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**Title:**

**True Cost Accounting of Food: Assessing the Impacts of Pesticide and Policy in Switzerland**

**Abstract:** The global food system significantly impacts health, livelihoods, and consumption patterns. Issues like malnutrition, exclusion of small farmers from value chains, and pesticide pollution leading to biodiversity loss are pressing concerns. The current food system externalizes environmental and health costs, leading to issues like environmental destruction and social injustices. The True Cost Accounting of Food (TCAF) framework aims to account for these externalities, promoting fairer prices, informed decision-making, and accountability among stakeholders.

We have developed a study about estimating the societal costs of the pesticides in Switzerland, based on the methodology proposed and implemented by (Alliot, 2022). We show that renouncing to pesticide use could result in an economic loss of 33.8 million CHF annually, but this needs to be weighed against the 150.7 million CHF which is the estimation that our analysis has put diverse policies societal costs. A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis is necessary to inform pesticide reduction policies.

The study reveals significant societal burdens from pesticide use, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach to pesticide reduction. TCAF can inform policies to internalize external costs, promoting sustainable practices and equitable distribution of resources, and to achieve that, we have identified a few political pathways:

- Improve data collection to fully capture social costs and inform policy decisions.
- Develop cohesive policies that integrate TCAF principles and address various sectors and levels of decision-making.
- Implement indicator-based direct payments and risk-based taxation to promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- Increase public acceptance and transparency of regulations targeting pesticide use by earmarking tax revenues for supportive measures.

Reference: Alliot, C., Mc Adams-Marin, D., Borniotto, D., Baret, P.V., 2022. The social costs of pesticide use in France. *Front. Sustain. Food Syst.* 6, 1027583. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2022.1027583>