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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

How Switzerland reconciles food supply and sustainability

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1. Agricultural policy development in Switzerland

A look at the past

Agricultural policy until the end of the 1980s:

- Shaped by the experience of two world wars
- Production as the most important/only goal
- Mechanisation, intensification and high increase in productivity
- Secure sales for producers

Consequences:

→ Surplus production

→ Negative environmental effects

→ High costs for the Federal Government

Agricultural policy development to date

1996: Article on agriculture

2017: Article on food security

Achievement of agricultural policy goals

Former Agricultural Policy

Decoupling

More ecology and market orientation

Competitiveness

Goal orientation

What's next?

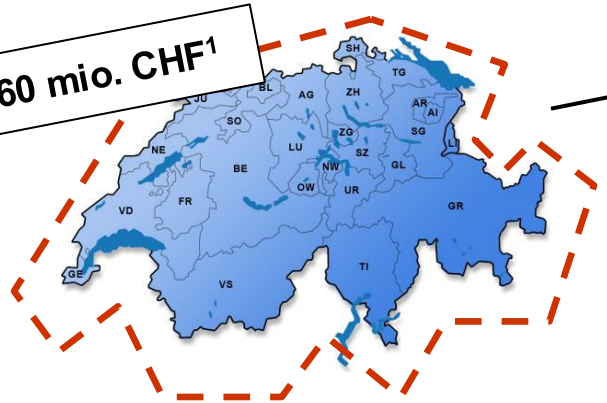
Until 1992 | 1993-1998 | AP 2002 | AP 2007 | AP 2011 | AP 14-17

Important agricultural policy instruments (2023)

Agricultural policy instruments

Border protection

2 260 mio. CHF[1]



Research & Advisory services

185 mio. CHF

Production & Sales

534 mio. CHF

Direct payments

2,811 mio. CHF

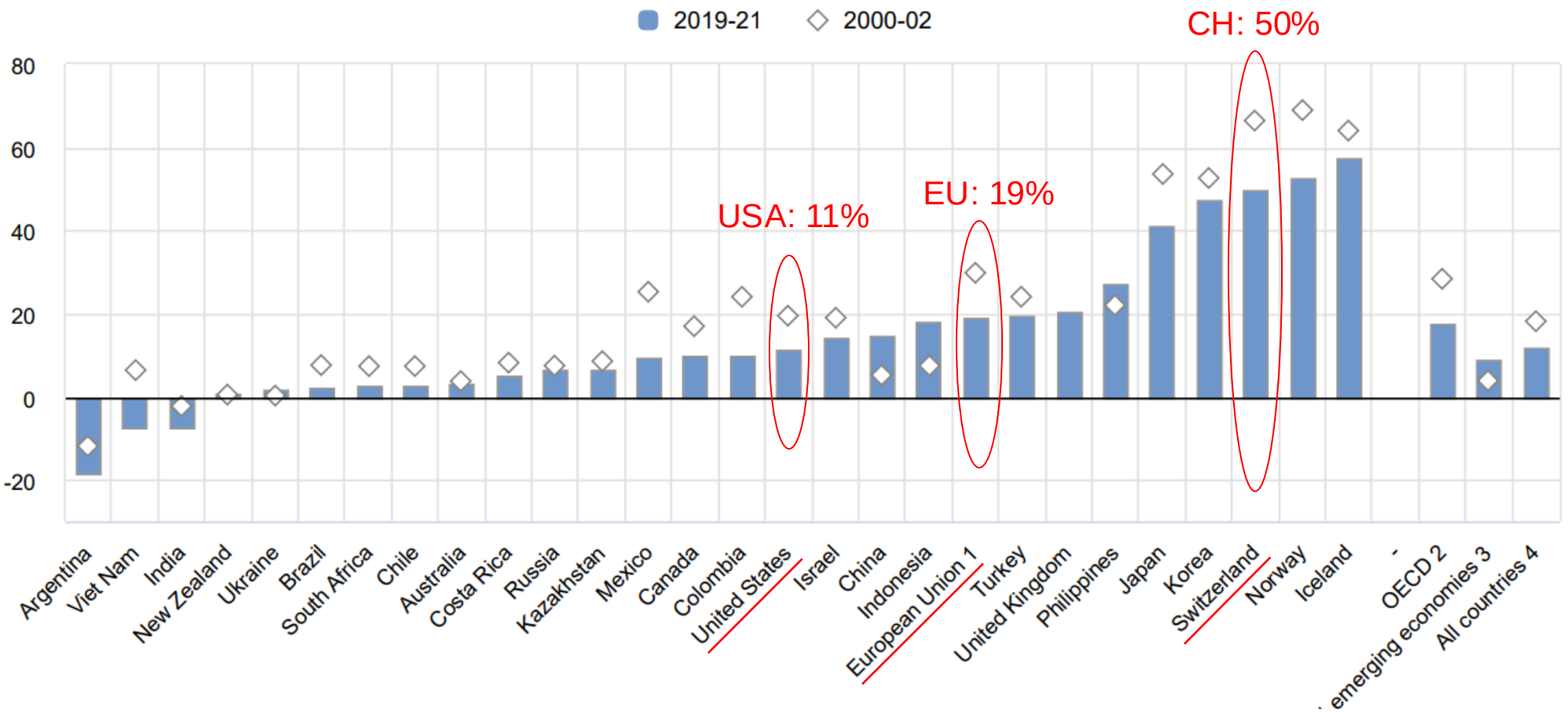
Basic improvements

131 mio. CHF

[1]Source: OECD, (year 2022)

Agricultural support in international comparison

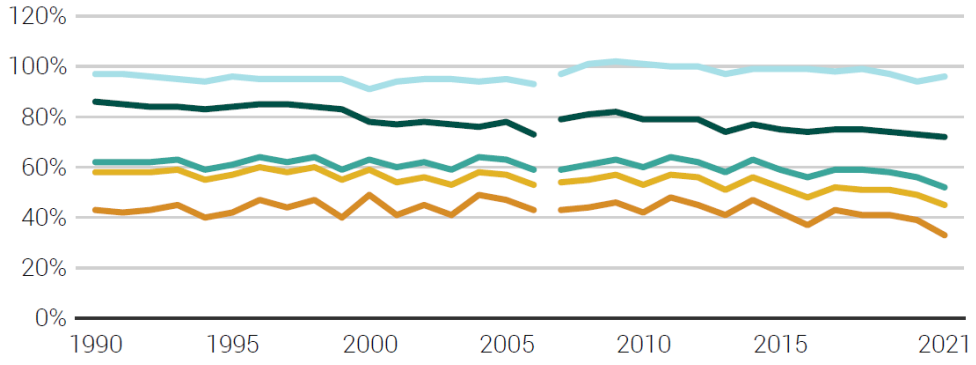
Share of agricultural support in revenue (PSE OECD, 2023)



Positive developments in many areas…

Self-sufficiency rate, 1990–2021

By usable energy



[1] excluding animal production based on imported feed
new calculation method since 2007; 2021 (provisional)

Source: Agristat – Food balance sheet

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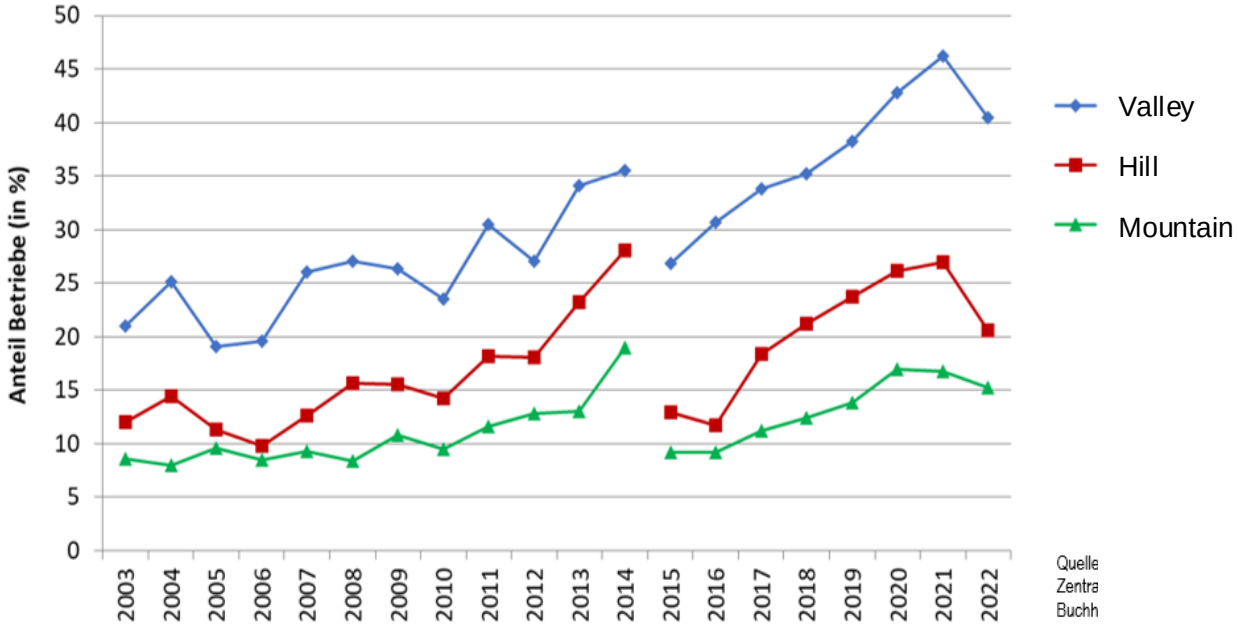
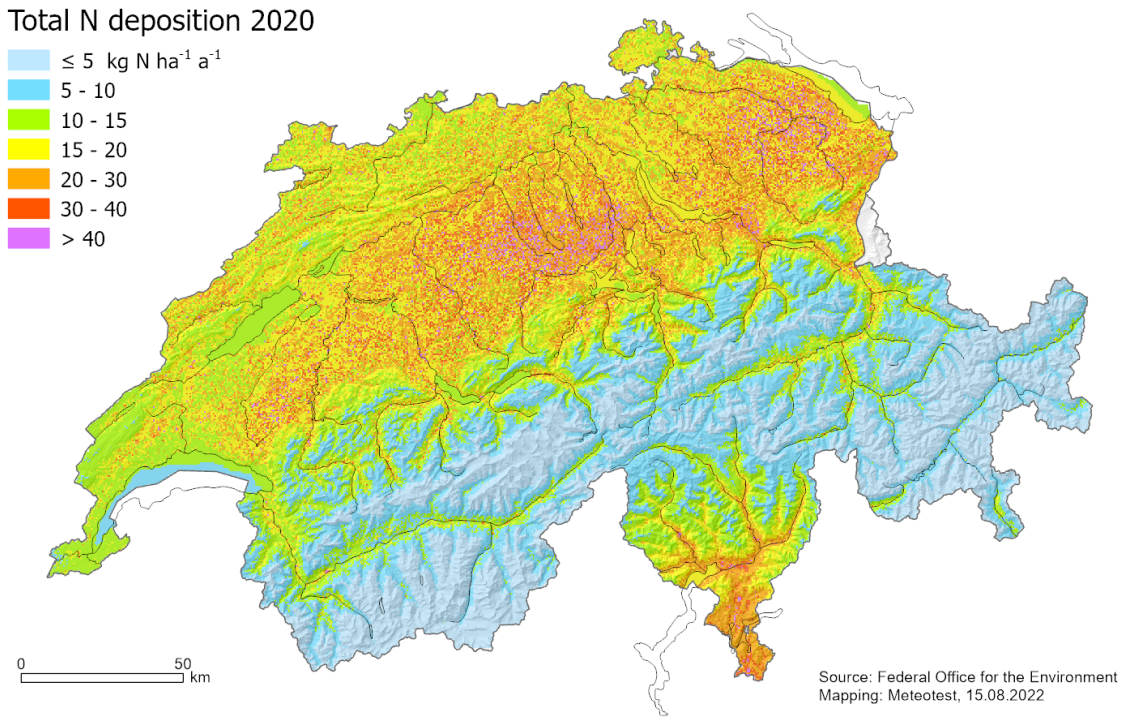
Farms above the comparative salary



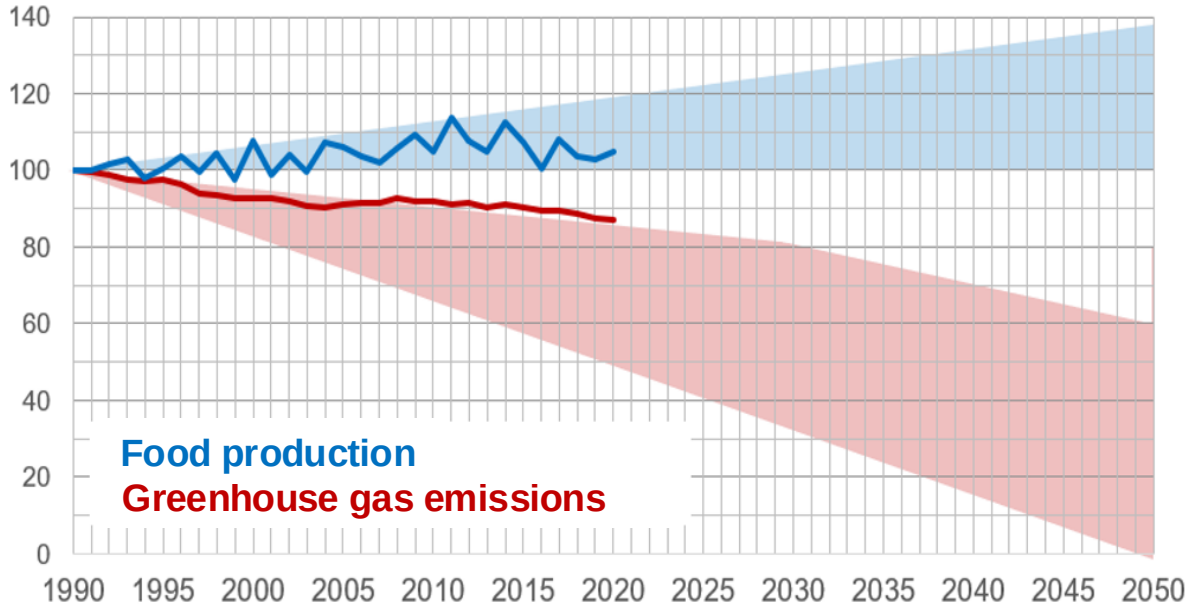
1. Agricultural policy development in Switzerland

...but challenges remain

Total deposition of nitrogen in 2020



Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture



2. Climate Strategy Agriculture and Food 2050

2. Agricultural policy development in Switzerland

Effects of climate change on Swiss agriculture

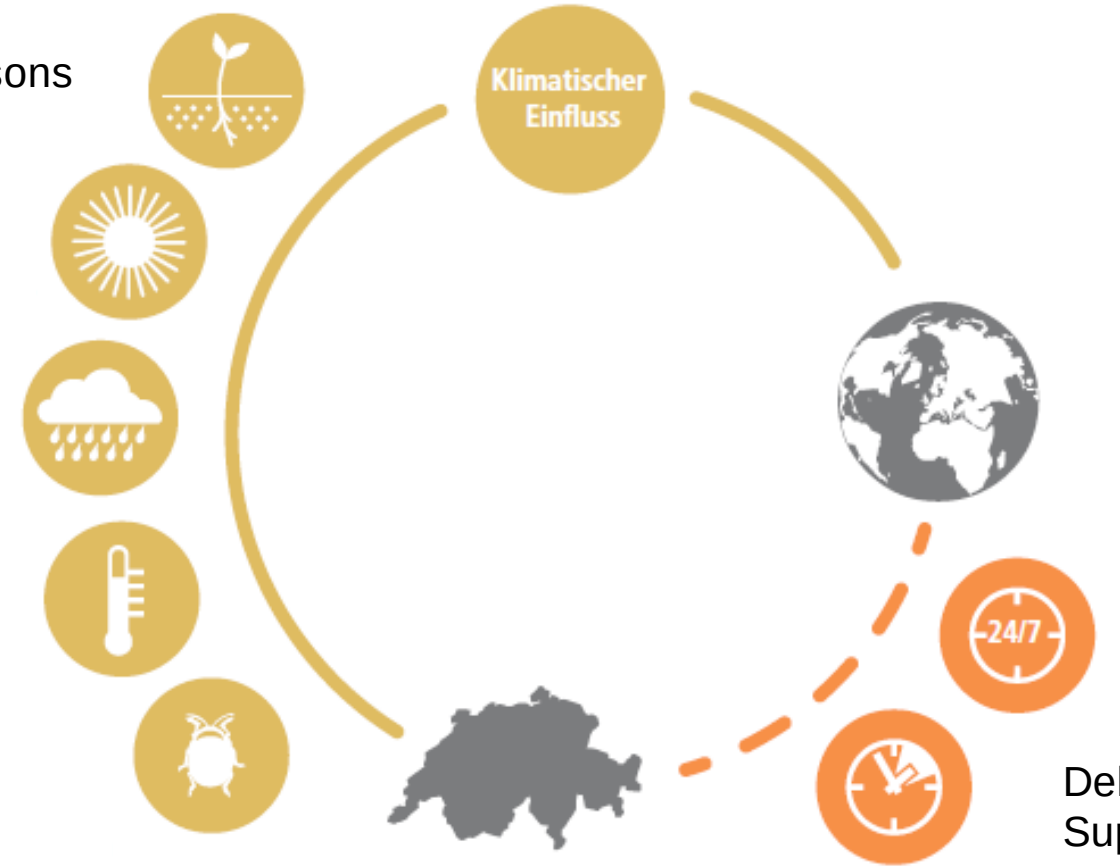
Longer growing seasons

More dry spells

More heavy precipitation

More hot days, fewer cold extremes

More more pathogens and pests



Availability, quality and prices of food

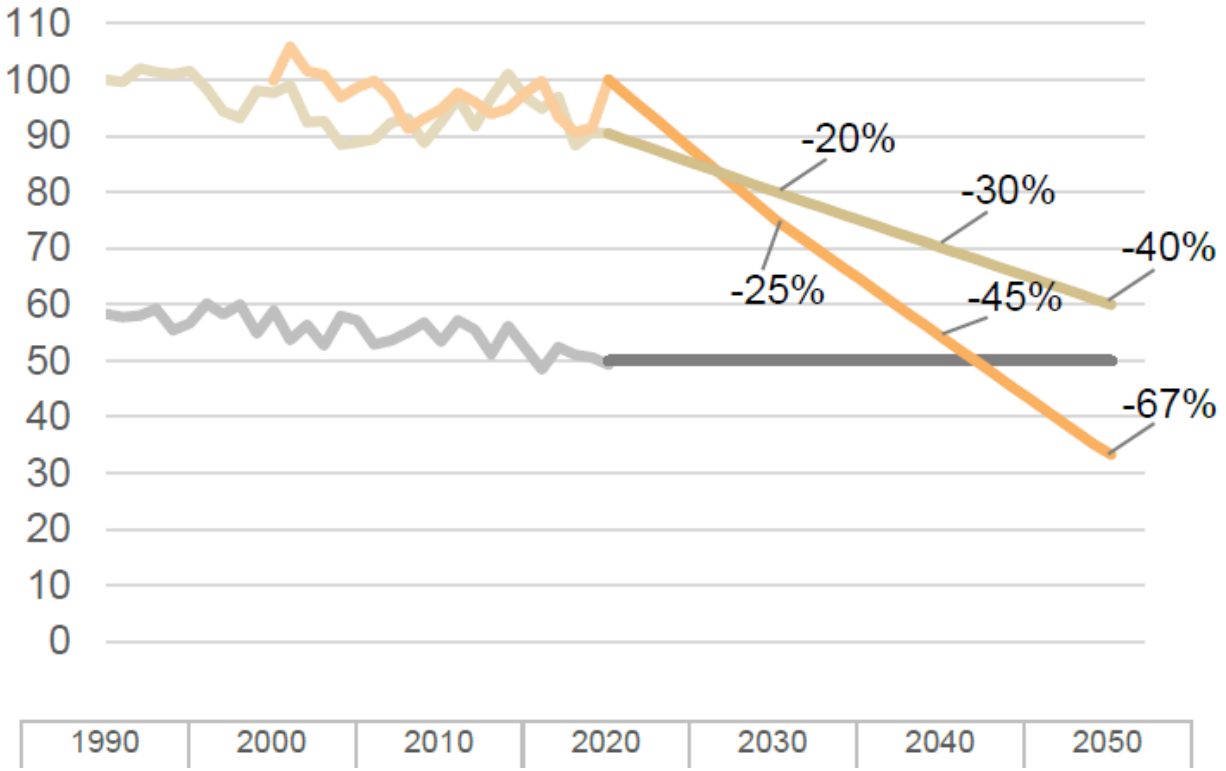
Delays in delivery
Supply bottlenecks

Goals of the Climate Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector 2050

(1) **Agriculture produces in a way that is adapted to the climate and local (production) conditions** (self-sufficiency rate of at least 50 %)

(2a) The population eats a healthy, balanced diet that protects the environment and conserves resources (Reduction of the GHG footprint of nutrition per capita by at least 67%)

(2b) Agriculture is climate-friendly (Reduction of GHG emissions from agriculture by at least 40%)



2. Agricultural policy development in Switzerland

Eight sub-goals

Achieve resource-conserving consumption patterns

Minimise *food waste*

Aligne trade relations sustainably

Optimise production portfolios

Minimise nutrient losses into the environment

Conserve water resources

Maintain soil fertility and increase carbon storage

Reduce energy demand and strengthen renewable energy production

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Measures of the Climate Strategy

Expanding knowledge

Strengthening participation

Developing policy

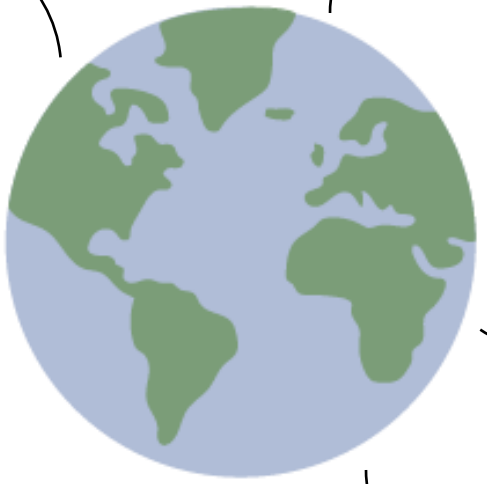
- Action plan comprises 42 measures
- For example:
  - Strengthening plant breeding
  - Support for technologies
  - Target agreements with retailers
  - Food waste action plan

3. Agricultural policy from 2030

Future framework conditions

New technologies and digital transition at all levels

Global population and prosperity continue to grow



Supply and demand increase, prices fall slightly on world markets in real terms and volatility increases

Pressure on production base increases, climate change affects production systems

Globalisation has its limits, regionalisation of international value chains to a certain degree

Key question

How can Switzerland continue to reconcile food supply and sustainability in the future?

Vision 2050


Vision 2050
Food security through sustainable development, from production to consumption

Goals 2050

1 Domestic production

- Diversified production portfolio and net self-sufficiency rate of over 50%

2 Value creation

- Labour productivity increased by 50% compared to 2020

3 Climate

- Reduction of GHG from production by 40% compared to 1990 and reduction GHG from consumption by 2/3 compared to 2020

4 New technologies

- International leader in environmentally friendly and resource efficient technologies

5 Food waste

- Reduce food waste along the value chain by 3/4 compared to 2020

6 Nutrition

- A healthy, balanced and sustainable diet in accordance with the Swiss food recommendations ("Swiss food pyramid")

Long-term strategy

Ensure resilient food supply

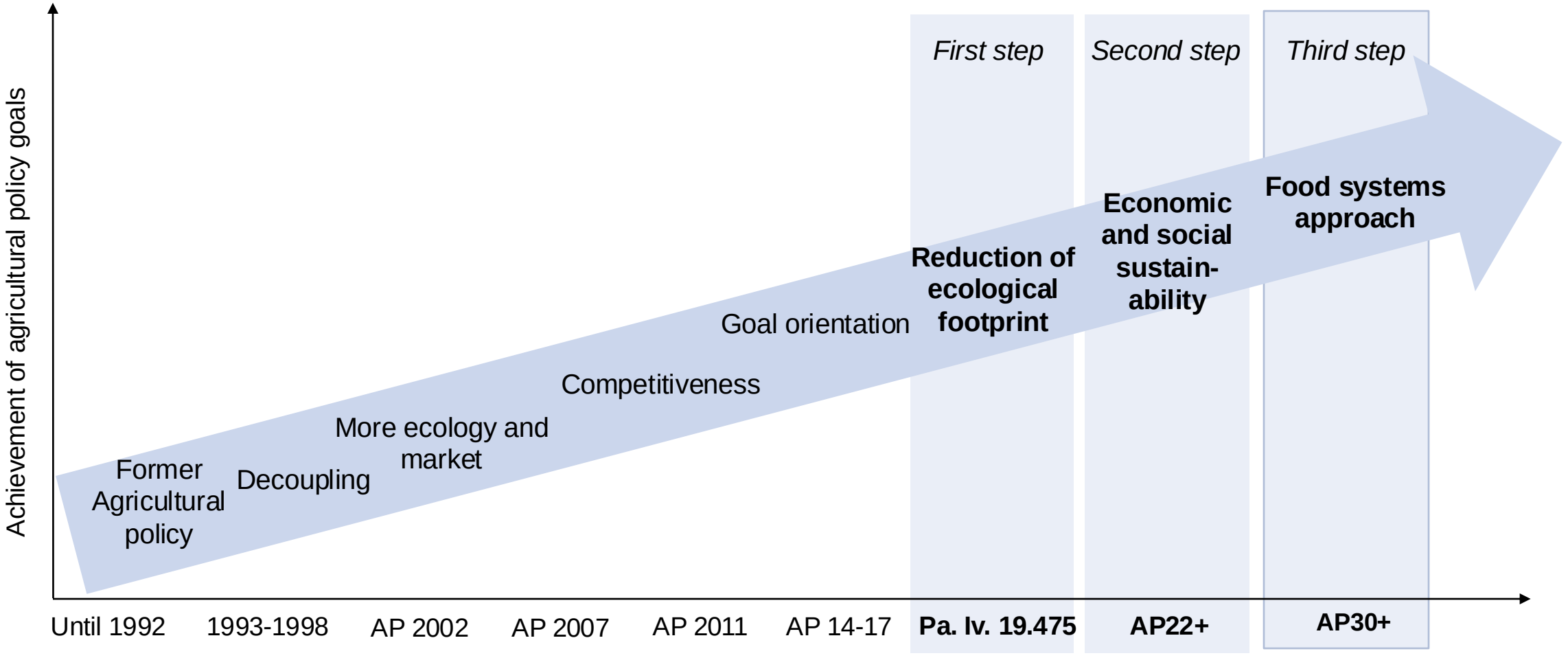
Promote climate-, environment- and animal-friendly food production

Strengthen sustainable value creation

Favour sustainable and healthy consumption patterns

3. Agricultural policy from 2030

Implementation in three steps



Reduction of ecological footprint

Plant protection products (PPP)

Nutrients

IT systems

Sector’s role

Economic and social sustainability

- Measures adopted by Parliament with AP22+ policy package:
  - ✓ Support for aquaculture & other living organisms
  - ✓ Strengthening social security protection
  - ✓ Subsidies for crop insurance
  - ✓ Expansion of measures in the area of structural improvements
  - ✓ Increased promotion of utilisation and exchange of knowledge

Food systems approach

- The focus of the agricultural policy from 2030 (AP30+) is on

  1. Ensuring food security
  2. Reduction of the ecological footprint from production to consumption
  3. Improving economic and social prospects
  4. Simplification of instruments and reduction of administrative workload

- Food systems approach requires the involvement of all stakeholders of the food system, from production to consumption

- Ensure food security through greater resource efficiency in production (more output with less input) and adaptation of production and consumption patterns

4. Conclusions

Conclusions

- From a planned economy step by step to a modern, market-oriented and sustainable agriculture
- Agricultural policy system has reached its limits in terms of complexity and administrative workload
- Future policy for the agriculture and food sector requires a systems approach and the involvement of all players in the value chain
- Feeding more people with a smaller ecological footprint requires greater resource efficiency in production and a transformation of the food system (adaptation of production and consumption patterns)

Thank you for your attention!!