



## WFSC Research Project

# Research for a Sustainable Swiss Food System: Foresight Study

### **Background**

Within the coming decades, global, national and local food systems are projected to face enormous and unprecedented challenges. These challenges are influenced by environmental, social, political, and economic changes taking place across geographical scales, which will affect core food systems outcomes such as food security, environmental health and social welfare. Research and policy strategies that take into account these changes and future projections are needed to address these challenges and to establish resilient food systems. The ETH Zurich World Food System Center was commissioned by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture to conduct a foresight study that considers the implications of global trends and projections for the Swiss food system, and informs the development of a research strategy to ensure a sustainable Swiss food system in the next twenty years.

### **Objective**

The two-stage project focuses around four main objectives. The first stage will (1) synthesize current literature on global trends and drivers affecting the world food system today and in the future and (2) identify major research questions that need to be addressed to achieve food and nutrition security, environmental health, and social welfare. The second stage will (3) analyze key implications of the global macro-trends for Switzerland (as identified in Stage 1); and (4) identify major research themes for the Swiss food system that are critical in building a sustainable Swiss food system and are relevant based on stakeholder perspectives.

### **Research Approach**

Multi-method approach includes literature and policy reviews and synthesis; expert interviews; consultation with food system researchers and other stakeholders via an online questionnaire; and consultation with expert advisory groups.

### **Expected Outcomes**

The foresight project will (1) summarize global trends and drivers related to the food system; (2) identify key implications of these trends for the Swiss food system; and (3) identify research themes most relevant to achieve progress towards a sustainable Swiss food system.

### **Further Information**

[www.worldfoodsystem.ethz.ch/research/special-collaborations/foresight](http://www.worldfoodsystem.ethz.ch/research/special-collaborations/foresight) →

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**Advisory Groups** BLW Advisory Group, WFSC Members

**Project Duration** January 2014 - April 2015

**Commissioned by** Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture