GLAMUR Global and local food asessment: a MUItidimensional performance-based approach

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

WP2 Swiss report

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Context and challenges

- Agricultural sector under pressure (urban and forest growth) and declining
- Dependence on imports, especially for fruits and vegetable. Dairy is the most important sector in production and economically (exports).
- High public support to maintain farming, in exchange of environmentally-friendly practices
- Vision of food chains is sector-oriented and polarized between producers and consumers

Major Discourses on food chains performance

- Value focused discourse: Food must gain more economic-environmental and cultural value from consumers and for equitable revenues for farmers. This value is created by offering quality or proximity guarantees. Objectives: higher prices for farmers & consumers; more land for farming, revenues on food production, more efficiency (worldwide)
- Biodiversity focused: land quality must be preserved. Objectives: biodiversity, soils and species conservation, no GMOs, revenues on public support in exchange to ecosystem preservation
- Sustainable intensification appears as a possible consensus but still weak in Switzerland

Multi-criteria matrix of food supply chain performance

	Economic	Social	Environmental	Health	Ethical
Public	Rural Development Economic resilience Food Wastage	Value Distribution Social externalities Working conditions Social Capital	Climate change potential Biodiversity Land Use Environmental Pollution	Food Quality Food Safety Environmental pollution	Transparency Food Wastage Animal Well-being
Scientific	Eco-efficiency Value creation	Land Use Environmental Pollution	Biodiversity Soil quality and preservation Eco-Efficiency Climate change potential	Food Quality Food Safety	Food Wastage Biodiversity
Market	Value creation Economic resilience Traceability of Origin	Rural Development Value Distribution Social Capital Working conditions	Eco-Efficiency Food Wastage	Traceability of Origin Food Quality	Food Safety Transparency Value distribution
Policy	Economic resilience Climate change potential Value creation	Working conditions Land Use Social externalities	Land Use Biodiversity Climate change potential Environmental Pollution	Food Safety Food Quality Traceability of Origin	Animal Well-being Food Wastage

Some Conclusions from Switzerland

- Value creation is almost always ranked number one attribute by actors from all sectors and all spheres.
- The attributes of: traceability, land use, food quality, working conditions and biodiversity ranked the highest.
- Food security and especially food sovereignty are gaining in importance, especially in the current political situation.
- Land availability and land distribution between agriculture, settlement and natural ecosystems at the core of the questions of local VS global production and food sovereignty.
- Political sphere attempting to find the 'ideal regulations' in balance between ecological conservation, fair revenues, working conditions and food sovereignty, resulting in regular changes in regulations and uncertainty in the agricultural sector.

Significant News & events

"Switzerland imports the most food in the world". These big news titles around January 2013 followed a report that calculated that statistically, Swiss people eat proportionally the most imported food per capita in the world. The rate of food sovereignty is calculated there at 52%, this rate decreasing particularly because of an increase of imported animal feed. 80% of food imports come from Europe, especially Germany, France and Italy. To maintain its current diet and food supply, Switzerland uses abroad as much land as within the country.


La Suisse est le premier importateur de nourriture au monde

04.01.2013 17:08

La Suisse est le pays qui importe le plus de produits alimentaires, selon un rapport présenté vendredi par l'Union suisse des paysans (USP). L'Union évoque aussi la baisse des revenus des agriculteurs suisse.

Consumers are ready to pay a little more for Swiss food but this does not compensate for higher work costs in Switzerland. The situation of farmers is thus difficult. This article also claims for more transparency surrounding food products.


2000 francs par an à la poubelle

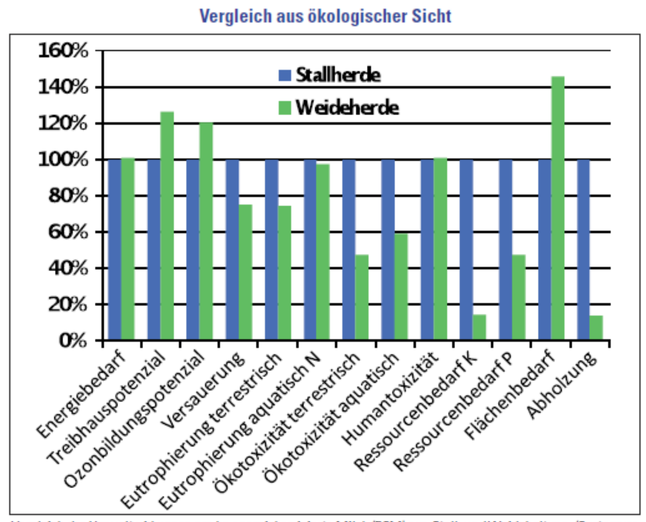
ALIMENTATION — En Suisse, près de 2 millions de tonnes de nourriture encore mangeable finissent aux ordures chaque année. Un gaspillage qui coûte cher aux consommateurs.

Par Saskia Galitch et Eric Felley. Mis à jour le 17.10.2012 12 Commentaires

Image: Getty Images

"In Switzerland, round 2 million tons of edible food are thrown away each year, or 94 kg per person a year. 37% of this is wasted by households, while 63% happens on farms, in industry, shops and restaurants. The first 'victims' are fresh fruits and vegetable and bread. This can costs up to 2000 CHF a year for a 4-person household." WWF Switzerland organized a campaign and an exhibition on this topic in 2013.

"Switzerland imports more and more proteins sources and energetic feed for animal feeding since 10 years. This creates issues as feed as to be GMO-free (national ban) and most soy (protein) thus comes from Brazil. The question in this study is to compare ecological footprint of a system that uses imported concentrated feed (blue bars) and one that uses only grassland inputs (green bars), that is more local. By kilo of milk produced, the local system has less impact on acidification, eutrophication, ecotoxicity, use of K and P resources and deforestation. However, the system with imported feed performs better concerning GHG emission, ozon layer deterioration and land requirements."



Vergleich der Umweltwirkungen pro kg energiekorrigierte Milch (ECM) aus Stall- und Weidehaltung. (Systemvergleich Hohenrain 2008 bis 2010, Stallherde = 100%). (Grafik zVg)