



Fact sheet Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

November 2018

Mandate

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Type of Organisation

United Nations intergovernmental specialised agency

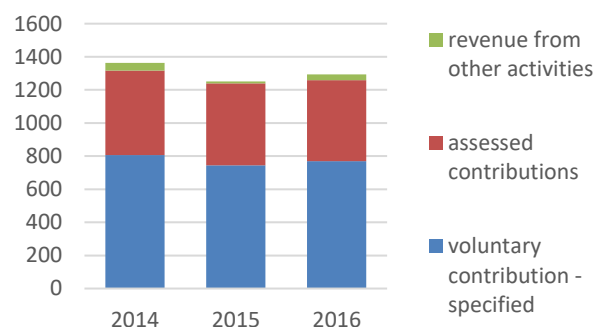
Institution

- **Head of Organisation:** Director-General José Graziano da Silva (Brazil)
- **Headquarters:** Rome
- **Members:** 194 Member Nations plus one Member Organization (European Union) and two Associate Members (Faroe Islands and Tokelau)
- **Number of country offices:** 5 regional offices , 10 sub-regional and 85 country offices
- **Number of staff (2015):** 1738 professional staff, 1510 support staff, of which approx. 57 % are based in Rome
- **Established in:** 1945
- **Board:** The FAO conference is the supreme decision-making body, having all member states represented. It meets every two years. Its executive organ is the council, composed of 49 members, serving three-year rotating terms.

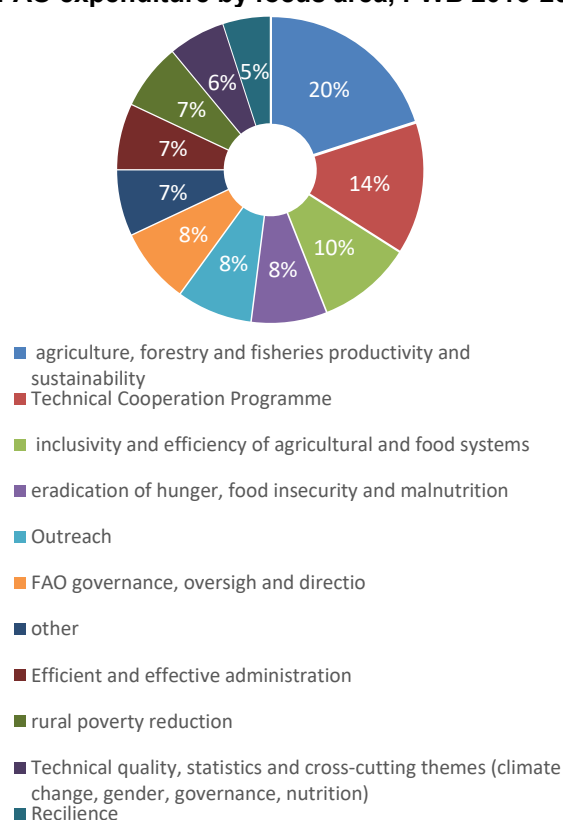
Switzerland

- **Annual financial contribution:**
 - Core voluntary contribution (2018): CHF 5.4 million
 - Additional funding: CHF 10-20 million
- **Number of Swiss staff:** 15, including one director and 3 JPOs

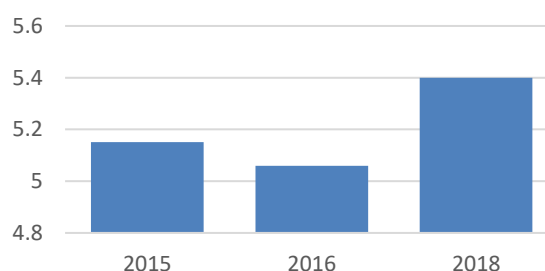
FAO total revenues (in million USD)



FAO expenditure by focus area, PWB 2016-2017



Switzerland's assessed contributions (in CHF million)



FAO

Mandate

The main objective of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is achieving a food-secure world by raising levels of nutrition, improving agricultural productivity, bettering the lives of rural populations and contributing to the growth of the world economy.

FAO's vision is "A world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner". To this end FAO and its members have set out three Global Goals:

- 1) the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- 2) The elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods
- 3) The sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Medium-term objectives

FAO's goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. This is in line with the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 2 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture'.

In order to achieve FAO's vision and global goals a medium-term strategic plan has been developed for the period 2018-2021 with the following strategic objectives:

- Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Results

FAO aims to help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; reduce

rural poverty; enable inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems; and increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis.

Fight against hunger

One of FAO's key goals is to help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Examples include FAO's fight against hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, which helped halve the number of hungry in this region. Through political mobilization to end undernutrition, including through the recognition of the human right to be free from hunger has translated into initiatives like the Zero Hunger project in Brazil or the launch of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), which aims to achieve its goals through coordinated food security strategies through national and regional strategies which include the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks to facilitate trade and supply programs as well as reducing food loss and wastage.

The Right to Food

FAO has promoted the Right to Food, which is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2004 the FAO council adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security developed by the Committee on World Food Security. This human right is today guaranteed in constitutions and legal frameworks of over 30 countries.

Creation of international standards

The Codex Alimentarius, established by FAO and WHO in 1963, is a collection of internationally adopted food standards and related texts presented in a uniform manner. These food standards and related texts, such as guidelines and codes of practice, aim at protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

The treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

The treaty adopted in 2001 has as its objectives the conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use. This is in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and helps move towards sustainable agriculture and food security. The Treaty also recognizes the vast contribution farmers have made to the ongoing development of the world's wealth of plant genetic resources and calls for protection of their traditional knowledge, increasing the farmers' participation in national decision-making processes and ensuring that they share in the benefits from the use of these resources.

Port State Measures Agreement

FAO created and led adoption of the first ever binding international accord to combat illegal fishing, the Port State Measures Agreement. The agreement, adopted by the FAO conference in 2009, aims to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through the implementation of robust port State measures. The agreement is, sets out for parties, in their capacities as port state to apply the measures set out in the agreement to foreign vessels seeking entry to ports or while they are in the port. The application of these measures contribute to the harmonization of port State measures and helps combat the flow of fish caught through IUU-fishing into national and international markets.

FAO AND SWITZERLAND

The two main Offices responsible for FAO matters in Switzerland are the Federal Office for Agriculture which hosts the Swiss Secretariat for FAO and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. As a FAO member Switzerland takes actively part in different FAO fora such as the Conference which is the supreme governing body of FAO that meets in regular session every two years.

Switzerland involvement with the FAO includes the following (2018):

- Chair of the Committee on Agriculture
- Vice-Chair of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Member of the Committee on Forestry
- Member of the Committee on Fisheries
- Member of the Committee on Commodity Problems
- Member of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
- Member of the Program Committee
- Observer at the FAO council

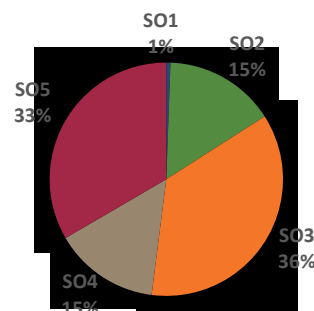
Switzerland contributions of above CHF 5 million a year contribution around 1.1% of FAO's regular budget. In addition Switzerland contributes to the funding of several projects and programs, both at the headquarters and in the field, with around CHF 10 – 20 million. These include:

- Sustainable Food Systems Programme
- Mountain Partnership
- Food Loss initiative
- Agrobiodiversity, ecosystem services
- Sustainable livestock (GASL)
- Water management
- Climate change (GACSA)
- Soil, land tenure (soil partnership)

Results Swiss cooperation with FAO

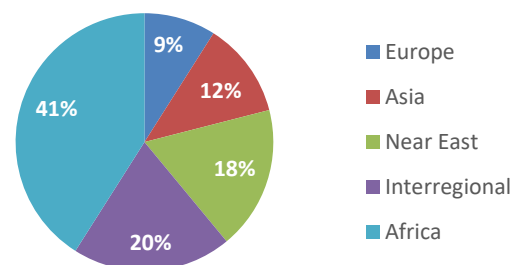
Switzerland has long been among FAO's foremost partners, cooperating in a vast range of fields in support of shared goals concerning food security and sustainable agricultural systems. Current areas benefiting from Switzerland's support include food loss and waste reduction and sustainable food systems, governance of tenure, rural livelihoods, genetic resources, nutrition, animal health and water management. Rapid response and support to FAO's resilience program are also important features of current cooperation.

Areas of work Switzerland contributes to



- Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- Reduce rural poverty
- Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Regional Distribution of Swiss contribution



The Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Switzerland has been a member of the treaty, which was adopted by the FAO Conference in 2001, since its ratification in 2004. It aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use. Switzerland was a member of the Working Group to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System, the Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and the Technical Committee on Sustainable Use.

Global Agenda for Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development

Switzerland was part of the building of a Global Agenda for Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development and continues its support for the project. The global agenda aims at catalyzing multi-stakeholder action to improve the livestock sector's use of natural resources whilst ensuring its contribution to food security and livelihoods.

Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

Switzerland was among the first resource partners to fund the consultation, negotiation and initial implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. It also provided substantial resources for an awareness-raising campaign immediately following endorsement of the guidelines, as well as providing support for the delivery of ten regional workshops and fostering partnerships for implementation of the guidelines.

The Mountain Partnership

The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a voluntary United Nations platform alliance that brings together members to work towards a common goal of sustainable mountain development, including the improvement of living condition of mountain populations and the protection of mountain environments. Founded in 2002, the MP has more than 300 members from governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. It is hosted by FAO, and is funded by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Its members work together to promote, facilitate and implement initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, and to raise public awareness of the challenges facing mountain peoples and environments. Through the MP members advocated for global attention, promote joint projects, share knowledge and strengthen capacity. Through the advocacy efforts of MP members, three mountain-related goals have been included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To measure progress against SDG target 15.4 "By 2030, ensure the maintenance of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, so that to better leverage their essential benefits for sustainable development." the Mountain Green Cover Index was developed by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS). It is designed to measure changes of the green vegetation in mountain areas (i.e. forests, shrubs and trees). It builds on the recognition of a positive correlation

between green coverage of mountain areas and their state of health and capacity to fulfil their ecosystem roles.

The Steering Committee of the MP is a representative body of the Partnership Members, which oversees the preparation of the Quadrennial Strategy and the Biennial General Work Program. Steering Committee members do not represent their own institutions, but their regions and / or electoral groups. Switzerland is a member of the Steering Committee, in the electoral group of the MPS donors.

The Sustainable Food Systems Program

In 2012 the global 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) was adopted in the belief that non-sustainable consumption and production are the main causes of the continued deterioration of the environment worldwide. The Sustainable Food Systems Programme was developed from 2011 by a joint FAO and UNEP process, which Switzerland has accompanied and actively supported from the outset. Based on this preliminary work, a Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP) was launched under the 10YFP in October 2015. The SFSP is co-lead by Switzerland (Federal Office for Agriculture) together with South Africa, WWF International and Hivos, and with the support of a Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC), in which 23 countries, institutions and organizations are represented.

SFSP aims to accelerate the shift to more sustainable food systems, i.e. more sustainable consumption and production patterns in agriculture and the agri-food economy, taking a systematic and holistic approach, which includes the entire food value chain. The initiative aims to do this through concrete activities and projects in the areas of public awareness raising, capacity development, increasing access to knowledge and information, and strengthening partnerships. The focal points of the programme include the promotion of sustainable diets and the reduction of food loss and waste, the improvement of consumer information, as well as enhancing the link between small producers and consumers.

The SFSP provides a direct contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, in Switzerland and around the world. In particular, it addresses Goal 2 aimed at eliminating hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture and Goal 12 aimed at achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the implementation of the 10YFP being the first target of SDG 12.