

The New Swiss FADN Income Survey

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1 Introduction + research question

Swiss **F**arm **A**ccountancy **D**ata **N**etwork (**FADN**)

- was established in 1969
- is quite similar to the one in the European Union
- yearly collects and analyses data of a sample of farms

The Swiss FADN system, which was in force until 2015, showed several serious weaknesses.

The three most important shortcomings:

- No random sampling procedure
- Insufficiently represented parts of the target population
- Marked over- and under-representation of some strata

→ Reason: Special “Swiss FADN Accountancy” method with direct costing and rules defined by Agroscope.

Fundamental reform of the Swiss FADN between 2007 and 2016 with new statistical design of the survey

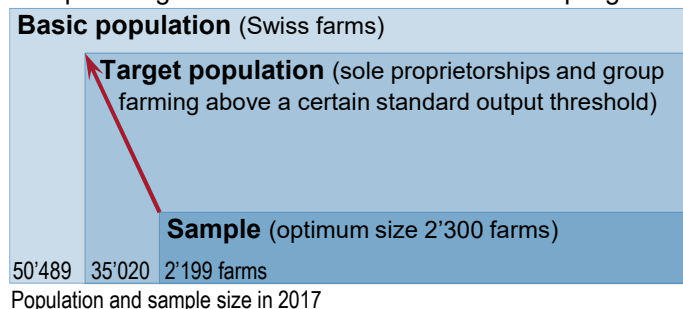
2 New survey design

The new Swiss FADN survey...

- relies on financial accounts
- collects detailed data from accounts, tax return, data on labour input and structural data
- data collection occurs via an online survey tool
- is based on a stratified random sampling with three groupings: (i) region (plain, hill, mountain), (ii) farm type, (iii) farm size (standard output)

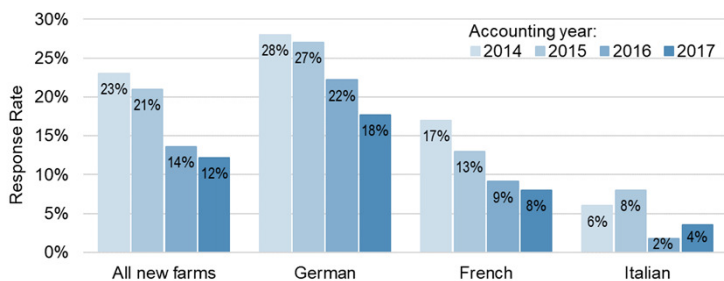
Key economic indicators: farm income, household-income and cash-flow

Sample design based on stratified random sampling

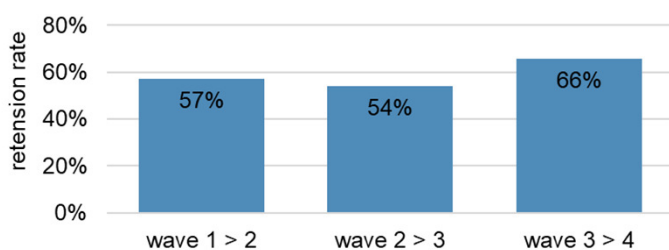


3 Results: response rate, retention rate and break

Unweighted response rate (new members sample)

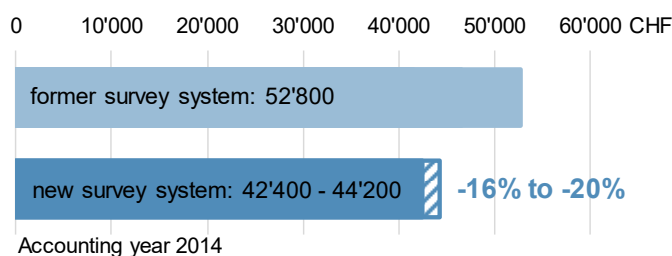


Unweighted retention rate (old members sample)



Quantification of overall break (national level):

Agricultural working income per family labour-force



- Willingness to participate is lower than expected and varies according to linguistic area and farm type.
- Huge progress in number of participating accounting offices (from former 30 to currently 220 offices).
- Agricultural working income is estimated to be 16 to 20 % lower after changeover of the survey system.

4 Conclusions

- The fundamental revision enabled to overcome the major shortcomings of the former survey system and to create a new system, which meets the state-of-the-art standards for public statistics.
- Necessity of further improvements regarding the low response rate in some regions and farm types in survey design and framework conditions.
- Policy-makers and agricultural economists should be more concerned by the survey design and sample-related restrictions of the FADN-data.



More information: methodical report

