

## Switzerland

### *Priorities and approaches*

The thematic and geographical objectives of Switzerland's international cooperation are defined every four years – the latest covering the period [2021-2024](#). The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's (SDC) is responsible for the overall coordination of development cooperation with other federal authorities as well as for humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation. Swiss international cooperation, which is an integral part of the Federal Council's foreign policy, aims to alleviate need and poverty around the world, to foster respect for human rights, to promote democracy and to conserve the environment. Regarding food security, SDC supports the transformation towards sustainable and resilient food systems in line with agro-ecological principles to achieve food security and nutrition, realising the right to adequate food for all, in particular from for women and young smallholder farmers and disadvantaged urban consumers in low-income and lower middle-income countries.

The 2021-2024 strategy forms the basis for the direction and planning of the support to research programmes and international cooperation provided by SDC, and which is outlined in the [Research Concept 2021-2024](#). This support is increasingly focused on applied research leading not only to technological but also to social and political innovations. Swiss international cooperation funds research partnerships that include scientists, decisionmakers and non-academic actors to generate knowledge and solutions to local and global challenges. In the Research Concept, agriculture and food security are identified as one of five research areas of high importance. Within this area, the majority of SDC investments will support research topics that are related to agroecology and nutrition. These topics include issues such as ecological footprints, food systems, value chains and food security, while not neglecting traditional areas of focus such as productivity increases and integrated pest management.

### *Organisation of ARD*

Funding for ARD is mostly the responsibility of [SDC](#), which is part of the [Federal Department of Foreign Affairs \(FDFA\)](#). SDC works together with various other federal offices in implementing the country's 2021-2024 cooperation strategy. The Food Systems section – one of the thematic sections in SDC – coordinates support to ARD. In fact, most of SDC overall research funding during 2017-2020 was in support of agriculture and food security and within its ARD portfolio, CGIAR was the major recipient.

In promoting collaboration between Swiss scientists and scientists from the South, SDC and the [Swiss National Science Foundation \(SNF\)](#) have launched the [Solution-Oriented Research for Development programme \(SOR4D\)](#), focusing on applied, inter- and trans-disciplinary research based on the needs of development actors. This five-year programme (2022–26) aims to generate solutions, innovations and better knowledge to foster sustainable development and reduce poverty in low- and middle-income countries. The SOR4D programme is open to all disciplines from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, health and life sciences. Two calls for proposals were launched in 2022 and the proposal selection process is currently under way. The SOR4D programme is the successor of the TRANSFORM Programme with similar objectives. Through the TRANSFORM programme, one ARD project – [Sustainable agriculture through effective and efficient digital pathways \(Agripath\)](#) – is being supported.

SDC is an active member of the [Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research \(SFIAR\)](#), which was established in 1995 and comprises a wide set of members and individuals actively involved or interested in ARD. SFIAR's main objective is to share information between stakeholders and encourage dialogue among these stakeholders on ARD-related issues and influence policy decisions around ARD at national and international levels. A number of Swiss institutions that are members in SFIAR are actively engaged in ARD projects. SDC provides funds for the secretariat of SFIAR.

#### *Main ARD programs and beneficiaries, 2021/22*

- Switzerland supports the CGIAR through a core contribution to its 2022-2024 Business Plan, amounting to a total of CHF 54m for the 3 - year period (CHF 18m/yr). Half of this annual funding (CHF 9m/yr) is non-designated, the other half is designated funding:
  - The designated funding is provided to seven initiatives that have been developed under the new CGIAR research portfolio and are either part of the “System Transformation” or the “Resilient Agri-Food Systems” Action Areas: (i) *Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land, and Water systems*; (ii) *Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation* ; (iii) *Research for Low-Emission Food Systems* ; (iv) *Harnessing Gender and Social Equality for Resilience in Agrifood Systems*; v) *Protecting Human Health through a One Health approach*; vi) *Resilient Cities through Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Agrifood Systems*; and vii) *Diversification for Resilient Agribusiness Ecosystems in East and Southern Africa*.

- Bilaterally, Switzerland is additionally supporting the CGIAR through the following projects:
  - Funding of the project *Solar Irrigation for Agriculture Resilience (SOLAR)*, that aims to support Government efforts in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh to promote solar powered irrigation. The project is implemented by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (CHF 5.57m/4 yrs)
  - Funding for the *Transformative Partnership Platform for Agroecology (TPP)* that aims to identify knowledge gaps in agroecology and proposed transdisciplinary research programs. The platform – co-convened by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), World Agroforestry (ICRAF), CGIAR and others – has been created by CGIAR scientists and donor representatives and launched in 2021 (funding from 2022-24 CHF 0,15m/yr).
  - *Closing Rice Yield Gaps in Asia (CORIGAP) Phase III (2021-2022)*. SDC supports the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and national agricultural research and extension partners in six Asian countries to develop quantitative tools and methods to optimize the sustainability of irrigated systems (CHF 1,4m/2 yrs).
  - Multi-year annual support to the *Pan African Bean Research Alliance (PABRA)*, which is an international network of scientists, research institutions, and partner organizations coordinated by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and aims to improve the full bean value chain (CHF 6,2m/4yrs).
- *Core support* to the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) to support its work that is highly relevant for the transformation to sustainable food systems, agroecology and healthy nutrition (CHF 6,2m/3 yrs).
- Support to the CABI *Plantwise+ Programme*, which aims to help farmers face climate challenges and plant health treats (CHF 3,6m/3 yrs).
- Support to the project *The Rural-Urban Nexus: Establishing a Nutrient Loop to Improve City Region Food Systems (RUNRES)*, which is implemented by the Institute for Sustainable Agroecosystems of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETHZ). The project will seek to improve the resilience and sustainability of food systems in four different rural-urban regions across Africa (CHF 4,9m/5 yrs).
- Support to the *Long-term Farming Systems Comparison in The Tropics* project, which is led by the Swiss Research Institute for Organic Agriculture and aims to provide scientific evidence on the productivity, profitability and environmental impacts of organic agriculture compared to conventional agriculture in four production systems of the tropics (CHF 2m/4 yrs).
- Support to the CIFOR-led *Transformative Land Investment* project, which aims to improve land tenure security and livelihoods of 300.000 rural people through investors' practices for inclusive business and agroecology, and the adaptation of national policies and global frameworks (CHF 8,95m/5 yrs).
- Support to the *Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE)* project, which is led by Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and connects the demand and supply side of food systems, engages women and youth – including through social business models – and builds local governance capacity (CHF 7,6m/5 yrs).

- Through the *Dissemination of Agricultural Research Products in West Africa* project (2020-2024), Switzerland provides funding to West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD) to increase the use of innovations by producers, processors and other actors in agricultural value chains by supporting their dissemination and pooling (CHF 9,5m/4 yrs).

Table: Main ARD budget and beneficiaries, 2022 (in million CHF)

<u>Contributors</u>	
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	31,64
<u>Recipients*</u>	
CGIAR core and designated	18,00
SOLAR (IWMI)	0,92
CORIGAP (IRRI)	0,70
Transformative Partnership Platform	0,11
PABRA (CIAT)	1,55
CORAF	2,38
ICRPE	1,52
CABI Plantwise+	1,16
RunRes (ETH Zurich)	0,63
Farming Systems Comparison (FIBL)	0,15
Transformative Land Investment	2,52
Nutrition in City Ecosystems	2,00

*This country profile has been prepared by EIARD with contributions from staff of SDC, complemented by information collected from internal and online databases and websites. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this profile do not necessarily reflect the views of the Swiss organisations involved in ARD.*