

# Support programme for standard fruit trees in Switzerland



**The nationwide support programme for standard fruit trees in Switzerland supports farms with the planting and regular upkeep of standard fruit trees. The planted trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and thus act as carbon stores. At the same time, the standard fruit trees make a valuable contribution to the preservation of biodiversity.**

Over the last 50 years, the number of standard fruit trees in Switzerland has fallen by 80 per cent. Despite direct payments being available, a large proportion of farms do not cultivate standard fruit trees for economic reasons, since their planting and upkeep is labour-intensive and expensive. There are initial investment costs with long-term repayment periods and additional expenses for upkeep. In order to increase the number of standard fruit trees, further support measures are required, like this programme.

## Subsidies for planting standard fruit trees

The support programme provides farms that are members of the Hochstamm Suisse association with a financial incentive for planting and maintaining standard fruit trees: these may be stone fruit, pip fruit, chestnut or walnut trees. To help with the initial planting and the trees' regular upkeep, a planting and maintenance subsidy of 105 francs per tree is paid out. The subsidy can be cumulated with direct payments from the federal government, the canton or from municipalities. The aim is to plant at least 3,000 trees as part of the programme, be they in meadow orchards, regular orchards or agroforestry areas. myclimate has developed this support programme in collaboration with Hochstamm Suisse. In addition to the payments of the subsidies, the climate protection project also enables the establishment and operation of the program as well as the coordination and consulting of agricultural farms.

**Standard fruit trees are typical of Switzerland's cultivated land and shape the landscape. At the same time, standard fruit trees contribute to preserving**

## Project type:

Land Use and Forestry

## Project location:

Switzerland

## Project status:

In operation, exclusive

## Annual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction:

1,575 t CO<sub>2</sub> (over 50 years)

## Situation without project

Despite the possibility of direct payments, standard fruit trees are planted less frequently (numbers remain constant).

## Project standard

VER

## Partner



## Impressions



«Only well-tended trees become proud standard-form trees.» says Martin Heller, farmer and Co-President of Hochstamm Suisse. Picture: Hochstamm Suisse

## biodiversity and to climate protection.

**Pierre Coulin, CEO of Hochstamm Suisse**

### **Trees serve as carbon stores and promote biodiversity**

Trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere by storing carbon through so-called biological carbon sequestration. The impact on the climate here is known as the sink effect. These kinds of natural or nature-based climate protection solutions are very important, alongside technological developments, in the fight against climate change. For this reason, the United Nations has declared the period from 2021 to 2030 to be the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Alongside their function as carbon stores, the standard fruit trees also protect fields from ground erosion and reduce discharge of nutrients and pesticides into groundwater and surface water. Standard fruit trees also provide valuable habitats for diverse species and contribute to the preservation and promotion of biodiversity.

**Cohesive and richly structured standard fruit trees with a varied understory are the habitat for highly endangered bird species such as the Little Owl.**

**Patrik Peyer, BirdLife Switzerland and Board Member at Hochstamm Suisse**

### **Register now!**

Interested farms can check to see if they meet the acceptance criteria in the registration form and then complete the form and send it to Hochstamm Suisse.

Would you like to plant valuable-timber trees alongside standard fruit trees? Then you should also take a look at our agroforestry support programme for nature park, Miini region or organic farms with Coop products.

### **Contact**

info@myclimate.org

This project contributes to 3 SDGs:



Sustainable management of arable land.



The highly endangered Little Owl benefits from standard fruit trees. Picture: Hochstamm Suisse



Standard-form fruit trees can live to be more than 100 years old and store CO<sub>2</sub> throughout their lives within their wood, foliage and in the soil. Picture: Hochstamm Suisse



1,575 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> will be saved annually.



At least 3,000 trees will be planted over the duration of the project.