



In celebration of International Food Loss and Waste Awareness Day, FAO held the “First Harvest Festival” as part of the Save Your Food campaign.

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The final events of 2021

From the Country Representative

As climate change-related incidents including wildfires, drought and floods wreak havoc across on planet, the increasing destructiveness and severity of natural disasters indicate that we are at a crossroads.

Having been stated by the UN’s latest climate crisis report, combatting the effects of climate crisis is not a matter of a distant future. Rather, it is a pressing task that necessitates our urgent action. Put it differently, with respect to combatting climate crisis, the future is now!



Viorel Gutu - FAO Representative in Turkey and Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia.

Being well aware of its responsibility, FAO prioritizes climate change issue in its work and scales up its efforts

accordingly. Hereby, I would like to reiterate that “Climate Action”, the 13th of the Sustainable Development Goals, encourages us to focus on the climate crisis.

FAO has been active in developing and implementing projects in Turkey on a wide range of topics including but not limited to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation for several years. From the point of view of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), these are among the most challenging environmental problems in the world. Current projects include ecosystem-oriented production in Bolu, decontamination of biodiversity in Kazdağları, monitoring of water pollution in the Gediz River basin and green wall applications in the coastal region. As this issue shows, these concrete steps contribute to the mitigation of climate impacts.

This issue also sheds light on the nameless heroes of the agricultural world: seasonal agricultural workers. Although they are responsible for a significant proportion of agricultural production, they still suffer from employment problems. This issue reflects on these problems in the light of important field data.

As with previous editions, women are at the top of our agenda. This issue explores our Women’s Cooperative Programme, widely considered one of the most effective ways to support women’s labor and production.

As a last point, I hope that you will read with interest the details of the projects we have implemented within the scope of the Syrian Refugees’ Resilience Building Program, and like the photo of the month.

Happy Reading

In the spotlight

FAO is working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to implement three GEF-funded projects



A workshop was held within the scope of GEF7.

Since 2008, FAO-Turkey has implemented projects that address the world’s most challenging environmental

issues related to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. Since the beginning of the GEF programme, FAO-Turkey has disbursed a GEF grant of approximately USD15 million to four key areas – sustainable forest management, watershed management, ecosystem-oriented land rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation – working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to increase national and institutional capacity. The advent of the GEF7 period sees the continuation of this work with three projects whose combined budget amounts to USD 6 730 709.

The “Integrated Water Resource Management in Gediz River Basin” project, undertaken in conjunction with the General Directorate of Water Management, aims at strengthening water pollution monitoring systems, expanding rain harvesting, protecting biodiversity and undertaking land rehabilitation in degraded areas with green wall applications in the river coastal region.

The project, due to be carried out in Bolu within the framework of cooperation with the General Directorate of Agricultural Reform, will implement a holistic approach to the development and efficient management of agro-ecological management systems, specifically by encouraging ecosystem-oriented food production. The approach will take into consideration the interactions between the environment, nature, climate change and agricultural practices.

The project “Strengthening the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Forest Landscapes in Turkey’s Kazdağları Region” aims to strengthen the protected area (PA) system in the Kazdağları region within the context a sustainable forest and agricultural landscape management. The project has three main components: (i) strengthening Turkey’s PA system within a landscape management context; (ii) implementing biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of productive forests and agricultural areas across the Kazdağları landscape; and (iii) promoting awareness-raising, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge management processes.

Harvest time

Preventing food loss starts in the field

The “Sub-regional Conference on Food Loss and Waste Reduction in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Turkey” took place on 29 September 2021 as part of the FTTP project “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Turkey”. Organized with the cooperation of FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, and the Regional Coordination Centre for Food

Security of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the conference urged national governments in the subregion to support necessary policy changes and adopt adequate regulatory mechanisms to create a conducive environment for action among partners to reduce food loss and waste.

As part of the Save Your Food campaign, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry organized a “Crop Festival” which took place on 25-26 September 2021 in Izmir. The event aimed to raise awareness and inspire behaviour change among consumers by actively engaging them in reducing food loss. The event also encouraged local governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) to organize more gleaning activities aimed at rescuing fresh nutritious products and ensuring their delivery to local agricultural cooperatives, food banks and other platforms for distribution.

On 29 September 2021, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry organized a panel in Izmir on the importance of reducing food loss and waste. The panel formed part of activities for the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, and covered diverse topics such as the impact of climate change, circular agriculture and the Save Your Food campaign.



There are no regular and reliable data available on the number of seasonal workers in Turkey.

Seasonal workers, the nameless heroes of the fields

FAO-Turkey’s Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan (SRRP) team organized a workshop in September to assess the seasonal agriculture system in terms of current needs and possible solutions in each province.

The term “seasonal agricultural workers” is generally used to describe workers who leave their place of residence and move to another settlement to work in agricultural areas. There are no regular and reliable data on the number of seasonal workers in Turkey. Precise details are unavailable because the work is discontinuous and temporary, characteristics that obstruct a clear picture of those entering or leaving seasonal work, particularly as the majority of those employed are unregistered. However, although the exact number of individuals who

undertake seasonal agricultural labour in Turkey is unknown, FAO research estimates the figure at 1 million or higher¹.

The majority of seasonal agricultural workers migrate from the southeastern provinces of Turkey, and work in about 50 provinces undertaking jobs such as soil preparation, sowing, planting, hoeing, weeding, spraying, irrigation and harvesting. The average working period is 6-7 months (depending on the seasonality of the products).

Seasonal agricultural labour in Turkey involves a variety of actors including field owners, traders, companies (employers), agricultural intermediaries and agricultural workers. Employers may be field and orchard owners or medium and large-sized food companies. Agricultural intermediaries (generally known as elci or dayıbaşı) organize the seasonal agricultural workforce and bring together labour supply and demand.

Seasonal agricultural work is characterized by rural inequalities. Much of the workforce consists of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTPS) who fled their home country during the civil war and vulnerable members of Turkish host communities. Other foreign migrant agricultural workers include Afghans who work predominantly in animal care. Generally, seasonal migrant agricultural workers lack social security.

Recently, efforts have been made to improve living spaces, implement health screenings, prevent child labour, provide school education for children, register middle men and provide technical training. However, the main problems persist, notably concerning shelter (security, sanitation and hygiene), transportation, social security, social exclusion, education, access to healthy food and health.

The SRRP team gathered data from project representatives in the provinces and developed the following recommendations to establish a path to improve the seasonal agriculture system:

- Increase advocacy and policy support to incentivize and establish a seasonal agriculture social security system.
- Provide short-term product-based training on a continuous basis to ensure an adequately skilled labour force.
- Provide training on hygiene, work safety, rights and obligations to all relevant actors in the seasonal agriculture system.
- Increase advocacy to improve shelters, infrastructure and the living conditions of seasonal agriculture workers and their families.
- Ensure the availability of childcare services and access to education.
- Increase efforts to eliminate child labour.

¹ An Analysis of Social Protection of Vulnerable Agricultural Populations including Seasonal Workers and Syrians under Temporary Protection in Turkey, FAO, Sociology Association, 2021



Women’s power

Stronger female representation for a stronger agrifood sector

Gender inequalities are evident in agricultural labour markets, with women more likely than men to hold low-wage, part-time, seasonal employment, without legal or social protection. Women tend to be paid less for the same work and are also the primary caregivers in families with limited access to childcare services. Gender-based discrimination also undermines women’s voice and decision-making power as they tend to lack access to information and networks and are systematically under-represented in rural institutions and organizations.

FAO recognizes that persistent inequalities between women and men represent a major obstacle to agriculture and rural development, and that eliminating these disparities is essential to building sustainable and inclusive food systems and resilient and peaceful societies. According to the FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030, special attention should be paid to overcoming the gender inequalities that undermine women’s potential and increase their vulnerability to economic challenges in the agricultural sector.

In this respect, World Food Day 2021 aimed to raise awareness of the need to support the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, to ensure **better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life** – leaving no one behind.

Out of these four “betters”, a workshop organized on 13 October 2021 focused on a “better life to promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities between women and men”. The main subject of the workshop was the immediate need to implement policies and actions for women’s empowerment in order to decrease gender inequality in the agriculture and food sector.

The workshop was moderated by FAO Gender Equality Specialist Neşe Çakır Sayran and Sociologist Kamile Özkal Baştar from the Bursa Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry. It was opened by a speech given by the Bursa Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Director Hamit Aygül. The workshop explained the need to transform agrifood systems and supply chains, including e-commerce, and underlined the importance of increasing the role of women in the national economy. In addition, the workshop evaluated the local needs of women and men in food systems and shared and best practices and experiences. Representatives of public institutions, non-governmental organizations, women’s organizations, cooperatives, UN Agencies and the private sector participated in the workshop.



FAO organized an International symposium in Elazig together with WHO.

Women cooperatives support programme

On 8-10 September 2021, a meeting was held in Van to gather perspectives from project provinces on the women-led cooperative component of the FAO cooperatives support programmes. Participants shared details of programme preparations, current situation analyses and needs analyses in relation to the selected cooperative in each province. The three days included an introductory meeting on cooperative business plans and recommendations; plans were presented and inputs were gathered from the representatives of implementing partners.

The Cooperative Support Programme was developed to promote sustainable income generation for the project target group, with an emphasis on women's empowerment. Through the cooperative initiatives, SuTPs and host communities could work together without registration or work permits to build their own business. The cooperatives also provided potential opportunities for members to obtain registered and secure jobs, according to financial stability.

The main activities and expected outputs under the Cooperative Support Programme component are as follows:

1. Selection of cooperatives (September 2021)
2. Supply of official cooperative documentation (September – October 2021)
3. Digital platform design and announcement (September 2021 – July 2022)
4. Preparation of training of trainers (two participants from each province) (October 2021)
5. Training of trainers (October – November 2021)
6. Cooperative members training needs analysis (November 2021)
7. Cooperatives training preparations and content approval (November 2021)
8. Cooperative members training (December 2021)
9. Training for cooperative board members (2 days) (January 2022)
10. Development of basic value chain analysis (February 2022)
11. Cooperative business plan (March – April 2022)
12. Mentorship and reporting (July 2022)



Soma Women Cooperative

Based on the importance of cooperatives for women's empowerment, since 2011 the Ministry of Family and Social Services has carried out a variety of studies to raise awareness of women's cooperatives, draw attention to key problems and find solutions, and develop strong collaborations with relevant parties. The representative of the Ministry, Van Provincial Deputy Director Nesibe Yılmaz, participated in the meeting and presented a report entitled "The Current Situation of Women Cooperatives

in Turkey", which covered their present status, challenges and solutions, and opportunities for new cooperatives. According to the report's findings:

- Cooperatives are providing real opportunities for women's leadership in business and public life.
- Women face difficulties in conducting feasibility studies in relation to selecting a product or service to evaluate its sales potential.
- Financial difficulties, insufficient capacity among members, lack of equipment and space, and interpersonal relations are important factors that can lead to inactivity of the cooperative.
- Although entrepreneurship training is available, women cite a lack of programmes on business and governance issues within the cooperative.
- Women cooperatives use support programmes and consider them important.

Programmes in action

Events to mark World Food Day 2021 held across Turkey

This year, FAO-Turkey organized country-wide efforts to raise awareness of the need for more efficient, inclusive, durable and sustainable agrifood systems, to provide better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life – without leaving anyone behind. FAO-Turkey also called for action across sectors to ensure agrifood systems provide access to affordable, nutritious and safe food for all.

On 16 October, World Food Day 2021 launched with a live broadcast event presenting the results of the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021* (SOFI 2021) report, prepared jointly by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

Several activities organized for the World Food Day were products of the partnership between FAO-Turkey and Bahçeşehir University (BAU), and targeted young people and children. The FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu answered student questions at the "Young World Food Day" event, which was attended by Bahçeşehir College students, and secondary and high-school students participated in an online forum called "Young actors of the transformation in the agriculture-food system" on the transformation of agrifood systems and the SDGs. Ange Soubirous Tambineza, Information and Communication Officer of the FAO Youth Committee, attended the online event.

University students presented a variety of projects linked to food systems under the themes “Democracy with Youth for Sustainable Food Systems”, “Technology and Food Systems”, “Curriculum Design” and “Innovation for Food Systems” and “Storifying Food Systems”.

FAO-Turkey also organized a workshop to draw attention to the need for collective action to address deepening gender inequality in the agriculture and food sector, and to highlight the urgent need to implement policies and actions that will pave the way for women’s empowerment.

In addition, FAO-Turkey joined with the World Health Organization (WHO) to organize a symposium in Elazığ entitled “Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life”.

A joint virtual event was organized with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (TBB) to discuss FAO’s Vision for Urban Food and Food Systems and Local Food Production. The audience received information on FAO’s Vision and Efforts to Improve Local Agricultural Production and Rural Livelihoods.

World Food Day came to an end with the 7th Sustainable Food Summit held on 19-20 October, and organized by FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Sustainability Academy, and the Turkish Food & Beverage Industry Association (TÜGİS).

The Government of Japan extends its support to FAO in Turkey to promote income-generating opportunities for Syrians and Turkish communities

Following the achievement of multiple successes under the last three projects funded by the Government of Japan, FAO launched the fourth phase of its project, “Promoting sustainable employment and income generation



opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities.” In a video message on 14 September, Suzuki Kazuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Turkey, affirmed the success of the project: “We believe that this project has produced two great achievements. First, it has developed the skills and self-confidence of both Syrian and Turkish women to generate income by themselves. Second, it has enhanced social interaction and cohesion between the two groups.”

The fourth phase of the project will help vulnerable Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens from host communities gain new income sources in the agrifood sector, which shows strong growth prospects despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and in partnership with the Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry in Bursa and Manisa, and the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality under the Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan.

Steering Committee focuses on women’s cooperatives

A Steering Committee Meeting (OSRO/TUR/901/EC Project 3) was held on 4 October 2021 in Ankara with the participation of representatives from FAO, the European Union Delegation to Turkey and project stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Ministry of Family and Social Services and the National Employment Agency (ISKUR) as well as the Project Provincial Directorates of Ministry Agriculture and Forestry as observers. The meeting assessed the progress of project implementation and the work plan for 2022, and introduced the Women Cooperative Support Programme.

Ms. Aylin Caglayan Ozcan, Director General of European Union and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) and Mr Viorel Gutu, Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Asia and FAO Representative co-chaired the meeting.



Members of the Steering Committee.

The Turkey LDN Project was presented as a case study for the online FAO Regional Dialogue on Land Degradation Neutrality in Europe and Central Asia

The “FAO Regional Dialogue on Land Degradation Neutrality in Europe and Central Asia” took place on 20-21 October 2021. The process aimed to update participants about the current situation of LDN in the region and to discuss current LDN-related issues with relevant stakeholders in order to identify challenges and opportunities. The LDN Upper Sakarya Basin Project (GCP/TUR/065/GFF) – one of the first GEF-funded LDN projects in the region – was presented as a case study to share lessons learned related to target setting, implementation and monitoring of LDN with a specific focus on the Turkey LDN Decision Support System (DSS). The Turkey LDN DSS was initially developed for the Upper Sakarya Basin using national data and was then scaled up to national level. The system is accompanied by an app, developed specifically for the region. The Turkey LDN DSS has received attention due to its accuracy and details regarding national inputs. Through interactive group works, the participants explored the use of the regional app, provided feedback and discussed how it will contribute to target setting and LDN monitoring.

The first seeds are planted for drought-resistant legumes

A Letter of Acceptance LoA on “Demonstrations and promotion of varieties and production techniques of legume crops in drought prone conditions of Konya and Karaman as climate smart agricultural practices” was signed by Tarla Bitkileri Merkez Araştırma Enstitüsü of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The LoA will contribute to the promotion of varieties and production techniques of legume crops in drought-prone areas of the Konya Closed Basin, with a view to improving soil carbon levels and the livelihoods of farmers under dry conditions. Within the context of the LoA, five demonstration plots were established in project sites with chickpeas and green lentils (0.2 ha for each), each subject to four different practices:

- No till sowing + improved variety
- No till sowing + farmer variety
- conventional sowing + improved variety
- Conventional sowing + farmer variety.

In addition, farmer training materials were developed in consultation with the FAO project team. These include: a four-page leaflet entitled “Sow the legumes with no

tillage, protect your soil and environment”, and a 10-page farmer brochure called “Chickpea and lentil production with conventional and no-till sowing methods/”



Sadettin Akyl, Director-General for International Labor Force of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

Observations from FAO

A focus on innovative and alternative solutions

Adaptation to the “new normal” in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic will produce radical changes in the labour market as well as in many other fields. Economic developments will cause significant sectoral changes in terms of labour supply and demand in comparison with the pre-pandemic period. One area where such change is inevitable is the agriculture and livestock sector.

In many countries, demand in terms of workforce needs has led the agricultural sector to open its doors to immigrants. However, measures restricting movement during the COVID-19 epidemic have had a negative impact on labour supply. In this context, Turkey continues to produce alternative solutions, including foreign labour, and to take necessary measures to address potential contractions that may occur in labour supply. At the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, we are continuing to develop innovative practices to match demand and supply of labour in seasonal agriculture and livestock in a formal and healthy manner, within the scope of projections and policies that we have developed.

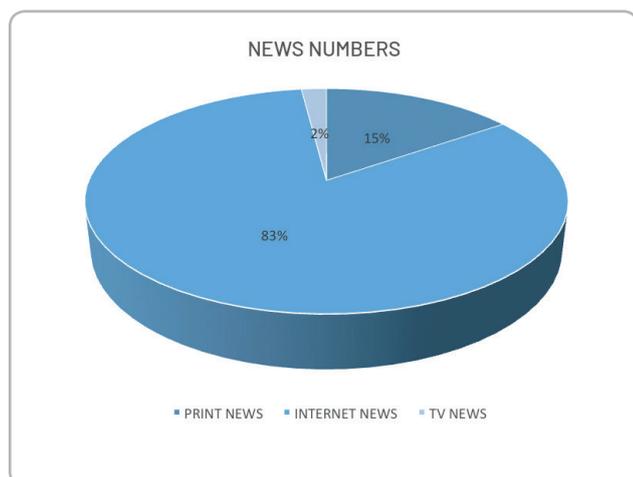
In addition, we attach great importance to improving the skills of agricultural workers. Within the framework of these priorities, our cooperation with FAO continues to increase. I hope that this latest issue of FAO Turkey’s bulletin, which includes important studies carried out on issues such as applied education in agriculture, women’s employment and sustainable agriculture, will provide readers with a rich perspective in these areas.

Sadettin AKYIL
International Workforce General Manager

Newsroom

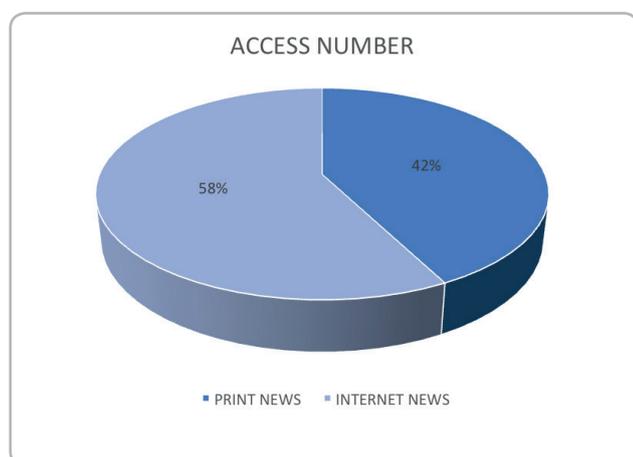
NEWS NUMBERS (September - October)

NEWS TYPE	NEWS NUMBER
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INTERNET NEWS	6 483
TV NEWS	157

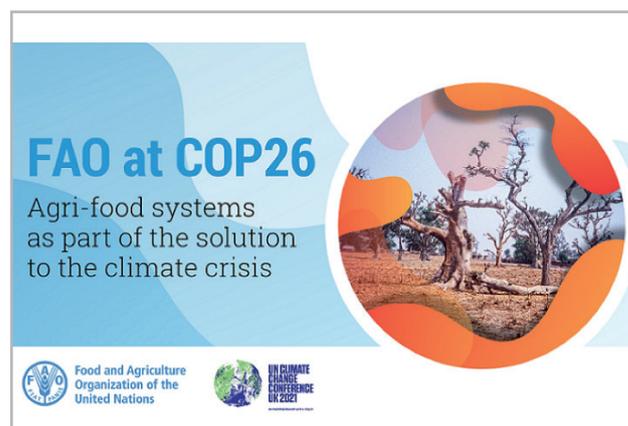


ACCESS NUMBERS (September - October)

NEWS TYPE	ACCESS NUMBER
PRINT NEWS	53 200 321
INTERNET NEWS	72 286 304



Key facts



Save the date

- Under the slogan “Promoting resilience through improved livelihoods”, 10 job fairs will be organized within the scope of the OSRO/TUR/901 /EC project in 10 provinces to support local labour markets and introduce project beneficiaries to the private sector (November, December and January).

- FETUR Planning and Programming Meeting, an annual meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Mersin, Turkey, discussed the Organization’s work in the country over the last year in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. (14-17 November)

* A series of workshops will take place on measuring and reporting food losses under the project “Reduction of food loss and waste in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Turkey.”

- 1st session – Introduction to SDG 12.3.1: data requirements and data collection strategy (9 November)
- 2nd session – Direct and indirect data collection methods (23 November)
- 3rd session – Compilation and monitoring of the Food Loss Index (7 December)

- Large-Scale Stakeholder Workshop: Comprehensive Assessment and Profiling of Agricultural Practices in Adana and Gaziantep Provinces in the Context of Syrian Refugee Crisis Response (2-4 December)

The head of the cooperative is a female Mukhtar

A Gender Action Plan was developed within the scope of the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Friendly Agriculture Project. The action plan includes training for women farmers on the importance of organization (Activity 3.1.) and women's cooperatives in the Konya-Karaman region (Activity 3.6).

As part of the implementation of these activities, the project supports the establishment of a women's

cooperative in Emirgazi, the project implementation site. Training on the operation of cooperatives will be given to 25 women who are members of the cooperative, with the support of the Emirgazi Municipality and the Agriculture and Forestry District Directorate. In addition, the project will provide the necessary equipment and material support to the cooperative. The fact that the chairman of the Cooperative Board of Directors is the only female Mukhtar in the rural areas of Konya and Karaman makes this project both unique and important and underlines the importance of the support.

ONE SHOT: Photo of the month



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