# ACW success stories 1950 – 1990

## Integrated production thanks to ACW participation

**95 percent of all Swiss fruit, wine and vegetable growers now work according to the guidelines of Integrated Production (IP). This means that they are not exclusively governed by the principles of economic success, but they manage their entire operation so that natural resources (soil, water, air) and habitat (nature and landscape) are preserved and cultivated for our future. In Switzerland, this development is largely thanks to the Agroscope Changins-Wädenswil Research Station (ACW).**

Researchers observed a rapid depletion of the natural insect fauna in intensively cultivated fruit farms in the fifties. This motivated them to carry out tests with reduced spray treatments. This was the first step towards Integrated Production (IP).

### Beneficial organisms, attractants, traps

In the sixties, ACW developed "integrated pest control" in a second stage: Chemical agents should only be used when all natural alternatives have been exhausted. Biological and biotechnical control methods such as predatory mites, attractants or trap systems were thus developed, improved and made accessible to practitioners.

Crawled into the glue: Codling moths in an attractant trap

### The third way

In the seventies, people's critical attitude to the "excess of technology and chemicals" in agriculture increased, as a result of which organic agriculture received a considerable boost. The controversy between conventional and organic farming came to a head. ACW pursued its own "third way" to achieve environmental production with minimal use of chemicals. Integrated Production thus became ready for use by wine and fruit growers at the beginning of the eighties. It has now become established in agriculture.