Evaluation of agri-environmental measures in Switzerland – results and impact on agricultural policy reform

Ruth Badertscher, Federal Office for Agriculture

OECD Workshop on Evaluation of Agri-environmental Policies,

Tuesday 21 June 2011 - Session 6 : 14h30-18h00
Overview

- Evaluation strategy
- The aims of agricultural policy
- The results of evaluations
- The next step: agricultural policy for 2014-2017
Evaluation strategy

• Aim: to ensure that federal funding is used efficiently
• Updating along with further development of agricultural policy
• Predicted developments are to be taken into account
• Involvement in drawing up research programmes at the three Swiss agricultural research stations
# Evaluation strategy

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<th>Evaluation strategy</th>
<th>Ex ante</th>
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<td>Evaluations based on measures</td>
<td>Studies of measures aimed at reducing the production of greenhouse gases, ammonia, etc.</td>
<td>Evaluation of water protection measures, subsidies for promoting ecological quality, etc.</td>
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<td>General evaluation</td>
<td>Models for the agricultural sector SILAS/SALCA, Swissland, Sintagral, etc.</td>
<td>Sustainability indicators Agri-environmental indicators</td>
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The aims of agricultural policy

The Federal Constitution (Art. 104) is the basis
Services agriculture provides to society (multifunctional agriculture):

• Ensuring the supply of food
• Preserving natural resources
• Care for the cultivated landscape
• Decentralised settlements
• Animal welfare
• Ensuring income
Results of the evaluation

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Results of the evaluation

→ The promotion of semi-natural habitats has slowed down the loss of endangered species; differences between upland and lowland areas

→ Decrease in the introduction of pollutants into the environment; in comparison with the 1990s, progress has slowed since the turn of the century

→ The bases for assessing soil quality are not ideal since longer measurement series are not available

→ The intermediate agri-environmental goals set out in the 2011 agricultural policy have not yet been attained

→ Owing to the increase in housing, agricultural land near urban centres is under pressure

→ Marked expansion of forest in the higher upland areas and in particular at the level of the summer pastures.
Level of achievement of objectives

Target (national/cantonal, schematic)

Ensuring the supply of food
- Production of calories
- Strategically important crops
- Maintenance of fertile arable land

Preserving natural resources
- Maintenance and promotion of biodiversity
- Sustainable utilisation of natural resources

Care for the cultivated landscape
- Keeping it open
- Quality and diversity

Decentralised settlements
- Targets set at the cantonal level

Animal welfare
- Animal-friendly systems of housing
- Regularly keeping the animals outdoors

Proof of Ecological Performance (PEP)
Plan

Art. 104
Federal Constitution
Ensuring food supply
Caring for the cultivated landscape
Preserving natural resources
Decentralised settlements
Promotion of particularly animal-friendly and environment-friendly forms of production

Contributions to adaptation
→ ensuring socially-acceptable development

Contributions for cultivated landscape
- Maintenance of open landscape as the basis
- Compensation for difficulty
- Promotion of summing

Contributions for ensuring the supply of food
- Maintenance of production capacity
- Compensation for difficulty
- Promotion of arable farming and of individual strategically important crops

Contributions for biodiversity
- Maintenance and promotion of species diversity and the diversity of habitats
- Enhancement and promotion of species
- Promotion of functional biodiversity

Contributions for landscape quality
- Maintenance, promotion and development of landscape diversity

Contributions for animal welfare
- Promotion of systems of animal housing that are particularly animal-friendly and of regularly keeping animals outdoors

Proof of Ecological Performance PEP
Structural and social criteria for acceptability and for restrictions
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