



Sustainable Land Management and Climate-friendly Agriculture

EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

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BACKGROUND

Implemented by the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia in Türkiye, the project contributed to improve the sustainability of agriculture and forest land use management through the diffusion and adoption of low-carbon technologies with win-win benefits in land degradation, climate change and biodiversity conservation, while increasing farm profitability and forest productivity. In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the project addressed the rehabilitation of degraded forest and rangeland through interventions on conservation agriculture and integrated land management in four pilot zones in the Konya Closed Basin.



PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT CODE
GCP/TUR/055/GFF

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
Konya Closed Basin,
Türkiye

START/END DATE
January 2015 / December
2018

FUNDED BY
Government of Türkiye,
FAO, GEF

PRIORITY AREAS
BL3 – Agriculture and Food
Emergencies
BL4 – Resilient Agrifood
Systems

PARTNERS
Ministry of Environment,
Urbanization and Climate
Change
Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation asked:

- *What were the accomplishments of rehab efforts for forests and rangelands, and how did decision-making tools aid in establishing a national carbon monitoring system?*
- *How much have beneficiaries embraced conservation agriculture, and is the government considering it a viable solution for addressing climate change and biodiversity issues?*

EVALUATION METHODS

The evaluation adopted a consultative, qualitative approach. The analysis triangulated information from the mission with in-depth consultation of resource documents, statistics, tools and follow-up discussions with project key persons.

EVALUATION FINDINGS



WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

The project revealed high relevance of Türkiye's national environmental goals and priorities.

The interventions and connected CO₂ savings positively illustrated new approaches for sustainable land and natural resources management, representing a huge potential for catalysing a new era of climate-friendly agriculture.

The project has demonstrated that biodiversity mainstreaming into forest and rangeland management and restoration practices can be considered as a model to be used throughout the country in terms of biodiversity management planning. Turning theoretical knowledge of "how agriculture should be done" to hands-on practice in the fields through the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) represented pioneering developments that led to high ownership among the beneficiaries.



WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES?

- Clear delineation of responsibilities and competencies within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is essential for sustaining policy integration across sectors.
- Economic incentives at the farm level are crucial to make biogas digesters more affordable for average farming communities.
- Delays in interventions hindered the assessment of the longer-term effects of rotational grazing, biogas digesters, and women's cooperatives.



LESSONS LEARNED

The project enhanced understanding of conservation agriculture in the Konya Closed Basin and other drought-sensitive zones, emphasizing practical interventions like no-tillage, windbreaks, biogas digesters and programmed irrigation.

To promote biogas digesters, economic incentives must increase due to high costs.

Yet, knowledge management products need wider reach. Valuable educational materials on conservation agriculture, sustainable management and biodiversity planning should be accessible through an official website.

Click [here](#) to find out more in the full report.



NEXT STEPS



The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry should create a comprehensive monitoring programme integrating all project components for a systematic assessment of the Konya Closed Basin's environmental state.



FAO should advocate for concrete policy responses from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to address urgent environmental issues in the Konya Closed Basin.



Collaborating with local, regional and national authorities, along with private sector engagement, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and FAO should expand the FFS model.



FAO should enhance communication strategies and tools to increase project visibility and promote transformative practices through heightened public awareness.