

THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL SUPPORTS IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF TURKEY

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- ❑ Sustainable rural development is vital to the economic, social and environmental viability of nations. It is essential for poverty eradication since global poverty is overwhelmingly rural.
- ❑ Rural development should be viewed as the core of any viable strategy for national development in developing countries. It is important for agriculture to keep rural population in place by developing the rural and increasing its attractiveness.



- ❑ Agriculture is the primary means of living in countryside throughout the world. Therefore, it is evident that agricultural supports are effective in reducing poverty in rural parts of the country and ensuring sustainability.
- ❑ In this research, the current situation of agricultural support policies, their effects to farmers and to sustainable rural development were evaluated and solutions were offered regarding these problems.



AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN TURKEY

Agricultural Products and Trade

□ Turkey is a very favorable position in terms of agricultural production potential. It has two of the world's oldest agricultural production areas in the Anatolia and Thrace regions.

□ Turkey has ranked in the top-10 in production of 55 products. Turkey is the biggest grower in the world in hazelnut, apricot, fig, cherry, quinces, second biggest grower in melon, honey and leek, third biggest grower in lentils, apple, tomatoes, green pepper, mandarins, watermelon and chestnut.



Table 1. Top ten commodities production quantity in Turkey (2017)

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)
Wheat	21.500.000
Sugar beet	20.828.316
Milk, whole fresh cow	18.762.319
Tomatoes	12.750.000
Barley	7.100.000
Maize	5.900.000
Potatoes	4.800.000
Grapes	4.200.000
Watermelons	4.011.313
Apples	3.032.164

Source: FAO, 2019

Table 2. Top ten commodities export quantity in Turkey (2017)

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)
Flour of wheat	3.549.987
Macaroni	1.007.737
Tangerines, mandarins, clem.	698.474
Sunflower oil	537.436
Tomatoes	522.876
Lemons and limes	470.585
Waters, ice etc.	424.388
Chicken meat	405.030
Oranges	390.159
Eggs, hen, in shell	348.208

Source: FAO, 2019

Table 3. Top ten commodities import quantity in Turkey (2017)

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)
Wheat	4.990.865
Soybeans	2.340.974
Maize	2.055.543
Dregs from brewing, distillation	1.785.908
Bran, wheat	1.700.848
Cake, sunflower	965.137
Cotton lint	914.377
Cake, soybeans	759.203
Oil, sunflower	660.682
Sunflower seed	640.442

Source: FAO, 2019

Land Use

Table 4. Evolution of Land Use in Turkey (2017)

	Area (Millions of ha)				Annual growth rate (%)
	2002	2010	2015	2017	2002-2017
Agricultural Land	41.19	39.01	38.55	38.01	-7.7
<i>Arable Land</i>	23.99	21.38	20.65	20.04	-16.5
<i>Permanent Crops</i>	2.58	3.01	3.28	3.35	29.8
<i>Permanent Meadows and Pasture</i>	14.62	14.62	14.62	14.62	-
Forest Land	10.37	11.20	11.72	11.72	13.0
Other	25.39	26.75	26.70	27.25	7.3
Total Land Area	76.95	76.96	76.97	76.98	0.03
Share of Total Agricultural Land (%)	53.5	50.7	50.1	49.4	-

Source: FAO, 2019

Basic Indicators in Agriculture

Table 5. Basic Indicators in Agriculture (2012-2018)

Basic Indicators	2002			2018		
	Turkey	Agriculture	Agriculture Share (%)	Turkey	Agriculture	Agriculture Share (%)
Population (Million)	69,3	23,7	34,2	82,3	6,3	7,7
Employment (Million)	21,3	7,4	34,9	28,7	5,3	18,4
GDP (Billion \$)	230,5	23,7	10,3	789,0	43,2	5,8
Exports (Billion \$)	36,0	4,0	11,2	167,9	17,9*	10,7
Imports (Billion \$)	51,5	3,9	7,7	223,0	10,7*	9,4

Source: TURKSTAT, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry datas, 2019

* In 2018, agriculture export and import include foodstuffs, agricultural raw materials and agricultural products.

Agricultural Support Policies

Table 6. Distribution of Agricultural Supports Based on Years and Types

Type of Support (million TL)	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Area-based supports and Direct Income Support (DIS)	1.953	1.859	2.167	2.406	2.695	3.561
Subsidies	1.647	2.071	2.379	2.691	3.129	3.624
Livestock supports	1.330	1.193	2.216	2.589	3.002	3.745
Supports related to Agricultural Reforms Project	34	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural insurance	55	81	263	357	704	1.061
Compensation payments	80	77	99	123	168	206
Other agricultural supports	93	124	194	274	394	850
Rural development supports	109	284	196	313	958	686
Rural Development Program (IPARD) supports	0	0	39	303	210	218
Drought support	549	0	0	0	0	0
Freeze disaster	0	128	0	0	0	0
Rural Development Investments (Gap provinces)	0	0	0	0	0	72
Young Farmer Project support	0	0	0	0	0	503
TOTAL	5.850	5.817	7.553	9.056	11.260	14.526 (82.800 million \$)

Source: MAF, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Annual Activity Report.2018.

Agricultural Support Policies

Table 7. Shares of Agricultural Support Payments in Budget

	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
Central administration budget sizes in agriculture (million TL)	5.555	4.495	6.961	8.684	9.971	12.838 <i>(73.777 million \$)</i>
Shares of central administration budget sizes of agriculture in GDP (%)	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Shares of central administration budget sizes of agriculture in total budget (%)	2.7	1.7	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0
Shares of central administration expenses of agriculture in interest-free management expenses (%)	3.6	2.1	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.2
Year-on-year changes in central administration budgets in agriculture (%)	17.0	-22.6	19.7	15.0	9.0	11.7

Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Treasury and Finance, 2018

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- ❑ Turkey is one of the largest agricultural producers of the world. Turkey has fertile soil, sufficient water, a suitable climate to make agriculture. This has allowed Turkey to become the largest producer and exporter of agricultural products in the Near East and North African regions.
- ❑ Turkey exports 730 varieties of agricultural products to 186 countries.
- ❑ However, the rate of increase in imports realized higher than exports in recent years. In order to ensure the sustainability of agriculture, it is important to increase production and export and to take necessary measures for this purpose.

- ❑ In terms of agricultural lands, Turkey is also one of the largest countries in the world. However 2002 - 2017 period annual growth rate of agricultural land decreased because of decrease in arable land.



- ❑ One of the major problems facing agriculture is the loss of agricultural land, because as more land is lost, it will become more difficult to produce the amount of food needed to feed the growing human population.
- ❑ Therefore, agricultural lands should be protected. Protecting agricultural land enables long-term food security, provides essential environmental benefits and sustainability of agriculture.

- ❑ The share of the agricultural sector in the GDP was almost 50% in 1950 and 5.8% in 2018. This caused the fall of economic standards of the farmers and contributed to emigration from rural to urban areas.



- ❑ Therefore, share of agricultural sector in GDP should be increased. Because, as the higher share of the agricultural sector in the GDP and the higher relative development rate, so the higher product contribution to economic development.

- ❑ While in Turkey population increased steadily, agricultural population and hence employment decreased in 2018 compared to 2002. Supports applied for the solution of economic and social problems are very important for especially with the development of social state understanding.
- ❑ Agriculture in Turkey is supported by various agricultural policy tools as it is in every country. Supporting agriculture and producers is crucial for sustainable rural development.
- ❑ Although subsidies given to agriculture have increased over the years, they are not sufficient for producers. Because the input costs which used in agriculture are high. For this, primarily input costs should be decreased for a sustainable agriculture

- ❑ As a result, agricultural supports should increase the farmer's income and resolve the structural problems of the sector in order to build a sector that is competitive and independent.



- ❑ However, such supports are not alone sufficient in explaining farmer welfare and rural poverty. There are several natural, economic, social, cultural, and even political factors affecting agricultural and rural welfare levels.

- ❑ The sources allocated to rural development projects that contribute to reverse the migration trends by improving the working and living conditions in rural spaces must be increased.
- ❑ Because developing the farmer means developing the agriculture, economy and country. Therefore, it is extremely important to implement consistent and sustainable agricultural policies in agriculture.



A collage of various farm-related images. At the top left, there's a tree with autumn-colored leaves. Below it, a black pig is running. In the center, a red tractor is in a field. To the right, several chickens are shown. At the bottom left, a cow is grazing. At the bottom right, there's a field of yellow flowers. The text 'THANK YOU' is written in large, white, bold letters across the middle of the collage.

THANK YOU