

TARIM ve KIRSAL KALKINMA

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ÖZET

Kırsal kalkınma, kırsal alanda yaşayan fertlerin ekonomik ve sosyal refahı ile yaşam kalitesini artırma süreci olarak tanımlanmakta ve tarımın vazgeçilmez bir parçası olarak kabul edilmektedir. Başta iklim değişikliğinin (kuraklık, doğal afetler, orman yangınları vb) tarım üzerine olumsuz etkilerinde, Pandemi döneminde (Covid- 19 hastalığı pandemi dönemi) temel gıda ihtiyaçlarının karşılanmasında, sağlıklı çevre ve sağlıklı gıda üretiminin sağlanması için organik tarımın gerekliliğinde ve ekonomik canlılığın devam etmesi için kırsalda yaşayan genç nüfusun iş hayatında olması için tarımsal üretimdeki sürdürülebilirliğin sağlanma zorunluluğu bir kez daha anlaşılmıştır. Öyle ki Kırsal kalkınmanın Ülkemizin gıda üretiminde oynadığı rol ve üzerinde yaşadığımız topraklara ve çevreye kattığı değer gün geçtikçe daha önemli hale gelmektedir. Gerek Dünya gerekse Avrupa Birliği (AB) ülkelerindeki tarımsal gelişmelere ayak uydurabilmek için kırsal kalkınmanın sağlanması ve bu çerçevede Ülkesel politikalarla kırsal kalkınma noktasında yapılan faaliyetler Devlet destekleri ile teşvik edilmelidir. Zaten Avrupa Birliği'ne katılım müzakereleri çerçevesinde 2007 yılında Ülkemizde "Tarım ve Kırsal Kalkınmayı Destekleme Kurumu" ve bu kurumla koordineli çalışan Kalkınma Ajansları kurulmuş ve çeşitli tarımsal faaliyet kolunda AB fonlarından (IPARD) bu kurumlar kanalıyla üreticilere destekler alınmıştır. AB tarafından ülkemize sağlanan bu fonların ikinci dilimi olan IPARD II (2014-2020) döneminde de kalkınma ajansları kanalıyla dağıtımı sağlanmıştır. Tüm bu bilgiler ışığında hizmet sektörüne ve sanayiye verilen önemden dolayı tarım sektörünün azalan Gayri Safi Milli Hasılaya katkı payını yükseltmek için tarıma verilen önem artırılmalı, tarımsal faaliyetin mihenk taşı olan kırsal kalkınmanın sağlanması gerekmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kırsal alan, tarım, kırsal kalkınma, Z kuşağı



AGRICULTURE and RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ABSTRACT

Rural development is defined as the processes for improvement of economics and social welfare of individuals living in rural settlements and it is accepted as the essential component of agriculture. Sustainability of agricultural activities should be achieved to mitigate the effects of climate change-induced processes (drought, natural disasters, forest fires etc.) on agriculture, to meet food demands of people in pandemics (Covid-19), to provide healthy foodstuffs and environment, to provide sustainability of organic agriculture and to incorporate young population into agricultural workforce. Thusly, the role of rural development in food production of the country and contributions to agricultural fields and environment are getting more important in each day. Rural development should be provided to keep pace with agricultural developments in the world and EU countries and the rural development activities should be supported with state policies. Accordingly, in Turkey within the framework of EU participation negotiations, "Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institute" and accordingly operating Development Agencies have been established. With the aid of EU funds (IPARD), supports are provided to farmers practicing different agricultural activities. Second round of such EU funds, IPARD II (2014 – 2020), was distributed through these development agencies. Along with these developments, contributions of agricultural sector to Gross National Product should be increased and rural development should then be achieved through assigning greater significance to agricultural activities.

Keywords: Rural area, agriculture, rural development, generation Z



INTRODUCTION

Although share of agriculture in Turkish economy has relatively decreased, it still plays a great role in meeting domestic food demand, raw material needs of industry and providing export and employment opportunities. While the share of agricultural sector in gross national product (GNP) of Turkey was 42.8% in the initial years of the Republic, the value then decreased to 36.0% in 1970s, 25% in 1980, 16% in 1990, 13.5% in the year 2000, 12.6% in 2003 and 4.8% in 2020 (TUİK, 2020). Such decreasing shares of agricultural sector in GNP of Turkey is mostly resulted from increasing shares of industry and service sectors (Yavuz, 2005). Decreasing shares of agriculture in national product, imbalances in income distribution and differences in socio-economic development levels of rural and urban all facilitated migrations from rural-to-urban. General socio-economic conditions, problems encountered in rural sections, dimensions of economic, social and cultural problems brought by rural-to-urban migration require integrated approaches and diversification of measures to be taken (Gülçubuk, 2005). Agricultural sector inherently needs large-scale labor. Agricultural activities are actually a form of life. In this sense, while the share of agriculture in employment was 50.6% in 1980, the ratio decreased to 34.3% in 2003. Such a ratio could be further being taken down with increasing capital accumulation and technology use in agriculture (Yavuz, 2005).

Developing countries are in search of development problems and they believe that development targets could be achieved through a planned economy, thus they implement “plan-based development” model so thought as concession of liberal policies. On the other hand, planned development is not only peculiar to developing countries, but also preferred by developed countries in different fashions to improve the efficiency of market mechanisms. However, planned development is generally preferred by developing countries for development of economic and social structure (Takım, 2011).

The primary target in development plans is to bring the social and economic structure to targeted level at the end of the foreseen period. In this sense, economic targets include increasing income per capita and employment rates through providing economic development, elimination of imbalanced income distribution and interregional imbalances, reduction of balance of payments deficit; non-economic targets include increasing social welfare levels, educational levels, development of science and technology, maintenance of foreign relations (Takım, 2011).



History of Rural Development Works In Turkey

In Turkey, planning concept was initiated in 1930s with industrial plans and nine five-year development plans have been prepared and implemented since the establishment of State Planning Organization. According to widely accepted idea, the initial period of planning started with the Big Crisis in terms of economic perspectives and covers pre-1960 in which statist policies were implemented until the end of the World War II and private sector was prioritized between the years 1946-1958. The second period covers 1960-1980 period in which development was achieved through the plans together with import-substituting policies. The third period covers post-1980 in which structural changes were encountered in industrialization strategies and such changes reflected on development plans (Takım, 2011). Other researchers indicated that economic progress and planning of Turkey could be assessed under two periods as of: "pre-planned period (pre-1963)" and "post-planned period (post-1963)" (Anonymous, 2018).

Initial works on rural development include enaction of Village Law, organization of the First Village and Agriculture Congress, abolishment of tithe, Settlement Law, Law on Farmers' Provision of Land, establishment of Village Institutes, literacy education and training of long-term soldiers on agricultural techniques, seeds and handcrafts. During the initial years of the Republic, approaches to resolve problems in agricultural production, provide food safety, employment especially of small-holders and generate new employment opportunities were always prioritized.

In those years, large portion of the population was living in rural sections, dealing with agricultural activities and human resources were weak, thus, public-driven approaches were dominant in rural settlement policies. From this point of view, initial works largely focused on meeting basic humanitarian needs. Today, parallel to developments in agricultural sector and increasing world population, drinkability of the water in planet Mars and possible cultural activities on Mars soil are discussed.

Within the scope of EU accession period of Turkey, identification of the problems in rural sections and permanent solutions of these problems constitute the very first items of rural development agenda of Turkey. Therefore, works were accelerated in rural development. In this sense, policies were developed within the framework of a "National Rural Development Strategy" taking national needs and priorities into consideration besides complying with EU standards. Within the scope of EU Compliance Program, a special attention was paid for



compliance of rural development policies and measures with EU Common Agricultural Policies (Gülçubuk, 2005).

The primary target of development plans is to achieve a certain economic growth rate in each year. For instance, in the 1st Five-Year Development Plan, economic growth rate was envisaged as 12%, but realized as 7% despite 5% inflation rate. In that period, considering the population increase of 3%, net growth rate realized as 4%. In the 2nd Five-Year development Plan, although growth rate was below the period average during the initial three years, net growth rate realized as 7%. In that period, share of agriculture in growth decreased, share of industry stayed constant and share of service sector increased. In the 3rd Five-Year Development Plan, growth rate decreased because of low production levels of agricultural sector. In the 4th Five-Year Development Plan, growth rate was envisaged as 8%, but realized as 1.2% (Takım, 2011; Tokgöz, 2004). Today, 7% growth was achieved during the first half of 2021.

Rural Area

In Turkey, rural areas are considered to be the areas out of city and town centers generating resources for production activities. According to current statistics, while 35% of Turkish population was living in rural areas in 2003 and 23.2% in 2011, this ratio now is around 25% (TUİK, 2020). Rural area and agricultural activities are concurrent concepts. However, population living in rural area is a different concept from the population dealing with agricultural activities. Living in rural area does not necessarily mean dealing with agricultural activities. In countries with insufficiently developed rural areas or without non-agricultural employment in these areas, rural population is largely dealing with agricultural activities, thus they are described as agricultural population. While agricultural population is 1.5-3.0% in developed countries, corresponding rural population is 20-50%. Increased life standards, socioeconomic conditions and non-agricultural employment rates have led people to live in rural areas. In Turkey, on the other hand, economic activities and settlement in rural areas entail people to deal with agricultural activities. Under today's conditions, average age of rural people is continuously increasing. Young people are migrating to cities and look for employment in large cities. Such a case is also evident to reach educational opportunities. In this sense, decreasing young population constitutes the primary threat on rural areas and agriculture since future world is largely relies on young population.

Woman in Rural Area And Agricultural Production

In development initiatives, woman and children are accepted as the most disadvantaged groups of the society. Turkey exhibits an agriculture-oriented society, thus share of woman in



agricultural production is quite large. Labor force participation rate is 49.3% in Turkey and such a rate is 23.3% for woman. In rural area, total labor force participation rate is 54.8%, such a rate is 71.7% for man and 28.3% for woman and woman employment rate is agricultural sector is 45.2% (TUİK, 2020). Woman labor force participation rate is greater in rural area than the country in general. Majority of the women employed in agricultural sector of rural area is largely working in marginal works and mostly encountered as unpaid family workers. Labor intensive position of woman in rural area is encountered not only in agricultural production, but also in household works. Women and young girls, encountered mostly as unpaid family workers, thus are under a heavy workload. Since 1990, there has been a decreasing trend in both the number and the rate of individuals employed in agricultural sector of rural area. During the last 20 years, there is a distinctive decrease in employment rates regardless of the sector.

Why Do Young Population Stay Away From Agriculture?

Avoidance of young population from agriculture is sometimes due to obligations and sometimes due to economic concerns. Agricultural incomes are at low levels for small-holders and family businesses. Such a case then pushes young people to look for non-agricultural employment opportunities. The young population living in rural area or dealing with agriculture are face to various problems. These problems are mostly reflections of large problems faced in society. These problems are largely related to seasonal large social events encountered in the world and Turkey, education and training, job, health, accommodation, family life, safety, culture and environment. In more local scale, such problems include increasing rural poverty, better education hopes, insufficient infrastructure, lack of own capital, continuous migration, limited size of arable lands, insufficient irrigation practices, lack of knowledge, experience, self-reliance and entrepreneurship, difficulty in reaching credits, lack of producer organization, instability of markets and prices. Contrary to migration of retiree to rural areas, there has been increasing rates of rural-urban migration of young people. Besides decreasing rural population, there is a large rational difference in rural and urban old population. There is also a large differentiation in production and consumption habits of people due to rural-urban migration of young people. Rural areas are then under a great sociocultural and economic pressure and large differences in regional-local development levels exert a serious threat on rural areas to disappear at all.

Incent Young People Into Agriculture

The Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock is responsible for agricultural supports, but Ministry of Development, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Ministry of Economy,



Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Provincial Special Administrations, Municipalities, Development Agencies also provide various supports under different support programs. Besides increasing productions, agricultural support policies also aim quality, health, productivity, rural development and agricultural sustainability. Such supports may direct young people, so called as Generation-Z, spending majority of their time with computers, tablets and mobiles-like mass-communication tools, into agriculture. Young farmers are the primary actors of rural development and agricultural sustainability. With such a consciousness, "Young Farmer"-oriented projects have been designed in recent years and affirmative action has been taken for young people.

Previous Projects Conducted On Rural Development And Agricultural Sustainability

"Rural development projects" have been designed and implemented in different regions of Turkey for better use and conservation of natural resources and to eliminate socioeconomical differences between the rural and urban. Some of these projects are provided below:

Çorum - Çankırı Rural Development Project: It is the first integrated project implemented in Turkey. It was an investment and service planning project to improve socio-economic status of local farmers. The project also included transportation, electricity, drinking water and rural infrastructure investments. The target population of the project was 80.000 farmer families living in both provinces.

Erzurum Rural Development Project: The primary objectives of the project included prevention of regional migration, improvement of agricultural production and farmer's income, development of rural infrastructure, widespread of credit services and opportunities, providing farmer training and consultancy, development of employment opportunities. Within the scope of the project, 76 thousand farmer families living in 1046 villages of the province were developed socio-economically.

Bingöl - Muş Rural Development Project: Project target group included 35.000 rural families living in both provinces. The primary objectives were to increase income levels and life standards of rural families, to increase plant and animal production, to provide rural roads, drinking water and infrastructure services, to reduce poverty, to improve rural employment opportunities and especially to improve life standards of rural women.

What To Be Done For Rural Development And Agricultural Sustainability

Young people living in rural area play a great role in rural development and agricultural sustainability. Rural development is the only way to keep young people in rural area and agriculture (Anonymous, 2021). Besides primary production, secondary productions should be



supported. Economic diversity should be provided through agro-industry and agro-tourism. Employment, education and health services and rural infrastructures should be improved for a satisfactory life of young people in rural area (Ekiztepe, 2012; Kaypak, 2012; Özdemir, 2012; İlter, 2019). Turkey has a great potential for rural tourism. Local administrations, universities and non-governmental organizations should get into Corporation to develop rural tourism projects (Kuşat, 2014; Açikgoz Altunel, 2021). Young farmers should be trained on rural tourism.

Economic development initiatives are implemented in every period of the Republic, but recently experienced economic and sociocultural developments have made the cities more attractive. Therefore, development plans and strategic action plans mostly focused on rural development (Tolunay and Akyol, 2009). State supports should be increased to provide rural development and agricultural sustainability (Işık and Baysal, 2011; Kandemir, 2011).

EU Rural Development Approaches And Turkish Rural Development Policies

EU rural development policies largely focus on increasing competitive power of agricultural sector, providing agricultural sustainability, development of environment and rural area, improve yields and quality, diversification of rural economy and ultimately increase life standards of rural people.

As a part of Common Agricultural Policies, the policies dealing with structural problems of agricultural sector have turned into the policies taking production of goods and services, multi-dimensional effects of agriculture on society and problems encountered in rural areas into consideration. Basic legislation of EU rural development policies is 1257/99-numbered Council Regulation enacted along with Agenda 2000. In this regulation, fund transfer to different rural development programs is taken into consideration. Finance of rural development programs is supplied from three different funds: European Rural Development Fund (ERDF), European Structural Fund (ESF) and European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund (EAGGF) (Anonymous, 2021).

CONCLUSION

Following rural development strategies should be implemented in Turkey to solve the problems encountered in rural areas, to comply with EU policies and the changes in world rural development and to achieve national targets;

- Widespread of organization of rural population through participatory approaches,



- Access of rural population to basic needs (education, health, social security, water and etc.),
- Providing rural people with a continuous and sustainable income sources,
- Sustainable management of natural resources,
- Strengthening Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on rural development.



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