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Microfarms in the canton of Vaud (Switzerland): access to land to produce differently.

Since 2017, microfarms have been gradually multiplying in French-speaking Switzerland and more particularly in the canton of Vaud. There are now 30 microfarms in the canton, which also has 3000 registered farms. These alternative agricultural structures produce a wide variety of foodstuffs with manual or low-mechanised work. They are part of the local social and economic fabric and sell their products directly, which makes it easier for them to get value for their work.

The emergence of microfarms, due to a mainly citizen movement (and not from the traditional agricultural world), allows a relocation of food-producing agriculture on the fringes of large farms. Microfarms are also characterised by a search for autonomy in relation to agricultural policy, suppliers and/or customers.

One of the main challenges is access to land. This challenge is faced both by individuals or collectives seeking to create a microfarm, and also perceived globally by institutions that question the scope of the microfarm movement and the possibility for it to scale up. Indeed, the acquisition and rental of agricultural land is strictly regulated in Switzerland and aims to preserve a traditional model of family farming.

This intervention aims to highlight the existing and possible collaborations to support the relations between microfarms and other actors of the local economic fabric, to allow the implementation of microfarms, as well as the tensions slowing down this movement.

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