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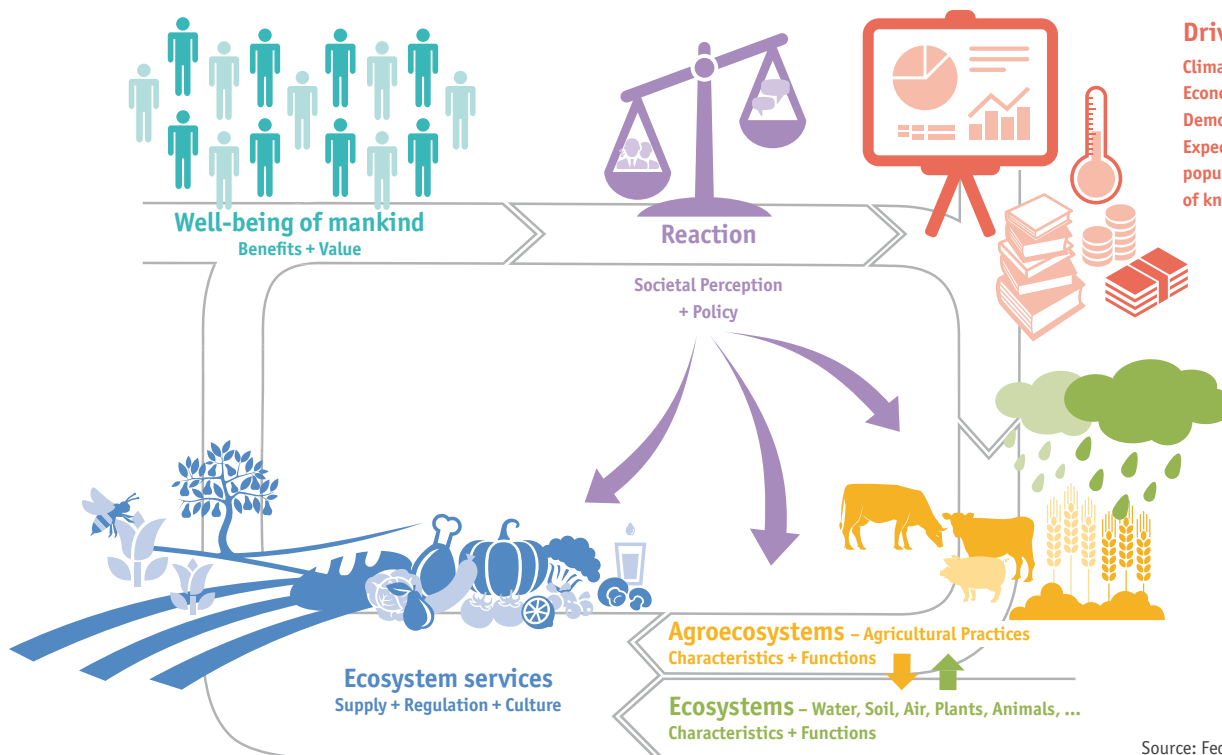
## The agroecosystem at the service of mankind

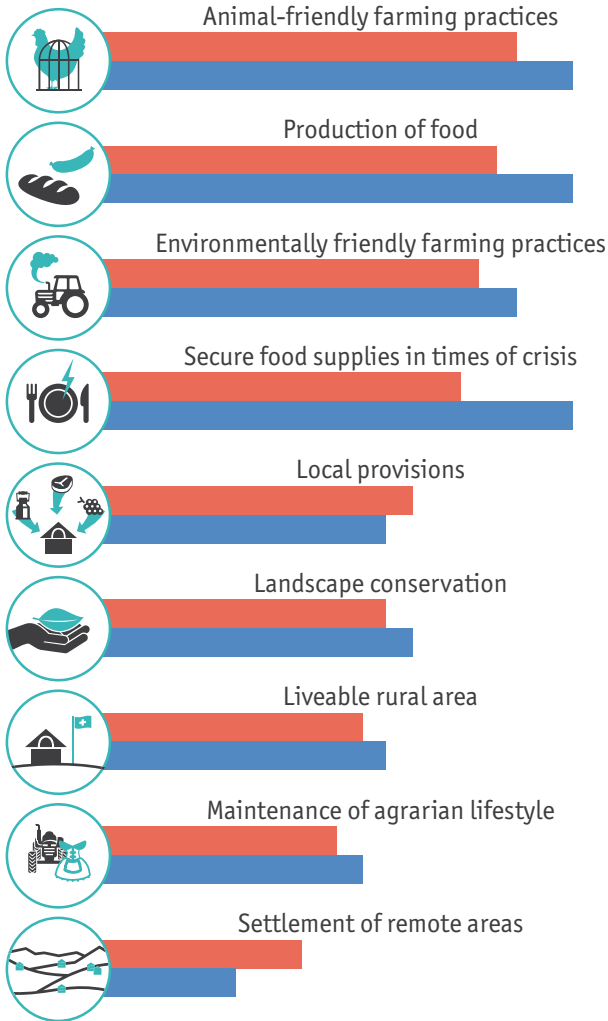
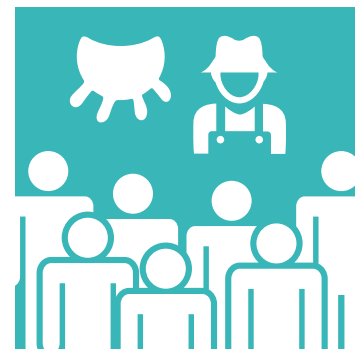
People obtain a variety of services from ecosystems that contribute to their well-being. Agroecosystems are regarded as a subset of these ecosystems and are used and protected by the stakeholders in agriculture. The resulting services include the supply of food, the creation of valuable habitats to preserve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

While agriculture uses the natural resources of ecosystems to provide crop and livestock products, farmers also 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. It is also crucial to accord production output its rightful place in the ecosystem.

The Agricultural Report 2018 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 2018 compact” depicts selected topics.





# Animal-friendly farming practices and production most important

## The Swiss population's perception of agriculture

The Swiss population regard animal-friendly farming practices and the production of food as the most important areas of responsibility of the agricultural industry. Compared to the 2012 survey, the differences in importance between the various areas of responsibility have become less marked in 2018.

● 2018    ● 2012

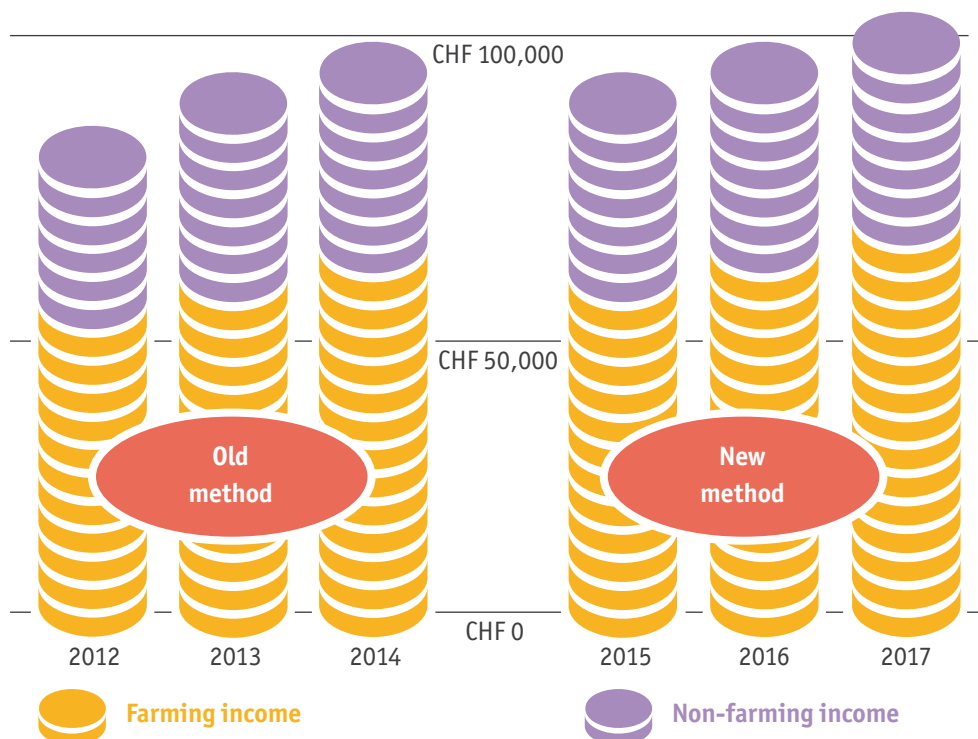
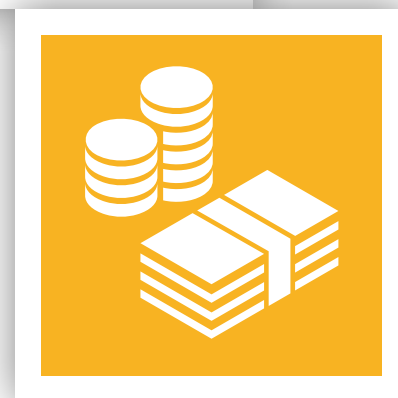
## Farming income

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 2017 were based on a sample of 2,199 randomly selected farms.

Farming income in 2017 amounted to around CHF 67,800 per farm on average. It had risen by 5.6% compared to the previous year.

**2017:**  
**CHF 67,849**  
**per farm**



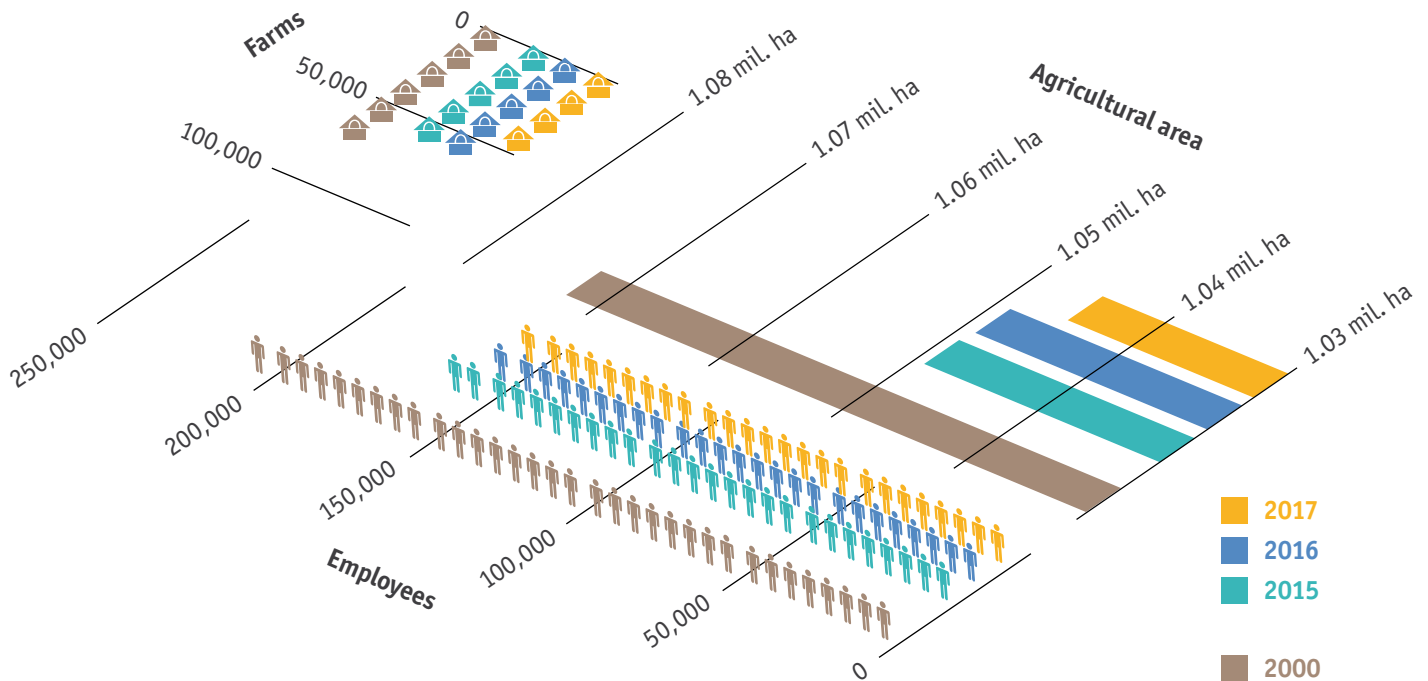


## Structural change

There were around 51,600 farms in Switzerland in 2017. That is 1.2% less than the previous year. These farms managed agricultural land of 1.046 million hectares. One farm cultivated land of 20.3 hectares on average. Since the turn of the millennium, the number of farms has decreased by almost 19,000 units or by 1.8% annually.

In 2017, 153,900 people were working in the farming industry, 0.3% more than the previous year. Compared to the year 2000, there were around 50,000 fewer people working in the industry in 2017.

**2017:**  
**51,620 farms**  
**153,864 employees**  
**1,046,109 ha agricultural land**

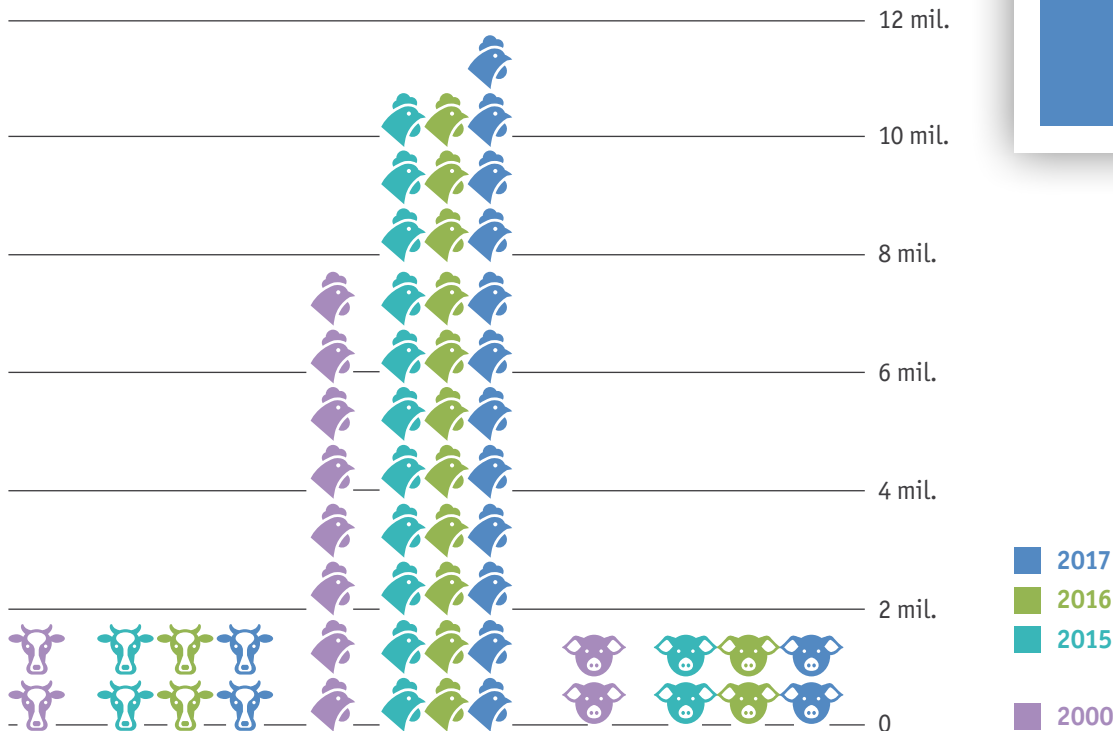


Source: Federal Statistical Office

## Livestock farmers and livestock holdings

The number of livestock farmers has been on the decline for years. In the year under review, 35,500 farms still kept cattle, around 6,400 kept pigs and almost 12,900 kept chickens.

Livestock holdings have developed in different ways in recent years. The cattle population has dropped slightly and numbered around 692,600 animals in 2017. Pig stock decreased by 0.6% and amounted to around 1.44 million animals in 2017. Poultry stock on the other hand has been growing for years and there were 11.4 million animals in 2017. For some time now, the continuing structural change has resulted in a focus on larger average holdings.



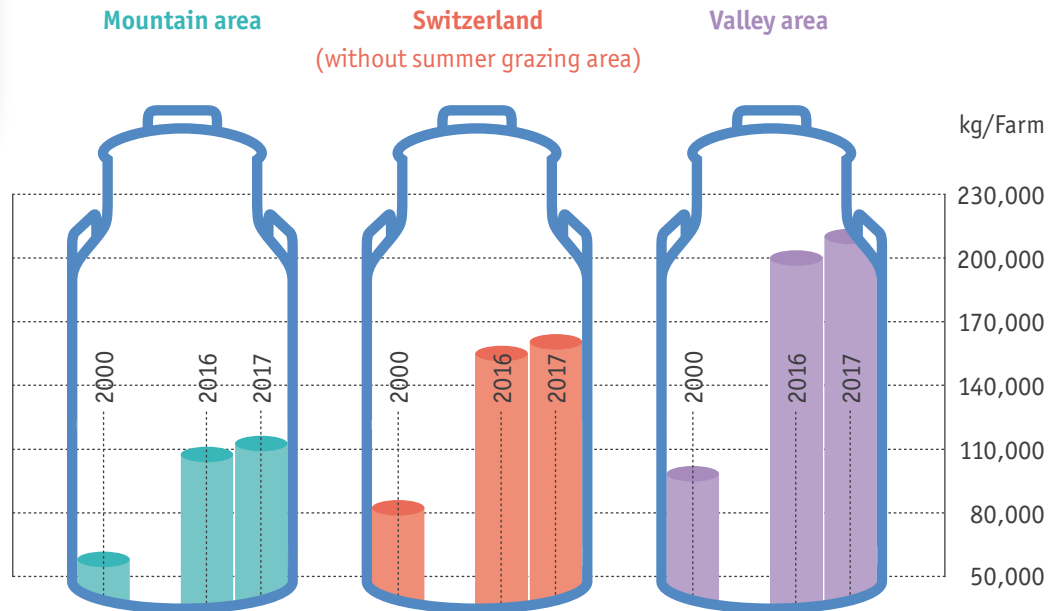
# Better development opportunities in valley areas



## Milk production

Dairy farming is the most important branch of the Swiss farming sector accounting for around 20% of total agricultural production. In the year under review, around 3.43 million tonnes of milk were brought to market which is much the same as the previous year's figure.

There were around 20,377 milk producers in Switzerland in 2017, 10,688 of these were based in the valleys and 9,689 in the mountain areas. On average, a valley farm brought around 210,100 kg to market in 2017 and a mountain farm 111,400 kg. Over the last ten years, the quantity of milk supplied from valley farms has increased by 71% and that supplied from mountain farms by 50%.

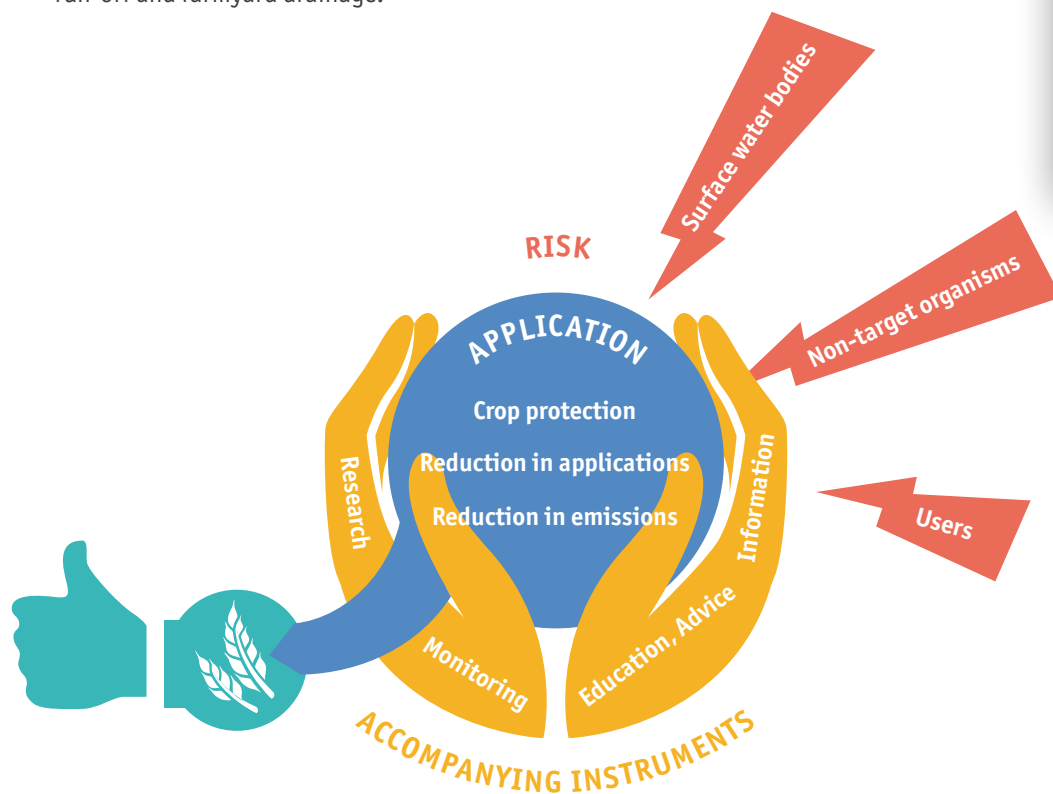


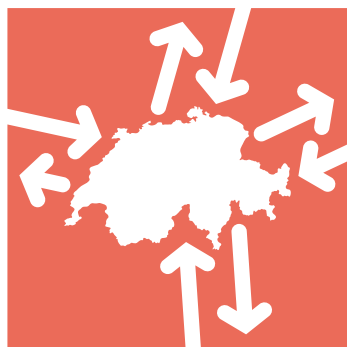


## Action plan for pesticides

The Action Plan for Pesticide Reduction was adopted by the Federal Council in September 2017. During the initial implementation phase, the focus was on reducing the uses of pesticides and on protecting water bodies. The first important measures have already been introduced one year after adopting the plan. New subsidies will be awarded to farms using fewer pesticides. The agricultural research institute Agroscope has placed a special focus on sustainable plant protection. New regulations and incentives aim to reduce discharges into surface waters via run-off and farmyard drainage.

**Goal: To reduce the risks by fifty percent**



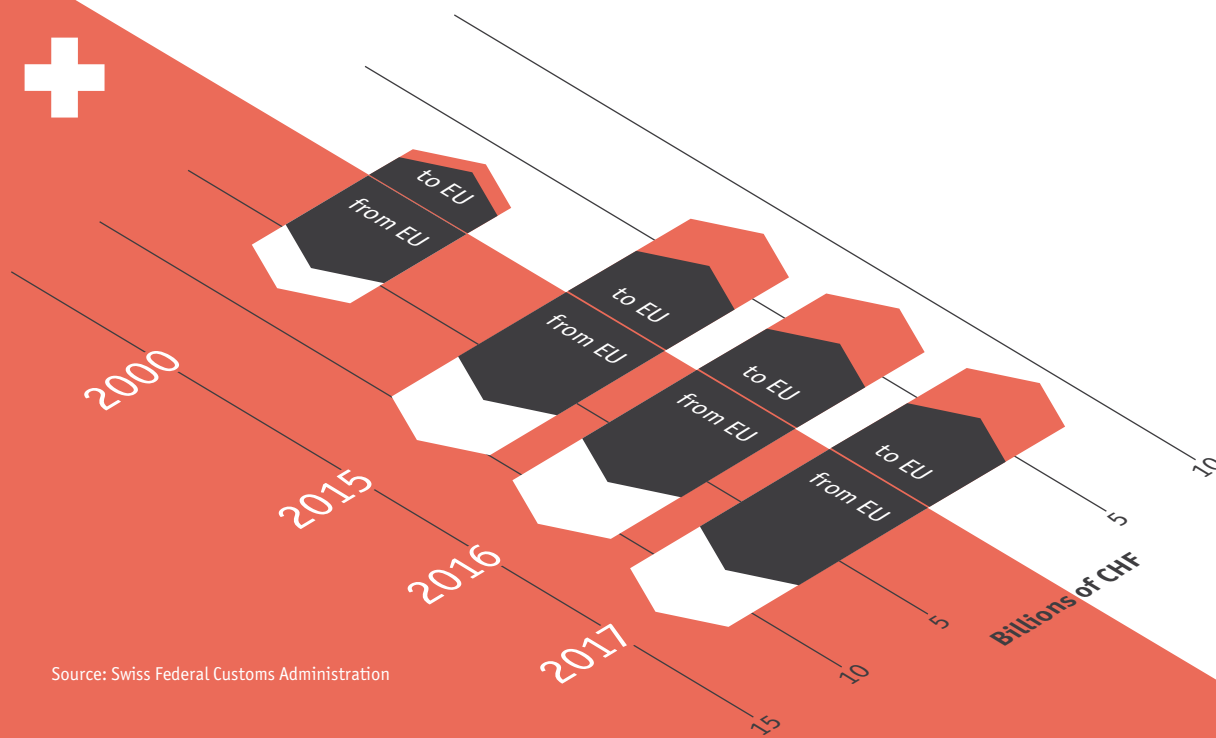


## The EU is Switzerland's most important trading partner

### International trade in agricultural products

Trade in agricultural products generally experienced dynamic growth in 2017. Switzerland imported agricultural products to a value of 12.4 billion Swiss francs in total. This was 0.5 billion Swiss francs more than 2016. Beverages and fruits were the most commonly imported agricultural products. Agricultural exports amounted to 9.1 billion Swiss francs in 2017 which was 0.4 billion francs more than the previous year. Luxury foods were by far the biggest exports, coffee in particular.

In 2017, around 74 % of imported agricultural products came from the EU. In contrast, 57 % of exports went to the EU.



## Gross level of self-sufficiency 56 % in 2016

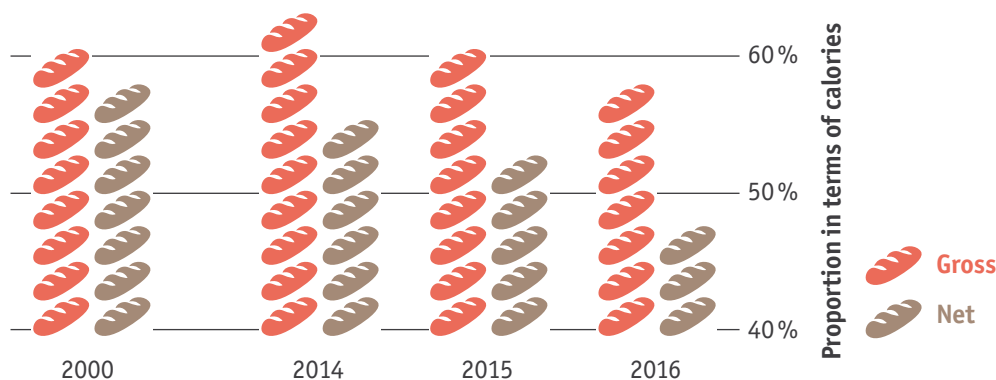


### Level of self-sufficiency

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 56 % in 2016. That is 3 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 48 % in 2016 and was therefore, like the gross level of self-sufficiency, 3 percentage points less than the previous year.

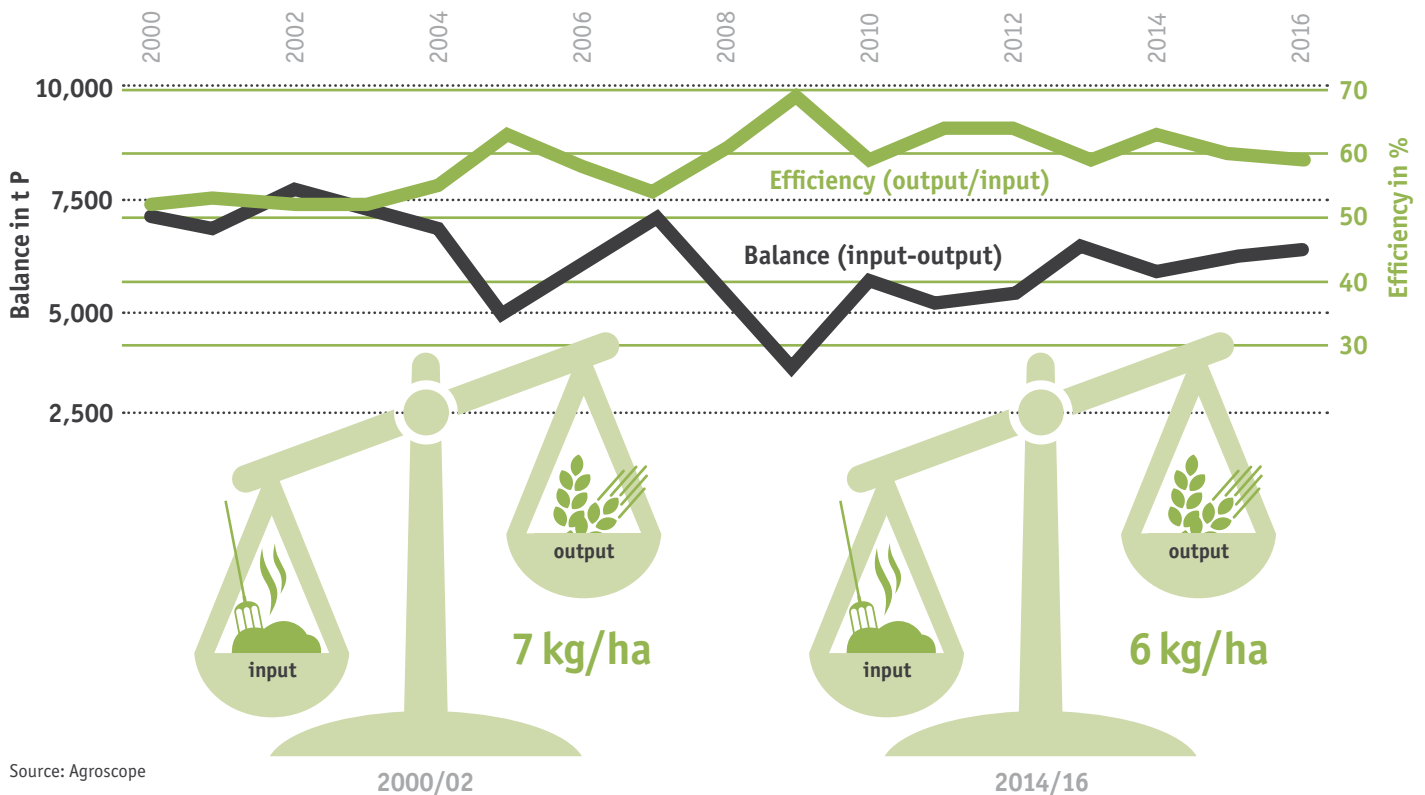




## Phosphorus balance and efficiency

The national phosphorus balance shows that phosphorus discharges in the form of plant and animal products rose by around 16% between 2000 and 2016 although the phosphorus inputs in the form of imported feed, mineral fertilisers, recycled fertilisers and atmospheric deposits have remained largely stable. Phosphorus use efficiency is measured as the ratio between output and input of phosphorus in Swiss agriculture. It has improved continuously from 52% in the years 2000/02 to 61% in the years 2014/16.

**Phosphorus use efficiency**  
2000–2016: +9 %



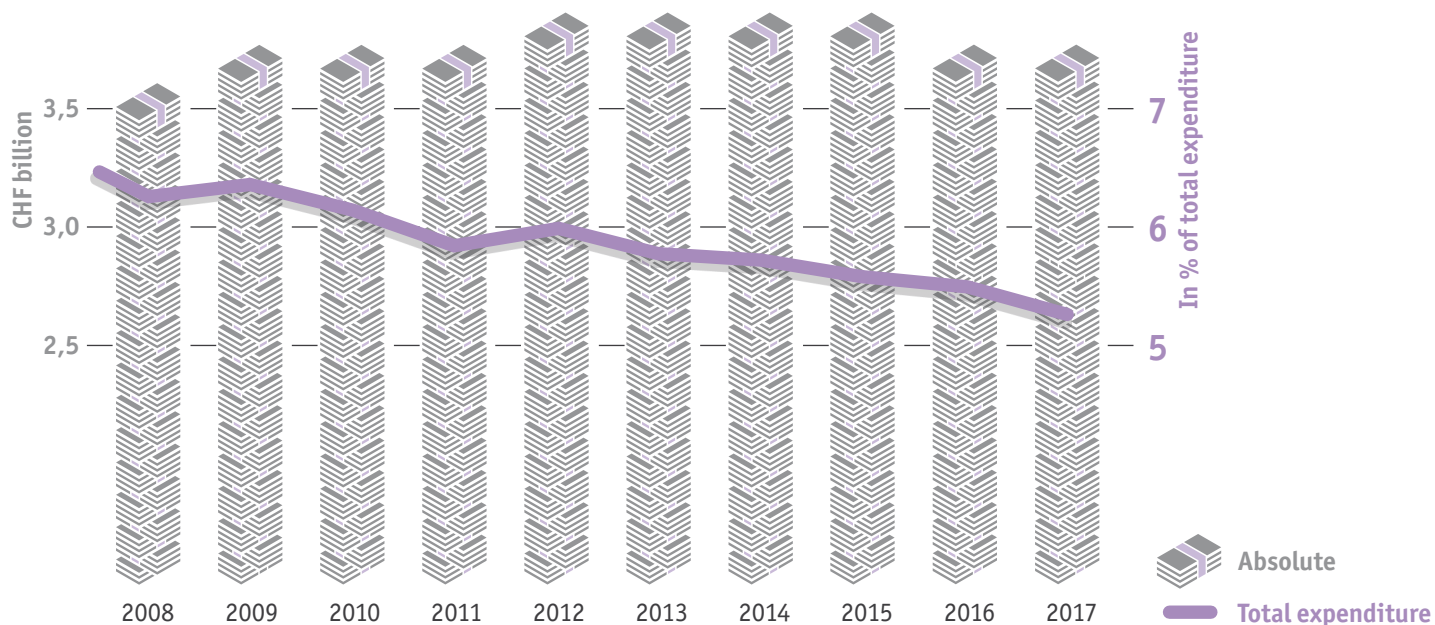


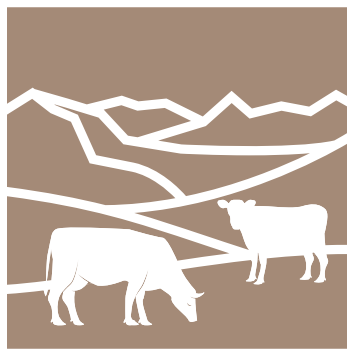
**2017:**  
**CHF 3.652 billion**

## Expenditure on agriculture and food

The Federation spent around CHF 3.7 billion on agriculture and food in 2017. The expenditure on agriculture and food is therefore ranked sixth after social services (CHF 22.908 billion), finance and taxes (CHF 10.003 billion), transport (CHF 9.053 billion), education and research (CHF 7.573 billion) and national defence (CHF 4.713 billion).

The percentage of the total federal expenditure allotted to agriculture and food was 5.3% in 2017.





## Global hunger is on the rise again

### World hunger is on the rise again: Switzerland's commitment is more important than ever

After a decade of continuous decline, the number of people suffering from hunger and chronic malnutrition is on the rise again since 2016. The number of people suffering from hunger rose from 804 million in 2016 to 821 million in 2017. According to experts, the main drivers for this turning point include an increase in violent conflicts, climate disasters, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and the change in global consumption patterns. At the same time, approx. 2.5 billion people worldwide suffer from malnutrition and 672 million thereof suffer from obesity.

2015, 193 United Nations' (UN) member states adopted the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Switzerland played an important role in shaping the development of this Agenda. Since the beginning of 2016, Switzerland together with relevant stakeholders has been working on a Swiss country report on the current state of sustainable development in Switzerland. Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard presented the Report to the UN in New York in July 2018. The Swiss country report reflects global challenges such as hunger and malnutrition amongst others.



11%

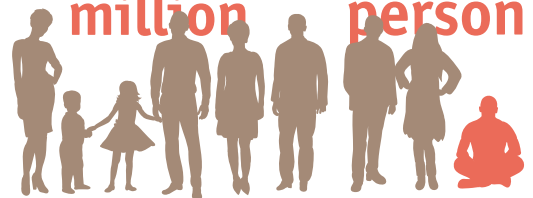
821

million

every

9<sup>th</sup>

person



## Agricultural Report 2018

The Agricultural Report is available online for quick and easy use according to your individual requirements. The clear and straightforward structure means you can quickly find the information you are looking for, even if you are out and about.

You can also use the tool "My Agricultural Report" to compile your own personal copy by individually selecting the topics you are interested in and tailoring them to your needs.

Find out what is important at [www.agrarbericht.ch](http://www.agrarbericht.ch). We hope you enjoy reading it.



