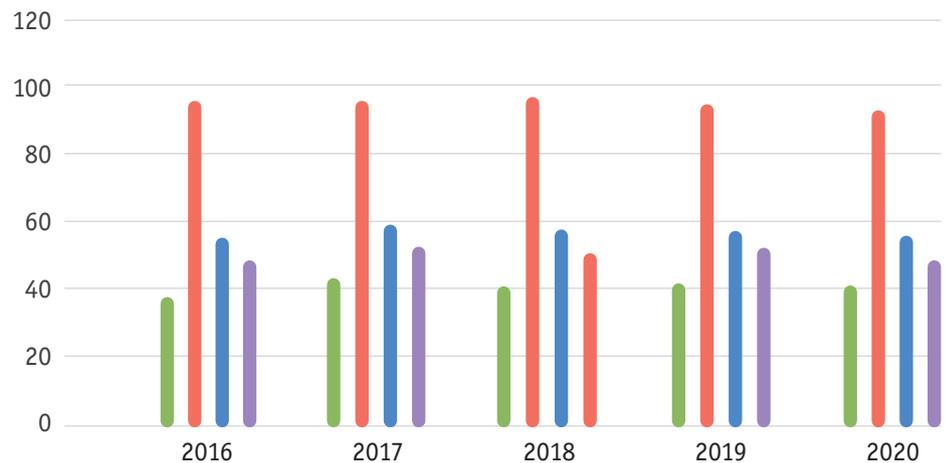


Key figure in times of crisis

Agriculture makes an important contribution to food security. Within the framework of the current production portfolio and consumer preferences, Switzerland's gross self-sufficiency ratio (SSR) stands at 56% (49% net). The country attains its highest self-sufficiency ratio for milk and dairy products, where more than 100% of domestic demand is produced. The production of veal, beef and pork is also stable; here, the ratio of self-sufficiency is 85% to 97%. Agriculture provided for a high domestic share in the case of plant products, especially for table potatoes and bread grain. Good growing and harvesting conditions allowed for higher self-sufficiency in the reporting year – with 81% and 90%, respectively – than in the two previous years. The self-sufficiency ratio for stone and pome fruit (86%) also increased compared to the previous year. Taking all foods into account, the SSR is down slightly. This trend is mainly due to the fact that the population has grown more quickly than food production.



High level of self-sufficiency in milk and dairy products



Source: Agristat

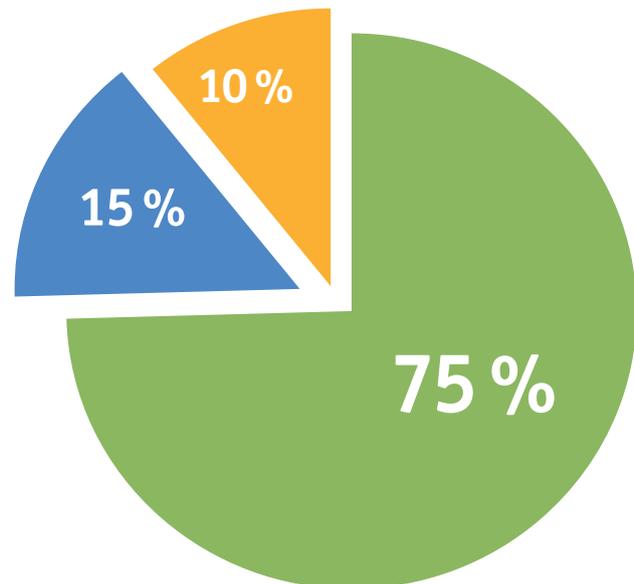
Adapting farming practices to specific locations



Ensuring basic production

The Confederation pays what are known as food supply security contributions in order to secure the production of basic foodstuffs in Switzerland. Farmers receive these contributions according to the area they farm. The focus is on the cultivation of crops that are important for food production. The food supply security contributions are divided into a basic contribution, a contribution for production difficulties in hill and mountain regions, and a contribution for open arable land and permanent crops.

In the year under review, the Confederation paid CHF 1.08 billion. The basic contribution makes up the largest part of the food supply security contribution (75%). The remainder is divided between the contribution for production difficulties (15%) and the contribution for open arable land and permanent crops (10%). The average amount per farm is slowly but steadily increasing each year due to structural change.

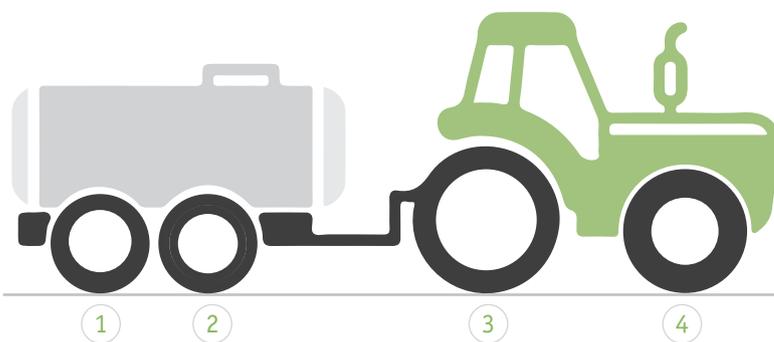


- Basic contribution
- Contribution for production difficulties
- Open arable land and permanent crops

Protecting soil fertility

Farmers driving heavy tractors or machines on their fields and meadows can have consequences for the soil. In wet conditions, these loads – in some cases a total weight of more than 50 tonnes – can cause soil to become irreversibly compacted. Plants' growing conditions thus deteriorate, as they cannot take up water as well, they absorb fewer nutrients and root growth is restricted as a result. This in turn has a negative effect on the fertility of the soil and leads to lower yields. Appropriate tools can help prevent this kind of damage. Agroscope and the National Competence Centre for Soil (KOBO) are developing overview maps of risk areas on behalf of the FOAG, in order to enable farmers to adapt their farming practices to their specific locations. Tools like Terranimo® (which also works on smartphones and tablets) allow farmers to better assess the risk of soil compaction under certain conditions. This helps them to ensure that their soil remains fertile and to secure their yields.

For security of supply



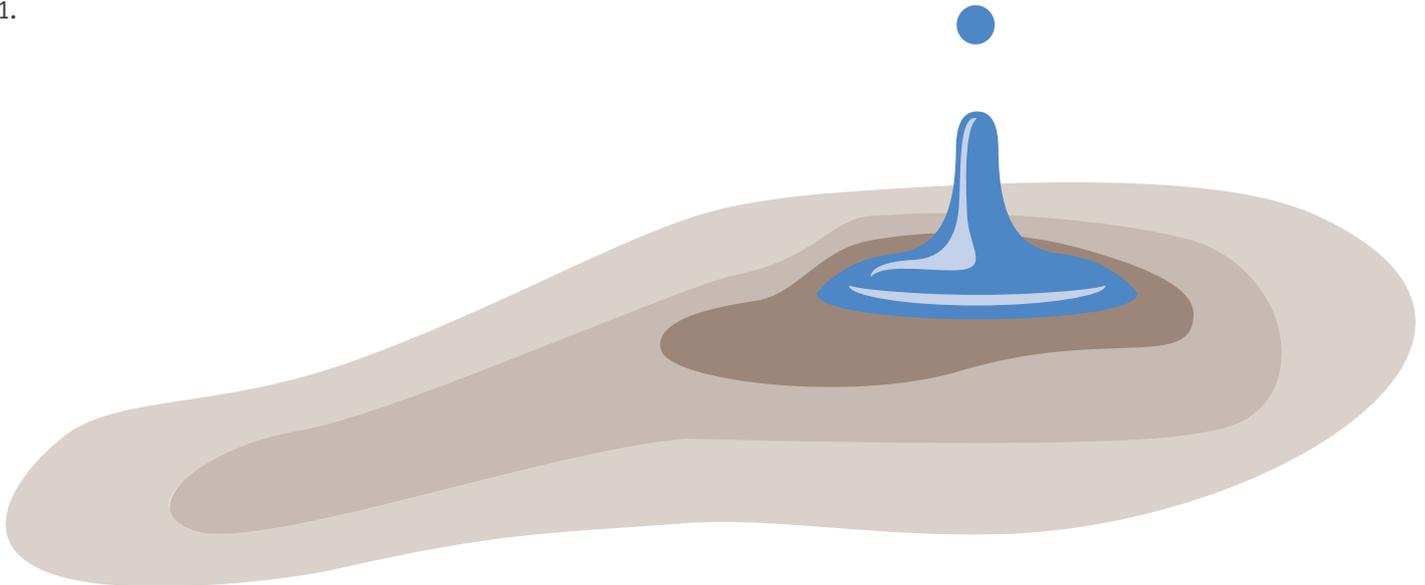
Measures for clean water

The protection of water bodies in agricultural areas is of great importance to the Confederation. It is therefore undertaking targeted projects to ensure good-quality groundwater, water-courses and lakes. Substances such as nitrate, phosphorus and plant protection products can enter the water through agriculture. If the concentration of such substances exceeds the limit values, the canton responsible must determine the extent and causes and take appropriate action.

These measures can lead to significant restrictions on land use and the associated loss of income for farms. Federal funds from the agricultural water protection programme are available to compensate for this loss of income. Compensation was paid in 27 cantonal water protection projects during the reporting year. In most cases, the purpose of the projects was to reduce nitrate pollution in groundwater. CHF 4.6 million was paid for this in 2021.



Water protection projects

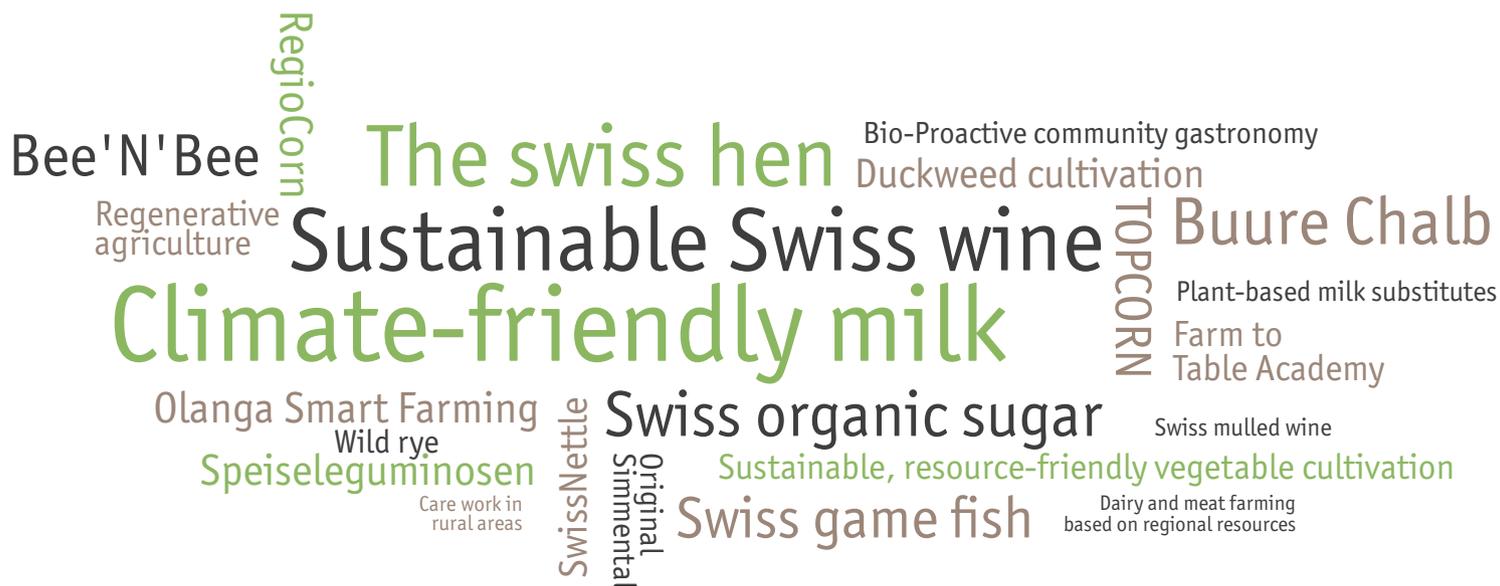




Entrepreneurial freedoms

Innovation as a key factor

Innovation is a key factor in the success of any business. That is why Swiss agricultural policy provides funding that aims to create entrepreneurial freedom for farmers to develop new ideas. Almost 50 projects received financial support in the reporting year. The demand for project funding remains stable and covers an extremely diverse range of projects. The projects receiving support included a soup chicken marketing analysis intended to reduce food waste and a feasibility study of creating a brand for Swiss game fish. Examples like these show how innovative projects can strengthen the competitiveness of the Swiss agriculture and agri-food industry.



International relations strengthen food security

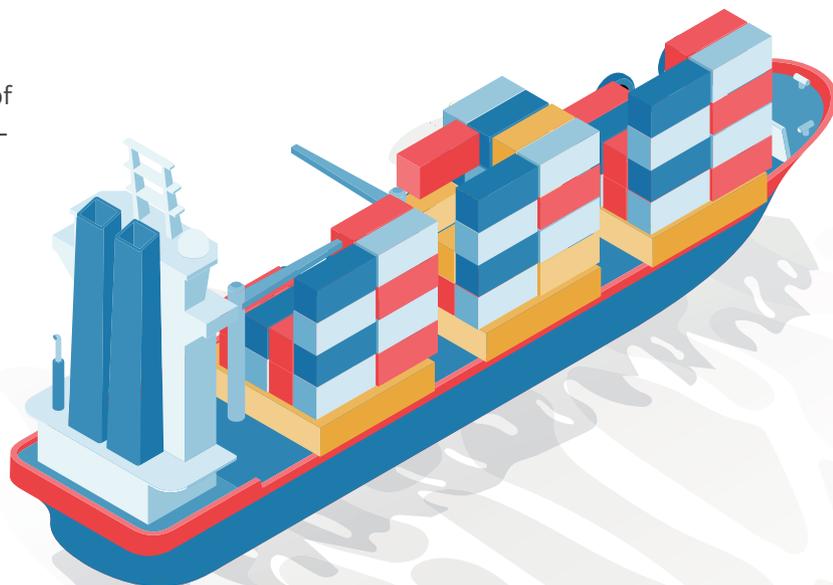
International relations focused on global food security this year. The war in Ukraine confronted the international supply chain with fundamental new challenges before it had even recovered from the effects of the pandemic. Well functioning and resilient trade relations are decisive for Switzerland as a net agricultural importer.

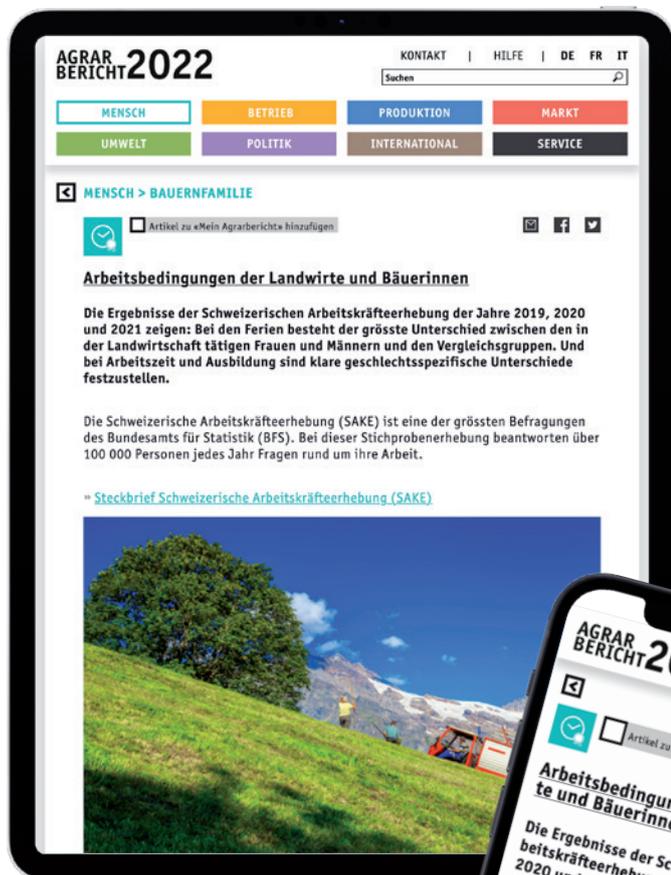
Switzerland is a member of the International Grains Council (IGC), whose activities were particularly relevant during the crisis. The IGC quickly provided information regarding price developments and production and trade volumes, which made an important contribution to maintaining international supply chains.

The WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva also focused on strengthening global food security, as ministers reaffirmed the important role of open and predictable international agricultural markets.

The OECD also engaged with issues of food security in times of change and uncertainty. It focused on ways of increasing sustainable productivity, strengthening livelihoods and promoting agriculture's ecosystem services.

Maintaining supply chains





Agricultural Report 2022

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!



www.agrarbericht.ch

