



Agroforestry in Switzerland

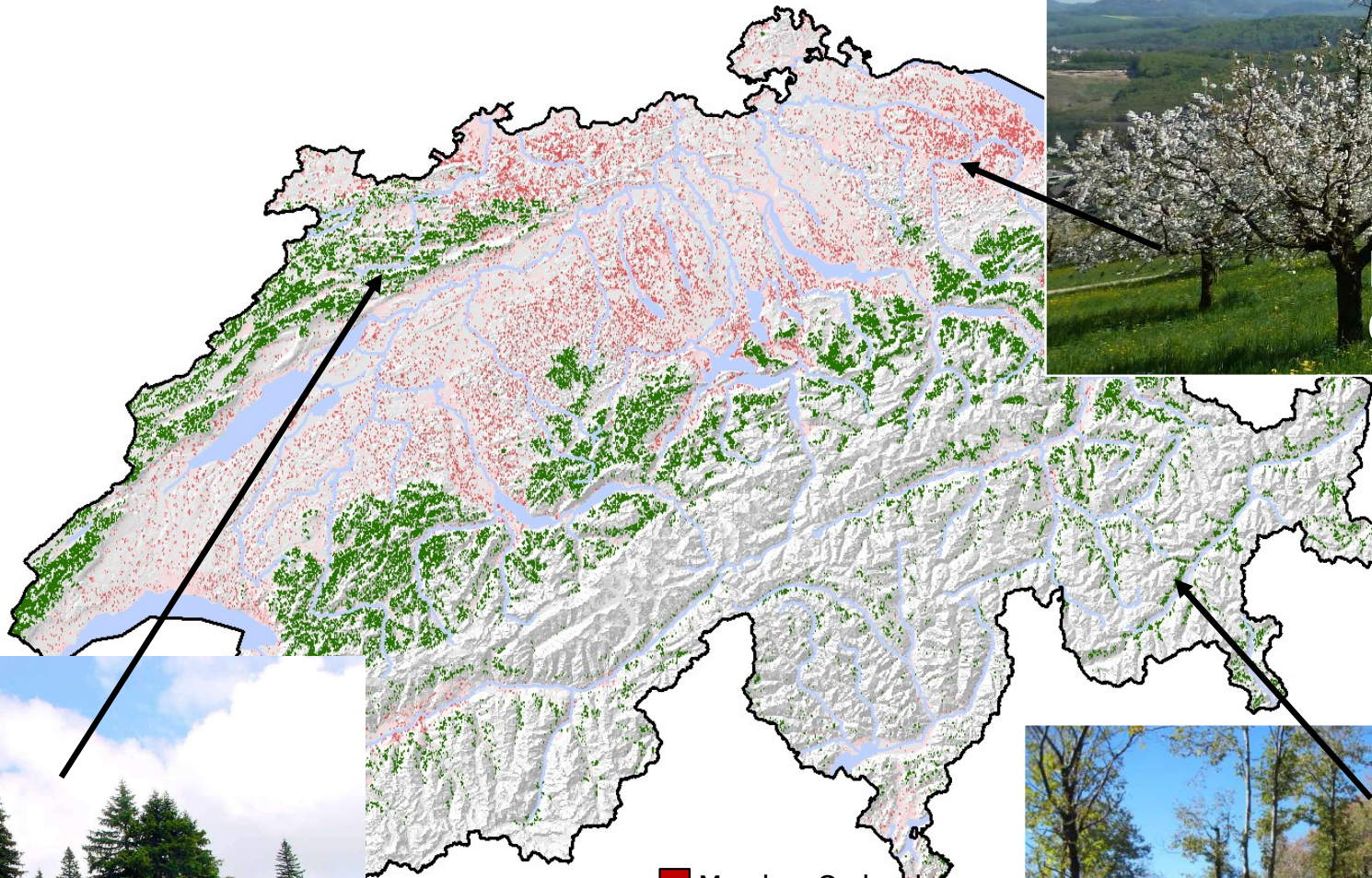
Lisa Nilles, Meeting SFRAS, 24.08.2022



ENTWICKLUNG DER LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND DES LÄNDLICHEN RAUMS
DÉVELOPPEMENT DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DE L'ESPACE RURAL
SVILUPPO DELL'AGRICOLTURA E DELLE AREE RURALI
DEVELOPING AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

Traditional agroforestry in Switzerland

= 7.9 % of Agricultural land

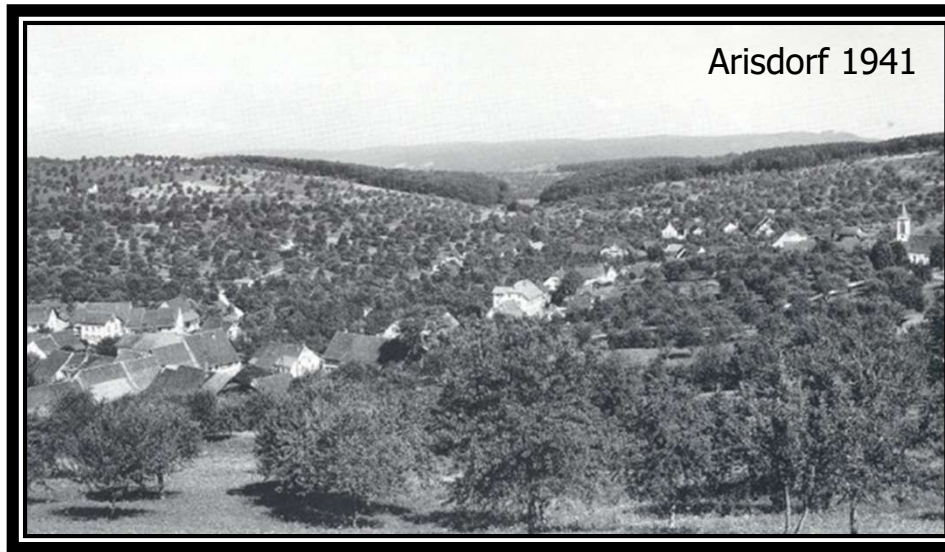


- Meadow Orchards
- Forest Pastures (Wytweiden & Selves)

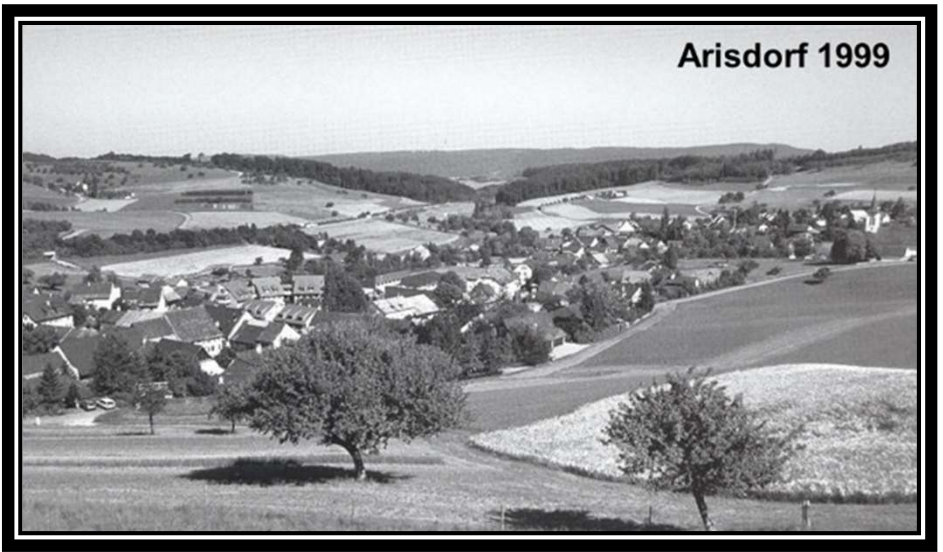
(Herzog et al, 2018)



Earlier times...



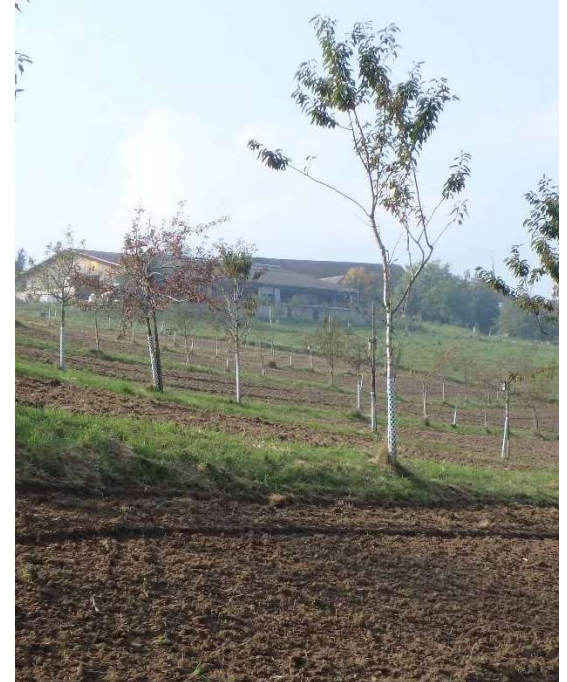
Arisdorf 1941



Arisdorf 1999

Modern agroforestry

- Trees and hedges are planted and trained in a way that modern machinery is not hindered
- Several uses:
 - Wood
 - Fruit
 - Fodder
 - Undercrop
 - Erosion/biodiversity
- ~ 420 hectares modern agroforestry



Beginning of modern agroforestry in Switzerland

- 2009: Farmers began experimenting:
 - fruit/nut trees combined with undercrops (berries, vegetables, cereal)
- 2010 politics started being interested
 - Sustainable intensification
- 2014 – 2018: Projekt Agroforst Netzwerk Schweiz, Support of pioneer farms and monitoring
 - Expansion of courses, advisory services
- Further Projects: e.g. Resource Project Agro4esterie
 - 4 cantons
 - 140 farms involved → extensive monitoring and data analysis

Specifics of modern agroforestry in Switzerland

- A lot of differences

- J
- M
- F
- U
- C

- Different traditions

- Different



Problems with advisory service for agroforestry in Switzerland

- Longevity / protection of trees
- No „Agroforestry“ System in politics
 - uncertainty
- Have to know a lot
 - Trees
 - Management/planting/ species
 - Green strip
 - Species, mice,
 - Undercrop
 - Plant protection
 - Marketing



Different institutions offer advisory services

- IG Agroforst
 - Central collection of information: www.agroforst.ch
 - Book in the making
- AGRIDEA
 - Knowledge transfer / Advisory services
- Agroscope / ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences
 - Research / Advisory services
- FIBL Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
 - Knowledge transfer and research / Advisory services

„Private“ institutions

- COOP: myclimate
 - Binding of CO₂
- Delinat
 - Agroforestry in vineyards
- Private parties
 - Permaculture designers
 - Food Forests designers

Official advisors in cantons

- Mostly for meadow orchards
- Sometimes classes in school
- Few have experience with agroforestry
 - New system / divers
 - No official regulation
- Climate change discussion → cantons offer several projects involving agroforestry with external consulting
 - Klimaneutrales Graubünden
 - Agroforst Aargau
 - Klimaprojekt Freiburg
- Plan: creating a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) formation for agroforestry
 - IG Agroforst, HAFL, FIBL, ZHAW etc.



Positive Effects → interesting for politics

- Reduction of erosion
- Effects on microclimate
- Shadow
- Water pump from roots (hydraulic lift)
- Ameliorates infiltration



Subsidies – no specific (yet) for agroforestry

- No specific subsidy for agroforestry
 - Fruit trees are eligible for funding (meadow orchards)
 - Some varieties for broad leaf trees (single trees)
 - Permaculture code (Code 725)
- Some cantons have a program
- Some research – programmes give a funding
- „Private“ funding
 - COOP Project
 - other

Political Situation

- Agricultural Policy 22+
 - further development of agricultural policy from 2022
- Spring 2021
 - Council of States and National Council decided to suspend discussions on AP22+
- 2022: Future orientation of agricultural policy in Switzerland

Political Situation Future

- June 2022: Strategy for future sustainable agriculture and food production

1. Ensure resilient food supply

- anticipate affects of climate change
- Improve site adaptation

2. Climate, environment and animal-friendly food production

- promote biodiversity
- climate protection

3. Strengthen sustainable value creation

- improve competitiveness

4. Favour sustainable and healthy consumption

- simplify choice of sustainable products

→ Agroforestry offers solutions for all 4 measures



Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit
Thank you very much!

austauschen | verstehen | weiterkommen

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