



- Schweizerischer Verband für alternative Proteinquellen
- Association Suisse pour des sources alternatives de protéines
- Associazione Svizzera per fonti alternative di proteina

www.swissproteinassociation.ch

Positionpaper: Alternative proteins for a sustainable food system in Switzerland

7 June 2022

Our attitude in a nutshell:

Food production and consumption have a direct impact on the Earth's resources. Ongoing global warming urgently calls for **more sustainable and resilient food systems**. Shifting from animal to plant-based protein sources makes a significant contribution to this. The **transition to more plant-based diets** requires profound changes in our production and consumption patterns. This needs to be underpinned by a **solid regulatory framework** that commits federal government, policy-makers, industry, researchers and consumers all together.

Our principles:

A shift to more plant-based diets is important to **create food systems that are good for people and the planet**.

Sustainability requires action in the present for the future. This includes ecological, economic and social factors.

- Currently, the production of meat and dairy products contributes heavily to humanity's resource consumption and it will continue to do so as the world's population grows.
- There is a growing awareness among the population for sustainably produced food and thus also the importance of nutrition through alternative protein sources.
- We need **profitable solutions** to ensure the quantity but also the quality of the world's food supply without further straining natural resources beyond what can be regenerated.

Sustainable development can only be achieved by simultaneously pursuing the three aspects of sustainability (environment, economy and society) **along the entire value chain**.

- We produce food in an environmentally friendly and socially just manner, as far as this is also economically viable.
- We give priority to ecological cultivation and the careful use of water, soil and air.
- We reduce the energy input for the production processes as far as technically and economically possible.
- We work towards a circular economy (recycling) and use as little packaging material as possible.
- We rely on a transparent value chain for the benefit of all parties involved.

Our positions:

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We call for a **harmonised definition of "sustainable food systems"** that facilitates a common understanding and implementation of a solid legal framework. This will allow cross-sectoral sustainability requirements to be defined and the measures of the various actors along the value chain to be coordinated.

We promote **deeper cooperation and networking of all stakeholders** along the value chain of alternative proteins.

- A point of contact within the sector facilitates cooperation and thus the achievement of sustainability aspirations.
- **Cooperation and exchange** should lead to the optimal use of raw materials for the production of food and feed with as little waste as possible.

We provide a platform to work together on policy issues to give alternative proteins the voice they deserve.

- The **costs** of building up the market for alternative proteins **cannot be borne by the private sector alone**.
- Politicians should be motivated to **anchor the necessary changes in legislation or the distribution of funding**.

We are committed to **supporting innovation in the development of alternative protein sources** in Switzerland.

- The aim is to enable the **sustainable and competitive production of alternative protein products** at all stages of the value chain.
- We advocate **a level and supportive playing field for the cultivation of protein-rich raw materials** in Switzerland in order to accelerate innovation.
- In the absence of availability in Switzerland, **the import of raw materials must be facilitated** in order to offer processors in Switzerland better market opportunities.