The tradition of participatory and on-farm research in organic farming

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On-farm research with 200 - 300 farmers

Where is the farmer????
Swiss ethnoveterinary knowledge transfer

- **Problems:** Since the beginning of human existence medicinal plants and natural products have been used to treat diseases of human and animals. Until 50 years ago herbal drugs were an important part of veterinary education and of the spectrum of veterinary therapeutics.
- Due to regulatory reasons hundreds of registered herbal drugs disappeared from the market through the last decades. Recently there are only three pure herbal veterinary drugs registered in Switzerland, two of them for livestock.
- However the application of medicinal plants in farm animals disappeared not completely. The use of herbal remedies by farmers is an unbroken tradition even in Switzerland. Historical literature regarding animal husbandry, animal breeding and veterinary medicine is a further knowledge resource.
Swiss ethnoveterinary inventory and knowledge transfer

- 2011-2013 three master theses of pharmacists: 108 interviews with 137 farmers of 13 Swiss cantons have been conducted.
- A total of 1025 homemade remedies and the therapeutic use of more than 100 plant species have been documented.
- The Swiss wide documentation of farmers' knowledge will be finished due to three further pharmaceutical master theses until 2016.
Antiobiotics and concentrates reduction of dairy herd management

› 200 organic and IP farms
› Farmers and their vets permanently involved
› Outreach in all Swiss regions started in 2014.
› Farmers of the 200 pilot farms become advisors of the new participants.
Santé animale: Mammites

Diminution des antibiotiques

Recherche en homéopathie
How to improve protein supply in Switzerland?

On-farm trials in different regions of Switzerland.

Protein pea and barley.

Immediate increase of production area.

Millers involved.
From exact trials to field trials with farmers: Reduced tillage in organic arable cropping systems

Since 2004

Since 2012
From extension to participatory research

On-farm demonstrations

Advice

Training
Key dimensions and functions of Syprobio

- Farmer-driven research
- Farmer organizations
- National Agric. Researchers; FiBL researchers
- Technicians and management of value chain operators (incl. Helvetas)
- Financial partner (EuropeAid)
Conclusions