

Annexe – Interviews, summarized and translated

Aïssa Issaka, Niger - Interview 1:

- Aïssa is a local farmer woman from Yeni, a small village in the Dosso region, in Niger.
- She has four children, all of which got married and left. She still has relatives in the village.
- She is an official promoter of agroecology for her village, partnering with SWISSAID in Niamey. She is also an elected official of the Community Council and was chosen secretary of the local cooperative
- According to Aïssa, the majority of people in Niger suffer from hunger and undernutrition, which means that they leave out meals on a regular basis.
- There is help from cooperation partners through projects, sensitization and capacity-building, which she says, have brought some improvement.
- Aïssa grows cereals (corn and rice), leguminoses such as black-eyed peas, vegetables (cabbage, tomato, potato, moringa, onions) and fruits (e.g. mango), to nourish herself and her family. However, she feels like she does not have enough choices in her diet, when asked about that.
- During the lean season, she has to buy rice and maize on a market in Tillabéry, far away. The maize and rice there are from abroad and are more and more expensive: a bag of rice is at 20'000 Francs CFA compared to 15'000 or 18'000 last year. Currently the price goes up to 30'000 Francs CFA. Prices have been soaring on the international market and this has also affected the prices on the local village markets.
- She produces maize (when the season permits to do so), vegetables, fattens goats and sheep (6 months to 1 year) and has fish ponds to initiate fish production. She produces only little milk from two cows. She also produces pharmaceutical products she says. Her onions work well for her: 25kg of onion is 1250 Francs in 2020, in 2021 it is already at 2200 Francs.
- The community radio station diffuses information on what people can buy and where.
- Masculinity groups were created so that men and women reflect on gender and basic rights. Only thanks to these groups, the men now help the women with chores and on the fields. Aïssa considers this the most important change in her life over the past 10 years.
- Those who have the means, can hire workers.
- Women have recently gained access to land in Niger in a land reform a few years back.
- Women do not have enough access and power over their land: "You know, in our place, at our village, there is a problem of land. The plots are not sufficient, even for the women (...). Even if they give [land] to the women for inheritance, it is a small plot that she is given to do her activities". Aïssa received her land, a three hectare plot, from her father who got it from his father in this same village.

- Men in the Community Council take decisions that affect her farm (Question: “Who takes decisions that affect your farm”). But they are now several women on the Council and the Mayor is a woman.
- The soil is fertile now, thanks to agroecology, after more than 20 years.
- Access to water is good, but it is not a lot; the boreholes are insufficient.
- Local farmers produce their own seed but also need to buy seeds. She gives the example of onion where people do not wait long enough before letting their animals graze, and so there is no time to harvest the seed.
- They are taught how to make their own fertilizer and pesticides. However, Aïssa says that only about 5 out of 50 women practice agroecology that way. She believes it is because of a lack of knowledge, tools (no carts to bring out dung).
- Agroecology is not as expensive as conventional production, because fertilizer and pesticides don't need to be bought.
- She says income generating activities are important too for her well-being: small commercial activity, transformation of vegetable produce: drying veggies so that post-harvest loss is reduced, and they can be conserved longer (cabbage (longest), tomato, potato, onions, moringa, dried mangoes)
- In fact, in this zone, no fish was produced so far. Through the federation, they are currently establishing ponds. No fish has so far been sold. Fish is transported from the next town with special transport that includes oxygen supply.
- The community radio station: that's the idea on how to market the fish. Prices are currently at 1750 Francs CFA/kg whereas year before was 1250 Francs.
- The federation and the women's production groups are her most solicited partners, together with partners from SWISSAID. The entire village is her kin; she exchanges most with them.
- Women work together on a vegetable plot with a few fruit trees in the east of the village: on 15 ha 370 women collaborate there; also in the North of the village, the women collaborate in a garden. In the South of the village is where Aïssa's farm is located.
- In the West, flooding has occurred and brought lots of sand and weeds which means more work.
- Further positive changes over the past 10 years:
 - o Nutrition has become a topic of discussion
 - o 370 women produce veggies and fruits together on 15ha, which helps children gain weight and be healthy
 - o People manage to sell surplus at the weekly market
 - o Women can now buy essentials, furniture for their children, and condiments.
- What is needed:
 - o Enhance agroecological knowledge, infrastructure for conservation (reach higher price, avoid post-harvest losses.. “rotting of produce”)
 - o Bring products to bigger, regional markets
 - o Provide seed and food in the lean season

Aïssa Issaka, Niger - Interview 2:

- Talks with village and family Chiefs are needed.. they need to be told that the revenue from the women is for the families. Community Committees are in charge of these questions now.
- What is needed to have more women, and especially more men engaging in agroecology, according to Aïssa. They would need oxen and carts, more favourable climatic conditions
- Regarding the Summit: What politicians need to do to bring change/improvement:
 - Rebuild the fence around the village
 - Maintain a communication network (very bad connectivity)
 - Wells are silted up, they must be taken care of, otherwise the motor pumps will not work
 - Well-working pipes
 - Help in lean season for products and seeds
 - Help with agroecological knowledge
 - State support to select and multiply the best seed, with a good storage place. Aïssa hopes that storage will help to do more “business”
- To get synthetic inputs and seeds, the women need to travel too far (often too expensive); agroecology is considered rather cheap
- “Chemicals are discouraged even by the Community Council. We don’t need synthetic products. Chemicals are not recommended even by the family heads and the community [...] there are several kinds of trees under our noses that are as good as pesticides.” Chemicals are seen as a danger for health and for the environment.
- People who could help the most against Climate Change according to Aïssa: Staff at the town hall, the community radio, the agriculture agents, SWISSAID

Rut Mendoza Quiacain, Guatemala – Interview 1:

- Rut runs a farm on a small piece of land near her house, in Santa Cruz la Laguna, Guatemala. Rut obtained her land from her father-in-law. He has a bigger farm and she often helps him out on his farm for free.
- She is the one taking the decisions on her plots.
- She produces for the family and sells the surplus produce on the market. She produces organic (no certification). She uses an organic technique to fertilize her produce.
- Rut produces organic hot chilli, carrots, onions, beans, coriander, spinach, salad, basil, honey, makes teas like lemon teas, peach teas and mint teas. “I use fruit and leafy trees like uacate, coffee. I collect them and pile them under the crops.”
- She sells surplus, either to the community – changing the price in accordance with how rich or poor the customers are – and to the hotels nearby.
- People in rural areas who don’t have a lot of money and less access to daily consumption suffer from hunger. Furthermore, in her community, they often endure domestic violence and machismo. These circumstances have become better according to Rut, because women were trained, now work and defend their rights. They have improved the quality of life for their family.
- Why she thinks herbs and vegetables are the most important in her diet:
 - Bodily health benefits
 - Easily obtainable as it is organic and grows well on this land
- She buys maize, vegetables she does not produce herself, e.g. certain potatoes, meat, coffee, salt and sugar.
- She does not want to consume chemicals (“productos químicos”) and therefore she wants to buy as little as possible from the store.
- Rut is a nurse next to her farming. Rut needs the income from the farm as her job receives only little pay (3.78 USD per day).
- According to Rut, coffee producers (“cafeteros”) use a lot of chemicals, thus their soil is contaminated.
- She says the climate is humid and they don’t lack water but rather clean drinking water.
- This agricultural activity is key: it helps pay the bills and nourish the family in a healthy way.
- Most important change in Rut’s life over the past 10 years:
 - To have an open mentality, to be someone who wants to educate herself and enhance the quality of life of herself and her kids.
 - She can now earn her own money, can buy things for her children and herself, and she can help with the costs around the house.
- Rut states clearly she does not want to be dominated, she can judge for herself, can try and teach others. It is a new turn in her life: producing and respecting nature at the same time.

Rut Mendoza Quiacain, Guatemala - Interview 2:

- In her community, Rut is a leader for the NGO Vivamos Mejor
- She is working with women and crafts (medicinal plants, vegetables, organic fertilizer). Noticeable change in the community: Women in the community have been educated on women's rights and cannot be treated violently anymore, they are free and can act on their own and have their own opinion. No more room to manipulate. "I have a word for this behavior of men, that is so manly, I call it 'machingla'", says Rut. Women can learn from other strong women about their rights. In the past women didn't have any money of their own and men drank the income away. Today the women can produce their own food, look after home and family.
- The education program for the women that brought these changes in behaviors in the community, took one full year. At first, the women didn't like the sexual education and the discussion about their rights much, but with time, they have adopted it.
- "I am producing food because that is an activity we do in my family. I sell (...) in the community and ask a price I know they can afford".
- Only a minority is producing organic in the community. It takes longer to have good results and prices are not optimal. Most of them thus produce with conventional means.
- The community decides about/ takes influence on the prices for her products. They don't have the knowledge about organic and how it works, so they don't value it, so they won't set an adequate price.
- Strangers/tourists are ready to pay a higher price, knowing what organic food implies. Rut tries to make more income by adapting her products to the likes of the tourists; she tries to find out what they like (she works on the teas, Kombucha de Jamaica..)
- Rut learnt about production, administration, sales and marketing of her products on the job and from her husband.
- Regarding the Summit, Rut doesn't seem to have particular requests. She focuses on what she could do herself. She says to gain more income from agriculture, she would need:
 - To buy more seed
 - Produce more (if people produce too little, they will not be interested in organic, or if the produce doesn't look good); however she does not think about buying more land, that is way too difficult. She was given the pice of land she has in the first place.
 - Produce organic fertilizer
 - Do the bookkeeping to have saving to reinvest in the products (e.g. nice etiquettes)

Amina Ally Makame, Tanzania – Interview 1:

- She was born into a farming family. Her siblings did not want the farm, migrated to the city and are engaged in business.
- She changed to organic production in a PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) and is better off she says. She started off farming conventionally, then agroecologically under a SWISSAID project. She is now also a teacher for agroecology for SWISSAID.
- For five years now, nutrition has been much better (knowledge on different agroecological practices has improved). Agriculture is “now seen as a business, it’s a new mindset” in the population, it allows for a better life.
- Amina’s diet consists of cereals, veggies and poultry:
 - oMaize, rice, sorghum
 - oLeaf veggies incl. amaranth, spinach, sweet potato leaves, cabbage, eggplants, okra, tomatoes, carrots
 - oPoultry
- Amina produces seeds for herself, not for sale.
- She produces most of her rice, veggies and cereals herself (own plots, home garden)
- Only during off-season, she is going to the market (local village market). Other farmers produce organically and distribute their produce during the off-season. No real competition in the area.
- She is part of a cooperative, which links her up with bigger buyers, investors.
- Amina is working on her own and just sometimes hiring casual laborers to help her.
- Amina’s land is a bit outside the village. It is two plots: one for cereals, one for veggies. Her cereal land was given by her parents, the other by a close relative.
- She decides about the use of the land.
- Practices:
 - oSoil fertility practices
 - oManure and own compost
 - oMulching
 - oRecipes to repel pests, e.g. neem leaves and chilly
- What change has been positive in her in the past 10 years:
 - oShe could move from government housing to her own house and plot
 - oShe has purchased an own water pump
 - oShe has integrated poultry in her farming
 - oShe can pay for school for her kid thanks to veggies and fruits production
- All these positive changes are due to agroecology; before she was buying a lot of inputs, and producing much less diverse.
- According to Amina, there were no negative changes within the past 10 years.
- Apart from her job at the farm, she is teaching agroecology to help other farmers take it up.
- What would Amina ask for to keep a healthy diet, sustainable production and good income:
 - oShe needs more technical knowledge in production to help her take more products to the market,

- On the side of cereals she has enough land for now; on the side of vegetable production, she could potentially use more, however then she would have to pay money she doesn't have in order to acquire a good plot, one that has water access.

Amina Ally Makame, Tanzania - Interview 2:

- Since the women were trained and have got organized, the situation has improved for them: "Previously, women were farming randomly, but now food availability has improved, because they have been trained in different techniques to help ensure food throughout the year. Before, (...) it was mostly men who were farming, they could do farming during a single season of the year. Women were not much involved. After getting education and agroecological know-how, women went on to do farming throughout the year. Agriculture is now seen as a business that allows for a better life; it is a new mindset."
- Since getting into agroecology through the SWISSAID project, Amina and her husband have started agroecological farming together. Amina was not a serious farmer and her husband neither. Since the education from the project, he got motivated and now they are doing it together. The community is happy and is motivated about what she is doing and the people are eager to learn. Yesterday she received a person in her farm to teach her and to welcome her in the group.
- Her husband is helping her and making decisions with her. In many cases, however, cooperation in farming is low: Women do the work, their husbands take all the money. Others might give small amounts to their wife.
- The cooperative has existed for almost three years. Main role is motivating members from different groups to do farming. Also, it provides participants with techniques for vegetable production, poultry keeping and fish farming. She earns more on her own agroecological activities. But the cooperative provides her with the techniques, including through demonstration.
- Amina would need more knowledge on poultry keeping to enhance her own productivity, and even increased knowledge about agroecological practices
- Why not so many people do agroecology: the adoption of agroecology is hampered because it has been unknown.
- What needs to be done through the Summit to help, according to Amina:
 - Her request would be more knowledge about poultry keeping, because it is beneficial in a short time-frame
 - and if there are new technologies for agroecology, then she would like to know about them, so that the farmers can get capacitated. She would be especially interested in biopesticides, techniques to improve shelflife of produce, grafting on fruit trees
- Local farmers use agroecological pesticides as phytosanitary products and are not interested in conventional ones.
- Farmers are not interested in specific seeds. They prefer local seeds.

- Amina does not want to get prescriptions by anyone in terms of what to produce, how and when. She says, she has her own objectives and, when asked which ones, she answers that they are: to do business and to nourish her children.
- What scares her the most about climate change are uneven, heavy rains. She is not aware who can help because it's God's plan. She made drainage channels and it somehow helped.
- For Amina, change towards agroecology should come from the farmers only: she says they are the beginning and the end of it.

Chathurika Sewwandi, Sri Lanka - Interview 1:

- Chathurika's family's farm is situated in an almost urban area in the North Western Province of Sri Lanka. They have 3 plots within 10' driving distance from each other, growing different varieties of traditional rice (paddy fields) in one place and vegetables and fruit in the other (upland). They achieve a good diversity of foods, as they also have poultry and a family vegetable garden. They own one cow (just for compost). They buy the vegetables and grain which they do not produce themselves from local farmers.
- Chathurika is a farmer and a lawyer. She works for the Center of Environment & Justice and did projects to educate women leaders. She is a part of the Civil Society Mechanism of the CFS in Rome with the Vikalpan women's federation.
- Her family has established Greenfer (her parents with her two sisters and herself), a business for agroecological practice transfer, organic fertilizers.
- More and more people in Sri Lanka are converting to agroecology, including white-collar workers. Her father was an educator back in the day when he bought the land to start farming together with her mother. He has spent a lot of time experimenting with agroecology and today, he is an agricultural instructor, teaching many courses to farmers and interested people – including young people – about agroecology.
- The government of Sri Lanka is putting in place a law on organic farming to foster a fast transition. This law has caused significant protests; Chathurika says repeatedly that farmers need to be given time and capacity-building for this transition.
- Chathurika explains that hunger in Sri Lanka is more prevalent in the Tamil zone. It affects about 20 Mio. people in her country she says. Most people there work in industrial agricultural schemes, locked in one or two products; they use hybrid seeds. They are often indebted.
- Her family follows an agroecological crop plan to ensure diversity in accordance with the market demand and with the climatic and weather forecast. They plan the use of resources, predict the income from long-term & short-term crops. They hire casual labor for harvesting and for the transplanting of the rice. They practice the System of Rice Intensification (SRI)...
- Her family buys the vegetables they don't have at certain times of the year (carrots, cabbage, leach) and cereals from other farmers or farmers' markets in town.
- The most important change for Chathurika over the past 10 years has been that her family is now able to produce enough food for their own consumption, they don't have to rely on the market anymore, where products contain too many pesticides.
- Chathurika has helped establish a value chain with some people committed to agroecology, where the farm's produce and that of neighboring farms is brought directly to end consumers in the area and in Colombo (under a project funded by UNDP). To make this value chain based on fresh produce work, they work with neighboring farmers, who would like to contribute. In exchange, they train them in agroecology and PGS certification, provide them with organic fertilizer, teach them record keeping and crop plans (they get savings out of it and market access, they get the agroecological knowledge and they comply with the new law). The collaboration

works through mutual understanding, no contract, they can withdraw at any stage. Market information reaches Chathurika's family through a salesperson and assistant in Colombo (all friends of the family who are intrinsically motivated to support agroecology). They process the orders via google docs and whatsapp.

- Chathurika is particularly concerned about her family's household, effectiveness of farming on this land and scaling agroecology deep in the community to enhance productivity.
- Organic farming pays a high price, but PGS stickers are not enough. More visibility would be needed.
- IFOAM asked government to do PGS cheap & less formal through their local authorities, which seems like a good idea to bring it to communities, according to Chathurika.
- Agroecology gives farmers independence, food sovereignty and food security, she says.
- Farmers have a weather "sense" and phones (for instance there are good governmental meteorological apps)
- There are phases of transition: Conventional farmers have to have access to alternatives and knowledge. Failure and losses, that they experience, need to be mitigated.
- For such government action to be successful in supporting the transition to organic farming, the question is also: is the market ready? In the meantime, the government does well to provide initiatives for those farmers who are ready.
- There are different roles for different stakeholders: NGO's roles are to show new initiatives and models in agroecology; research on agroecological knowledge is much needed to build up the alternatives to conventional farming (technical process & innovations -> in her case for instance research on water plants that could go well with rice) and provide recommendations to the policy level, the private sector should take on agroecology and provide services (e.g. compost)

Chathurika Sewwandi, Sri Lanka - Interview 2:

- 80 percent of land (incl. forest) in Sri Lanka is government-owned, 20 percent is private
- There are a lot of land laws in Sri Lanka. Land commissioners and local authorities govern these.
- There is also a development project governing wide areas of land in a specific region of Sri Lanka.
- Public land development ordonnance allowed only men to inherit land from their fathers. Amendments will now allow women to obtain land as well.
- How farmers can enhance income:
 - Add seasonal crops usable as a commercial income
 - Build urban distribution: supply products directly to end consumers

- Farmers do not have crop insurance for climate change. Only big farmers have those
- PGS and agroecology gives the farmers sovereignty to cultivate on their land with organic fertilizer and no pesticides what they want, set prices for their products and connect with the market, independently from middlemen.
- Outside of farmers' groups, farmers who do their work conventionally and have a lot of expenses. They bring their products to middlemen, so no control of market and prices.
- Most farmers are contesting the new law (not ready for this change, not enough knowledge and not enough livelihood security to take the risks).
- Resources, knowledge AND official acceptance like by the Sri Lankan government are needed to implement the change
- The government also needs to give incentives to change towards agroecology, drive farmers away from the conventional model.

Kathrin Lenz Raymann, Switzerland – Interview 1:

- She is an organic farmer in Zurich's country-side in Switzerland
- Kathrin describes her region as very agrarian and very conservative (hardly any foreigners live there)
- No hunger, but malnutrition is present in nearby suburbs bigger cities, where there are poorer families
- The most important for her in her diet is, she says, that she can as far as possible produce everything herself.. meat, eggs, vegetables, milk products.. "unfortunately", she says "we can't produce cereal...because we are in a mountain region (..) but for that I can buy from people I know, trust is a big factor, I want to be sure how something is produced."
- She bought a farm together with her husband and became a farmer by choice. She did a 2-year training to become a farmer plus a 2-year practical training, so she can get financial support by the Swiss state as a licensed farmer.
- She surpassed her goal (self-sufficiency), selling surplus to 20 loyal customers in the village (through google doc):
 - o Eggs-abonnement
 - o Veggie-boxes
 - o Meat
- They have old races of poultry for meat AND eggs and sheep (also for wool, skin/fur and milk)
- This high diversity on-farm allows to breed and produce independently from multinational businesses, which is one of the declared objectives of Kathrin
- Collaboration with Pro Specie Rara label to maintain agrobiodiversity plus good marketing. She says that traditional varieties help maintain a broad genetic pool for when climate change hits even harder. However, her traditional animal and plant varieties also have their vulnerabilities.
- Her goal: produce in low-input-circular production, so high-yielding races do not fit. Such a model is unsustainable, as high-yielding races require more specialized feed which in turn depletes more natural resources
- She is trying out new varieties; has interesting experiences with consumers: She keeps the local, tasty strawberries to her and her family and sells the rest, because consumers would rather buy what they know (also in the looks), than e.g. her "old" strawberry varieties which actually have a more intense strawberry flavour.
- Managing the orders is time-consuming, so she is switching to an online tool "farmtasy"
- She is taking the decisions together with her husband (but she says that she has most ideas, she is the creative one)
- She is engaged at the communal level in a working group on agroecology: they are building structures to enhance local marketing; an external consultancy supports them
- Current policies hinder self-sufficiency farms: small farms have trouble to be allowed to build agricultural buildings and to be officially registered. Once they are

registered, bureaucracy is very heavy (e.g. special tunnel for strawberries required; even the choice of producing strawberries influences on how she will be registered in terms of her farm's importance etc.); small farms don't have a lobby in Switzerland, she says. That needs changing.

- She could acquire the land because she was well accompanied by a consultancy firm that later hired her (current job off-farm is 40%)
- Her practice involve the use of organic fertilizer (compost, manure, dung) from her own farm as well as bought organic fertilizer (as in Switzerland there is such an organic input supply by business)
- She multiplies her seed where possible (salad, soy) and buys the rest from local business
- She has enough water from two sources, but they are also starting to harvest rainwater
- Climate Change frightens her, but for now she says it is not a problem, because of the small structure and especially the high diversity of her farm.
- Leverage: The main leverage are the feed and food prices -> the true cost of food needs to be paid (including positive and negative externalities)
- Kathrin is currently not trying to enhance her productivity by producing more. She doesn't want more customers either, she wants to be able to close nutrient cycles, be truly sustainable.

Kathrin Lenz Raymann, Switzerland - Interview 2:

- Kathrin has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Zurich (Particular interest in international relations)
- Why she would not want to reduce off-farm engagement and enlarge her farming:
 - o Off-farm employment gives financial security and is indispensable, even her husband has off-farm employment as a builder
- Even though her village is full of farmers, there is no competition according to Kathrin: Every single one produces a high diversity of products (organic and conventionally producing farms). They have created a local working group to professionalize the marketing of their different qualities as a community, including by showing how they are producing food with traditional tools and crafting from this region.
- Bigger farms can't give everything into direct sales; they need bigger distribution structures.
- If everybody farmed like Kathrin does, there would be enough food on the planet, she says. "The literature talks about how much surface is needed to nourish a family. But her farm can produce food beyond that, by building also on the use and value addition through byproducts (e.g. wool).
- Kathrin suggests that the Summit should provide guidance to governments to allow for

- Strict animal welfare rules at country-level to protect borders from imported foods that do not fulfill these requirements
- Direct support to families in agriculture, instead of direct payments for their production (so as to get a fair price for food production)
- Pay for ecosystem services by farmers like landscape stewardship, keeping surfaces from becoming bushland, rather using them for agroecology
- Regulation to curb intensive or too extensive farming, e.g. through less animals per surface unit (The current Swiss system forces farmers to become bigger as more animals, more surface, equals more money by the State. But on the contrary, sustainability should weigh more. E.g. having animals just to have them roam free, is a waste of resources.
- Regarding her options to get fair prices for her produce, Kathrin estimates that she is lucky: Her customers are very conscious of sustainability issues and ready to pay a good price in any case.
- She considers the BioSuisse label (the main Swiss organic label) a very good service to organic farmers, because it offers trust-worthy research and services.
- To Kathrin, research needs to be at the service of public interest. Businesses will always aim at short-term profit, which is why she says that public agroecological research needs strengthening.
- Her desired outcome of the Summit in order to support these objectives:
 - Democratization of our food economy, open-source tools for delivery directly to end-customers
 - Help governments get back to focussing on local markets
 - Enhance public research funding
 - Protect, maintain and multiply available local breeds and varieties (plants and animals)
 - Educate farmers, enable them to make good business plans
 - Empowerment of women farmers so they can express their expectations
 - Switzerland must invest in quality dual-purpose breeds. High-yielding breeds are not sustainable, the performance optimum is exceeded in Swiss agriculture if one looks to closing nutrient cycles on-farm. In addition, imported breeds diverge with Swiss animal welfare regulations. In terms of resilience, the system risks collapsing if a breed depends only on a few bulls worldwide.
- First move towards change must come from the farmers themselves. They need support from society and politicians. But they need to want change first.
- Everything that can be produced locally should be produced locally.

Anne Chenevard, Switzerland – Interview 1:

- Anne says, it should be a primary concern to bring back agriculture, farmers and their family production to the center of attention and concern. For Anne, world hunger has increased, especially due to Covid-19. She believes that people in Switzerland were scared not to have enough food (they were buying more food, farmers increased direct sales to end-consumers). But no problem actually occurred with food supply as such. However, it has shown the importance of Swiss farmers to Swiss consumers, as many international value chains experienced delays or were interrupted.
- She feels children in her community are well-nourished and healthy, most cases of obesity are among children from a migration background, not used to our foods or different foods
- Such developments show the importance of efficient food systems and farmers.
- She says, our food system of the rich developed countries is based on imports, stealing resources from the poor in the South.
- Swiss policy is aiming to reduce the number of farms (reducing national self-sufficiency from 50% to 40%). Direct payments to farmers are still linked to how big a farm is and bigger farms attract more investments.
- For Anne, the most important part of her diet, is where her food comes from.
- She relies on her own milk and she has a big vegetable garden, as well as chicken which provide her with eggs. She is buying organic or Fairtrade fruits, local meat.. seasonal foods, as local as possible.
- Anne has a dairy farm on 43 ha. She is specialized on milk production. Most of her production goes to Swiss retailers. The liter price for milk has been falling for years in Switzerland. The cereal that is produced is to feed the cows. Fodder wheat, barley, corn, beans, triticale, a lot of meadows (the farm is at 800 m above sea-level). Objective: to be autonomous in fodder (“no soy, we give to the animals what is produced on the farm”). In the village there is a mill which dries and mills our cereals (4 km away). This is a short value chain. We are shareholders of the mill and we pay for the service.
- She is self-sufficient in feed for her cows for ethical reasons, as she says. She does not want to export environmental problems to other people, such as natural resource degradation and deforestation linked to soy production for instance. Most of the money she earns is reinvested in the farm.
- Additionally, to her farming activity, Anne is a part-time nurse (40%). She has a full-time employee and an occasional worker who support her. Anne took over the farm from her father, her brother was not interested in farming. She recently had to put her job as a nurse on hold because she was looking after her father until he passed. She would like to return to work at the hospital soon, as it also provides her with another perspective and she speaks to different people than as a farmer, and of course there is the additional income, the money she also needs to pay her employee.
- She has created an association called Faireswiss with a brand called “Fair Milk” (“Le Lait Équitable” in French). In addition to her farm, that is a lot of work, 20h-30h per week.

- We are dependent on the government's direct payments for our livelihoods, these payments are provided to farmers in Switzerland. A third of her income comes from these payments. However, they come with numerous rules on how to keep animals, how to farm, we are subjected to many constraints, and are often in disagreement with them (as they often do not correspond to a farmer's reality). There are also many consultants for different topics (livestock, cultures, phytosanitary, vulgarization, and education) and there is a lot of support for them (local, Canton)
- Anne owns her farm, she takes the decisions.
- It is not easy to be taken seriously as a woman farmer (problem: tradition, not law). It was strange for her father to hand the farm over to her as a woman. Her son wants to become a farmer, too.
- In Switzerland, the development in agriculture is not promising: the number of farmers is decreasing, the farm size is increasing, food production is decreasing at the same time, because payments are used to lead farmers to extensive production modes. When often the small farms are more productive. Because the small structures must be viable, so we integrate different rotations, we keep our agriculture productive.
- Her farm was built in 1988, vast spaces around the house for the livestock.
- Anne is practicing conservation agriculture, which is a soil fertility management practice. Soils are less disturbed and don't erode, because there is no tilling and they remain covered with cover crops, however she has to use the herbicide Round-up to be able to grow cereal amidst the grass and weeds. She has also been able to reduce the use of antibiotics by half, through better prevention.
- Her seeds are certified, bought at the mill, who buys it from Swiss Granum. She also multiplies her own leguminoses, as well as forage wheat. It works out well. However, she has to use it on her farm for the feed of her cows only, she is not allowed to bring it to the mill to make flour to transform it further or to provide third parties with it.
- Being owner of her farm has brought positive changes for Anne in her daily life, she is truly managing her farm, which has led to
 - o An active engagement for the family farmer profession (in addition, Anne is also an elected member of her Community)
 - o Creation of her association
 - o Better food supply for the cows
 - o Better delegation of tasks to be more focussed on what she does well (Anne has third parties performing tasks for her, mostly people she knows and trusts; she pays them for services with certain machinery she doesn't own herself etc.)

So all in all, she feels that is taking ownership, she is more in more in control. She highlights that more specific education is needed to be able to keep up with technological developments and progress in farming.

- To advance her farm in an economic way, Anne needs:
 - o A better value of her produce, better prices for her milk
 - o Investments in her farm (construction project) to make it more efficient, modernize, however she needs to access credit for that

- At the national level, she would welcome if policies would encourage small and medium farms to produce a diverse range of food for people, rather than pay for big extensive farms to plant trees and import actual food from elsewhere.
- Anne thinks her farm is robust against climate change:
 - Diversified (no monocultures), good irrigation, good soil preservation
 - Research on new varieties should focus more on diseases and resilience, we should use traditional breeding

Anne Chenevard, Switzerland – Interview 2:

- The term “sustainability” is defined to mean environmental, economic and social elements, but it is often reduced to merely environmental aspects.
- On the environmental side, there is still room for improvement:
 - Reduction of phytosanitary products, of synthetic fertilizers (research is being done)
 - but to do so she also needs economic sustainability. “For a farm that, in the long run, adapts to the needs of population, to environmental and climatic challenges, to increasing population size, to political expectations and consumer expectations, I need to improve my work tools and need to have the financial means to invest in my farm. Economic sustainability comes with improvement of revenue, which is why I need better prices for what I produce in the first place.”
- The problem for Swiss food production is insufficient border protection (Swiss products loose in competition with imports from Spain and Morocco).
- Switzerland imposes norms and regulations, making Swiss products expensive
- We need to go back to more protectionism for food. It is very hard for us to compete with the European price level, due to topography, climate and social and environmental constraints.
- In the short term, Anne is not planning on producing organic products, as she says the market for organic milk is saturated, so that the prices are not even particularly interesting. In fact, people prefer buying conventional products for a conventional price. Organic producers struggle to generate profit margins, because they need more labor force.
- The margins in organic agriculture are generally serving retailers rather than producers. There is limited social sustainability in organic because of that. Farmers have more work and because they don’t necessarily earn more, they need to look for cheap workers from Eastern Europe.
- The revenue and margin need to be distributed more justly between retailers and producers.
- To pay fairer prices to farmers, to revalue food,
 - there needs to be more communication directly with consumers (about farmers’ activities, create consciousness)

- People should be willing and the enabled to pay more for sustainable food (perhaps with vouchers)
- It is harder to do that with prices for eggs, vegetables and meat than those for milk, because people in Switzerland feel emotional attachment to cows and milk (readiness to pay is higher), which is bad for the chicken and all the meats for instance. Animal well-being is a great concern in Switzerland in general though.
- Anne would not want to increase her productivity, because
 - She has very efficient dairy cows already
 - She would have to treat her animals like mere instruments
- If she had to double her productivity, she would do so by
 - Buy larger quantities and different quality feed for her cows (more soy)
 - She would probably have to move towards genetic modification
- This would no longer be sustainable (wasting too many resources form elsewhere)
- Swiss farmers are asked by their government to produce less. Switzerland would rather expand imports. These are cheaper than own production, but not sustainable, however they are hardly checked upon, Anne says.
- To change this situation,
 - “the average Swiss citizen should definitely spend more on his nutrition. We, the producers, on the other hand, need to communicate more clearly about what we do, explain why Swiss food is more costly, and should create a certain consciousness among the consumers about the importance of the way they consume. We, the milk producers, for example, manage to convince our clients to pay a little more for the milk. But we need to make sure that that which they pay more really goes to the producers and not to the retailers. That is very, very hard to do. We can do it because we have targeted products and have a targeted communication. But this should also be done for other products like eggs, vegetables, salad, meat, etc. I think the key is the partnership with the consumers, given that they are the ones deciding what they will buy.”
 - Some trust towards farmers is needed, including by the government. We need less controls, it is too much work just to keep the bureaucracy going.
 - Finally, “we would need less direct payments if our goods were promoted more. People would just pay what we produce and we would not need any more help from the state. The state supports the farmers. But ultimately: Is it really the farmers that are financially helped or rather the buyers? With the current system, the buyers keep buying the goods cheap and the state comes up for the difference. We, the farmers, however, do not have means to attack the retailers since the state gives us compensation. The payments by the states totally bias the market.”
- In conclusion, what should be supported by the Summit for Swiss family farmers: the key would be to pay for food a bit more justly, to stop giving us farmers compensations, but rather reduce imports, and things would work better.
- Anne insists on the more expensive but certified seeds. Buying the ones from multinational companies would be short-sighted. She says “it would destroy valuable

existing seed (including certified seed)...Instead, Monsanto and others would impose their seeds which are not adapted to the circumstances, like local preferences so well." The future of feeding the world goes through local productions (for less losses, more sustainability and more justice towards and autonomy of farmers).

- Further, Free Trade Agreements should look at well-being of local farmers (enabling diversity). The Summit should tackle these problems, rather than some of the solutions proposed (e.g. "Alicaments").
- For Anne, farmers are misunderstood (even "agro-bashing")
- What scares Anne about climate change is climate variability. Research should tackle resilience.
- For Anne, change needs to come from farmers first. They need to formulate their asks, and then, there needs to be political support (agreements with the transformers, distributors, consumers, politicians, and science).