



UNISECO



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Reducing the uncertainties about income alternatives to intensive animal production in the Swiss Lucerne Central Lakes region

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Understanding and Improving the Sustainability of Agro-ecological Farming Systems in the EU

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To counteract negative impacts of intensive animal production in the Swiss Lucerne Central Lakes region, existing advisory services for income alternatives need to be even more accessible and focus on economic aspects.

The Lucerne Central Lakes region is dominated by animal production and is one of the most intensive pig farming regions in Switzerland as well as in Europe. The high animal densities in agriculture affect water and air quality and are stagnating at a consistently high level of 75% above the Swiss average

Uncertainties about market opportunities

There are uncertainties among farmers about the market opportunities of income alternatives to intensive livestock farming, such as special crops (e.g. fruits).

More accessible advisory services

Public advisory needs to be even more accessible for farmers interested in income alternatives and pro-actively present market opportunities. This means that first advice needs to be affordable but should also be accessible rather spontaneously without the need for a farmer to create a written concept on the planned changes beforehand. In addition, they should strongly focus on market opportunities of income alternatives and outline the required enhancements necessary on the farm.

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Switzerland

Related to UNISECO case study:

[Strategies for reducing stocking densities.](#)

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Blueberry plantation

*The field is located on a farm formerly specialized in milk and pork production.
(Photo: Kummer)*

We suggest that farm advisory should receive more financial support to advise farmers on income alternatives to livestock production. This higher financial demand is justified by the increased accessibility of the services, but also the pro-active identification of market opportunities and the tailored support for the farmer. Since also the availability of qualified staff is a limiting factor, we recommend further increasing cooperation with other cantons, institutions and farmer associations with this regard.

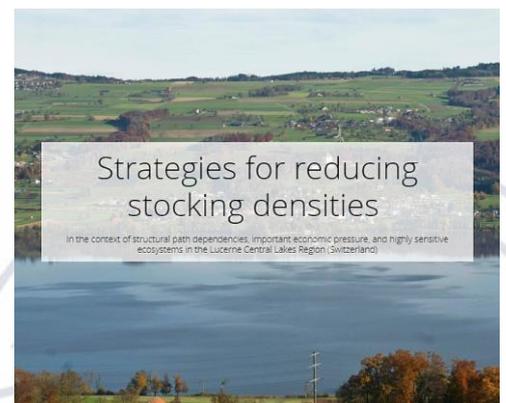
POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

Farmers could explore the implications of switching to income alternatives more easily.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Case study website: <https://uniseco-project.eu/case-study/switzerland>

Case study story map: <https://arcg.is/1iKTGa0>



Start page of case study story map.

ABOUT UNISECO:

UNISECO is a European research project aiming to develop innovative approaches to enhance the understanding of socio-economic and policy drivers and barriers for further development and implementation of agro-ecological practices in EU farming systems.

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