

Agricultural Education and Training in Switzerland

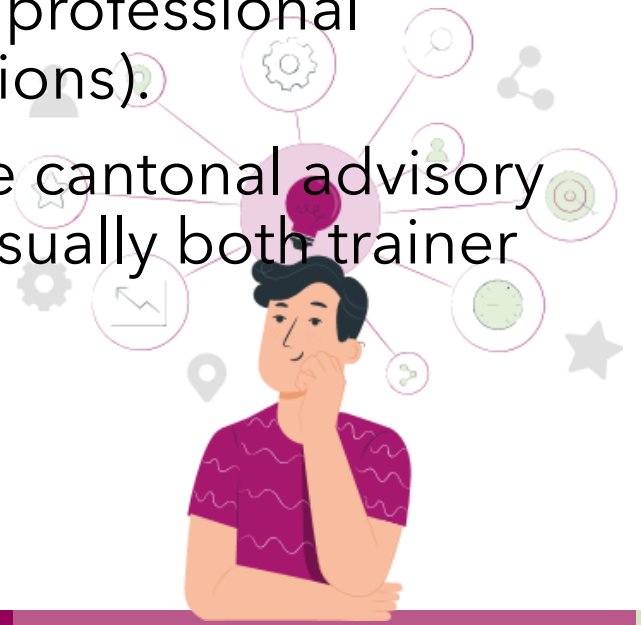
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HOW to make educational systems and training more attractive to farmers? Can advisors play a role? How to engage them?

- The Swiss vocational and professional education and training system is characterized as a *dual* system: Young farmer apprentices work for three years (age 16 to 19/20 years) on a “master farm” and at the same time attend classes at an agricultural vocational school about once a week. An officially recognized certification or diploma will be awarded.
- The scope of training content (curricula) and distribution across learning locations (school, farm) is determined by a so called professional organisation (including farmers’ unions and associations).
- In many Swiss cantons, the vocational school and the cantonal advisory service form just *one* institution, so that its staff are usually both trainer and advisor at the same time.



HOW to motivate education/training participants (farmers, farmworkers, advisors, students...)?

- ▀ Intrinsic motivation can be promoted by:
 - attractive training content (curricula) oriented to real situations on farms,
 - well trained “master farmers” and trainers,
 - demo plots, run at schools or, by advisors, on farms,
 - a well developed job-related continuing education and training offer, intended for life-long learning *“Kein Abschluss ohne Anschluss”* *
- ▀ Extrinsic motivation can be promoted by:
 - subsidized offer of training courses
 - vouchers
 - making the certificate or diploma a prerequisite for receiving

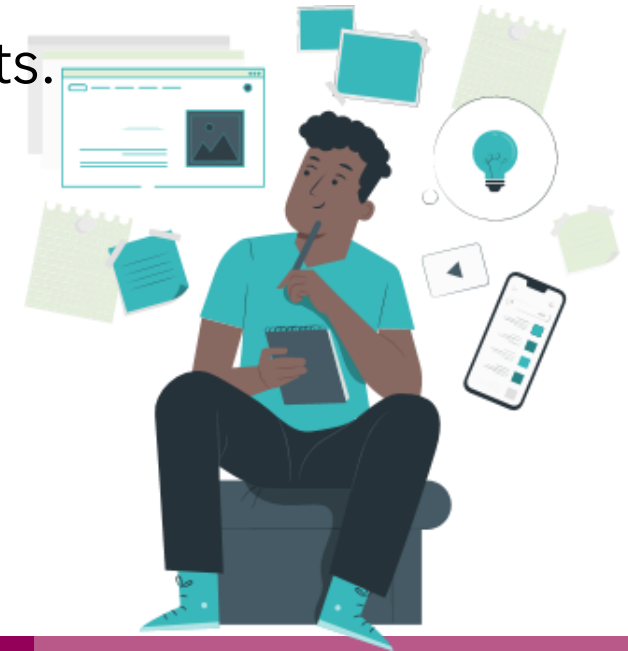
WHAT: Which topics to select for education/ training and how to choose and prioritise these?

- Topics should fulfil two types of criteria:
 - be adapted to the real farming conditions (technical and economic skills, animal husbandry, crop production, workload..)
 - take into account public concerns (resource efficiency, use of plant protection products, biodiversity, animal welfare, landscape protection...).
- Prioritisation should be done by the professional organisations, which are aware of the public concerns.
- Farm issues and public concerns should not be treated separately; but should be combined where possible.



WHO & WHERE : How to organize the education/training? Practical aspects?

- Practical field experience of advisors is welcome as part of education and training sessions.
- Include farm and field visits into the programme.
- Job-related continuing training should be adapted to an “agricultural timetable”; venue and seasons / hours according to farm work.
- Allow exchange between farmers by cross-farm visits. The advisor plays the role of a facilitator only.



Thank you for your attention

Questions?

We will answer
them!

