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# Switzerland's National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation in Support of the 2030 Agenda

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## 1. Introduction

In the run-up to the UN Secretary General's Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) that took place on 23 September 2021, all member states were invited to articulate and submit their National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation in Support of the 2030 Agenda. It is in this context that Switzerland developed its first National Pathway, which was submitted in September 2021, based primarily on Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS 2030) and the corresponding measures in its 2021-2023 Action Plan, as well as on the results of the national Food Systems Summit Dialogue (FSSD).[1]

With the aim of coordinating Switzerland's efforts to promote sustainable development within the reference framework provided by the 2030 Agenda, the Federal Council[2] adopted the SDS 2030 on 23 June 2021. It defines how Switzerland intends to implement this agenda over the next ten years. Sustainable consumption and production is one of the three priority topics of the SDS, with a dedicated chapter on furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad. This chapter, which includes specific and measurable goals for the year 2030, as well as an action plan and concrete measures, formed the basis of Switzerland's first National Pathway.

Since 2021, new strategic documents have been developed, defining more precisely the policy framework for the transformation of food systems in Switzerland:

- *Federal Council's report Future Direction of Agricultural Policy* [only available in French]
- *2024-2027 Action Plan for Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy*
- *Action Plan against Food Waste* [only available only in French]
- *Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050*
- *Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2025-2032*
- *International Cooperation Strategy 2025-2028*

This updated version of Switzerland's National Pathway reflects these new developments and provides brief updates on what has been achieved during the first three years of implementation. It illustrates how Switzerland intends to transform its food system, considering the three dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, social and economic – in an equal, balanced and integrated manner, while taking into account the capacity limits of global ecosystems. With this in mind, Switzerland aims to reach a first important milestone in the transformation of its food system by 2030, moving towards a future with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, where biodiversity loss has been reversed and hunger and malnutrition in all its forms are a thing of the past.

[1] At the FSSD, many participants called for the development of a cross-sectoral food policy, broadly supporting the strategic directions of the SDS 2030, but also highlighting points of divergence between the various stakeholders. For more information, see: https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13519/

[2] The Federal Council is the executive body of the Swiss federal government.

## 2. An overview of key challenges in Switzerland's food system

Food systems are subject to an increasing change, both sudden shocks and long-term stress factors, linked in particular to changes in the environment (climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, etc.), socio-economic challenges and health issues. However, sustainable and resilient food systems can help manage such crises and mitigate their adverse impacts on people and the environment. During global crises, short, territorial and diversified supply chains, for example, have demonstrated their advantages. In addition, food is a critical health factor, which raises additional challenges but also offers potential for synergies.[3]

The following is a non-exhaustive list of challenges that characterize the Swiss food system, which our National Pathway aims to address:

- Switzerland imports about half of the food it consumes, as well as a significant portion of its animal feed.[4] This division of labour promotes competition, innovation and the general level of prosperity in Switzerland, but also means that a large part of the environmental and social impact of food consumed in Switzerland occurs abroad.[5]

- The loss of habitats and the deterioration in habitat quality threaten Switzerland's biodiversity.[6] The main reason for this is the intensive use of land, including through agriculture. More than 80% of the land needed to produce the food consumed in Switzerland is located outside the country. Therefore, domestic consumption also has an impact on biodiversity outside of Switzerland.[7] Greenhouse gas emissions from food consumption account for 20% of all household emissions, two thirds of which are due to food production abroad.[8]

- Agriculture has significant environmental impacts in several ways: firstly, because of the large proportion of land it uses in relation to the total surface area and, secondly, because the environmental effects of its activities extend beyond the land it uses. In some cases, the resilience of ecosystems has been compromised, and the agriculture-related environmental objectives (AEOs) have not yet been achieved in many areas. One of the biggest gaps concerns nutrients: nitrogen emissions, for example, would have to be reduced by at least 33% to achieve the AEOs.[9]

- Agriculture has an impact on soil quality. The most serious issues are compaction, settlement, erosion, the loss of organic matter, pollution and the loss of carbon stored in the soil.[10]

- In Switzerland, agriculture is responsible for more than 15.5%[11] of all greenhouse gas emissions, not including emissions and spillover effects from the production of imported inputs.[12] The food system is the area that causes the greatest environmental impact, accounting for more than 25% of the country's total footprint, a quarter of which comes from avoidable food losses.[13]

- Food consumption in Switzerland - across all stages of the food chain, both domestically and abroad - generates 2.8 million tonnes of food waste per year. This figure corresponds to approximately 330 kilograms of food lost per person, 37% of agricultural production, or a cost of 600 Swiss francs per person per year. In total, food waste accounts for 25% of the environmental impact of food.[14]

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[3] 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2020). P.11
[4] In 2021, Switzerland produced 787,000 tonnes of dry matter (DM) marketable as fodder and imported 1,030,000 tonnes. AGRISTAT (sbv-usp.ch)
[5] Federal Council report on the future direction of agricultural policy (2022). P.14, and Sustainable Development Strategy Action Plan 2024-2027: Measure 2 – Analysis of Switzerland's positive and negative impact abroad (see p.8 3.2.2 below)
[6] Federal Council report "Environment Switzerland 2022" umweltbericht2022-e (1).pdf
[7] Fesenfeld, L. (2023) "L'AVENIR DE L'ALIMENTATION EN SUISSE – Guide des principaux leviers et axes politiques pour établir un système alimentaire durable". Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7585685
[8] Federal Council report on the future direction of agricultural policy (2022). P.5
[9] Environmental objectives for agriculture (2016).
[10] Soil: in brief (FOEN).
[11] Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture (FOEN), Agricultural Report 2023 (Agroscope)
[12] Impact abroad and Switzerland's responsibility (FSO)
[13] Food waste (FOEN)
[14] Federal Council report on the future direction of agricultural policy (2022). P.21

- The diet of the Swiss population is unbalanced. For example, consumption of sugary and salty foods far exceeds the Swiss nutritional recommendations that are outlined in the “Swiss food pyramid”.[15] The consumption of oils, fats and nuts more or less corresponds to the recommendations; that of fruits, vegetables, legumes and dairy products is insufficient; and the level of meat consumption is three times too high. The current food system can be considered inefficient in terms of calory and protein utilization: only one sixth of the protein produced ends up on the consumer's plate, with losses resulting from the conversion of plant proteins into animal proteins or from food waste.[16]

- Part of the population is still struggling to eat healthily. In 2022, 43% of the Swiss population was overweight or obese, causing public health problems.[17] Of the 80 billion Swiss francs in healthcare costs in 2018, 80% were caused by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) linked to an unbalanced diet.[18] Despite a rather comfortable overall situation, food insecurity and poverty also exist in Switzerland, and are on the rise.[19]

To transition to more sustainable food systems, it is essential to strengthen the coherence and synergies between agricultural policy instruments and other sectoral policies including environment, health and social security. Reducing such negative social and environmental impacts is of crucial importance.

[15] Swiss nutritional recommendations
[16] Federal Council report on the future direction of agricultural policy (2022). P.48
[17] Overweight (FSO); Sustainable Development Report 2024 (sdgindex.org)
[18] Federal Council report on the future direction of agricultural policy (2022). P.21
[19] Poverty and deprivation | Federal Statistical Office (admin.ch), Consumption and health | Federal Statistical Office (admin.ch), Food and environment | Federal Statistical Office (admin.ch)

## 3. Food systems transformation in the context of sustainable development

Switzerland's National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation is therefore based on the Federal Council's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (SDS 2030), as well as the Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2025-2032, the Action Plan against Food Waste and the measures of the Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050. It is also guided by the vision for the period after 20230, as presented in the Federal Council's report Future Direction of Agricultural Policy. This chapter reviews these documents and presents their various measures, whether planned, under development or already implemented.

### *3.1 Future Direction of Agricultural Policy*

In June 2022, the Federal Council published its report on the future direction of agricultural policy, in response to two parliamentary postulates.[20] The report outlines the long-term direction in which agriculture and the food sector should develop and sets out various strategies to be followed. It addresses eight review mandates, which are not limited to agriculture but relate to the entire food system: self-sufficiency; comprehensive policy for sustainable production and healthy nutrition; closing nutrient cycles; reducing complexity; economic prospects; distortion of competition; direct sales and short supply chains; reducing food waste.

#### 3.1.1 Strategic lines of action for achieving the vision for 2050

The Federal Council's aims to achieve food security in line with sustainable development by 2050, from production to consumption, based on the objectives set out in the Constitution and in the 2050 projection targets. However, the Swiss agri-food sector needs to develop to achieve this result under the future framework conditions. To this end, the report proposes four strategic lines of action:

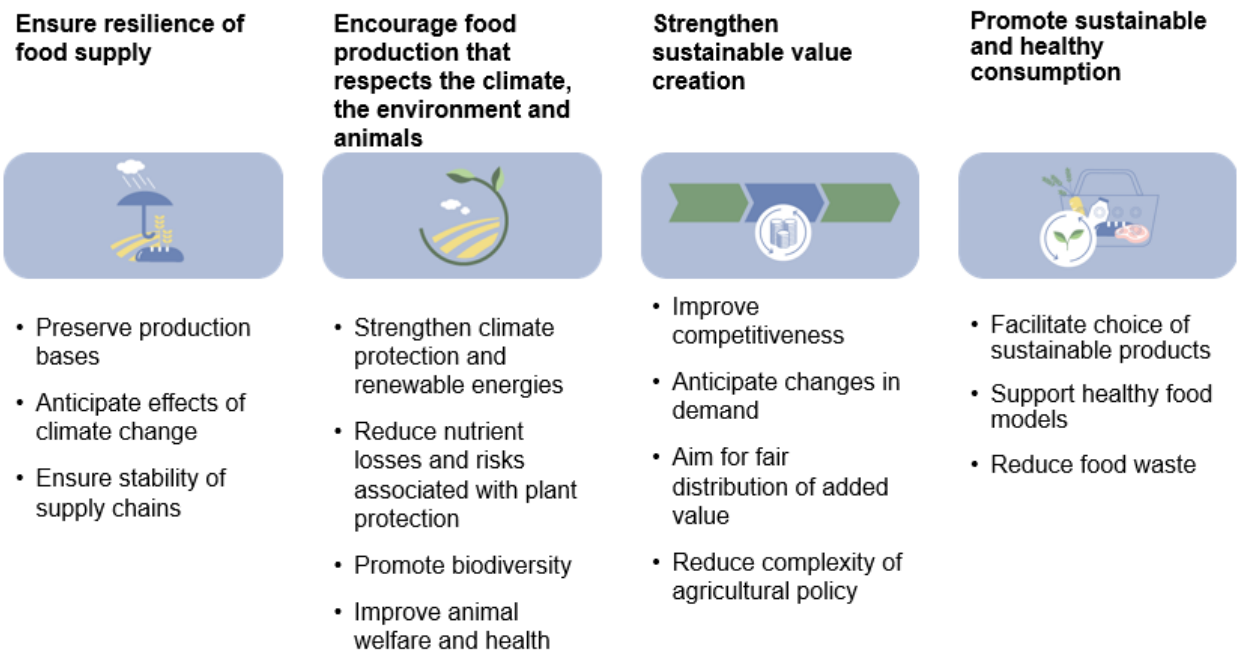


*Figure 1. Overview of strategic lines of action.*

These strategic lines of action indicate where the efforts to achieve the long-term objectives need to be redoubled. On this basis, the Federal Council also proposed action areas that show how concrete steps can be taken: by promoting innovation capacity and expertise; by improving the efficient use of resources and adaptation to local conditions; by strengthening transparent and true costs; and by simplifying the range of instruments available. The strategy outlined defines the framework for future action by the industries and for the development of agricultural policy, and proposes possible measures in these different action areas (see Appendix 1).

[20] Postulates 20.3921 and 21.3015

### 3.1.2 Future agricultural policy after 2030 (AP30+)

Following approval of the Federal Council's report on the future direction of agricultural policy in June 2022, the process of developing the post-2030 agricultural policy (AP30+) was launched.[21] In its review of this report, Parliament considered that it constituted an appropriate basis for the development of the future agricultural policy. In fact, Parliament has expressed support for a systemic approach involving all actors in the value chain, from production to consumption, including also processing, trade and imports. Parliament also stressed the importance of developing the draft policy in a way that is consistent with the Swiss Nutrition Strategy, strengthens trade relations aimed at sustainable development and of gives greater individual responsibility to the agricultural industries.

Parliament has therefore instructed the Federal Council to submit a draft policy based on the strategic lines of action set out in the report by the end of 2027, taking into account the following aspects: guaranteeing food security on the basis of domestic and diversified food production corresponding at least to the current level of self-sufficiency; reducing the environmental footprint along the value chain, from agricultural production to food consumption, also taking into account imports; improving economic and social prospects for agriculture and the agri-food sector; simplifying instruments and reducing the administrative burden.[22] At the same time as the measures are being developed, an interim assessment will be carried out on the achievement of the objectives to date. This report will analyse the need for action in relation to the various objectives of Parliamentary Initiative 19.475, the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy and the vision for 2050. The draft policy will be developed by the Administration and then submitted for parliamentary debate, with Parliament having to finalise and adopt the legal basis for the new agricultural policy so that its implementation can start on 1 January 2030, based on the 2030-2033 agricultural financial envelopes.

## *3.2 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy*

In its 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS 2030), the Federal Council outlines how it intends to meet its commitments to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. In the strategy's part on sustainable consumption and sustainable production, one of the priority topics, the chapter entitled "Furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad" forms the basis of this National Pathway. However, the transformation required to achieve such systems faces challenges across the entire value chain, both in Switzerland and abroad. For this reason, this strategy and its measures proposed follow a systemic approach, encompassing many areas of action and consistent with the work of the various government offices.

### 3.2.1 Goals and strategic directions

The SDS 2030 defines four specific and measurable goals that Switzerland should achieve by 2030:

1. The portion of the population consuming a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet in keeping with the nutritional recommendations of the food pyramid rises to a third.[23]
2. Avoidable food losses per capita are half the 2017 figure.[24]
3. On the basis of environmental accounting, the carbon footprint from final per capita food demand declines by one quarter compared to 2020.[25]
4. The proportion of farms engaged in especially environment and animal-friendly production under public and private sustainability programmes rises by a third compared with 2020.[26]

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[21] The future direction of agricultural policy (admin.ch). This report was drawn up in response to postulates 20.3931 | Future direction of agricultural policy (parlament.ch) and 21.3015 | Future direction of agricultural policy. Supplement to the Federal Council mandate (parlament.ch)

[22] Both chambers of Parliament have transferred Motion 22.4251 | Report on the future of agricultural policy. Realisation of the concept (parlament.ch)

[23] Long-term goal: By 2050 the population's diet will be in line with the food pyramid. A linear development would see 33% of the population consuming a diet in line with the recommendations of the food pyramid by 2030.

[24] Postulate 18.3829, Isabelle Chevalley, 5.03.2018. Action Plan against Food Waste.

[25] According to the sectoral strategy on climate, agriculture and nutrition (as of 18.06.2020). The great need for action in this area is made clear in both national studies (e.g. Zimmermann et al. 2017) and international ones, such as The Lancet (2019): Food in the Anthropocene or Akenji et al. (2019). The latter postulates that "the required footprint reductions in the case of developed countries are at least 47% in nutrition (…) by 2030." The present intermediate target was set with feasibility in mind.

[26] The implementation of the target and the measurement of its achievement are set out under Action area 3 of the Action Plan.

To provide general guidance on how to achieve these goals, the SDS 2030 defines four national strategic directions:

*Promoting healthy, balanced and sustainable nutrition*

The federal government issues guidelines and supports the improvement of the composition of food and meals according to sustainable development criteria and its further development through research and innovation. The federal government also encourages efforts to make a balanced, wholesome and sustainable diet attractive and affordable for all, in particular by supporting relevant information and awareness-raising activities. For this purpose, the Swiss Nutrition Strategy[27] has been updated: by reinforcing the aspects of sustainability and health promotion, it aims to support the general conditions relating to nutrition in order to encourage a change in behaviour towards a healthy and sustainable diet. Such a diet, in line with the Swiss food pyramid, which has also been revised,[28] helps to prevent non-communicable diseases, and would halve the environmental impact of food (including greenhouse gas emissions). At the same time, the new nutritional recommendations[29] were published in autumn 2024, and the new Swiss Nutrition Strategy was published in April 2025 (see section 3.3). The corresponding action plan with concrete measures to implement the Swiss Nutrition Strategy will be published at the end of 2025.

*Reducing food waste*

The federal government develops and supports measures to reduce avoidable food waste all along the value chain up to and including the consumption stage, defining specific reduction goals. For that purpose, the Federal Council adopted an action plan to reduce food waste in 2022 (see section 3.4).

*Enhancing sustainability throughout the food value chain*

The federal government creates favourable, transparent and efficient framework conditions for sustainable food systems, from agricultural production through to consumption. It promotes the internalisation of external costs and transparency regarding the origin and production methods, taking particular account of environmental impact, social circumstances and animal welfare considerations. It promotes the strengthening of education in the field of sustainable food systems, as well as coordinated collaboration in the agriculture and food sector, including also all relevant actors involved in other relevant policy areas. In this context, the Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050 was published in 2023 (see section 3.5).

*Enhancing the resilience of the food system*

The federal government promotes the resilience of the food system in order to ensure long-term food security. This includes responsible investment, strengthening the social and economic situation of agricultural enterprises, diversified, locally-adapted and resource-efficient domestic production including at difficult production locations (e.g. mountain regions), and facilitating the relevant training opportunities. The federal government strives to limit adverse environmental impacts, especially on climate and biodiversity and to foster the adaptation of the agriculture sector to changing overall climatic conditions, in particular through the application of agroecological principles. Moreover, the federal government supports technological development for the enhancement of existing and future production methods. In 2023, for example, the Federal Office for Agriculture adopted a new method for determining the baseline number of farms producing in a particularly environmentally-friendly and animal-friendly manner.

### 3.2.2 **Measures set out in the 2024-2027 Action Plan**

The first action plan in support of implementation of the SDS 2030 covered the period 2021-2023. A report on its implementation was subsequently published (see Appendix 2). In 2024, the federal government defined a new action plan for the years 2024 to 2027. Of the 22 measures included, three concern the transformation of food systems:

[27] Measure K-01, Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050 | Part 2: Set of measures. P.18
[28] Pyramide alimentaire, et Recommandations-nutritionnelles_version-longue_F.pdf
[29] Measure K-02, Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050 | Part 2: Set of measures. P.19

1) *Survey of international indicators for a healthy and sustainable diet*[30]

This measure consists of collecting internationally comparable indicators of food quality, as part of the *Global Diet Quality Project*, funded in part by Switzerland. This data – which is collected in more than a hundred countries and is publicly available – serves as a basis for countries to make policy decisions based on objective facts and to set up tailor-made programmes to promote a healthier and more sustainable diet, thereby contributing to the achievement and monitoring of the first of the four goals of the SDS 2030 referred to above. This measure and Switzerland's active engagement contributed in particular to the adoption in March 2025 of a new indicator on dietary diversity under SDG 2.2.[31]

2) *Modelling of future scenarios for the Swiss agri-food industry and assessment of the consequences for sustainable development*[32]

As part of its report on the future direction of agricultural policy, the Federal Council outlined a long-term outlook for the Swiss agri-food industry, looking ahead to the year 2050. In this context, it pursues a global approach that integrates all sectors of the food system. To estimate the impact that the major directions outlined in the report could have on agriculture and food, various scenarios need to be modelled using the Green DSS-ESSA analysis model, which has long been used by Agroscope, the national institute for agricultural research. Given that the transformation of the food system leads to various structural changes throughout the value chain, it is also important to study the economic and social consequences of these changes.

3) *Groundwork for approaches designed to increase the sustainability of trade relations*[33]

Within the framework of its legal provisions, Switzerland is committed to open, fair and rules-based trade. Its strategy aims to reduce import duties on industrial goods, ensure appropriate and proportionate international technical regulations and improve market access for agricultural products. Switzerland promotes groundwork to take stock of and analyse international developments in the field of trade and sustainable development. In doing so, it actively supports relevant work being carried out by international organisations. In this context, Switzerland supports an FAO project entitled "*Trade and Sustainable Agrifood Systems*"[34], which aims to better understand and develop an overview of the increase in environment-related provisions (ERPs) in regional trade agreements (RTAs) and their impacts.

Other measures in this action plan, perhaps less specific to food systems, are also relevant to the sustainable transformation of these systems. The measure "Analysis of Switzerland's positive and negative impact abroad",[35] which aims to encourage and enable sustainable consumption patterns, is a good example: given that Switzerland imports almost half of the food it consumes, highlighting and measuring the externalities of its food system abroad is essential for sustainable transformation.

### *3.3 Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2025-2032*

In April 2025, the Federal Department of Home Affairs published the Swiss Nutrition Strategy covering the next eight years, based on an evaluation of the strategy that was implemented between 2017 and 2024. With the aim of strengthening its effectiveness and broadening its scope, the Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2025-2032 combines health and other aspects of sustainability, building on the National Strategy for the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases[36] and Switzerland's Long-term Climate Strategy 2050. The strategy has six objectives, all of which aim to promote a balanced and sustainable diet: promoting a balanced and healthy diet, boosting people's nutritional skills, increasing the proportion of plant-based foods, involving the food industry, promoting a sustainable and healthy food environment, and reducing food waste.

[30] Measure 4, 2024-2027 Action Plan for Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. P.14
[31] New SDG indicator on Minimum Dietary Diversity adopted by UN Statistical Commission
[32] Measure 5, 2024-2027 Action Plan for Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. P.15
[33] Measure 6, 2024-2027 Action Plan for Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. P.17
[34] Trade and Sustainable Agrifood Systems | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
[35] Measure 2, 2024-2027 Action Plan for Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy. P.11
[36] National Strategy for the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases

*Figure 2. The Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2025-2032 encompasses a wide range of topics to ensure a comprehensive approach to nutrition for health and sustainability.*

This strategy is based on four action areas to promote the health of the population and the sustainability of the food system, including information and education, the food environment and framework conditions, co-ordination and cooperation, monitoring and research. The corresponding action plan will be elaborated and published by the end of 2025.

1) *Information and education*

This area aims to improve public knowledge so that people can choose their food in a way that combines pleasure, health and sustainability. One of the priorities in this area is to tailor information to each target group, particularly those with low levels of education or from migrant backgrounds, two groups identified in the Evaluation of the Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2017-2024.

2) *Framework conditions*

The food environment, i.e. composition of food, the availability of food in catering establishments and food advertising, contributes to making decisions that are have an impact on human health and the environment. This action area requires the commitment and collaboration of economic, political and private actors.

3) *Coordination and cooperation*

The primary objective of this area is to pool the skills and take advantage of the synergies of the various stakeholders to develop and implement a food system for the coming decades that takes into account the needs of both humans and the environment.

4) *Monitoring and research*

For the period 2025-2032, this action area focuses on making the expertise of the federal administration available to researchers, specialists, political circles and the public. Switzerland is committed continuously monitoring the diets of adults and children on a national scale and making its databases accessible to the public. Finally, the different departments of the federal government will increase their collaboration both internally and with external competence centres, in order to unify research work in the field of sustainability.

### *3.4 Action Plan against Food Waste*

As a follow-up to the measures in the 2021-2023 Action Plan for implementing the SDS 2030, in April 2022 the Federal Council adopted an action plan with the aim of halving food waste by 2030 compared with 2017. Numerous measures and initiatives to reduce the volume of avoidable food waste already exist in Switzerland, but most of them are limited either in scope or geographically. This action plan therefore aims to speed up the process. It is aimed at all companies and organisations in the food sector, as well as the federal government, the cantons and communes. The plan will be implemented in two phases, from 2022 to 2025 and from 2026 to 2030, and contains a total of 14 measures.

The first phase is based on voluntary measures, including an intersectoral agreement covering the catering, distribution, processing and agricultural industries. The signatories of the agreement commit to achieving a reduction in food waste through voluntary measures. This may involve, for example, improving the declaration of the shelf life of certain products, increasing donations of unsold food to charitable organisations, optimising packaging or better crop planning. For their part, the public authorities will support the scope of business initiatives by removing existing obstacles and conflicts of interest. To ensure long-term progress, measures are also planned to improve information for households, disseminate know-how and develop the skills of professionals (see Appendix 4). In 2025, the federal government will assess whether the measures of the action plan are sufficient. If the scope of the measures proves too limited and the reduction in food waste too slow, the federal government will be able to take additional measures during the second phase.

### *3.5 Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050*

The Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050 has also been developed as one of the measures in the 2021-2023 Action Plan in support of implementation of the SDS 2030. Designed jointly by various government offices and departments,[37] its aim is to help agriculture and the agri-food sector adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions. It is based on the principles of the 2022 report on the future direction of agricultural policy and those of Switzerland's Long-term Climate Strategy 2050, and includes measures aimed, for example, at making agricultural production more resilient to climate hazards and improving the sustainability of trade relations, improving food-related skills in compulsory education and reducing food waste. At the international level, on the basis of the Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050, Switzerland has included a food systems perspective in its second Nationally Determined Contribution, for the period 2031-2035, under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). To achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, reducing emissions linked to food consumption throughout the life cycle is an important objective that complements the sectoral objective for agriculture.

#### 3.5.1 **Climate Strategy goals**

This cross-sectoral strategy provides guidance to the federal administration and highlights important action areas for tackling climate change to political decision-makers. It is based on three goals, set out in the Federal Council's report on the future direction of agricultural policy, which are to be achieved by 2050:

1) Domestic agricultural production is adapted to the climate and local conditions: it contributes at least 50% of the food needs of the population of Switzerland, taking into account the local production potential and the absorption capacity of the ecosystems.
2) The Swiss population eats a healthy and balanced diet that is environmentally-friendly and resource-efficient: their diet complies with the recommendations of the Swiss food pyramid, and the greenhouse gas footprint of food per capita is reduced by at least two thirds compared to 2020.
3) Swiss agriculture is more climate-friendly, which in practical terms means that greenhouse gases from domestic agricultural production have been reduced by at least 40% compared to 1990. The remaining emissions are offset as far as possible.[38]

[37] Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) and Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)
[38] through negative emissions

The strategy includes plans to step up research into reforming the food system, taking into account the principles of agroecology. It also intends to develop existing policy instruments in a coherent way, so that the entire food system moves towards the goal of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and climate risks are reduced to an absolute minimum. The general goals described above are to be achieved through eight sub-goals (see Figure 3):

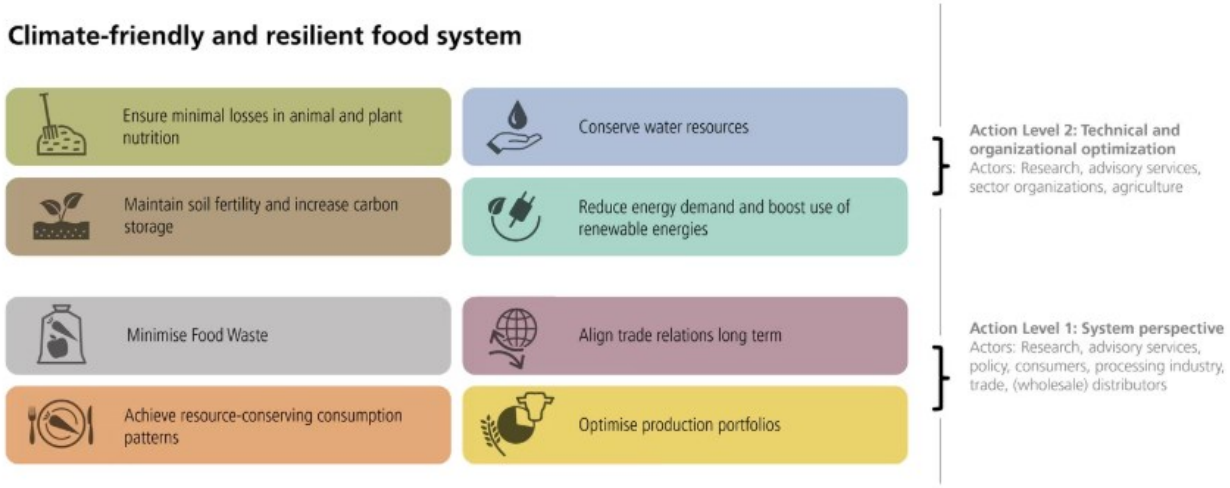


*Figure 3. Sub-goals of the Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy.*

In combination with the protection of arable land and the maintenance of a high level of biodiversity, these sub-goals are necessary steps towards achieving the general goals, hence the importance of periodically monitoring progress in achieving them. This will enable the identification of useful measures and their implementation.

#### 3.5.2 **Set of measures**

The second part of the Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050 is a set of measures by means of which the goals set out in the strategy are to be achieved, and outlining the first stage between now and 2030. The measures listed cover both adaptation to climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and concern both agricultural production and food. The set of measures takes into account and complements the ongoing work of the federal administration and the activities of third parties relating to the reform of the food system. A total of 42 measures are included, of which 25 are already under way and 17 are new, all of which fall under one of the eight sub-goals (see Appendix 5).

### *3.6 Multi-stakeholder collaboration*

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and transforming food systems is a task that falls to society as a whole: it will require the collaboration of all players within their respective spheres of competence. The Federal Council therefore calls on the cantons and communes, civil society, the business sector, academia and the public at large to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to work with the federal government to achieve them.

In this context, in 2022, one of the first measures of the SDS was, for example, to pursue dialogue within a citizens' assembly, with a view to strengthening the resilience of the food system. On 2 February 2023, the recommendations of the citizens' assembly[39] were presented to politicians, government officials and the general public at the Swiss Food Systems Summit. These recommendations show how a representative group of the population living in Switzerland envisages the transition to a healthy, sustainable diet.

[39] Recommendations for Swiss food policy (Citizens' Assembly for Food Policy)

### 3.6.1 Cooperation with cantons and communes

Future dialogue and structured tripartite cooperation between the different levels of government in implementing the 2030 Agenda will be addressed at a political level (Conference of Cantonal Governments [CCG] and Conferences of Cantonal Directors) and at a technical level (Cantonal Sustainable Development Network [CSDN] and thematic bodies). Cities and communes in particular play an important part in the effective implementation of sustainable development locally. They are also involved at an international level.

Institutional cooperation and coordination between the federal government, cantons and communes is being further strengthened and open dialogue and inclusion encouraged. The Federal Council is urging the cantons and communes to incorporate sustainable development into their regular planning and management processes, specifically inviting them to consider the aims and strategic directions of the SDS 2030 priority topics.

Several cantons have developed strategies to promote a sustainable, balanced and local diet. The strategies adopted by the cantons are varied: drafting charters, strategies, calls for tenders from the private sector or guidelines. The cantons are also joining forces and cooperating, notably through the Conference of Cantonal Directors of Agriculture (CCDA), which is collaborating on a number of issues, including the resilience of farms to various external shocks, especially climate change.

Cities play a particularly important role and are gaining increasing recognition, given that three quarters of the Swiss population live in cities and urban municipalities.[40] Cities also play a key role in providing healthy, seasonal, locally-produced collective catering, in managing waste and therefore food waste, and in supporting poor and vulnerable people. Their proximity to citizens and civil society makes cities key players in the transformation of food systems, particularly in terms of raising awareness of behavioural change. Many local initiatives and innovative public policies on food are being tested in cities. The Union of Swiss Cities[41] recently drew up a Charter of Swiss Cities and Communes for Sustainable Nutrition to defend the interests of Swiss urban areas, and to represent it in political circles and public opinion (see Box 1).

**Box 1: Charter of Swiss Cities and Communes for Sustainable Nutrition**

Given that cities are key players in the national food system, closer coordination and collaboration with the federal government is essential in the transformation of food systems.

With this in mind, a group of Swiss cities and communes have drawn up a Charter for Healthy and Sustainable Nutrition,[42] to send out a joint message on the importance of a sustainable diet, show that they share a common vision of a sustainable food system and strengthen their mutual network.

In line with the strategies set out in this National Pathway (SDS2030 and SCA2050 in particular), the signatory cities and communes intend to assume their role and responsibility by contributing, within the framework of urban and communal discretion, to the transformation of food systems towards greater sustainability. Their goals are the following:

1. *The proportion of the population eating a healthy, balanced diet that respects the environment and available resources is increasing. The diet corresponds to the recommendations of the Swiss food pyramid.*
2. *The greenhouse gas footprint of food per capita is reduced.*
3. *Avoidable food losses throughout the value chain are minimised.*
4. *Agriculture produces in a climate-friendly and locally-adapted manner, and greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural production are reduced.*
5. *Sustainable public procurement in the food sector complies with the federal government's recommendations and is geared towards the "good practice" ambition level.*

[40] Union of Swiss Cities UVS
[41] Union of Swiss Cities UVS
[42] Charte_alimentation_durable.pdf

### 3.6.2 Cooperation with civil society, business and academia

The Federal Council involves all relevant interest groups in a participatory and partnership-based manner in the implementation of the SDS 2030, institutionalising and reinforcing dialogue with those interest groups. It strives to encourage informal exchanges between all the partners, while strengthening a wide range of national and international cooperation. For this purpose, the Federal Council uses existing vehicles and creates space for mobilising new actors and ideas. This paves the way for a wide range of perspectives to be taken into account and makes for a better understanding of the cross-connections between individual Sustainable Development Goals and of the 2030 Agenda as a whole. For example, the SDGital2030 platform[43] enables the federal administration and external stakeholders to be widely consulted on the implementation of the SDGs, and enables the diversity of Switzerland's activities in the field of sustainable development to be taken into account. The interdepartmental 2030 Agenda Advisory Group appointed by the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee – comprising representatives of civil society, business, academia and other interested parties – also plays a key role. A few other examples of initiatives by stakeholders from civil society, business and academia who are helping to transform food systems towards greater sustainability are presented in Box 2.

**Box 2: Examples of initiatives by stakeholders from civil society, business and academia to transform food systems**

The stakeholders that are working towards the objectives of transforming food systems are also active in their own right, and their activities are not necessarily directed by the Federal Council. The federal service's principle of subsidiarity adds a certain added value to its cooperation with civil society, business and academia. Below are some examples of relevant initiatives:

- The Swiss Food & Nutrition Valley[44] (SFNV) is a network of Swiss innovators, including universities, large companies, innovation accelerators, investors, government bodies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, all committed to rethinking food systems.

- In the field of protein transition, ETH Zurich and EPFL have launched the Alt Protein Project, in collaboration with the Good Food Institute, bringing together academia, young student researchers and the fertile ecosystem of start-ups in the field of protein transition. In the same field, Protein Transition Switzerland is a project aimed at accelerating the protein transition through cross-sector collaboration.

- From an international perspective, ETH Zurich's World Food System Center is committed to creating concrete solutions to the challenges facing our food system, through collaboration from global and local stakeholders.

- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network Switzerland (SDSN Switzerland) brings together representatives from academia, business and civil society with a view to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030 in Switzerland and around the world: SDSN Switzerland's Avenir Alimentaire project[45] seeks to bring together the actors in the food system to find solutions that combine ecological, social and economic interests for the long term.

[43] Home page - SDGital2030
[44] Swiss Food & Nutrition Valley: a unique food innovation ecosystem
[45] Avenir Alimentaire – SDSN Schweiz

### 3.6.3 International collaboration and support for UNFSS monitoring

International cooperation is one of the ways in which Switzerland can contribute to addressing global challenges, together with other partners. For example, the Federal Council is closely monitoring the development of the voluntary guidelines of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which serve as a source of ideas and inspiration for policy development.

Since 2025, Switzerland has released a new International Cooperation Strategy 2025-2028, containing several public policy measures to support the transformation of food systems in Switzerland and around the world. Within the objectives of this strategy, the climate and environment objective contains three sub-objectives, one of which - fighting hunger - highlights points that are relevant to Switzerland's international cooperation on food systems. In the short term, Switzerland's humanitarian action includes food aid and nutrition programmes for children and vulnerable people. In the medium term, international cooperation strengthens the resilience of farming families and populations, from production to consumption, based on the principles of agroecology, and thus promotes their access to healthy, nutritious, affordable and sufficient food. International cooperation also works on the structural causes of malnutrition and supports the long-term transformation of food systems to make them more sustainable, equitable, inclusive, shock-resistant and respectful of human health and the environment. It does so within the framework of bilateral and multilateral political dialogue, for example by promoting the right to adequate food and by providing incentives to stimulate SMEs and public agri-food research. For the period 2025-2028, Switzerland will strengthen its support for food systems at multilateral level and in the countries concerned.

In addition, Switzerland is one of the 160 countries that have signed the *UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action*[46] in the context of COP28 in 2023, which stresses the importance of a transition to sustainable food systems as a means of fully achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. This declaration commits the signatories to collaborate on five objectives: strengthening adaptation and resilience actions, promoting food security and nutrition, supporting workers in agricultural and food systems, strengthening integrated water management and optimising the climatic and environmental benefits linked to agriculture and food systems, while limiting and reducing their harmful effects.

Switzerland supports several initiatives that are part of the UNFSS ecosystem of support. For example, Switzerland has enabled the implementation of the 3FS (*Food Systems Financial Flows*) tool developed by the World Bank and IFAD in eleven countries, to analyse domestic and international financing of food systems in countries and their alignment with priority public policies. Another example of support, in line with a long-term commitment to the right to food, is Switzerland's funding of the Right to Food team at the FAO to organise awareness-raising clinics on integrating the right to adequate food into national plans for transforming agri-food systems and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Finally, following the 2021 Food Systems Summit, Switzerland joined two multi-stakeholder action coalitions: the Coalition for Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology and the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All. In addition, Switzerland actively supports the UNFSS follow-up process through its role as co-lead of the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

*Coalition for Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology*

The aim of this coalition is to accelerate the transformation of food systems through agroecology and the implementation of National Pathways in three areas: 1) facilitate co-creation and exchange of knowledge, 2) foster increased investments in agroecology and 3) seek political commitment and greater commitment to agroecological transformation. Six working groups have been created (research, policies, financing and investments, communications, implementation and markets) to make the coalition operational and take its work forward. A steering committee[47] has been elected, with Switzerland representing the European member countries and currently serving as chair. Switzerland supports the coalition financially and participates

[46] COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action

[47] Steering Committee – Agroecology Coalition (agroecology-coalition.org)

actively in the working groups on research, policies and implementation. At the beginning of 2024, the coalition developed its 2024-2030 strategy.[48]

*Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All*[49]

This coalition, co-led by the FAO, UN-Nutrition and WHO, aims to accelerate a substantial increase in impactful actions by stakeholders across food systems, aligned for collective impact on healthy diets from sustainable food systems. The coalition aims to achieve its purpose by conducting three interrelated functions, which respond to countries' requests and priorities: i) addressing priorities and challenges at the country level through aligning action across food systems for collective impact; ii) facilitating peer-to-peer learning between countries; and iii) managing special projects on integrating nutrition, health and sustainability through food, determined by country priorities.

*Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network*

The Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme[50] is a multi-actor partnership focused on catalysing urgent transformation towards sustainable food systems. Switzerland is one of the founding members of this initiative, and one of its co-leads. The SFS Programme is part of the UN's One Planet Network, a mechanism dedicated to advancing the SDGs in relation to sustainable consumption and production. As part of a strategic collaboration with the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, the SFS Programme organised the 2023 conference "*The Transformation We Need*" as a contribution to the first UNFSS Stocktaking Moment. In 2025, the 5th Global Conference of the SFS Programme was held under the overall theme "*Overcoming the Barriers to Food Systems Transformation*".[51] Furthermore, the SFS Programme has a working group dedicated to supporting the implementation of National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation, by promoting the exchange of experiences, open dialogue and peer learning.

[48] Strategy: accelerating food system transformation through agroecology! - Agroecology Coalition (agroecology-coalition.org)
[49] The Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All (HDSFS) | UN-Nutrition: the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism for nutrition. (unnutrition.org)
[50] Sustainable Food Systems | One Planet network
[51] 5th global conference SFS Programme – OVERCOMING THE BARRIERS TO FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION | One Planet network

## 4. Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (SDS 2030) adopted by the Federal Council on 23 June 2021, together with the concrete measures of its associated action plans, the Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050, the Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2025–2032, the Action Plan against Food Waste, and the Federal Council's report on the future direction of agricultural policy, form the basis of Switzerland's National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation in Support of the 2030 Agenda.

Switzerland is developing its National Pathway pragmatically and with a systemic approach, to take account of new challenges, possible political decisions and developments at international and national level. The cantons and communes, business, civil society and academia are consulted at various stages of the revision process and involved in an appropriate way, just as the recommendations of the national FSSD or the global processes relating to the UNFSS and FSSD are taken into account when additional measures are drawn up to implement the strategy.

While Switzerland's SDS 2030 will remain valid until 2030, the associated action plans will be reviewed and adapted every three years. The latest action plan, for the period 2024-2027, replaces the action plan for the period 2021-2023 and incorporates additional measures. The mid-term report on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, which looks back at the implementation of the 2021-2023 Action Plan, reports in particular on the state of implementation of the first measures in the National Pathway, namely a reduction in food waste; updating the climate strategy for agriculture; determination of the baseline number of farms producing in a particularly environmentally-friendly and animal-friendly manner; and dialogue for a sustainable food system. Based on the estimates and assessments relating to the strategy's objectives, the indicators of the MONET 2030 sustainable development monitoring system[52] and the conclusions of Switzerland's country report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the mid-term report shows in which areas the implementation of the SDS 2030 is on track and where difficulties and gaps remain.

Whereas it included just four measures in 2021, the National Pathway now relies on action plans from six different strategic documents. It is part of the vision of a more systemic and cross-sectoral agricultural policy for the post-2030 period, taking into account the entire value chain, from production to consumption, as well as environmental aspects. Switzerland thus has a clear and targeted national pathway for food systems transformation in support of the 2030 Agenda, which is in line with the national FSSD that was conducted as part of the UNFSS preparatory process, which remains adaptable to future developments and open to multi-stakeholder input, and which will contribute to the implementation of the results of the UNFSS until 2030. Finally, while Switzerland hopes to achieve its objectives by then, 2030 will not mark the end of Switzerland’s efforts, but rather an important milestone in the transformation of its food system and a targeted contribution to this transformation both at national and international level.

[52] MONET 2030 indicator system

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Future direction of agricultural policy – *Possible measures in the various policy areas*

Report of the Federal Council (2022), pp. 74-75 https://www.blw.admin.ch/blw/fr/home/politik/agrarpolitik/postulat.html

| ***Strengthening innovation capacity and know-how*** |
|---|
| - Increasing know-how in the agricultural sector through more continuing education opportunities |
| - Developing and strengthening coordinated instruments to encourage innovation in the agriculture and food sector |
| - Supporting the organisation of short, sustainable value chains, in particular encouraging the pooling of supply and quality assurance |
| - Repealing or relaxing certain restrictive regulations in the areas of rural land law, agricultural leases and protection against ambient concentrations in agricultural zones |
| - Improving people's skills with respect to healthy and sustainable diets through education and awareness-raising → Swiss Nutrition Strategy (see section 2.2) |
| ***Improving the efficient use of resources and adaptation to local conditions*** |
| - Implementing measures to improve water management |
| - Adapting or repealing measures that create incentives that run counter to farming adapted to local conditions and, if necessary, to introduce incentive taxes in the animal feed trade (domestic and imported) |
| - Reinforcing soil-friendly farming adapted to the soil's properties |
| - Developing PEPs for animal feed imports and farm fertiliser transfers |
| - Adapting land-use planning rules to link livestock buildings more closely to forage areas |
| - Implementing the Action Plan against Food Waste → environmental policy (see section 2.8) |
| - Optimising the recovery/elimination of nutrients (N and P) from central wastewater treatment plants and from the incineration of sewage sludge → environmental policy (see section 2.3) |
| - Authorising feeding with slaughter by-products → law on infectious animal diseases (see section 2.3) |
| ***Increasing transparency and truth in costs*** |
| - Improving the framework conditions for voluntary sustainability and animal welfare labelling of food products |
| - Improving price transparency throughout the value chain |
| - Establishing target agreements with the retail trade with the aim of promoting sustainability at production and consumption levels |
| - Eliminating inappropriate sales promotion incentives |
| - Introducing sustainability provisions in future bilateral trade agreements and, in the case of products that are particularly problematic from a sustainability point of view, examining the link between customs concessions and compliance with sustainability standards |
| - Deciding on coordinated measures at international level to internalise the external costs of food |
| - Introducing mandatory declaration for imported foodstuffs produced using methods banned in Switzerland → food legislation (see section 2.6) |
| ***Simplifying the set of instruments*** |
| - Using the possibilities offered by digital technology (intelligent cross-referencing of different data sources, improved data exchange) to facilitate the management of businesses and the work of operators, as well as simplifying the enforcement of regulatory provisions |
| - Making customs protection measures more efficient and simpler to apply |
| - Combining separate direct payment programmes into programmes applicable to the whole operation or to certain parts of it |
| - Developing direct payments by making them more results-oriented |
| - Simplifying the direct payments system with more one-off payments (investment aid) |
| - Developing the general concept of measures, giving priority to directives or incentive taxes rather than financial incentives |
| - Repealing measures with a poor cost-benefit ratio |

## Appendix 2: Mid-term report on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy – *Measures taken over the last three years (2021-2023 Action Plan)*

Federal Council (2024), pp. 8,9,10,38. https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html

### 1) *Estimated achievement of the SDGital2030 target*

In its Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, in connection with its priority topic of "Sustainable consumption and sustainable production", the federal government made the following observation: food systems must be made more sustainable so that they enhance food security and help promote healthy and sustainable nutrition without surpassing the tolerance limits of global and local ecosystems. At the same time, they must maintain and, where necessary, enhance the social compatibility and the economic base of the stakeholders concerned. To accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad, the federal government proposed 4 goals: the portion of the population consuming a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet in keeping with the nutritional recommendations of the food pyramid rises to a third (2.1); avoidable food losses per capita are half the 2017 figure (12.3); on the basis of environmental accounting, the carbon footprint from final per capita food demand declines by one quarter compared to 2020 (12.2 b); the proportion of farms engaged in especially environment- and animal-friendly production under public and private sustainability programmes rises by a third compared with 2020 (2.4).

Here is what the federal government had to say in 2024, when it published its mid-term report: When the baseline assessment on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was drawn up in 2021, the federal government had not yet assessed the extent to which goal 2.1 had been achieved. The positive assessment of goal 2.4 is based on the progress made in adapting the Agriculture Act and the Direct Payments Ordinance. The achievement of goal 12.3 is considered to be fairly realistic, while that of goal 12.2 (b) is considered to be fairly unrealistic.

### *2) Progress made and challenges ahead in implementation*

With regard to the implementation of its 2021-2023 Action Plan, the federal government had proposed four different measures: reduction in food waste; updating the climate strategy for agriculture; determination of the baseline number of farms producing in a particularly environmentally and animal-friendly manner; and dialogue for a sustainable food system.

Although the Swiss Nutrition Strategy is based on a voluntary approach to collaboration with industry, more effective cooperation between the federal and cantonal levels, specialists and industry has enabled progress to be made in terms of information and education on a healthy, balanced diet. The introduction of the Nutri-Score in 2019 helps to inform consumers about the composition of a product and enable them to quickly compare similar products from a nutritional point of view. The revision of nutrition recommendations takes account of the impact of food: in 2024, this change will be illustrated by a more sustainable Swiss food pyramid. Consumption of fruit and vegetables fell between 2012 and 2022. Efforts are still needed to bring consumption of these products into line with dietary recommendations. Generally speaking, there is a lack of detailed information on the eating habits of the Swiss population.[53] By 2024, thanks to two practical guides and a self-assessment tool, the collective catering sector will be able to apply Swiss quality standards to promote health and sustainability.

In 2022, the Federal Council adopted an action plan with the aim of halving food waste by 2030 compared with 2017 (measure 1 of the 2021-2023 Action Plan of the SDS 2030). At the same time, DETEC and 28 heads of undertakings and associations in the Swiss food industry signed an agreement based on voluntary measures to combat food waste. In 2025, the federal government will assess whether the measures in the action plan are sufficient. If the scope of the measures proves too small and the reduction in food losses too slow, the federal government will be able to take additional measures during the second phase. To achieve the desired effects, practical information and solutions must be available, and the commitment shown by industry and the public in particular must be solid.

Since 2000, there has been a positive trend in the nitrogen balance at national level and in the area of land devoted to organic farming. Despite this, there are still gaps in relation to the target, for example in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and food waste. The current values for the greenhouse gas footprint of food cover the period from 2000 to 2021. The baseline for goal 12.2 (b) relates to the year 2020. It is therefore not yet possible to assess the extent to which the goal has been achieved on the basis of quantitative indicators. At the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021, Switzerland emphasised that agroecology was a crucial approach for advancing the transformation

[53] Although Agristat produces annual statistics on agriculture and the food industry, and in particular on the population's purchasing habits, these do not accurately reflect what the Swiss eat.

of food systems, both at home and abroad. In 2022, the Federal Council approved the report on the future direction of agricultural policy, which explains how the Swiss farming and agri-food sectors will be able to make an even greater contribution to food security in future. Motion 22.4251 "Report on the future direction of agricultural policy. Realisation of the concept" calls on the Federal Council to specify by 2027 how the future agricultural policy could be shaped in concrete terms. Switzerland is planning changes aimed at improving the achievement of the agriculture-related environmental objectives (AEOs), in particular through the SDS 2030 and the future agricultural policy (AP22+). This will make it possible to catch up on the deficits affecting the achievement of AEOs in the areas of biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions and water and soil quality. In addition, there are significant data gaps (in relation to soils or water consumption and demand in agriculture).

Solutions for food systems also need to be more holistic, with more interdisciplinary research and more cross-sectoral measures, instruments and policies. Collaboration between all the stakeholders involved is also important. Indeed, transforming food systems is a task that concerns society as a whole and must be carried out in an inclusive manner. A citizens' dialogue for a sustainable food system was set up in 2022 (measure 4 of the 2021-2023 Action Plan). The recommendations drawn up within this framework were officially presented to the political world, the administration and the general public on 2 February 2023. The processes of the Citizens' Assembly for Food Policy and the Swiss Food Systems Summit have produced recommendations that are being analysed within the framework of the relevant sectoral policies, and in particular during the work on the future direction of agricultural policy. The scientific guideline "Pathways to Switzerland’s future of food", which was also drawn up as part of this process, offers a critical assessment of the state of our current food system. According to that document, we need to redirect the entire value creation chain in order to preserve our livelihoods and our economic foundations.

At international level, Switzerland is very involved in political dialogue with a number of multilateral partners, as well as in research. It is committed to the transition towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems, the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, the reduction of food losses and waste, and the promotion of healthy and sustainable food (e.g. within the One Planet network/10YFP or the UN Food Systems Summit and its follow-up process). Although there is a consensus on the need for food systems and on their malfunctioning, at a time when hunger in the world is increasing, the solutions proposed by different stakeholders are not always coordinated and vary according to local, regional and national conditions and priorities.

Switzerland's approach increasingly places agroecological methods and principles at the heart of its interventions, and in particular the joint creation of solutions. Most of the interventions supported by Switzerland give priority to strengthening the capacity of institutions and national, regional and local policies run directly by and for farming families and other vulnerable people in rural areas, not forgetting indigenous peoples and traditional communities, displaced persons and marginalised people in urban and peri-urban areas. Switzerland supports the collective action of these groups in their food systems by strengthening their capacity to negotiate and participate in local markets and governance mechanisms. Swiss civil society recognises this important role for Switzerland, but it has also pointed out, in various reports in 2021 and 2024, certain dissonances between different aspects of foreign policy and national policy, for example with regard to intellectual property and farmers' rights over seeds.

## Appendix 3: 2024-2027 Action Plan for the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy – *Measures to be taken over the next three years*

### *1) Survey of international indicators for a healthy and sustainable diet*

This measure consists of collecting internationally comparable indicators of food quality, as part of the Global Diet Quality Project, funded in part by Switzerland. This data – collected in over a hundred countries and available to the public – serves as a basis for governments to take policy decisions based on objective facts, and to set up tailor-made programmes to promote a healthier, more sustainable diet. Switzerland's participation in this periodic survey means that internationally comparable data on food in our country can be obtained and made available. This measure makes a contribution to the "Sustainable consumption and sustainable production" priority topic of the SDS 2030, and more specifically to the sub-topic "Furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad", which explicitly includes the international dimension. In Switzerland, the last comprehensive national food survey was carried out in 2014-2015 (menuCH). No date has yet been set for a new complete survey of adults. This measure contributes to achieving goal 2.1 of the SDS ("the portion of the population consuming a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet in keeping with the nutritional recommendations of the food pyramid rises to a third"), in particular by providing data for monitoring this objective. It should be noted, however, that the level of detail of the data collected in connection with the Global Diet Quality Project is much lower than that of the national menuCH survey carried out by the FSVO.

In addition, through the monitoring it offers, the Global Diet Quality Project is helping to provide a summary assessment of the impact that food in Switzerland has on greenhouse gas emissions compared internationally. This data can therefore provide information for assessing goal 12.2 (b) of the SDS 2030 ("on the basis of environmental accounting, the carbon footprint from final per capita food demand declines by one quarter compared to 2020") and goal 1 of the National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation in Support of the 2030 Agenda.

*Milestones:*

- Beginning of 2024: end of the first data collection.
- 2024 and subsequent years: analysis of data and calculation of indicators to determine Switzerland's status in the international context, and deduction of possible recommendations to complement other sources of data.
- 2025-2027: data collection is repeated periodically every two to three years.

*Existing related planning documents:*

- Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2017-2024 (FSVO 2017)
- Action Plan of the Swiss Nutrition Strategy 2017-2024 (FSVO 2018)
- menuCH
- Global Diet Quality Project
- NRP 69, NRP 73
- Follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit: a healthy, sustainable diet for Switzerland
- National pathway for food systems transformation
- Agristat

### *2) Modelling of future scenarios for the Swiss agri-food industry and assessment of the consequences for sustainable development*

As part of its report on the future direction of agricultural policy, the Federal Council has sketched out a long-term outlook for the Swiss agri-food industry, looking ahead to the year 2050. In this context, we are pursuing a global approach that integrates all the stakeholders in the food system, from production to consumption, via processing, trade and imports. The long-term outlook takes account of the national and international framework for environmental law. The outlook is also based on the goals of the SDS 2030 and itself formulates goals for 2050 that are consistent with those of the strategy. Agroscope's Green DSS-ESSA model has long been used to carry out model-based impact analyses for global approaches to the food system. To estimate the impact that the major directions outlined in the report drawn up in response to the postulate could have on agriculture and food, various scenarios need to be modelled using the Green DSS-ESSA model. The scenarios modelled involve estimating – in taking account of exogenous parameters such as demographic change and technical progress – how the range of agricultural products, foreign trade, the rate of self-sufficiency and incomes in the agricultural sector will evolve, as well as the various environmental impacts of food in Switzerland and abroad. As presented in the report drawn up in response to the postulate, the transformation of the food system will lead to transfers between the different areas of production, but also to changes in the various structural elements upstream and downstream. This is why it will also be necessary to study the economic and social consequences of the transformation at these various levels. The first step will be to develop a monitoring and forecasting tool to determine the changes affecting the Swiss agri-food system.

Milestones:

- By 2024: modelling of prospective scenarios in the field of agriculture and food with Green DSS-ESSA.
- By 2026: impact analysis from a sustainable development perspective for upstream and downstream sectors.

*Existing related planning documents:*

- Future direction of agricultural policy. Report by the Federal Council in response to EATC-S Postulate 20.3931 of 20 August 2020 and EATC-N Postulate 21.3015 of 2 February 2021 (FC 2022).
- EATC-S Motion 22.4251 "Report on the future direction of agricultural policy".

### *3) Groundwork for approaches designed to increase the sustainability of trade relations*

Within the framework of its legal provisions, Switzerland is engaged on behalf of open, barrier-free and rules-based trade. Its strategy aims to reduce import duties on industrial goods, introduce appropriate and proportionate international technical requirements and improve market access for agricultural products. Under Art. 104a let. d of the Federal Constitution, cross-border trade relations must contribute to the sustainable development of the agriculture and food sector. New bilateral or multilateral trade agreements are likely in the period up to 2050. This situation offers opportunities to open up new markets for Swiss quality products that respect the environment and animal welfare, while making a contribution to Swiss foreign trade and therefore also to Switzerland's economic attractiveness. The groundwork carried out as part of this measure includes the elements mentioned below. The first step is to take stock and analyse international developments in the field of trade and sustainable development. The analysis could focus, for example, on international sustainability standards and the certification and due diligence systems based on them – instruments favoured by the EU. The work under way in international organisations (for example, at the OECD on "Stocktaking of trade-related measures linked to the environmental sustainability of agriculture") must be accompanied and even actively supported where possible. The effects of the various approaches also need to be assessed. In the end, various agricultural products must be examined using sustainable development criteria to determine their impact. The Federal Council is already examining on a case-by-case basis the possibility of linking certain concessions made under preferential trade agreements to sustainable development criteria, particularly with regard to production methods. This applies to products that are particularly problematic from a sustainable development point of view, such as palm oil for the Economic Partnership Agreement with Indonesia. The groundwork mentioned above should help to better identify the corresponding products and assess their impact on sustainable development. It is a contribution to the implementation of the foreign economic policy strategy.

*Milestones:*

- By autumn 2024: interim report on the analysis of recognised and relevant international sustainability standards.
- Examination of best practices developed in other countries in the field of trade and sustainable development.
- By the end of 2025: analysis of the impact of domestic production and imported or exported agricultural products on sustainable development.

*Existing related planning documents:*

- Art. 104a of the Federal Constitution (Cst.) of 18 April 1999.
- Foreign economic policy strategy (EAER 2021).
- Future direction of agricultural policy. Report by the Federal Council in response to EATC-S Postulate 20.3931 of 20 August 2020 and EATC-N Postulate 21.3015 of 2 February 2021 (FC 2022).
- EATC-S Motion 22.4251 "Report on the future direction of agricultural policy".
- Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050.

**<u>Appendix 4</u>: Action plan to reduce food waste – *Directions and measures, relevant levels of the food chain and main implementers***

Report of the Federal Council (2022), pp. 14-15: https://www.newsd.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/70976.pdf

| Measures against food waste | Agriculture | Processing | Trade | Catering | Households | Key implementing organisations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Private sector initiatives and innovations | | | | | | |
| Cross-industry agreement<br>- Define level-specific data collection methods, reduction targets and reporting processes<br>- The signatory organisations voluntarily take and coordinate measures to achieve the agreed objectives; promote information and education measures | X | X | X | X | X | FOEN with undertakings and industry associations |
| Optimisation along the food supply chain: standards, contracts, commercial practices, planning and technical innovations<br>- Improved crop planning, including digital tools<br>- Flexible action design<br>- Optimisation of quality standards | X | X | X | X | (X) | Industries |
| Raise awareness of best practices against food waste in the catering industry and implement them in as many businesses as possible | | | | X | | Industries |
| Develop and promote business models for selling surplus products and product innovations based on by-products such as whey and bran | X | X | X | X | | Industries |
| Increase donations of unsellable food to charitable organisations | X | X | X | X | | Industries |
| Improve declaration of shelf life dates on end products | X | X | X | | | Industries |
| Optimise packaging, package sizes and sales formats | | | X | X | X | Industries |
| Public sector measures | | | | | | |
| Monitoring, support for pilot projects and implementation assistance for data collection methods<br>- Two surveys of total food waste and the resulting environmental impact along the value chain will be conducted and published in 2025 and 2031<br>- Pilot projects to prevent food waste along the entire food chain will be supported with existing promotion instruments<br>- Lay down standardised data collection methods in an implementation guide where appropriate | X | X | X | X | X | FOEN, FOAG with industries |
| Enshrine the prevention of food waste in public procurement<br>- Enshrine sustainability and the prevention of food waste more firmly in Swiss quality standards for healthy collective catering<br>- Promote recommendations for sustainable public procurement in the food sector<br>- Information and monitoring of food waste at federal agencies, e.g. within RUMBA | | | | X | X | FOEN, FSVO, FOPER, FOBL, cantons and communes |
| Improve framework for food donations (especially implementation of Motion 19.3112 Munz) | | X | X | X | X | FSVO |
| Review and improve shelf life declarations (especially implementation of Postulate 19.3483 Masshardt) | | | X | | X | FSVO |
| Establish steering group on food waste to coordinate implementation of measures | X | X | X | X | X | FOEN (lead), FOAG, FSVO, representation of cantons and cities |
| Education and information | | | | | | |
| Strengthen skills for preventing food waste in the education system<br>- Vocational training and further training<br>- Basic and higher education | X | X | X | X | X | Work organisations, cantons and education partners |
| Information:<br>All stakeholders take appropriate measures to provide information and raise awareness of effective measures to reduce food waste | X | X | X | X | X | Public sector, industries and NGOs |

## Appendix 5: Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050: Action plan – *Overview of measures*

FOAG, FSVO, FOEN (2023). Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050

### Achieve resource-conserving consumption patterns

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| K-01 | Improve sustainability in the nutrition strategy | FSVO | |
| K-02 | Update nutritional recommendations and develop and implement a communication strategy | FSVO | |
| K-03 | Establish sustainable nutrition in collective catering | FSVO | |
| K-04 | Promote sustainable nutrition in sales promotion | FOAG | |
| K-05 | Develop a framework for the voluntary climate labelling of foodstuffs | FOAG | |
| K-06 | Assess the design of target agreements with retailers to promote sustainability in production and consumption | FOAG | |
| K-07 | Develop reform proposals to move towards true-cost pricing in the food value chain | FOAG | |
| K-08a | Strengthen competences for healthy and sustainable nutrition in compulsory and general education schools | FOEN | |
| K-08b | Strengthen competences for healthy and sustainable nutrition in vocational education and training | FOEN | |

### Minimise food waste

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| F-01 | Implement the action plan against food waste | FOEN | |

### Align trade relations long term

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| H-01a | Integrate the revised EFTA model chapter in all trade agreements and monitoring | SECO | |
| H-01b | Review sustainability conditionalities in the negotiation of new preferential trade agreements | SECO | |
| H-02 | Strengthen the commitment to sustainability standards at international level | Misc. | |
| H-03 | Analyse the agrarian tariff system | FOAG | |
| H-04 | Assess import facilitation based on environmental standards and for products with special climate benefits, in conjunction with agroecological principles | FOAG | |
| H-05 | Assess support for existing networks and the establishment of further networks or platforms to promote the import of sustainable products in the food sector | FOEN | |

### Optimise production portfolios

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| P-01 | Support buildings, facilities and machinery that contribute to resource conservation through structural improvements | FOAG | |
| P-02 | Establish the assessment of animal health along the entire food chain by means of digitalisation | FSVO | |
| P-03 | Improve plant breeding for adaptation to climate change and as a contribution to reducing GHG emissions | FOAG | |
| P-04 | Assess agronomic variety testing | FOAG | |
| P-05a | Conduct a research and dialogue project to reduce feed-food competition | FOAG | |
| P-05b | Reduce feed-food competition in existing direct payments and market subsidies | FOAG | |
| P-06 | Align funding criteria for innovation, advisory and research projects with food system transformation | FOAG | |
| P-07 | Conclude agreements to reduce GHG emissions | FOAG | |
| P-08 | Support advice and training for climate-friendly and resource-efficient production | FOAG | |

### Ensure minimal losses in animal and plant nutrition

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| N-01 | Implement nutrient loss reduction path | FOAG | |
| N-02 | Revise the farm-level nutrient balance | FOAG | |
| N-03 | Promote the use of the ammonia calculator on individual farms | FOAG | |

### Conserve water resources

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| W-01 | Improve reporting on drought events | FOEN | |
| W-02 | Improve monitoring of water utilisation | FOEN | |
| W-03 | Create and implement a guideline for planning, assessing and subsidising irrigation infrastructures | FOAG | |
| W-04 | Create a platform for discussion of irrigation issues | FOAG | |
| W-05 | Develop a water utilisation concept for agriculture | FOAG | |

### Maintain soil fertility and increase carbon storage

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| B-01 | Set humus reference values | FOEN | |
| B-02 | Conduct field research on the use of biochar | Misc. | |
| B-03 | Promote the use of an farm-level humus balance | FOAG | |
| B-04 | Promote agroforestry systems | FOAG | |
| B-05 | Create a basis for providing advice on humus management supported by soil data | FOAG | |
| B-06 | Create and implement guidelines for dealing with organic soils | FOAG | |

### Reduce energy demand and boost use of renewable energies

| Measure | | Lead | Info (fr) |
|---|---|---|---|
| E-01 | Review the mineral oil tax refund | SECO | |
| E-02 | Create a favourable environment for renewable energy production | FOE | |
| E-03 | Establish an energy advisory service available to all farms | Cant. | |