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of the United Nations

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Switzerland

An innovative
partnership
for global
challenges



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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Acronyms

APO	Associate Professional Officer
AWM	Agriculture Water Management
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CoP	Community of Practice
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
EMPRES	Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFS	Farmer Field School
GACSA	Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
GASL	Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock
GSP	Global Soil Partnership
IES	Incentives for Ecosystem Services
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LEAP	Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance
MSP	Multistakeholder Partnership
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MP	Mountain Partnership
MPS	Mountain Partnership Secretariat
MPP	Mountain Partnership Products
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RAI	Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFS	Sustainable Food Systems
SIP	Smallholder Irrigation Programme
UN	United Nations
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WASAG	Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture
10YFP	10-Year Framework of Programmes

Partnership at a glance

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Since 1946, Switzerland has been among the Organization's foremost partners, cooperating in a vast range of fields in support of shared goals.

The resources provided to FAO by Switzerland are a significant contribution not only to progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and SDG2 in particular, but also to improving the way we get there, as required by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. From 2008 to 2018, Switzerland supported FAO in facilitating normative work on agriculture and sustainable food systems, as well as rapid emergency response through FAO's resilience programme. During the same period, the country contributed CHF 165 million (USD 168 million)¹ to FAO's efforts in achieving Zero Hunger through food loss and waste reduction, food safety, governance of tenure, resilient rural livelihoods, genetic resources, nutrition, sustainable livestock, plant production and health, water management, and sustainable mountain development. Its contributions also extended to providing FAO with world-class technical experts at headquarters and in the field, channelled through eight Associate Professional Officers (APOs) for the period 2017–2019, as well as numerous Swiss FAO staff around the world.

Through its own activities and those that it funds, Switzerland has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to sustainable development. This has taken place through the complementary support provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture. These assisted FAO in enhancing sustainable production and equal access to adequate food by helping farmers and their families mitigate the impacts of changes to their social, economic and physical environments. In addition, Switzerland contributed to FAO's global initiatives that foster multisectoral cooperation towards ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources — including soil, water and biodiversity — as well as gathering and disseminating agricultural knowledge, strengthening multistakeholder partnerships and promoting global food governance.

Switzerland was among the first resource partners to fund the consultation, negotiation and initial implementation of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Likewise, a recent increase in Swiss funding to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) was used to prepare case studies aimed at improving the implementation of the Convention's standards.

What is more, as one of FAO's strongest partners, the country has been a champion in supporting global initiatives that foster multisectoral cooperation and partnership, flexible funding modalities, and the gathering and dissemination of knowledge, thereby acknowledging that complex global challenges can only be overcome through innovative partnerships. These include the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, the One Planet (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme, the Global Soil Partnership, the Mountain Partnership, as well as innovative funding approaches, such as the Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism. Recently, FAO brokered new partnerships with Swiss non-state actors from the private sector (the Kuehne Foundation) and from academia (the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and the World Food System Center at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich).

¹ Values in Swiss francs (CHF) in this report are based on the exchange rate as of 11 July 2019 (USD 1 = CHF 0.986).

Sustainable diets for a Zero Hunger world

FAO's and Switzerland's commitment towards Zero Hunger, and quality, nutritious and sustainably produced food, was highlighted during the Swiss gastronomy fair "*Goûts & Terroirs*" in Bulle, at which FAO was a guest of honour in 2017. The fair, first created in 2000 and now bringing together over 250 exhibitors and nearly 40 000 visitors, is the largest national event devoted to the theme of local produce. FAO's participation was an important opportunity to showcase the Organization's work in achieving the SDGs and Zero Hunger in particular, presenting simple actions that the general public can take to preserve the earth's natural resources, eat better, waste less, make environmentally-friendly consumption choices, and become more climate-smart.

Likewise, in 2018 FAO, Switzerland and the Partage Foundation hosted a World Food Day exhibition at Geneva's central train station of Cornavin to stress Switzerland's contribution to achieving SDG2. The exhibition brought the Zero Hunger message to some of the 115 000 people who travel through the station every day and highlighted FAO's actions towards sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food waste and loss, which are critical issues for Switzerland. Throughout the day, FAO and its partners also engaged with the Swiss public, including children, raising awareness of the need for the world to be united in facing the challenges of food insecurity and malnutrition and in achieving a world free from hunger by 2030.

The events in Bulle and Geneva are just two examples of Switzerland's wide-ranging collaboration with FAO and clearly demonstrate the country's commitment to the shared goals of food security and sustainable agricultural development.

Switzerland has also proven to be a proactive partner in times of emergency. It has supported FAO's rapid response and interventions for the recovery of agricultural livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building. Between 2017 and 2018, 34 percent of Swiss voluntary contributions were invested in these fields of intervention. This was complemented by efforts to reduce rural poverty (28 percent) and activities to enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (19 percent). FAO's support to enhancing productivity and sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and to eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, received 17 percent and 2 percent, respectively, of the Swiss contributions during the same period. Africa was the primary focus of Swiss contributions (45 percent), followed by Asia (27 percent), interregional projects (17 percent), and activities in the Near East (11 percent).

Switzerland's long-term and multifaceted collaboration with FAO is a clear indication of the extent and depth of its dedication to food security and the sustainable agricultural development goals. Henceforth, the FAO-Switzerland commitment to the 2030 Agenda will act as a driving force to achieve sustained prosperity and a Zero Hunger world.

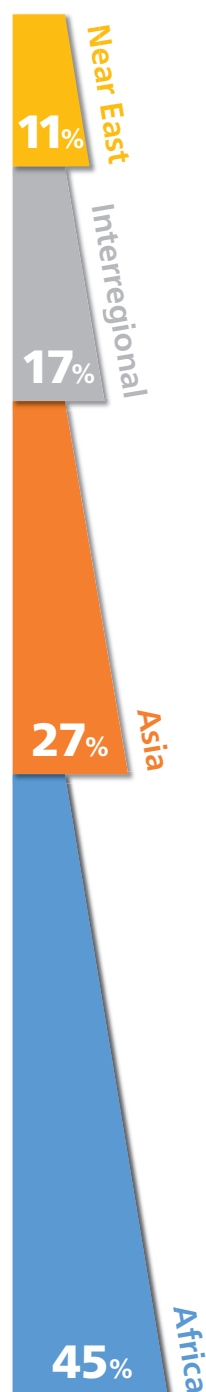
In figures

Total Swiss contributions to FAO (assessed and voluntary*) 2017–2018

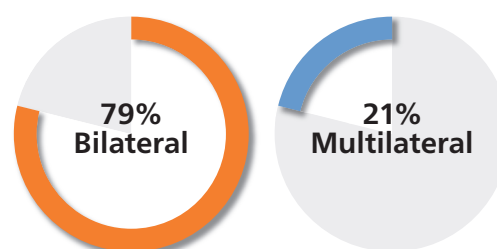
USD 36 993 846

(CHF 36 475 932)

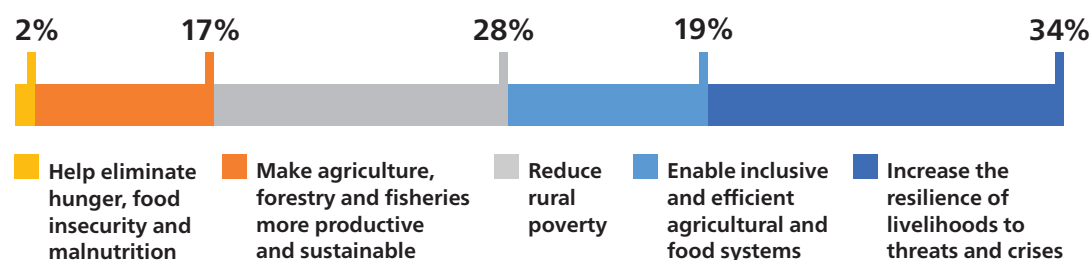
Regional distribution 2017–2018*



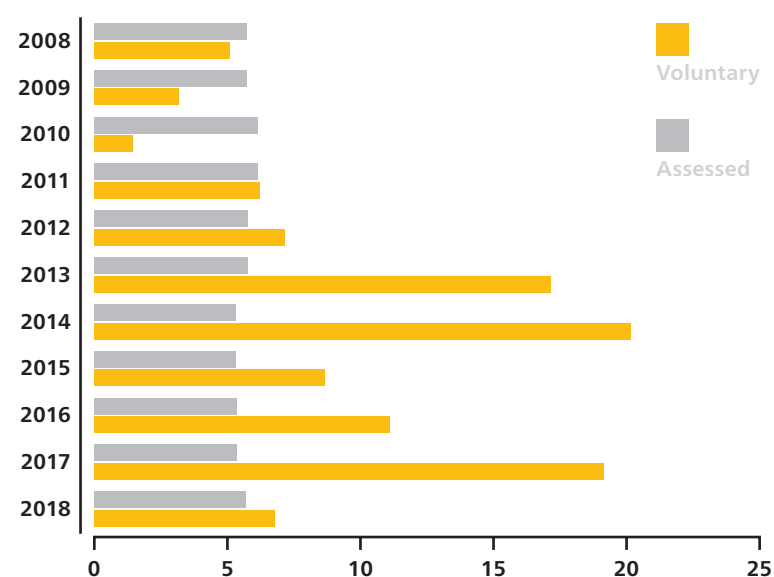
Contribution by modality** 2017–2018



Thematic distribution 2017–2018*



Trend of assessed and voluntary* contributions (USD million) 2008–2018



* Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals, excluding those provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds.

** Refers to voluntary contributions based on disbursements.



Improving global governance for food security and nutrition

Access to food and agricultural systems is a prerequisite for the health and wellbeing of the world's population, and it is the responsibility of governments to ensure that the population has access to the necessary nutrients to support life. This is best achievable through cooperation at the international level — in trade, innovation and investments; shared rules for safety and fairness in production; and distribution and consumption — to ensure that food systems grow and develop in ways that can meet the needs of all people.

Safeguarding the world's food and agriculture also means paying attention to the sustainability and climate footprint of all activities related to the sectors. As one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations for food and agriculture, FAO supports innovative ways and means to facilitate cooperation by providing data on emerging trends, and guiding the action of governments and partners through the development of international norms and standards. The Organization also supports and sustains technically sophisticated platforms at global, regional and national levels for policy dialogue among governments, farmers, civil society, businesses and consumers.

Codex Alimentarius

The Codex plays an important role in ensuring the safety, quality and fairness of international food trade. Switzerland, as an advocate of the Joint FAO/World Health Organization Food Standards Programme, contributes on a voluntary basis. Its valued contribution to the implementation of the Codex's knowledge base is fundamental for building capacities and strengthening food safety systems in countries across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, additives, antimicrobial resistance and biotechnology all come under the Codex's broad scope, making it an essential component to achieve food security and Zero Hunger. Likewise, the Codex is often at the centre of global debates around food and feed safety — areas in which Switzerland has engaged through the Feed Safety Multistakeholder Partnership, as well as related meetings hosted in the country. What is more, Switzerland has also actively participated in the Codex Commission, serving as chair between 2014–2016.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Switzerland has been an active member of the ITPGRFA since the Treaty was ratified in 2004. The ITPGRFA facilitates greater cooperation between countries on the conservation, sustainable use and continued open exchange of food crops and genetic materials. The Treaty aims to ensure that farmers and researchers across the globe continue to access the world's principal crops, while utilizing their genetic traits to strengthen food production. By the end of 2017, more than four million samples of genetic diversity had been exchanged under the Treaty. Switzerland was a key player in leading the strategic shift towards a new programmatic approach to the Treaty, including through contributions to its Benefit-sharing Fund, focusing on conservation and the sustainable use of plant agrobiodiversity.

Beyond plant genetics, Switzerland supports FAO's work as a leading forum for countries to address the conservation of biodiversity for agriculture and livestock. In this regard the Organization hosts the **Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**, which provided the forum for the negotiation of the ITPGRFA. Switzerland currently serves as the chair of the Commission for the 2019–2021 period. Additionally, the Commission's flagship reports on the state of plant, forest and animal genetic resources are among the most comprehensive reference tools for policy-makers and practitioners in developed and developing countries alike. In this context, Switzerland has supported the implementation of the Action Plan on Animal Genetic Resources.



Framing the future for biodiversity

Biodiversity is an indispensable basis for life on earth and hence a central pillar of human existence. It encompasses the diversity of ecosystems, species and genes. Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture are particularly dependent on biodiversity for productivity and food security. Mainstreaming biodiversity into all relevant sectors is essential to halt and reverse its loss. However, this may imply significant costs to farmers and other users of ecosystem services.

In order to trigger a transformative change, the **Convention on Biological Diversity**, ratified by Switzerland, aims to strengthen the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. FAO contributes to the implementation of the Convention by fostering sustainable agricultural development and the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and by developing and implementing various policy instruments, including the ITPGRFA.

Switzerland supports FAO in developing a biodiversity strategy for the Organization. Likewise, the country is actively participating in the discussions and negotiations for the development of a new global **post-2020 framework for biodiversity** that takes into account existing frameworks such as the Agenda 2030 with its SDGs. This will be a major event, as the post-2020 framework will provide both the context and the level of ambition for action to address concerns about biodiversity and ecosystem services for years to come, specifically by establishing national and regional targets as well as enhancing coherence in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The objective of the IPPC is to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests that affect plants and plant products. The Convention promotes collaboration between various national and regional plant protection organizations to implement the rules set out in the agreement. Switzerland supports the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the governing body of the IPPC, with funds for the preparation of case studies aimed at improving the implementation of IPPC standards in developing countries, as well as the advancement of e-Phyto certificates. Furthermore, a significant focus of the IPPC is the surveillance of pests, which will enhance governments' capacity for trade, environmental protection and food security.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The CFS has been central to global governance in food and nutrition security since its reform in 2009, and is a priority for collaboration among the UN Rome-based agencies. The CFS is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for governments and a broad range of other stakeholders. The objective is to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards eliminating hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all.

Switzerland has been an active member of the CFS Bureau, and a major player in the Committee through its voluntary financial contributions [CHF 1.5 million (USD 1.6 million) between 2013 and 2019]. The country has also substantially contributed to the CFS's High Level Panel of Experts towards more informed policy debates and improved food security and nutrition policies. Switzerland has set a particular focus on: (i) the Rural Transformation and Urbanization workstream; (ii) the outreach activities of the Engagement with Sustainable Development workstream; and (iii) the CFS independent evaluation (2016–2017).

Switzerland also played a key role as the *rapporteur* of the CFS policy convergence process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition in 2017, and as Chair of the CFS Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, starting in 2018 and ongoing.



Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)

For millions of rural communities around the world that rely on access to, control over and use of natural resources, it is essential to safeguard their legitimate rights in a world where such resources are diminishing fast in both quantity and quality. Partnerships are pivotal for successfully applying an internationally recognized soft law instrument - such as the VGGT — and they also play a key role in identifying multistakeholder approaches, which bring together governments, civil society, academia and the private sector.

Switzerland is a staunch supporter of the VGGT. Through its contributions to FAO, it has helped several countries in the process of improving their tenure governance. In the Mekong Region (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam) FAO, with contributions from partners including Switzerland, has worked with the Mekong Region Land Governance project to recognize and protect customary tenure systems and enhance responsible land-based investments. This has included policy and law review and drafting through multistakeholder processes; dialogue and networking on tenure governance issues across the region; and tailored and country-specific capacity development programmes on responsible investments.

Moreover, FAO and Switzerland have worked in the Sahel in partnership with the *Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel*, focusing on the tenure governance of pastoral lands, as well as conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution among countries of the Economic Community of West African States. In Tunisia, activities have focused on promoting more inclusive and participatory management practices and approaches of the Agricultural Land Agency. Moreover, the Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa are widely promoted and applied in the entire region, through support to the Secretariat of the African Land Policy Center.

In each of these countries, FAO and Switzerland, together with other partners, have worked to improve tenure governance for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people. The focus has been on increasing stakeholders' capacities to understand, secure, transfer and administer legitimate tenure rights — the cornerstone of peoples' livelihoods.

Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI)

Responsible investment in agriculture and food systems is essential for enhancing food security and nutrition and supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. A world free from poverty and hunger cannot be achieved by 2030 without substantial increases in capital flows to agriculture and food systems.

The CFS-RAI Principles are based on the respect for human rights — the starting point for defining how responsible investments in agriculture and food systems can contribute to food security and nutrition. The Principles were developed and endorsed by the CFS in 2014 through an inclusive multistakeholder process, chaired by Switzerland, and are the most comprehensive international guidance tools for agricultural investments, with a special focus on engaging and empowering youth.

Building on the CFS-RAI principles, Switzerland provided valuable inputs into the development of the *OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains*. This is now a common framework and global benchmark for the application of standards for responsible business conduct along the agricultural value chain and for the implementation of due diligence to identify, prevent and address risks in supply chains, and thus contribute to sustainable development. Since its adoption in 2016, the OECD-FAO Guidance has received widespread government endorsement. To support its practical application, Switzerland co-funded the OECD and FAO implementation pilot with over 30 volunteer companies and industry initiatives. The purpose of the pilot was to test the practical application of the Guidance and provide companies and industry initiatives with an understanding of how the recommendations set out can be implemented.

Moreover, through support to the FAO-RAI Umbrella Programme, Switzerland contributes to investigating responsible investments needed to attract and ensure the success of young people in agriculture and food systems. With Swiss funding, FAO has developed a tool to identify existing and needed capacities to empower young people to carry out and benefit from these investments. Upon the request of FAO, the tool was reviewed by the Swiss National FAO Committee; the revised version of the tool is currently being tested in Tunisia.

Calendar and poster in the top left corner. The calendar shows the date 18 JULY 2017. The poster includes the text "MARDI 24", "1439 - 1438", and "2017". It also features a small image of a person working with a tool.





A TALK WITH

Philippe Ankers

FAO Coordinator of the Sub-Regional Office for North Africa and a Swiss National

On the importance of investing in young agripreneurs for resilient livelihoods in Tunisia

The notion of 'responsible investments' entails a contribution to poverty reduction, empowerment and engagement of youth, gender equality, and the sustainable use of natural resources. It is at the heart of Swiss values and is key to rural development in North Africa and Tunisia in particular.

North Africa is the region with the second highest youth unemployment rate in the world, reaching 28.6 percent in 2018. The youth unemployment rate in all five Maghreb countries is around 2.5 times higher than the general unemployment rate. In Tunisia, for instance, the lack of decent work opportunities is a major cause of frustration in both rural and urban areas, which has further led to large-scale emigration and social unrest. The agriculture sector, with high potential for exports, can offer attractive and decent employment opportunities for youth, both women and men, provided that an enticing investment environment is in place and innovation is supported.

With Swiss funding, FAO is facilitating the development and use of an analytical tool to assess existing capacity to support entrepreneurial initiatives for young people in Tunisia. Findings will then be translated into a vision and a set of concrete interventions to develop an investment-prone environment for young agripreneurs. The Rural Economy Laboratory in Tunis and the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences in Bern are collaborating on this initiative.

It is quite symbolic that Switzerland, often considered as one of the oldest democracies in the world, invests in Tunisia, a country whose very young democracy is at a crossroad. The impact of promoting responsible investments goes well beyond an inclusive development of agriculture and food systems. It is a contribution to the broader economic health and stability of Tunisia.

Extra-budgetary Swiss funding to FAO tends to go towards support to participatory consultative processes to find common solutions to global challenges. Returns on these investments will not be visible immediately. They will emerge in the mid- to long term. FAO values these types of investments, which are very much in line with the Swiss values of participation, consensus and long-lasting impact.



Ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources

Healthy forests, soils, streams and oceans — and the genetic diversity that such ecosystems produce — are essential to sustain life. As pollution and climate change pose daily threats to our natural resources, FAO focuses its efforts on safeguarding these resources to ensure food security and prosperity for future generations.

Access to water for many vulnerable communities is affected by climate change, which brings uncertainty and unpredictability for farmers. In response, FAO works towards providing solutions through smart approaches for managing limited resources. More efficient and effective solutions are facilitated through transboundary cooperation to address issues such as water scarcity and climate change. Deepening its efforts to find strategies and technologies to suit the local context, FAO values Switzerland's cooperation, which has increased in recent years, to support countries experiencing challenges in providing drinking water as well as water for agriculture.

FAO and Switzerland work together in promoting agro-ecology, the design and management of sustainable agro-ecosystems offering benefits for productivity, food security and environmental sustainability; as well as in incorporating such ecosystems into rural development policies. Within its support to ecosystems, Switzerland places a special focus on mountains — among the most important and fragile environments in the world — as well as on sustainable livestock production — a key sector to reduce stresses on natural resources and adapt to climate change.

Fostering multistakeholder partnerships for sustainable resource management

Switzerland has been a champion in supporting global initiatives that foster multisectoral cooperation, the gathering and dissemination of knowledge, and global governance, acknowledging that complex global challenges can only be overcome with innovative, multistakeholder partnerships and alliances.

Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

The creation of a host of goods and services integral to ecosystems and human wellbeing depends on healthy soils. The latter are critical for achieving food security and nutrition, as 95 percent of the world's food is produced in soils. At the same time, soils host a quarter of our planet's biodiversity, which is under threat in all regions of the world. Awareness-raising, regional cooperation for healthy soils and the promotion of inclusive soil governance are central to the GSP agenda, which FAO supports by hosting the Partnership's Secretariat.

The GSP assists local communities, governments and the civil society in promoting sustainable soil management to guarantee healthy and productive soils, and supports the provision of essential ecosystem services towards food security and improved nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable development. Switzerland was a key supporter of the 2015 International Year of Soils and the annual World Soil Day campaigns, and has provided financial and technical support to the Healthy Soils Facility Trust Fund — the operational arm of the GSP to respond to major threats related to limited soil resources — as well as to the GSP implementation plan of action to strengthen soil governance. The country also greatly contributed to the full implementation of the Partnership, including the development of its main components, governing bodies and mechanisms (the GSP Plenary Assembly and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils). Likewise, Switzerland supported the organization of the past three symposia focusing on the main soil threats: Soil Organic Carbon (March 2017), Soil Pollution (May 2018) and Soil Erosion (May 2019). What is more, the country participated in and currently chairs the Steering Committee of the European Soil Partnership, which was established in 2013 and brings together scattered networks and soil-related activities into a common framework, open to all institutions and stakeholders willing to actively contribute to sustainable soil management in Europe.

Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG)

Addressing water scarcity in agriculture calls for a strong and active commitment by all, considering that agriculture accounts for 69 percent of all freshwater withdrawals. With the world population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and the added impact of climate change, producing more food will exert even greater pressure on already vulnerable water resources. WASAG brings together key players across the globe and across sectors to tackle the collective challenge of improving water usage in agriculture to ensure food security for all.

Through this initiative, FAO and Switzerland collaborate in supporting countries and stakeholders in their commitments and plans related to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement, as well as other plans and programmes addressing water scarcity in agriculture. In an effort to draw greater attention to the issue of water scarcity in agriculture in the context of climate change, and to generate greater political will for overcoming the related challenges throughout the world, WASAG members — with the support of FAO, Switzerland and other partners — convened the 1st WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture from 19–22 March 2019 in Praia, Cabo Verde. Participants in the Forum called on countries to urgently adapt their agricultural and food systems and to mitigate the impacts of water scarcity and climate change so as to improve global food and water security. This Forum has opened up an exchange between stakeholders who would not have otherwise had the opportunity to work together.

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is an integrated approach to farming that contributes to food security and development under the threat of climate change. Its focus is on the sustainable increase in agricultural productivity and incomes, adaptation and resilience-building to climate change, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, where possible. In order to promote the CSA approach, FAO and Switzerland have been working together to build and support GACSA, which Switzerland has backed with financial contributions.

The Alliance is a voluntary, action-oriented and multistakeholder platform committed to the incorporation of climate-smart approaches within agrifood systems. It builds on the diversity of resources, knowledge, information and expertise of its members to stimulate concrete initiatives at all levels. Its 286 members include governments, research and academic institutions, farmers' organizations, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as well as the private sector. More specifically, Switzerland provides resources to the Facilitation Unit's multidonor trust fund. The Unit, hosted by FAO, serves as the secretariat for the Alliance and helps Alliance members take action to deliver its aspirational outcomes.

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Partnering for sustainable mountain development



Contribution:

**CHF 2.6 million
(USD 2.7 million)**



Beneficiaries:

Mountain communities



Location:

Global



Duration:

2007–2019



Results:

3 mountain-related targets in the SDGs (SDG Targets 6.6; 15.1; 15.4) supported

370 Mountain Partnership Members present in 80 countries

10 National Committees for mountains created in South America and Africa

350 graduates from the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas since 2008

17 Mountain Partnership Products labelled in 7 countries

The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a UN voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. Founded in 2002, the MP addresses the challenges facing mountain regions by tapping the wealth and diversity of resources, knowledge, information and expertise of its members. Currently, the MP has 370 members, including governments, intergovernmental organizations and the civil society, working towards a world in which sustainable mountain development receives greater public and private sector attention, commitment, engagement and investments. The MP promotes networking between member countries and institutions, laying the foundations for partnerships, technical cooperation and resource mobilization.

With its long-standing political and financial support, Switzerland has been a champion for sustainable mountain development since the creation of the MP and has financed the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS), hosted by FAO. The MPS serves members' needs and advocates for sustainable mountain development worldwide. Moreover, the Secretariat's work is organized under the four main pillars of the MP: advocacy, capacity development, knowledge sharing and communications, and joint action.

The MPS fosters members' engagement, strengthens knowledge and skills, expands its resource base and promotes campaigns for a wide engagement around sustainable mountain development. Most notably, advocacy campaigns under the MP umbrella contributed to the UN decision to include three mountain-related targets in the SDGs. In July 2018 and in July 2019, during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York, the MPS held two side events attended by representatives of Switzerland and of other MP members that advocated for pro-mountain policies and actions to increase the visibility of mountain issues.

Moreover, to boost mountain agricultural production systems, conserve agrobiodiversity and strengthen the resilience of mountain farmers, their economies and their ecosystems, the Mountain Partnership Products (MPP) initiative was developed. The MPP is a certification and labelling scheme that promotes short, domestic value chains to ensure transparency and trust between producers and consumers, and fair compensation for the primary producers. The MPP scheme, supported by Switzerland through a Swiss APO, also focuses on developing the capacity of producers to improve the quality, marketing and distribution of their products, while promoting traditional knowledge and the cultivation of ancient varieties. So far, some 10 000 farmers, of whom 6 000 are women, have benefited from different trainings and from having their products be granted the MPP label. The MPP initiative is currently operating in seven countries for 17 products and is being assisted with technical support from Slow Food, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements and EcorNaturasi.



Promoting a shift to healthier and more sustainable agro-ecosystems



Contribution:

**CHF 889 874
(USD 902 510)**



Beneficiaries:

**Smallholder producers,
policy-makers and
development partners**



Location:

Global



Duration:

2016–2019



Results:

**Awareness on the
potential to combine
better regulation with
market incentives
improved**

**Recommendations for
greater policy coherence
and institutional
coordination discussed
in three regional
consultations**

**Coordination across
national agriculture
and environment
institutions promoted**

**National stakeholders
encouraged to identify
blended investment
strategies to support
long-term transition to
sustainable agriculture**

To produce food in the future, we will increasingly need to adopt sustainable practices that lead to healthier agro-ecosystems. Part of this shift will require us to better protect ecosystem services that make production systems resilient, protect rural livelihoods and ensure food security. Ecosystem services — including biodiversity, carbon, soils, water and landscapes — underpin many production systems, yet for too long such services have not been valued or protected.

With the financial support of Switzerland, FAO's Incentives for Ecosystem Services (IES) project seeks to address the need to provide producers with an immediate reason or motivation to shift to new practices that will preserve ecosystem services, ensuring that producers remain stewards and become beneficiaries of better agro-ecosystems — managing their lands in ways that protect and enhance ecosystem services for all.

Through the project, FAO promotes IES packages that support agricultural producers and consumers in adopting practices that protect the environment and ensure long-term food security. IES links stewards of ecosystem services, such as smallholders, with their beneficiaries, including communities, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and governments. Packages can comprise both existing incentives (such as Payments for Ecosystem Services) and other public and private measures that support conservation, restoration, sustainable productivity enhancements and livelihood diversification. Examples include forest protection, soil conservation measures like grass strips along contour lines, water retention structures such as rainwater-harvesting ponds, or biological methods to control pests and diseases. These packages are combined with access to credit to build business capacity and access to new markets.

By packaging a range of incentives together, farmers and other land stewards are able to address the full range of challenges facing them and the agro-ecosystem they manage. This mix brings about a new balance: environmental measures are no longer in competition with production, but rather the basis for long-term food security.



Committing to sustainability: the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL)



Contribution:
CHF 1.5 million
(USD 1.6 million)



Beneficiaries:
Livestock sector
stakeholders



Location:
Global



Duration:
2017–2021



Results:
GASL new Action Plan
(2019–2021) developed,
with a focus on advocacy,
good practices and
policies, and visibility

GASL engaged in several
high-level events,
including the Global Forum
for Food and Agriculture
Meeting (2018), which
saw the adoption of
4 sustainability domains

8 Action Networks
enhanced their reach
and internal structure

4 new members joined
GASL in 2018

To be sustainable, the growth of the livestock sector needs to simultaneously address key environmental, social and economic challenges: increasing natural resource scarcity, climate change, widespread poverty, food insecurity and global threats to animal and human health.

GASL, an FAO-hosted initiative, addresses the implications of sustainability, bringing together stakeholders from all parts of the livestock sector and society at large to facilitate dialogue, assemble and communicate evidence, and advocate practice and policy change. With 114 members in 2019, this international multistakeholder partnership seeks to enhance livestock system actors' commitments to and investments in support of the SDGs, especially in areas of: food and nutrition security; livelihoods and economic growth; animal health and welfare; and climate and natural resource use.

In 2018, the eighth Multistakeholder Partnership (MSP) Meeting took place in Mongolia, with around 250 participants from 30 countries representing governments, research institutes, the private sector, social movements, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss the future of GASL and the nomadic livestock keepers in the world. Likewise, in 2019 the ninth MSP Meeting was held in the United States of America, with a focus on innovation.

As the main contributor to GASL, Switzerland has supported the core operations of the Secretariat, the functioning of the technical action networks (expert groups), side events in numerous global fora, as well as global, regional and national MSP meetings organized by and with its partners. Since February 2018, the GASL Secretariat has expanded, with a Swiss APO working for the Agenda Support Team in Rome.

The Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership

Farmers, consumers and other livestock stakeholders are increasingly in need of more information about the environmental performance and sustainability of livestock supply chains. The multistakeholder LEAP partnership aims to tackle the urgent need for evidence-based environmental improvement of the livestock sector through the development of harmonized environmental assessment guidelines based on international best practices. By leveraging global expertise, LEAP offers tools that are essential to address the environmental impact of the livestock sector, while improving the efficiency and profitability of livestock supply chains. Thanks to the generous support of Switzerland and other resource partners, FAO contributes greatly to the work of the Partnership by hosting the LEAP Secretariat, which coordinates and facilitates the work of the technical advisory groups, and guides and contributes to content development. Switzerland provided in-kind contributions in the form of leadership of the technical advisory group on water use and the involvement of national experts at different stages of the development of the guidelines.

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A TALK WITH

Anna Grun

Swiss Associate Professional Officer

On the importance of partnerships for sustainable livestock production

Why is the livestock sector central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Global developments such as population growth, urbanization and growing income have increased the demand for livestock products in the last 30 years, leading to an expected rise in demand of up to 50 percent by 2050. This poses a lot of pressure on the environment, natural resources, individual and global health, animal welfare, and much more. At the same time, livestock offers opportunities for poverty alleviation, food security, health and economic growth. The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, a multistakeholder partnership founded in 2011, tries to include all aspects of livestock impacts and offers an inclusive platform to promote sustainable livestock systems at the global, regional and national levels. With over 110 partners — including governments, farmers, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, NGOs and the research community, and supported by FAO — the Global Agenda's mission is to enhance livestock stakeholders' commitment to and investments in achieving the SDGs.

What are the roles of FAO and the Global Agenda in changing the global development landscape?

FAO provides networks and support to build sustainable food systems by implementing development solutions, producing evidence and knowledge, disseminating information, influencing policy-making, and most importantly, by building new partnerships such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. FAO is an important partner

of the Global Agenda and offers programmatic guidance as well as in-kind contribution in the form of technical staff and management. One of the Global Agenda's main assets is the diversity of views. There are nine Action Networks, which collect experiences and produce advisory documents and guidelines for all partners in livestock systems. The secretariat facilitates the activities, organizes meetings and disseminates information. Sustainability is viewed from different perspectives and leads to a holistic and bottom-up approach that fosters innovation and accelerates progress towards a sustainable livestock sector.

What are the benefits of the Switzerland and FAO partnership?

FAO's APO Programme, promoted by Switzerland, is strategically important to both parties and enables concrete exchanges of experience. Livestock is a key component of Swiss agriculture, contributing to a large portion of the revenue coming from agricultural production. It is also a very important component of the country's landscape and of its rural development. These are the reasons why the sustainability of the sector has long been a Swiss priority, a global challenge that does not stop at national borders. The partnership between FAO and Switzerland enables concrete results to be achieved through combined efforts. The country plays a major role in the Global Agenda, not only as the main resource partner but also as a member of the Guiding Group and the Secretariat in FAO. As a Swiss APO, I have the chance to actively contribute to the partnership and help to promote and achieve more sustainability in livestock production.

Promoting viable and sustainable irrigation development for smallholders



Contribution:

**CHF 6 million
(USD 6.1 million)**



Beneficiaries:

**Smallholder farmers,
extension officers,
irrigation engineers
and technicians**



Location:

Zimbabwe



Duration:

2014–2019



Results:

**1 400 communal
farming households
with improved income,
food and nutrition**

**14 irrigation schemes
(700 hectares)
revitalized**

**Farmers tripled their
maize yields and
experienced bean
yield increases of
300–500 kg per farmer**

**12 000 people living
around irrigation
schemes reached**

Zimbabwe, once the breadbasket of Africa, suffered years of economic decline. Farmers struggled to make ends meet, and widespread food shortages resulted in precarious nutrition security. Poorly maintained irrigation schemes contributed to the challenge of producing good harvest crops, which was compounded by seeds that were vulnerable to pests and diseases, and with low baseline yields that produced low returns for the farmer.

With Switzerland's support, FAO launched the Smallholder Irrigation Programme (SIP) targeting 1 400 communal farming households to improve the income, and food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers involved in small-scale irrigation in Zimbabwe.

Interventions included rehabilitating irrigation schemes and helping to link farmers to private seed companies. Training and workshops increased the production, productivity and profitability of targeted schemes, including upgrading traditional value chains and the production and marketing of high-value products.

Follow-up activities included capacity-building, coaching and mentoring in seed production, certification and marketing — all undertaken in partnership with government extension officers and a private sector seed agronomist.

Thanks to the project, farmers progressively experienced yield increases of 300–500 kg per year for beans; and the tripling of maize yields from 1.5 tonnes per hectare to 5.5 tonnes per hectare. They also earned additional income for every kg of beans they produced, which resulted in at least a 50 percent increase on farmer returns. The farming community now uses certified seed with a high tolerance to pests and diseases.

The project reached 12 000 individuals living in and around irrigation schemes. The community benefited with increased savings and investments leading to better housing and education, improved diets, and new farming technologies.

Investments in irrigation provide benefits to farmers in Zimbabwe

For smallholder farmers, irrigation is a key to minimize crop failure, raise household income and increase food and nutrition security. Addressing the distribution of water and land is a major factor in providing solutions for Zimbabwean farmers.

With the assistance of Switzerland and the European Union, the SIP aimed to empower smallholder irrigation farmers in 34 schemes in Manicaland, Matabeleland South and Masvingo provinces to combat the negative effects of climate change. The programme rehabilitated irrigation infrastructure, provided capacity building, agribusiness development and training for extension officers, irrigation engineers and technicians.

As part of the business model, the programme solicited inputs from suppliers and buyers so that smallholder farmers could produce crops at a commercial level.

Chipo Ngirazi, a widow and mother of five, lives in Zaka district of Masvingo province and became a recipient of

the programme, as a member of one of the 14 irrigation schemes targeted by SIP.

Chipo works on one hectare of irrigated land at Panganai Irrigation Scheme. “We changed our farming methods. We used to produce crops without a ready market, and we ended up selling to informal buyers at very low prices. Now a company contracts us and provides inputs to grow seeds, and then buys the produce. The harvested seeds are processed right here at Panganai and we are happy with the arrangement because they buy from us at high prices.”

Through the arrangement, Chipo has made a significant profit. Her crops, which include sugar beans and maize, are distributed and sold throughout the country as a result of the strategic partnership between smallholder irrigation farmers and the Zimbabwe Super Seeds Company. Chipo invested USD 1 500 from the proceeds of last season’s bumper harvest towards improving her home. “I can now also afford three decent nutritious meals a day for my family,” she said.

“This project has helped me a lot because I managed to send my son to college to pursue the studies he wanted. After that, I was able to put a zinc roof on the house and a fence around my homestead. I encourage all the farmers to keep farming because money is now in the soil.”





Creating inclusive and efficient food systems

With more than 70 percent of the world's food sourced from small-scale producers, agribusiness is an important source of employment and income in rural communities across the globe. In light of this, farmers and governments alike have much to gain from collaborating to promote inclusive food systems that better integrate smallholder farmers into value chains and allow them to be part of agribusinesses while improving their access to markets.

Enabling farmers to add value to raw materials boosts rural economies through wide-ranging activities — from drying tomatoes and grapes, to cheese processing and improved silo treatment for cereals. This leads to greater food security and nutrition and offers new off-farm employment opportunities brought about by balancing public and private investment in the farm and non-farm economy and promoting upstream and downstream links. This not only supports food security but is essential to breaking cycles of rural poverty.

Reducing loss and waste along the food supply chain is an effective solution to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture, improve the chain actors' income and livelihood as well as the food and nutrition security for low-income consumers. Increasing urban populations, changing patterns in food consumption, and trade globalization all contribute to extremely complex and lengthy food supply chains that require integrated, multisector approaches to effectively tackle food loss and waste.

Switzerland supports FAO's efforts to reduce crop post-harvest losses by mainstreaming food loss initiatives for smallholders in food-deficit areas. This is achieved through awareness-raising and capacity-building along agrovalue chains, strengthening political and regulatory frameworks that affect food loss and waste, and by establishing collaborations with public and private partners to develop and implement global, regional and national initiatives.

Promoting sustainable food systems to achieve Zero Hunger



Contribution:

**CHF 1.9 million
(USD 2 million)**



Beneficiaries:

**Food system actors
(government agencies,
policy-makers,
consumer organizations,
producer organizations,
private sector actors,
civil society institutions,
local communities,
indigenous people,
farmers and consumers)**



Location:

Global



Duration:

2012–2021



Results:

**SFSP effectively included
in the 10YFP**

**Approaches for
assessing food system-
wide sustainability
identified**

**Effective and technically
sound multistakeholder
dialogue conducted**

**Strategic partnerships
to implement projects
on SCP created**

**Information platform
on SCP established**

In 2012, a global 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (also referred to as the One Planet Network) was adopted at the RIO+20 Conference grounded in the conviction that the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production is the main cause of the continued deterioration of the environment worldwide. In 2015 a Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme was added to the One Planet Network. The Programme was born through an FAO/UNEP project, supported by Switzerland with a contribution of around CHF 1.3 million (USD 1 million) between 2012 and 2017. Its main focus is to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable consumption and production (SCP) across food systems, while improving food security and nutrition.

The One Planet (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme's core themes are: (i) sustainable diets; (ii) sustainability along all food value chains; (iii) reduction of food loss and waste; (iv) multistakeholder platforms at all levels; and (v) resilient, inclusive and diverse food production systems. Through various core initiatives, the One Planet (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme makes a direct contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, in particular SDG2 to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture, and SDG12 to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as a number of other SDGs that are connected with agriculture and the food sector.

In 2018, a new FAO/UNEP project funded by Switzerland [CHF 1 million (USD 1.1 million)] to support the SFS Programme was launched and will run for three years. This project contributes to an Interagency Umbrella Programme for Sustainable Food Systems and envisages to support the implementation phase of the One Planet (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme, including through the following three core initiatives: i) "Sustainable diets in the context of sustainable food systems"; ii) "Delivering SDG Target 12.3 on food loss and waste reduction"; iii) "Sustainability along all value chains: Identifying and promoting local initiatives linking small-scale producers and consumers". What is more, the project also provides technical support to the One Planet (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme Coordination Desk — in particular for the organization of global and regional meetings — and supports FAO's internal coordination of activities related to food systems.

Reducing food losses in Ethiopia through improved post-harvest management



Contribution:

CHF 3.1 million
(USD 3.2 million) – phase I;
CHF 2.8 million
(USD 2.9 million) – phase II



Beneficiaries:

**Grain producer
smallholder farmers and
primary cooperatives**



Location:

Ethiopia



Duration:

2013–2022



Results:

**3 800 households
benefited from
improved post-harvest
handling practices**

**Food security for
families increased by
30 to 60 days/year**

**Skills of farmers,
farmers' cooperatives,
extension workers and
youth strengthened
through workshops**

**Promotion of post-
harvest technologies
strengthened at
national level**

Ethiopia is a largely agricultural country, with 15 million smallholder and pastoralist households, accounting for 95 percent of agricultural production and 85 percent of employment. The sector is typically low-input low-output, and 15 percent of the population is food-insecure. As a result, Ethiopia faces chronic food and nutrition insecurity and continues to import 20 percent of its cereal requirements.

With as much as 21 percent of post-harvest estimated to be lost through insect pests, the Government of Ethiopia and FAO, along with the generous support of Switzerland, developed a project to improve food and nutrition security. Focusing on environmentally improved post-harvest technologies, an information base on loss and management was established. What is more, working on wide-scale awareness raising, accompanied by a complementary policy, the project was hugely successful and supported the Ethiopian Government in formulating the Results Framework and Investment Plan (2018–2022).

The initiative reached 3 800 households with improved post-harvest handling practices by providing appropriate communication tools and training. Farmers indicated that using metal silos extended the family's food security by 30 to 60 days per year and contributed to reducing post-harvest loss by 30 to 40 percent in a single cropping season. Silos are particularly critical for subsistence farmers whose harvest is insufficient to cover family consumption needs. By using silos, farmers' income increased by 40 percent during off- production season. An offshoot of the project was the young artisans who were trained in metal fabrication. Most artisans indicated that silo fabrication improved their annual gross profits and dramatically changed the scale of their business.

This Swiss-funded project contributed to a change in mind-set of farmers, who now consider post-harvest management on equal par with production. The use of post-harvest technologies, including metal silos and hermetic bags, reduced post-harvest food losses, increased households' income and improved the access to and availability of food for three to six months. It further created a platform that brings together various actors in post-harvest management to share experiences and coordinate related interventions.

In July 2018, with additional resources from Switzerland, FAO went ahead with phase two of the project, seeking to further strengthen and promote post-harvest management and household storage technologies across Ethiopia, as well as practices and results achieved under phase one.

Mainstreaming food loss reduction initiatives for smallholders in food-deficit areas



Contribution:

CHF 2.9 million
(USD 3 million) – phase I;
CHF 1.7 million
(USD 1.8 million) – phase II



Beneficiaries:

Producers, value chain actors, research institutions, and governments



Location:

Global, Burkina Faso, DRC and Uganda



Duration:

2013–2020



Results:

1 200 members from 137 countries registered in the CoP

Coverage of crops broadened to include horticultural crops

Food loss analysis reports published

48 participants from 22 African countries trained on FAO food loss analysis methodology

Stakeholders engaged in the African Union PHL continental strategy at the subregional level and nationally

FAO estimates that the proportion of food lost or wasted in the production-to-distribution chain in sub-Saharan Africa exceeds 20 percent for cereals. Food losses are a result of limited skills and knowledge of supply chain actors, poor practices, weak infrastructure and logistics, lack of appropriate and/or poorly designed tools, equipment and packaging, and an absence of/or limited access to markets. The high levels of losses have an impact on hunger and poverty alleviation, nutrition, income generation and economic growth — all issues targeted in the SDGs as important factors in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Tackling these challenges, the three **UN Rome-based agencies** have been working collaboratively in Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda to reduce post-harvest losses and improve food security and income-generating opportunities. With Switzerland's support, the project aims to raise awareness and improve knowledge of good food loss reduction practices among key stakeholders. The initiative has already pilot-tested context-appropriate solutions to reduce post-harvest losses, while raising awareness of the results and the most viable solutions.

Using technologies and practices to improve post-harvest management and reduce post-harvest food losses, the initiative engages a wide range of stakeholders. At national, regional and global levels, smallholders, traders, supply chain actors, service providers, as well as research organizations and policy-makers continue to benefit from capacity-building, and improved access to information and other resources widely disseminated through a web-based community of practice (CoP). This knowledge-sharing platform contributes to building up a worldwide community striving to reduce food losses and achieve food security.

Getting the message out

Outreach to remote communities in rural areas is difficult in the best of times, and during the first phase of the project, community radio stations were used to raise awareness on the importance of food loss reduction in rural areas of DRC. Community radio became the most important means of communication for reaching local authorities and decision-makers to address the populations' needs.

Fulbert Nsimba Vangu, Director of Telema Tseke-Mbanza radio said, "Thanks to the orientation provided by FAO, we could broadcast several radio programmes on the impact of post-harvest losses on the environment, the quality of food products, food security and household economic development by reducing losses. Many contacted the radio to enquire where they could get the equipment piloted to reduce losses, which they heard were effective."

The feedback from the field showed that farm producers received and used best practices communicated on post-harvest management in order to reduce losses.

Moreover, piloting solutions in Burkina Faso to reduce food losses proved constructive for 20 producers who benefited from the use of a mechanized sheller. Through focus group discussions, stakeholders recounted their satisfaction with the quality of the results and requested to use the sheller for future harvests.

What is more, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fishery in Uganda urged stakeholders to support implementation of appropriate interventions. "Post-harvest losses affect the quality and quantity of produce, and this eventually affects access to better markets, prices, and income for different value chain actors. The impact can be felt on the country's overall national income. Interventions and strategies that reduce post-harvest losses are needed to ensure a sustainable quality food supply, which automatically translates into enhanced food security and income," he said.

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Building resilient livelihoods

Switzerland's contribution in times of emergency is invaluable for supporting rapid response and interventions that ensure the recovery of agricultural livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and resilience-building.

There are 2.5 billion people who depend on agriculture for livelihoods, the vast majority of whom are poor and live in rural areas. Rural communities are usually vulnerable and often bear the brunt of conflict, natural disasters, pests and other emergencies. In the event of a humanitarian emergency, progress can be lost and development efforts undermined. Early interventions based on sound data are used to safeguard assets and livelihoods. They are also beneficial in protecting longer-term progress, enhancing food security and boosting income generation, proving effective and far less costly than delayed interventions.

Linking early warning to early action can mean the difference between managing a temporary crisis and a full-blown catastrophe for small-scale farmers and pastoralists who could lose everything, thus keeping them dependent

on aid. Building resilient livelihoods is key to maintaining stability both in and out of immediate crises — and where humanitarian and development objectives meet.

FAO's approach to building resilient livelihoods is proactive: by addressing the root causes of risks and crises and focusing on risk prevention, real progress can be made in achieving a world free from hunger. Switzerland's support has been crucial in this context. For example, its financial and technical contributions to programmes fighting locust infestations in African countries have helped to stem this scourge and protect millions of people from a serious food crisis.

By supporting FAO's efforts to build resilient rural communities through climate adaptation, stronger value-chains, protection of families' productive assets or improved access to nutritious food for the most vulnerable, Switzerland helps to break the vicious cycle of rural vulnerability — a key obstacle on the road to Zero Hunger and sustainable development worldwide.



A TALK WITH

Hans Dreyer

Director of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division and a Swiss National

On the importance of managing transboundary threats

Many challenges in agriculture addressed by FAO also have a direct or indirect impact on Swiss agriculture and the Swiss economy in general. An important part of FAO's work is to support its 194 member countries in the transition to more sustainable agricultural production systems. For example, integrated pest management is a pillar of sustainable crop production and protection. This is addressed by FAO's work on global transboundary plant pests and diseases, many of which also have the potential to affect Swiss agriculture.

To address the challenges around these global transboundary pests and diseases, the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) centre was created at FAO headquarters in Rome in 1994. It leads the work on global desert locust forecasting by operating the FAO global desert locust early warning system involving countries from West Africa to India. Today, more than 50 countries provide information and data on the actual locust occurrence in their territories. But EMPRES plant protection is not limited to desert locusts. It addresses other locust species as well as other transboundary pests and diseases affecting crop production worldwide. These include insect pests such as the Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), the Red Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) and different species of fruit flies (*Bactrocera* spp., among others).

Switzerland is currently investing in the modernization of the infrastructure of the EMPRES plant protection centre, as well as in a new education and training centre. The country's financial contribution is essential to strengthen the plant protection centre's work, specifically in improving its facilities and infrastructure, thus enhancing the ability of FAO plant protection experts to swiftly and effectively respond to transboundary threats. Thanks to Swiss support, the centre's renovated space will incorporate state-of-the-art digital technologies for modern communications to facilitate monitoring, analysis, management and coordination with partners in the field, and display of the current locust and other transboundary plant pest situations in real-time. The improvement will also strengthen and broaden the visibility of FAO's successful work that is seen by visitors to the centre.

Empowering Liberian women to improve livelihoods and food security in the aftermath of Ebola



Contribution:

**CHF 1.1 million
(USD 1.2 million)**



Beneficiaries:

Women farmers



Location:

Liberia



Duration:

2015–2016



Results:

**200 women's associations
(6 000 households)
received rice, vegetables
and cash transfers
through VSLAs**

**Each women's
association received
VSLA starter kits,
training and on-site
demonstrations**

**115 hectares of lowlands
with an average yield
of 2.5 metric tonnes/
hectare developed or
rehabilitated**

**Over 100 hectares
of land cultivated
with assorted local
vegetables**

A state of emergency was declared in Liberia when the Ebola virus was discovered in Lofa, Nimba and Bong counties — the breadbasket of the country. All sectors of the economy shut down, with military road blocks necessary to prevent people from travelling and spreading the virus to other parts of the country. The result, while containing the disease, exacerbated a downward trend in food security and nutrition in the affected states.

Addressing the situation, Switzerland contributed funding to support a post-Ebola livelihood recovery project aimed to empower women with food and income security. Implemented by FAO, the project enabled women's associations to regain key roles in the rural economy and support local rice production and entrepreneurship along the value chain.

To ensure the most affected households' access to food and cash at the same time, the project focused on the development and rehabilitation of lowlands to produce rice by providing agricultural inputs and cash transfers. Food security was strengthened by increasing the availability of and access to rice and vegetable seed, and livelihood restoration through conditional cash transfers into Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs).

Implementing partners provided support by distributing farm tools, quality rice, vegetable seed and post-harvest equipment, as well as training and financial capital to support women's VSLAs. As a result, women re-engaged in cross-border trade, petty trading and other income-generating activities. Consequently, there was a marked improvement in nutrition and household expenditure on food, medicine, construction materials and education, particularly for women-headed households, which guarantees long-term sustainability.

Addressing food needs of conflict-affected communities in northeast Nigeria



Contribution:

**CHF 1.8 million
(USD 1.9 million)**



Beneficiaries:

Internally displaced people, returnees and host communities



Location:

Northeast Nigeria



Duration:

2017–2018



Results:

20 000 households supported with the rainy season programme

3 494 displaced households supported with fresh food voucher scheme

10 000 households benefited from vegetable and rice kits

10 290 tons of cereal and 9.4 tons of vegetables produced by beneficiaries in the rainy season

2 560 tons of vegetables and 375 tons of rice produced by beneficiaries in the dry season

Five years of conflict in northeast Nigeria resulted in displacement for 1.8 million people who fled violence, leaving behind their homes and livelihoods. The massive displacement caused a severe food and livelihood crisis among the displaced and the communities who opened their doors and provided refuge. In a largely agricultural society, violence prevented farmers from cultivating land due to the threat of attack, a lack of agricultural inputs, life-threatening danger from land mines and a proliferation of improvised explosive devices.

In 2016, for the third consecutive year, farmers in northeast Nigeria were unable to cultivate land; the most vulnerable, especially children, were showing signs of malnutrition, raising fears of famine. The Swiss Government supported FAO with funding to improve food security and nutrition in the region.

As many as 20 000 households in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe — the three worst-affected states — were assisted with an FAO rainy season programme that provided vegetable and cereal kits, including vegetable seed, cereal seed and fertilizer. In addition, the FAO dry season programme assisted 11 500 households through vegetable and rice kits, as well as fertilizer.

Moreover, a voucher scheme was set up for 3 494 internally displaced households. Each household received a voucher for the equivalent of USD 17 in exchange for dry fish, fresh vegetables and eggs to supplement the family diet, as well as cash transfers of a similar value to purchase firewood/charcoal, condiments and other immediate needs. The programme improved the access of the target beneficiaries to nutritious food and increased their levels of nutrition. It also enabled them to diversify their diet and increase their income.

Focusing on women-headed households

The conflict in northeast Nigeria mainly affects the three states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Few families were unaffected by the extreme violence, and with the death of so many men, an unprecedented number of women struggled as they took on the unfamiliar role of head of household.

Lami Abakar, mother of four children, lost her husband when Boko Haram attacked Banki village, in the Bama local government area of Borno state. When she fled the family home to seek safety, Lami left behind all the family's belongings. She made her way to the Dallori

camp for displaced people, where she struggled to meet the family's needs, begging for food and barely receiving enough to provide the children with two meals each day.

With funding from Switzerland, FAO was able to set up voucher schemes for fresh food, benefiting the family's nutrition needs. Lami also received cash transfers, giving her dignity and autonomy to decide the family's priorities for the other essentials the family required. With food insecurity a main priority in dealing with the needs of displaced families, the provision of cash and food vouchers staved off declining malnutrition rates and ensured that children were provided with the badly needed nourishment to live healthy lives.



Tackling food security and livelihood development for communities in South Sudan



Contribution:

**CHF 3.6 million
(USD 3.7 million)**



Beneficiaries:

**Agropastoralists, FFS
facilitators, government
and community animal
health workers**



Location:

South Sudan



Duration:

2013–2018



Results:

**7 000 smallholder
agropastoralist
households supported
with agricultural/
livestock inputs
and training**

**165 community
facilitators trained**

**194 field schools
established over a
four-year period**

**43 field school mentors
and 5 master trainers
trained to fill extension
workers' gaps**

**Key government
staff trained on
FFS methodology**

South Sudan has experienced protracted natural and man-made crises with persistent violence, causing populations to be displaced and livelihoods disrupted. The states of Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap are particularly vulnerable, historically failing to produce enough crops to meet subsistence needs. In Northern Bahr el Ghazal at the beginning of 2018, an estimated 61 percent of the population faced 'Crisis' and 'Emergency' levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - Phases 3 and 4).

Food insecurity stems from insufficient diversified production, coupled with rudimentary agricultural production practices and limited access to quality inputs. There is considerable potential in the two states to increase agricultural and livestock production, with good grazing areas, abundant land and low population density. Addressing the challenges of food insecurity, Switzerland supported FAO to address livelihood development for agropastoralists — a continuation of the longstanding collaboration between FAO and Switzerland in South Sudan since 2007.

Some 7 000 smallholder agropastoralist households, including women and young farmers, received agricultural and livestock inputs and the necessary training through farmer field schools (FFSs). The direct beneficiaries recorded increases in agricultural and livestock productivity, household dietary diversity and household level of income, as well as a reduction in the hunger gap.

FFSs offer space for hands-on group learning, enhancing skills for critical analysis and the opportunity for improved decision-making by local people. The field-based activities allow participants to test new ideas and skills on family farms by observing and analysing, while contributing to improved production and livelihoods.

A woman, Mary Ayak, stands outdoors in a lush green environment, pointing with a wooden stick at a whiteboard mounted on a wooden frame. She is wearing a vibrant green dress with yellow and black patterns. The whiteboard contains handwritten notes in Arabic script. In the foreground, the back of a person's head with orange braids is visible, slightly out of focus. The background consists of dense tropical foliage.

Mary Ayak, a primary school dropout, received capacity-building training from the project as a community facilitator. Her experience and training as an FFS facilitator qualified her to join the Yei Crop Training Centre, where she obtained a certificate in agricultural extension.

Mary is now an extension officer employed by the Agriculture Department in Aweil South County of Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

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A woman, Mary Ayak, stands in profile facing right, holding a long wooden stick that points towards a piece of paper pinned to a wooden board. She is wearing a traditional African dress with a bright green base color and large, stylized yellow and black patterns. Her hair is styled in short braids. The setting appears to be outdoors, with dense green vegetation in the background. In the foreground, there is a blurred orange object, possibly part of another person's clothing or a bag. The paper she is pointing at contains handwritten text in a script that looks like Arabic or Swahili, with some numbers and symbols. The overall scene suggests a community meeting or training session in a rural area.

Mary Ayak, a primary school dropout, received capacity-building training from the project as a community facilitator. Her experience and training as an FFS facilitator qualified her to join the Yei Crop Training Centre, where she obtained a certificate in agricultural extension.

Mary is now an extension officer employed by the Agriculture Department in Aweil South County of Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

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List of bilateral projects funded by Switzerland (ongoing in 2017–2018)*

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /GLO/584/SWI	Support to the coordination of the High Level Task Force on Global Food Security	456 000	01/10/2014	31/12/2017	Closed
GCP /GLO/790/SWI	Interagency support to the Work of the 10YFP on Sustainable Food Systems Programme	1 052 500	01/07/2018	30/06/2021	Ongoing
MTF/GLO/394/SWI	Support to work of the Interagency Working Group on Sustainable Consumption and Production	841 160	14/04/2012	31/07/2017	Closed
OSRO/BIH/601/SWI	Enhancement of Post-Disaster Needs Assessment methodologies at entity level	38 470	08/11/2016	28/02/2017	Closed
OSRO/BKF/803/SWI	Réponse d'urgence et d'appui à l'amélioration de la résilience des populations vulnérables dans les zones à risque du Burkina Faso	1 300 000	19/07/2018	31/12/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/NIR/703/SWI	Improved production, availability and access to nutritious food for vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host communities in northeast Nigeria	1 986 097	01/03/2017	30/04/2018	Closed
OSRO/NIR/808/SWI	Emergency Agriculture assistance to Returnees, IDPs and host communities affected by the insurgency in the northeast of Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States)	804 829	21/08/2018	30/04/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/SFE/701/SWI	Emergency livelihood response to assist drought-affected households in cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa	1 000 000	06/06/2017	31/10/2017	Closed

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Status***
OSRO/SOM/815/SWI	Somalia Information and Resilience Building Action	800 000	06/12/2018	09/10/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/SSD/702/SWI	Improved food security, nutritional status and incomes among vulnerable households in Juba, South Sudan	1 528 213	01/02/2017	31/12/2018	Closed
RBA/GLO/001/SWI	Mainstreaming food loss reduction initiatives for smallholders in food deficit areas	3 050 187	01/12/2013	31/05/2017	Closed
RBA/GLO/002/SWI	Mainstreaming food loss reduction initiatives for smallholders in food deficit areas (Phase 2)	1 809 552	26/07/2017	31/05/2020	Ongoing
GCP /AFG/093/SWI	Household food and livelihood Security in Bamyan Province	7 000 000	01/08/2017	31/07/2021	Ongoing
GCP /ETH/084/SWI	Reducing Food Losses through Improved Postharvest management in Ethiopia – Phase 1	3 251 605	01/12/2013	31/05/2018	Closed
GCP /ETH/099/SWI	Reducing Food Losses through improved Post harvest Management practices in Ethiopia – Phase II	2 908 726	01/09/2018	31/08/2022	Ongoing
GCP /GAZ/013/SWI	Capacity building programme in support of the Palestinian National Authority – Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures	3 329 999	01/12/2015	30/09/2019	Ongoing

*Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals.

**Subject to change for ongoing projects.

***As of 1 January 2019.

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /GEO/009/SWI	Technical Assistance to Support the Establishment of a National Animal Identification, Registration and Traceability Systems in Georgia	5 410 752	01/12/2016	30/11/2020	Ongoing
GCP /GLO/551/SWI	Support to the IPPC Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) programme of work	339 751	01/07/2014	30/04/2017	Closed
GCP /INT/231/SWI	Strengthening Agricultural Water Efficiency and Productivity on the African and global level	3 995 253	01/12/2014	30/06/2019	Ongoing
GCP /INT/975/SWI	Sustainable use of Genetic Resources and Sustainable Agriculture	327 357	01/12/2005	30/06/2017	Closed
GCP /JOR/018/SWI	Reduce vulnerability in Jordan in the context of water scarcity and increasing food/energy demand	2 216 267	07/12/2015	31/12/2019	Ongoing
GCP /KYR/014/SWI	Sustainable Agricultural Development of Issyk-Kul region (with a special focus on rural women)	500 000	01/07/2015	31/07/2018	Closed
GCP /LEB/029/SWI	Improved Water Resources Monitoring System/ IWRM at regional level in Lebanon	2 432 130	15/09/2017	30/11/2020	Ongoing
GCP /MON/015/SWI	Inclusive and sustainable vegetable and marketing project (VEGI) Outcome 4: Policy	399 949	25/08/2016	31/12/2019	Ongoing

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Status***
GCP /MOR/050/SWI	Gestion participative et intégrée des bassins versants pour la lutte contre l'érosion	2 128 680	01/03/2016	30/09/2019	Ongoing
GCP /RAF/486/SWI	Codex Capacity Building Workshop for Africa	458 917	01/05/2014	30/04/2017	Closed
GCP /RLA/214/SWI	Implementing the Codex Alimentarius Knowledge Base to Strengthen Food Safety System in countries LAC	153 301	01/05/2016	28/02/2019	Ongoing
GCP /SFE/002/SWI	Institutionalization of Field Schools in Eastern Africa	1 172 073	01/12/2015	31/05/2018	Closed
GCP /SFE/261/SWI	IGAD-FAO Partnership Programme on Drought Resilience	4 000 000	01/03/2016	31/10/2018	Closed
GCP /SSD/006/SWI	Improved Food Security and Livelihood Development for Agro-pastoralist Communities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap States	3 740 167	01/09/2013	28/02/2018	Closed
GCP /ZIM/027/SWI	Zimbabwe Programme Framework for Support to Smallholder Irrigation Schemes 2014–2018	6 104 322	17/12/2014	30/06/2019	Ongoing
GCP /GLO/929/SWI	Young professionals for agricultural development	482 000	25/06/2018	31/12/2020	Ongoing

*Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals.

**Subject to change for ongoing projects.

***As of 1 January 2019.

List of multi-donor projects funded by Switzerland (ongoing in 2017–2018)*

Project symbol	Project title	Funds received (USD)	Year
GCP/GLO/204/MUL	Framework Programme for Promoting Sustainable Mountain Development (including Component 1 of the Programme: Support to the Mountain Partnership Secretariat)	246 549	2017
		200 200	2018
GCP/GLO/347/MUL	Supporting implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests	1 515 152	2018
GCP/GLO/358/MUL	Strengthening governance of food security and nutrition through the Committee on World Food Security	89 834	2017
GCP/GLO/369/MUL	Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership	51 440	2017
GCP/GAZ/014/MUL	Reform and development of markets, value chains and producers' organizations	800 000	2017
GCP/GLO/281/MUL	ITPGRFA Trust Fund account for the disbursement of funds for approved projects under the Benefit Sharing Fund of the Treaty	107 362	2018
GCP/GLO/841/MUL	Support to the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	96 545	2017
		51 196	2018
GCP/GLO/660/MUL	Promote Incentives for Ecosystem Services (IES) to support sustainable agriculture	410 059	2017

Project symbol	Project title	Funds received (USD)	Year
GCP/GLO/670/MUL	Multistakeholder Partnership Programme for capacity development for feed safety	50 201	2018
MTF/GLO/244/MUL	Appui à la création et au fonctionnement du panel d'experts de haut niveau en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition (HLPE)	358 000	2017
		270 000	2018
MTF/INT/017/MUL	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) – Core Administrative Budget	82 819	2018
MTF/INT/018/MUL	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) – Developing Countries Participation	71 575	2018
MTF/INT/019/MUL	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) – Special Fund	36 355	2017
		60 241	2018
GCP/GLO/558/MUL	International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition	73 973	2018
TEMP/GLO/946/MUL (Baby 13)	Global Forum on Agriculture Research Secretariat – Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD)	260 000	2017
MTF/GLO/787/MUL	Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock	203 552	2017
		211 494	2018

*Refers to voluntary contributions based on disbursements.

Project symbol	Project title	Funds received (USD)	Year
GCP/GLO/671/MUL	Global Soil Partnership Healthy Soils Facility - Support to the GSP implementation Plan of Action	50 201	2017
		252 740	2018
MTF/GLO/807/MUL	Symposium – Emerging GSP Activities	428	2017
GCP/GLO/961/MUL	Support to the promotion of sustainable soil management in the framework of the Global Soil Partnership activities for the 2018–2021 period	691	2018
GCP/GLO/886/MUL	Support to responsible investment in agriculture and food systems	197 722	2018
MTF/GLO/122/MUL	Special International Plant Protection Convention Trust Fund	315 669	2018
MTF/INT/011/MUL	European Commission for Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease	23 386	2017
		23 386	2018

*Refers to voluntary contributions based on disbursements.

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