

# Centre of Excellence for Raw Milk Products

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## Great importance

Switzerland, a land of meadows, cows and milk, is also a land of cheese, 62% of which is consumed domestically and 38% exported. In 2020, of 203,791 tonnes of cheese were produced, 77,124 tonnes worth CHF 693.8 million were exported. (Source: Switzerland Cheese Marketing). A large proportion of cheeses are made from raw milk.

## Growing interest

Raw milk cheese is becoming increasingly popular, not only because of its flavourful qualities, authenticity and the traditions associated with it, but also because its positive influence on health is increasingly being scientifically proven.

## A twofold objective

The Centre of Excellence for Raw Milk Products, a partnership between Agroscope and the Canton of Fribourg, pursues a twofold objective:

1. To increase the added value of raw milk products and to
2. ensure that there are no increased risks associated with their consumption.

## Complementary to each other

Agroscope is responsible for the conception, the implementation and evaluation of the projects and trials and provides the necessary scientific and technical personnel.

The Canton of Fribourg/Grangeneuve provides the staff for technical support and ensures the necessary infrastructure for carrying out the projects and trials in Grangeneuve.

## Advisory group

The "external monitoring group", which represents the dairy and cheese sector, supports the Centre in the content of its research work. It is made up of delegates from the association of Swiss milk producers, the Food & Nutrition Cluster, Fromarte, Liebefeld Kulturen AG, Interprofession du Gruyère, Interprofession Vacherin Fribourgeois, Casei, Agridea and Cremo.

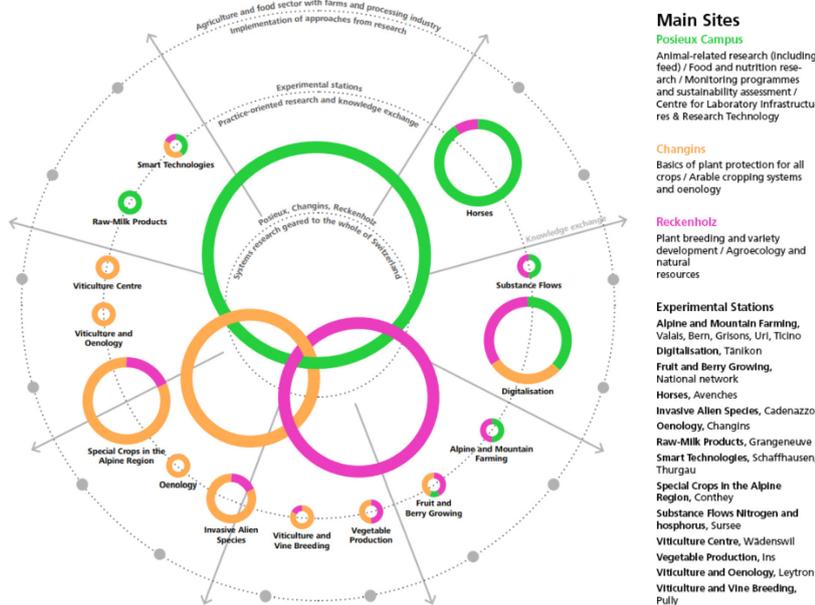


Fig.1: As part of the new site strategy, Agroscope has launched various decentralised experimental stations together with the cantons. The Centre of Excellence for Raw Milk Products is one of them. (Graph Agroscope)



Fig.2: The Centre was officially inaugurated on 30 August 2021. From left to right: Didier Castella (Government Councillor of the Canton of Fribourg), Fabian Wahl (Head of Research Unit at Agroscope), Eva Reinhard (Head of Agroscope) and Pascal Toffel (Director of Grangeneuve). (Photo Agroscope)