

BEST PRACTICES

Title of your case study

125 character limit

Institutional information

Name of contact person: Nazmi ILICALI

Email of contact person: nazmiilicali@gmail.com

Name of institution: East Anatolian Agricultural Producers and Breeders Union's Association

Region and Country where the case study took place:

Erzurum Province (TRA11), East Anatolian Region (TRA1)

Website: <http://www.dogtarbesbir.org/>

Facebook (link): <https://www.facebook.com/dogtarbesbir1/>

Twitter (link): <https://twitter.com/dogtarbesbir1>

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Media :



Logo:

Summary

Explain your case in one or two sentences

Mr. Nazmi İlicali, born in Erzurum in 1953, comes from a farmer family. Mr. İlicali, who graduated from Erzurum Education Institute and Atatürk University, Department of Turkish Language and Literature, changed his career to agriculture after 25 years of teaching. In 2003, he established the Eastern Anatolia Agricultural Producers and Breeders Union (DOGtarBESBİR) by bringing together 663 farmers within the framework of "Daphan Plain Contracted Organic Agriculture Project" in the province.

Bölgemizin organik tarım potansiyelini değerlendirmek; bölgemize ve bilimsel yöntemlere uygun üretim çeşitlerini uygulanmak amacıyla derneğimiz 2002 tarihinde kurulmuş ve 3000 üreticiye hizmet vermektedir.

Our association was established in 2002 for the purpose of applying production types suitable for the region by using scientific methods therefore increasing the organic agriculture potential of the region and serve to the farmers which are around 3000.

Our main target is ensuring sustainable production without damaging the agricultural soil, air and water of Anatolia by; -Protecting Biodiversity, -Providing consumers healthy products with a controlled and certified production methods, -Implementing best production types, -Creating awareness, -Ensuring that producers produce by applying scientific methods, -Leading organic agriculture activities, -Contributing to the economic, ecological and social sustainability and reliability of organic agriculture, -Contributing to the adoption of organic agriculture by the farmers in the region.

Background information: How was the situation previous to your actions?

The producer was not knowledgeable about organic farming, and those who did not use chemicals were not knowledgeable about their agriculture. He did not know the importance of organic farming for health and the environment. He did not know about organic farming practice.

What were the needs you identified?

First of all, producers and consumers need to be trained about organic agriculture and ecological life. There must be publications which supposed to enlighten the individuals about organic agriculture in a comprehensive and clear way. Best examples of organic productions were needed. Available markets to sell farmers' organic products were needed.

What solution you found to cover those needs?

In order motivate producers to start organic agriculture, the UNDP-supported "Expansion of Organic Agriculture Project" was implemented by the association in which 633 producers participated.

- *Participants were trained on organic agriculture in the villages training facilities of the association.*
- *Local seeds were supplied free to producers.*
- *On the field implementations were carried out from planting to harvesting under the supervision of the control and certification agency. institution, the application was carried out in the field from planting to harvesting.*
- *Producers who received theoretical and practical training started organic agriculture.*

After the 2-year transition period of organic wheat production, an EU-funded "Organic Grain Cultivation Project" was implemented.

- *Publications were printed and distributed to all producers in the villages.*

In the following period, awareness was created on organic agriculture and animal husbandry by a series of regional development and EU supported projects.

The number of producers practicing organic production has increased by the help of funded projects.

Istanbul Municipality demand of organic wheat increased the number of organic farmers even more.

However, there was still a need for a change in organic agriculture regulations in the favour of farmers and need for an increase in organic product demand.

What actions did you take to reach the solution?

The association worked on the formation of public opinion on legislation change for increasing government support of organic farming.

If any, which partners or other organisations did you involve during the process?

In the process of transition to organic agriculture and the dissemination of organic culture, projects were implemented with universities and the support of scientists was received.

Cooperation was made with Ege University, Ankara University, and Atatürk University. Especially Prof. Dr. Especially the support of the Prof. Uygun AKSOY for the projects of our Association is very important. By implementing joint projects with the "International Organic Agriculture Federation" IFOAM, we have been informed about the organic agriculture practices in the world. Organic farming practices in Germany were followed on-site with the participation of producers. Our Association has benefited from the experience and knowledge of national associations, "Ecological Agriculture Organization" ETO. Capacity building was targeted by implementing a joint project with organic agriculture associations. The associations came together and established Turkey's Organic Network (TORA) for the purpose of information exchange.

What were the main problems or difficulties you had to face?

Forage crops and grain production is common in our region. There is a need for pasture improvement for organic farming, which constitutes Turkey's 18% of the total pasture area. Although there has been progress

in the "organic livestock breeding" with the projects that we have implemented in animal shelters for organic livestock, there is still a need for the development of organic production. On the other hand, the organic market is not sufficiently developed yet. The producers are not be able to find consumer for their products. These sort of problems relevant for both plant and livestock production.

What is the situation now, after your actions?

At the end of all our works, as of this year, 100,000 acres of organic plant in the form of forage crop and grain is cultivated in Erzurum. Awareness of organic farming has been created among the farmers in the region. While the farmers still having marketing difficulties, some amount of organic wheat, rye, oat and barley were sold to the enterprises producing flour outside of Erzurum. Demand for organic forage crop has decreased considerably. The reason is that some of the organic livestock businesses have been closed. A significant portion of the producers have sold their organic products as conventional ones. Since the organic processing plants located outside of the region, significant transportation costs involves in marketing.

Main lessons learned along the way? *

In our region, compared to other regions of the country, the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers is quite low. For this reason, our land is prone to organic agriculture. Moreover, our producer has been made aware of organic agriculture. Limited market problem must be resolved for organic agriculture to become widespread. The organic crop and livestock production must proceed together. The government should increase its support for organic agriculture and give the support not only to producers but also to enterprises that process organic products. There is a potential demand for organic products in Turkey. However, importance should be given to create awareness of consumers towards organic consumption. The sector should be supported by specialized incentive tools. Regional development agencies should support the sector.

Annex:

Max 3 Images





Other related resources