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## **The promotion of agroforestry in Switzerland - Example of a pilot agricultural policy**

Faced with the pressure imposed by climate change and the pressure from society for a more environmentally sustainable agriculture, agroforestry presents itself as an interesting option as a compromise with the dominant agricultural model. It could also allow Swiss agriculture to reduce its environmental deficits and contribute to its multifunctionality, which has been enshrined in the constitution since 1997. However, the lack of an administrative framework to consider this practice as agricultural and the current status of trees and hedges limit its implementation, in parallel with the uncertainties weighing on the medium and long term viability of the practice.

Four French-speaking cantons (Vaud, Neuchâtel, Geneva and Jura), with the financial support of the Federal Office for Agriculture, have set up a project to promote and monitor agroforestry. This project simultaneously offers a clear administrative framework, specific subsidies, an advisory service, and networking with other actors in the practice and its knowledge (farmers, researchers, advisors, etc.). This project allows us to question the current limits to the development of such a practice and its potential for development in a clearer administrative framework. The question of flexibility offered to farmers is central, and requires finding compromises. On the other hand, the complexity of the practice and the lack of testing grounds gives an important role to farmers in the creation of knowledge, which calls into question the institutionalized functioning of the Swiss knowledge system and forces a rethinking.

This presentation will present the modalities of the project and the political and administrative issues that had to be overcome, and will discuss the possible socio-technical transition of Swiss agriculture towards more agroforestry practices.

### **Bibliographic references**

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