

Building farm system resilience in Canton of Vaud (Switzerland)

ETH

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Research questions

- How to assess resilience of farm systems in a European context on a regional scale?
- How to identify causes for low resilience and develop innovations to build resilience at a farm system level?

Context

Diversity of farm systems in Canton of Vaud



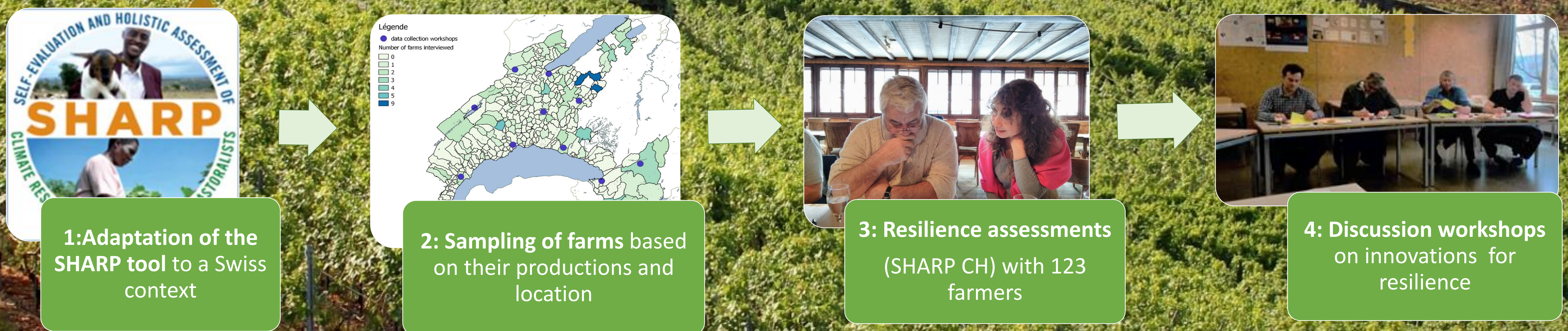
Potential hazards

- **Climate change**
- **Market volatility**
- **Consumer demand and societal expectations change**
- **Pest pressure**

Key points

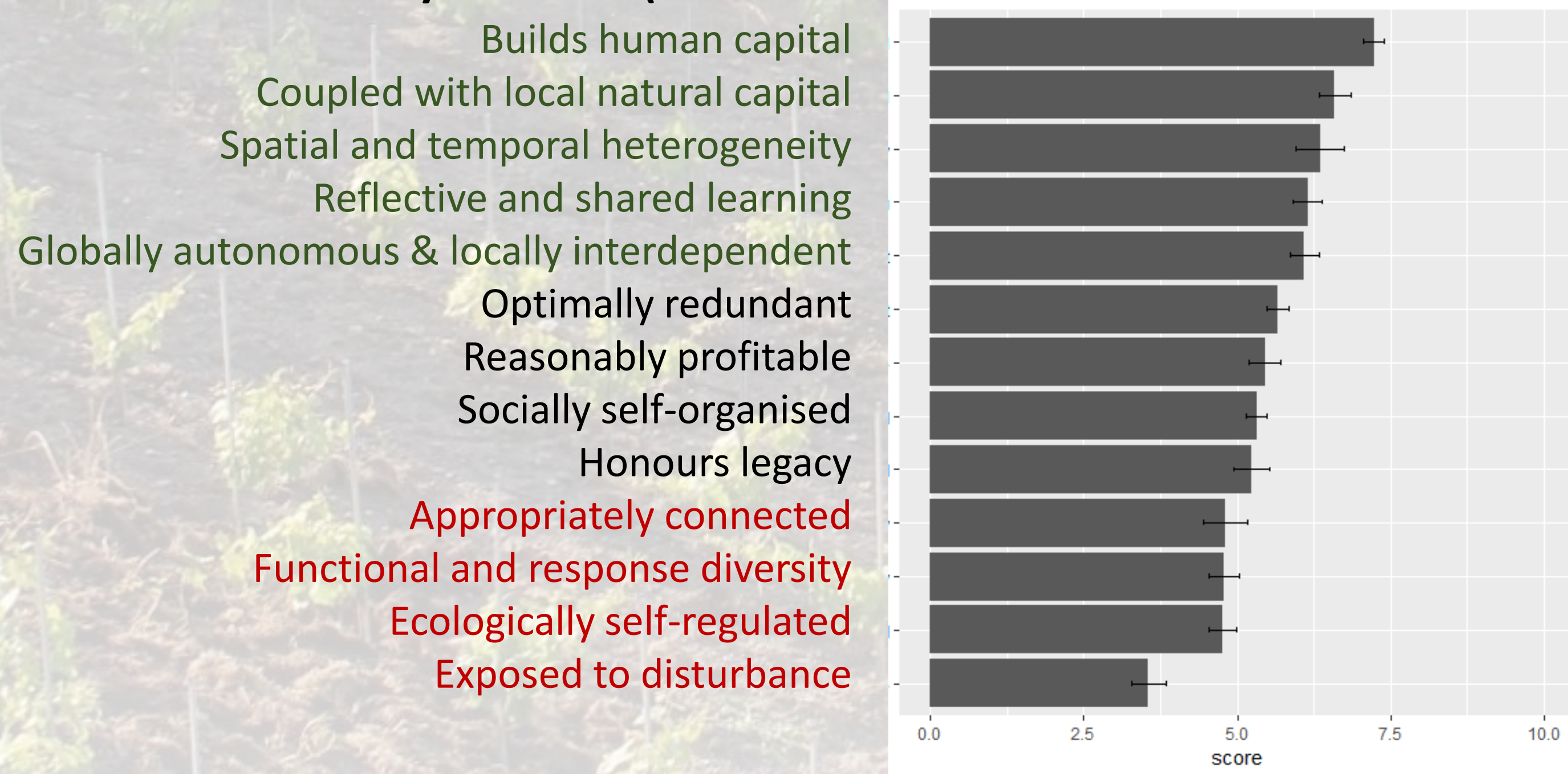
- **Great diversity** of situations and productions
- **Good services and infrastructure** available
- **Strong agricultural policy and norms and large collective organisations** have **paradoxical effects** on farm resilience
- **Smaller institutions and networks** would be more **flexible and better connected** to consumers

Next step: an innovation platform for farmers



Results - Phase 3: Resilience assessments

Resilience score by indicator (error bars= confidence interval of 95%)



- **Good access to infrastructure and services**
- **Extension services and education** are well-functioning
- **Crop rotations** are well established, partly due to the agricultural policy
- **Little reliance on natural mitigation of pests**
- **High reliance on external revenues and subsidies**
- **Many farmers depend to a large extent on a few large supply chains** in which they do not have much market power

Results - Phase 4: Discussion workshops

A) Causes for low resilience

- **Few input sellers and output buyers**
 - **Far from EU prices**
 - **Lack of knowledge and examples of agroecology**
 - **Lack of knowledge and training in selling and marketing**
- Policies**
- **Too strict, numerous and fluctuating sets of norms**
 - **Lack of support in the long term**
 - **High dependence on subsidies**

B) Innovations to build resilience

- **Develop innovative farmers exchange networks**
- **Build smaller collective marketing organisations**
- **Connect with consumers through direct selling and agritourism**
- **Develop synergies between different farming systems**



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