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# Drinking Water Initiative and initiatives for the banning of pesticides: assessment of the Swiss Farmers' Association (SFA)

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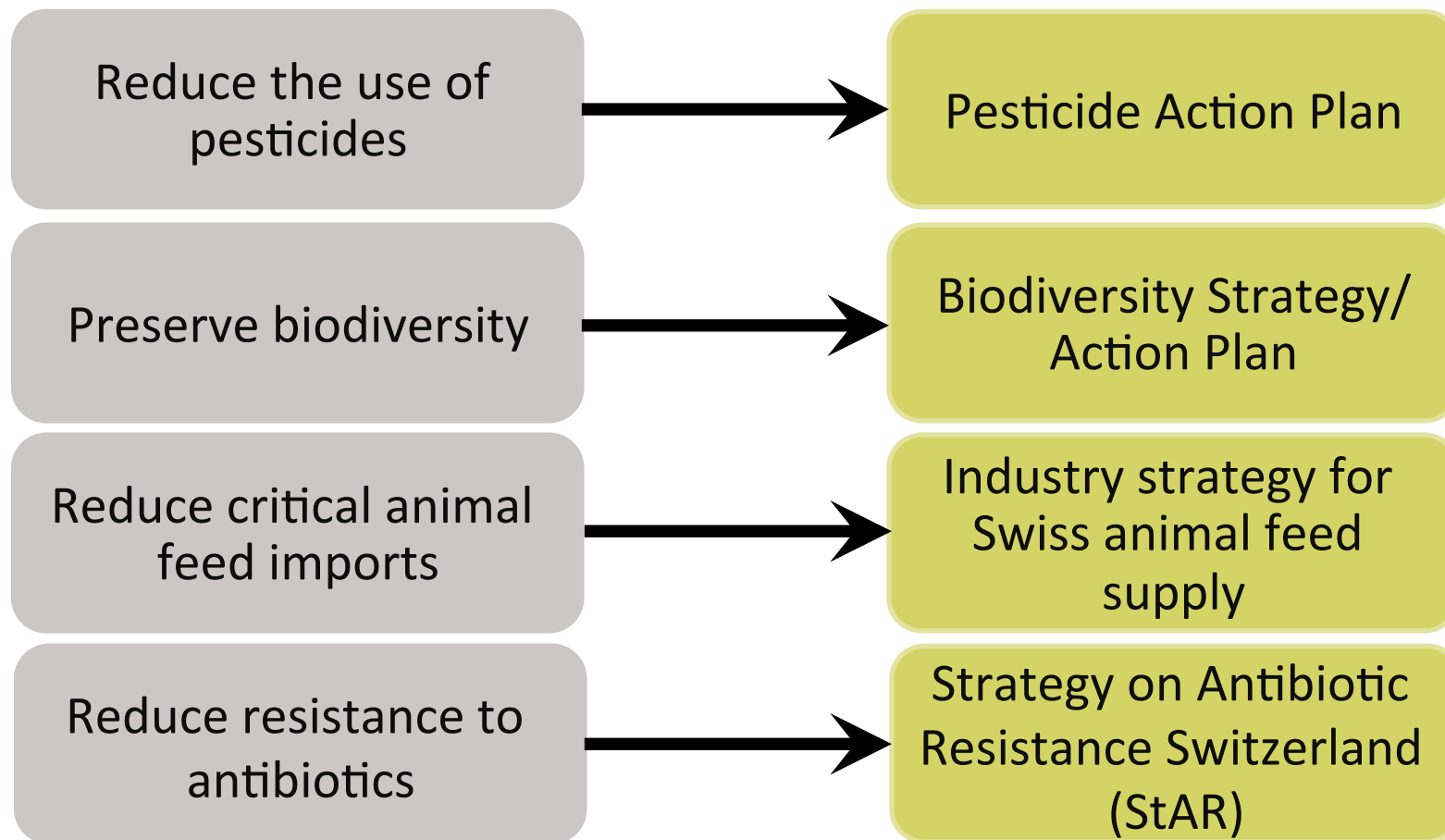
# The agricultural sector takes issues seriously!



- The issues addressed by the Initiatives are very important.
- The agricultural sector takes these issues very seriously.
- There is a certain need for action.
- The answers with respect to this need for action exist.

# Answers to the DWI

Answers to the challenges addressed in the DWI:



# Implementation of measures



## ■ National Pesticide Action Plan (NAP)

- Passed by the Federal Council in September 2017
- The NAP comprises 51 measures
- Up to now, 26 measures have been or are being implemented
  - For example, programmes aimed at the partial abandonment of pesticides for sugar beet, fruit and vines
  - Run-off regulations
  - 13 regional projects aimed at reducing the use of pesticides
  - ...
- Agriculture wants quick and credible implementation, monitoring is very important
- Pesticide use in “conventional” agriculture has been reduced by 27% in the last ten years.

→ **Focus on implementation NAP**



# Implementation of measures



## ■ Strategy on Antibiotic Resistance Switzerland (StAR)

- Passed by the Federal Council in November 2015
- Broad set of measures aimed at improving animal health and reducing the use of antibiotics
- Many measures of the sectors: Health programmes for pigs, calves, ...
- Introduction of an antibiotic consumption database
- Use of antibiotics halved since 2018

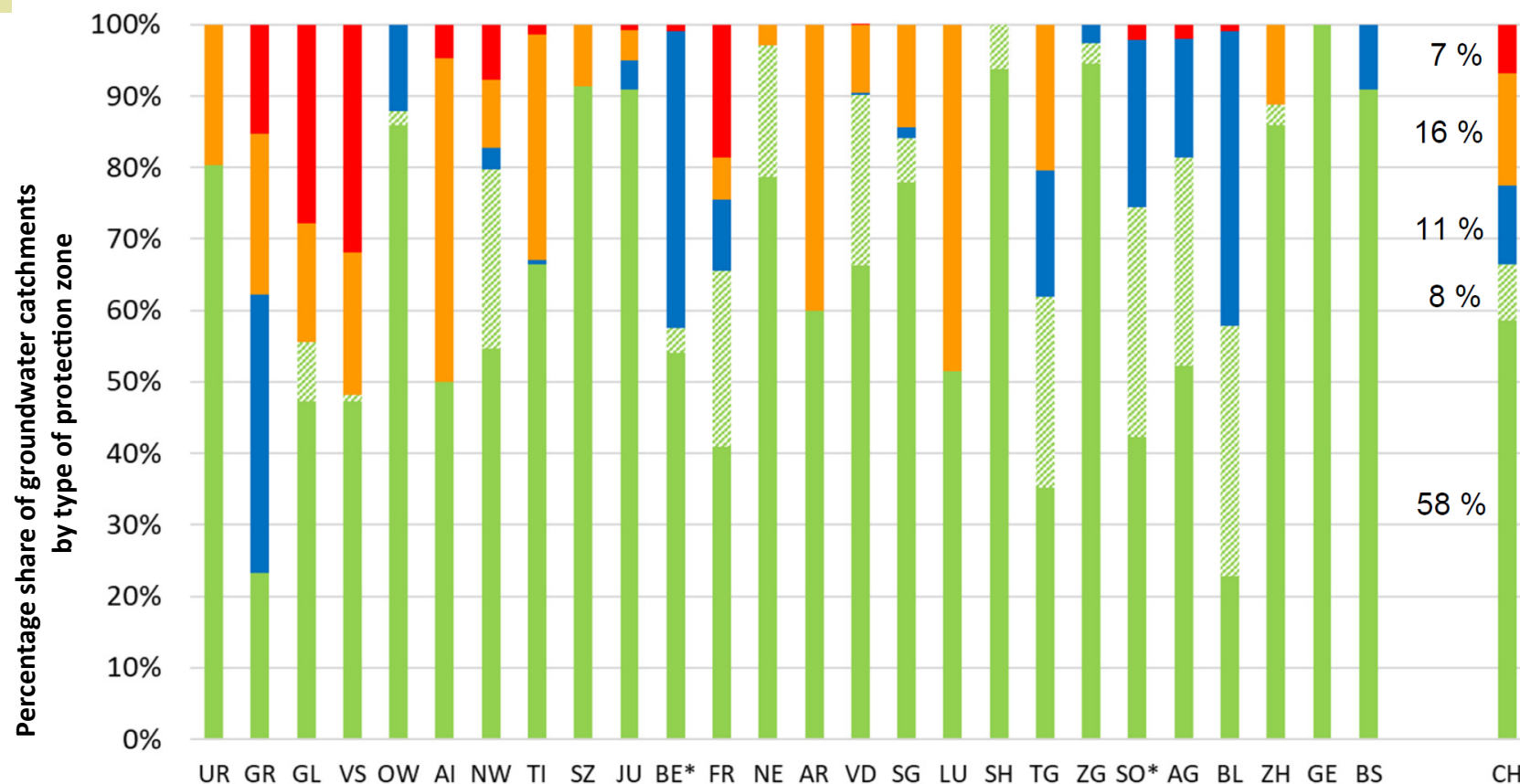
→ Focus on implementation of the StAR

# Implementation of measures for the protection of waters in terms of area planning



- Legal basis for the protection of groundwater in terms of area planning is in place
  - Designation of groundwater protection zones, designation of contributing areas.
  - Definition of usage restrictions and protective measures.
- Surface waters: legal basis for the determination of spaces provided for water by the end of 2018 is in place.

# Groundwater protection zones – designation status



## Grundwasserfassungen

- without protection zones
- with provisional protection zones
- with legally binding protection zones that are, however, not compliant with federal law
- ▨ with protection zones in the designation process
- with dimensioned, legally binding protection zones compliant with federal law

Source: FOEN 2018, groundwater protection – implementation status

# Groundwater – nitrate

## Contributing areas are not designated



### Number of additional catchments with nitrate > 25 mg/l (rough estimate!)

- Around 100 to 170 additional catchments
- For rehabilitation, use 0.5% to 1.8% of Swiss arable land or 0.33% to 1.2% of crop rotation areas as grassland
- With compensation of CHF 2,500 per ha: approx. CHF 4 to 12.5 million per year

#### Assumptions:

- 100 to 170 additional catchments: at 50 ha per contributing area (CA), this results in around 5,000 to 8,000 additional hectares of CA; at 100 ha per CA, a maximum of around 17,000 additional ha of CA.
- *80% of the CA are agricultural areas (AA), of which 90% are open arable land; 40% of the arable land must on average be used as grassland in order to achieve 25 mg/l.*
- -> Use 1,500 to 5,000 ha of additional arable land as grassland;

Source: FOEN 2018, groundwater and implementation – presentation at the Swiss Association of Gas and Water Suppliers (SVGW) conference of June 2018



# Initiatives – the wrong approach!



- Initiatives fundamentally put a question mark over the Swiss agricultural and food sector.
- All production systems (proof of ecological performance (PEP), integrated production (IP), organic) are affected by the DWI in equal measure.
- The DWI can even have environmentally negative implications:
  - Sensible utilisation of by-products from food processing no longer used for animal feed.
  - Domestic production declines: more imports.
  - More intensive production segments (wine growing, fruit, poultry) will depart from the direct payment system and PEP!
- Further shifting of “problems to abroad”
  - 75% of Switzerland consumption-related environmental impact already takes place abroad.

# Conclusion



- The issues addressed by the initiatives are very important.
- The agricultural sector takes these issues very seriously.
- The instruments and measures for the elimination of the challenge are in place:
  - Various action plans and a strategy
  - Legal basis for the protection of drinking water/groundwater in terms of area planning
  - Instruments and measures must be implemented and executed in a credible manner
- Implementation of existing requirements rather than the creation of new ones.
- Initiatives are the wrong approach, could even have a negative environmental impact



**Thank you for your attention**

