

EFTA-Colombia

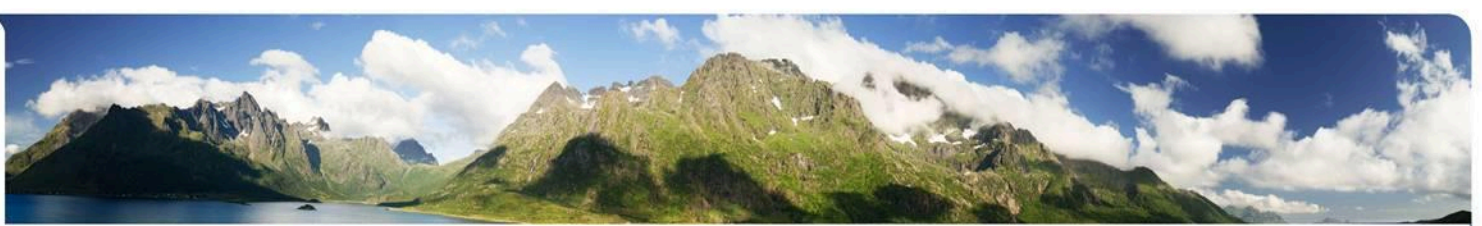
Trade in Agricultural Products

-HANDOUT-

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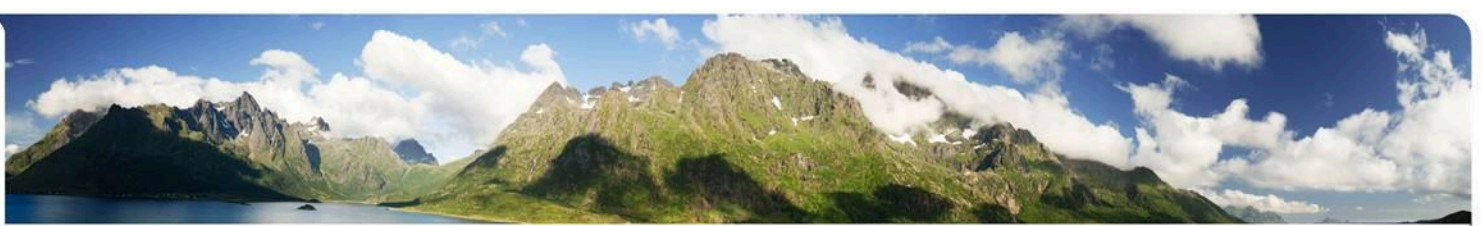
Deputy Head, Trade Relations Unit, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland



Structure of the handout

- Agriculture in EFTA
- Markets for agricultural products in EFTA
- Market access into EFTA states
- What else you need to know

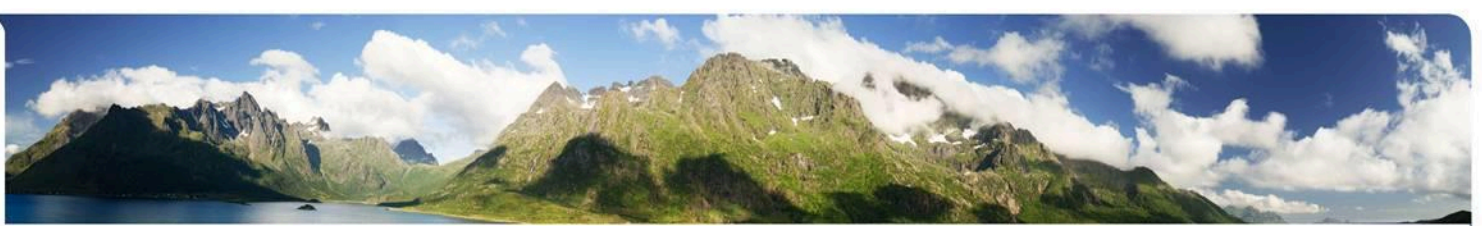




Agriculture in the EFTA States

- 1 % of GDP and 4 % of employment
- Difficult climatic and geographical conditions
- Key employer in rural areas
- Small scale structure agriculture
- High production costs
- High SPS standards

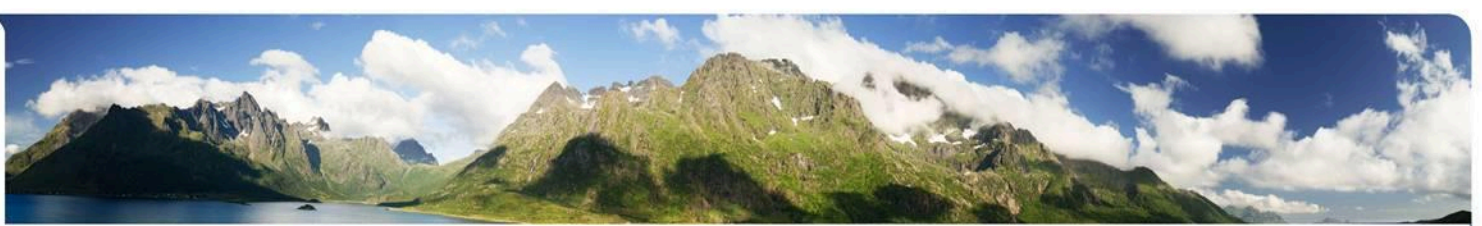




Main agricultural production

- Iceland
 - Beef and sheep, especially tender highland lamb of high quality
 - Icelandic horses
- Norway
 - Meat and dairy
 - Grain and some vegetables
- Switzerland
 - Meat, dairy, fruit and wine
 - Famous cheese

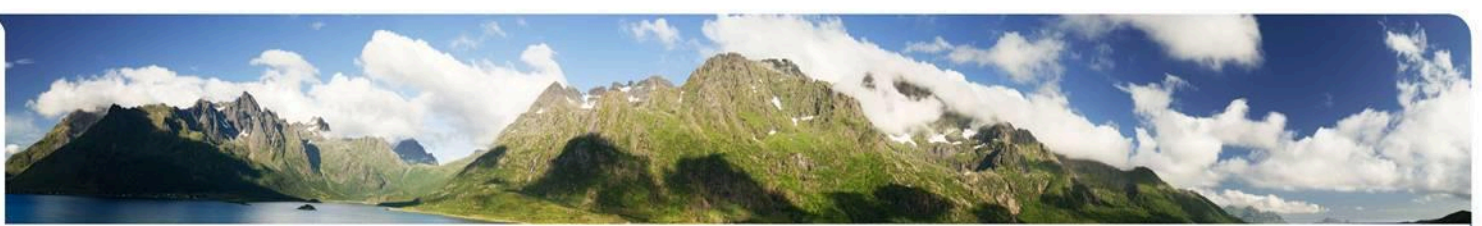




Agricultural policy in the EFTA States

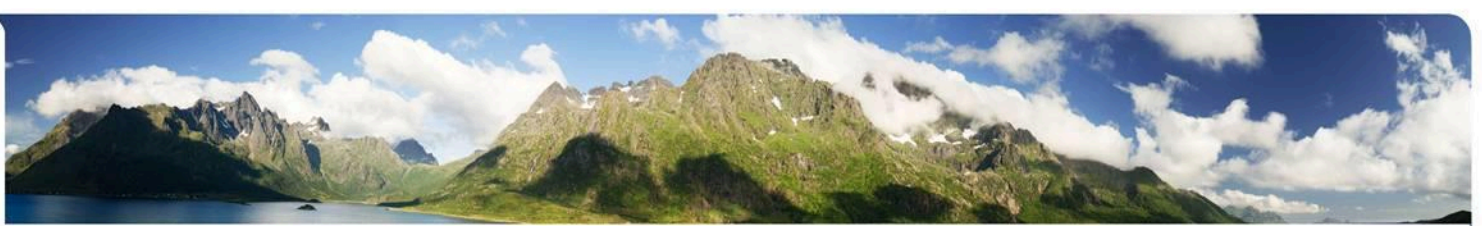
- Not a common agricultural policy, but similar
- Active policy to maintain a certain level of agricultural production
→ High tariffs on goods from sensitive sectors; meat and dairy
- Not self-sufficient, large net-importers of agricultural products (Import ~50 % of consumption)





EFTA markets for AG products (1)

- Major net-importers of agricultural goods
- Generally low level of self sufficiency (CH: ~60%)
- Main trading partner is the European Union (~70%)
- High purchasing power
- Concentration on the level of retailers
- High share of foreigners (e.g. Switzerland: 25%)
→ high diversity of consumption patterns



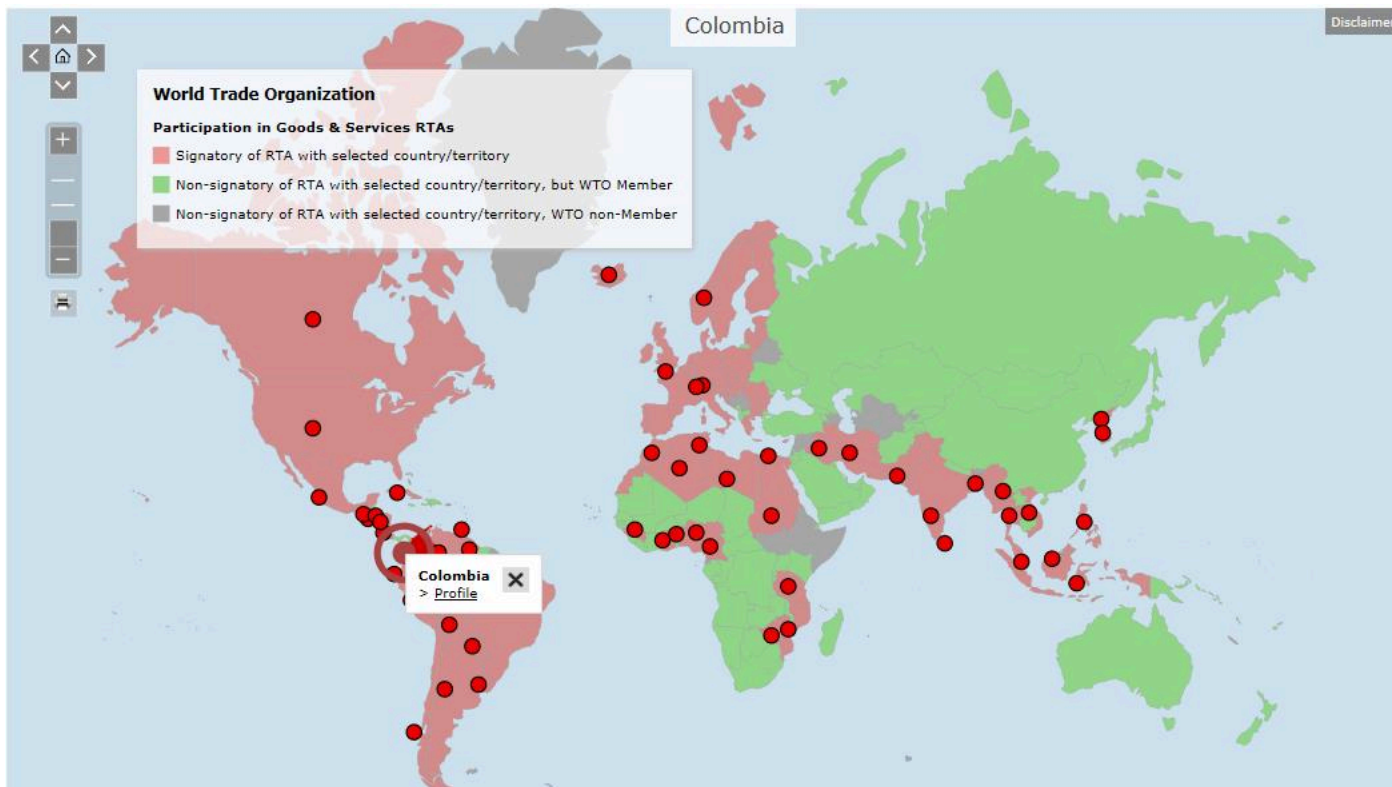
EFTA markets for AG products (2)

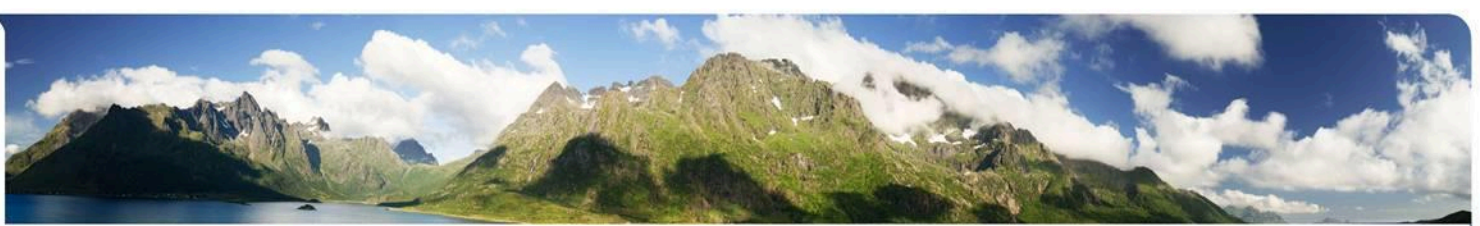
- Imports subject to tariffs / quotas / seasonality
- Main responsibility for administrative aspects: importer
- Major product groups that are imported (example: by Switzerland) from Colombia:

HS 09 (Coffee), HS 08 (Bananas), HS 08 (Tropical and other fruits, fresh or dried), HS 17 (Sugar), HS 24 (Tobacco) / Total imports: ~110 Mio. € (2016)



Framework for trade in agricultural goods between EFTA and Colombia



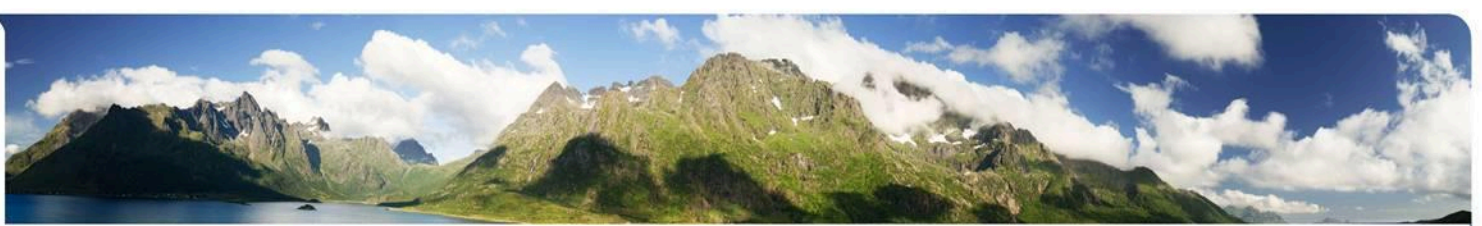


Structure of the FTA

**EFTA-Colombia Free
Trade Area
Colombia– Switzerland –
Norway – Iceland –
Liechtenstein**

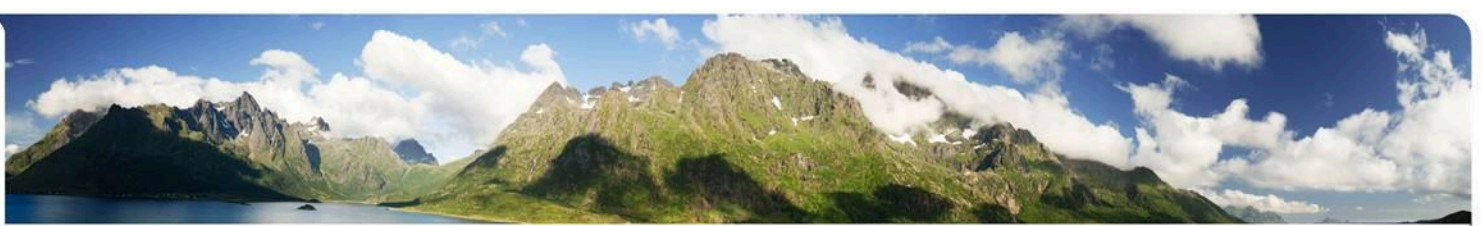
**Free Trade Agreement
("Main Agreement")**

**Three bilateral
complementary
agriculture agreements**



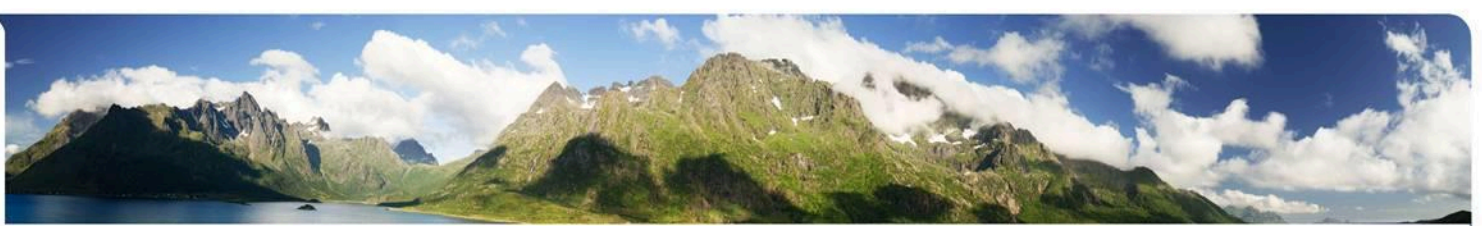
Processed agricultural products (Annex III)

- Covers products of the food industry, such as: bread, soups, chocolate, preserved fruits and vegetables, prefabricated food
- No industrial protection. Duty based on content of certain raw materials (mainly dairy and cereals)
- Treatment no less favorable than that accorded to the European Union for the same products



Basic agricultural products

- Only HS 1-24 products (some exceptions)
- Each agreement contains concession lists for one EFTA State and for Colombia
- Concessions either with fixed reduced duty or reduction upon MFN applied rate (from Swiss side for example)
- Rules of Origin



Examples of products (CH)

Concessions to Colombia:

live animals, cheese, honey, fruits and vegetables (e.g. bananas, tropical fruits), fruit & vegetable preparations (e.g. tropical fruits preserved with sugar), fruit juices (e.g. orange juice), selected meat products, selected oils and fats



Useful information (1)

The Colombia-EFTA Free Trade Agreement and the Bilateral Agricultural Agreements: <http://efta.int/>

Icelandic Customs tariff: www.tollur.is




TOLLSTJÓRINN Í REYKJAVÍK

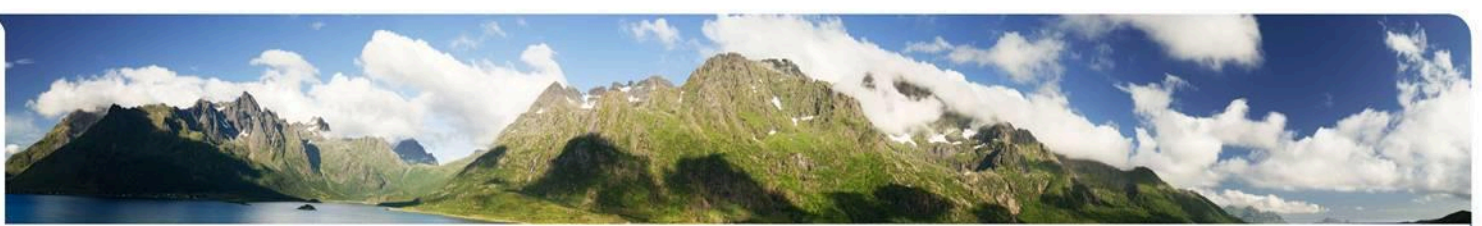
Norwegian Customs tariff: www.toll.no



Swiss Customs tariff: www.tares.ch

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

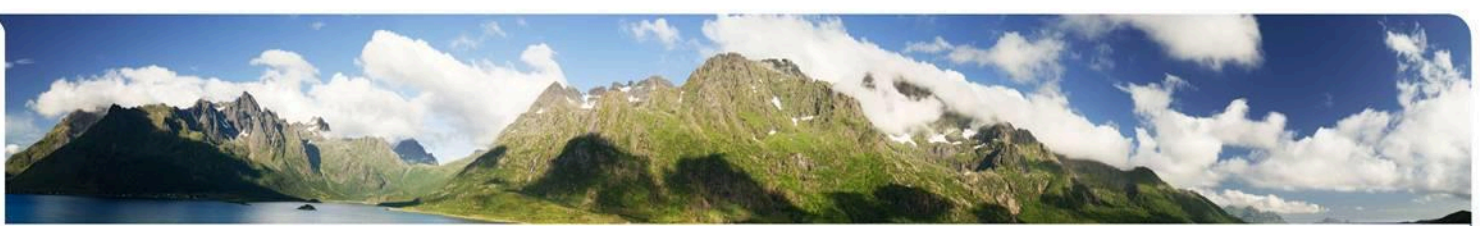
Federal Customs Administration



Useful information (2)

Specific information for trade in AG products (CH):

- Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG www.blw.admin.ch
(Import regulations, Import permits, market information)
- Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
www.blv.admin.ch
(Sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, food labelling)
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
www.seco.admin.ch
(General information on trade agreements, legal texts)



Thank you!

