

# ProfiGemüse CH: a novel network linking research with supply and demand in the vegetable sector

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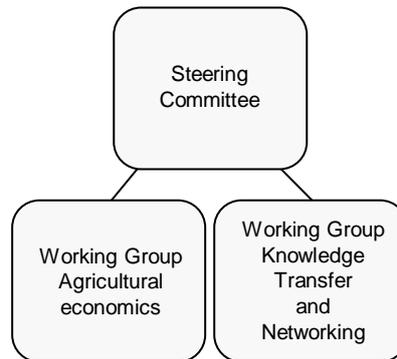
## ProfiGemüse CH

ProfiGemüse CH (Switzerland) is a project within the Agroscope research program ProfiCrops.

ProfiGemüse CH aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the vegetable production sector in Switzerland.

The scheduled time span for ProfiGemüse CH is 2008 – 2013 with the idea to establish a self-sufficient project.

## Organigram



## Partnerships

ProfiGemüse CH supports partnerships among research institutions, advisors, vegetable producers and stakeholders to combine key competences and to work on broader and complex issues.

Partnerships lead to:

- involvement of stakeholders in defining research topics
- comprehensive knowledge transfer
- optimizing knowledge uptake

## Is networking a useful approach to compensate limited resources?

### Methods

#### Participative approach:

- Focus on topics that are of interest to all partners
- designated areas of priority:
  - **Agricultural economics**
  - **Knowledge transfer**
- Development, testing, evaluation, and dissemination of innovations and knowledge.

#### Broad horizon:

- inter-institutional cooperation
- diversity of experience levels (research, consulting, farm level)
- Partners learn from each other

#### Resources:

- benefit from synergies (without additional financial supply)

### Project example: Agricultural economics

#### Economic evaluation of innovative agricultural techniques:

- Energy saving and its economic relevance in vegetable greenhouse production by modifying climatic steering, for example with temperature integration (Figure 1A)
- Information on costs, benefits and risks of precision farming based on GPS (global positioning system) in vegetable production with respect to the typical Swiss agricultural landscape structure (Figure 1B)
- Collection and analysis of labour efficiency data of vegetable harvest methods

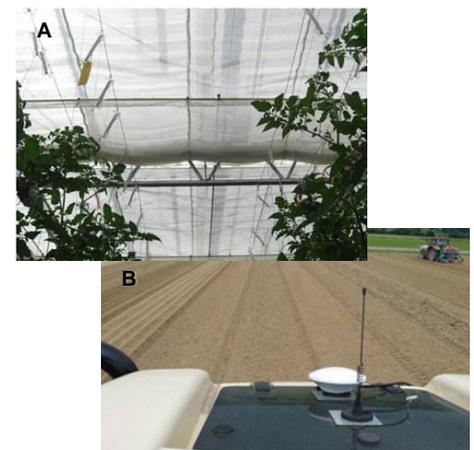


Figure 1: Evaluation of new technologies in greenhouses (A); and use of GPS in Swiss vegetable production (B).

### Project example: Knowledge transfer

#### Knowledge transfer strategies:

- Survey on satisfaction and deficiency in knowledge transfer (Figure 2):
- Relative importance of existing knowledge dissemination strategies in Switzerland
- Needs and possibilities to improve these strategies?
- Dissemination channels according to needs of vegetable producers rather than according to conception of advisors / researchers
- Package of educational courses collaboratively organised by consulting and research partners

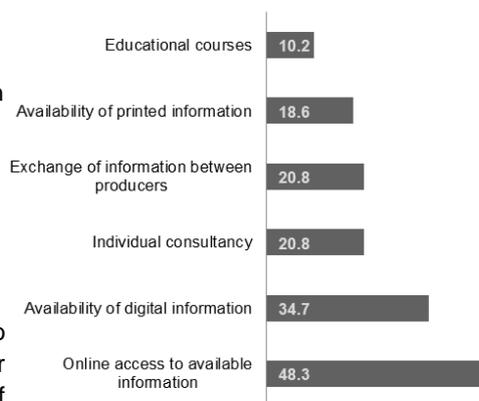


Figure 2: Result of the survey on satisfaction and deficiency in knowledge transfer. Suggestions of Swiss vegetable producers to improve the offer of information and dissemination.

### Conclusions

#### Participative approach:

- The participative approach helps to prioritize the demands of interest.
- Collaboration strengthens confidence among partners and commitment to common objectives

#### Resources:

- Considerable effort to develop, organize, coordinate, conduct and document network activities
- Additional financial supply is necessary

→ **Establishing a network needs organisational input but yields gains in terms of efficiency**