



25 female farmers received their certificates and educational kits were distributed to the preschool-aged children of beneficiaries.

## What's inside?

- **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**  
Despite the difficult conditions of 2021 and the “new normal” of the pandemic, FAO-Turkey has carried out its work with great dedication and success.
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Thirty female farmers were given training on cooperative business models and governance.
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Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, writing for the FAO-Turkey Newsletter.
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Mountains host half of the worlds biodiversity.

## From the Country Representative

Last year saw many critical problems further complicate the “new normal” created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The climate crisis manifested in the form of serious droughts, while forest fires grew more destructive both in Turkey and across the world – a reminder that time is running out in this struggle. At FAO-Turkey, we carried out projects on all these topics with dedication and great devotion, and succeeded in achieving important results. Under the umbrella of the Syrian Resilience Response Programme we provided training to thousands of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTPs) and members of local host communities in ten provinces. As a result of these training sessions, we were able to hold employment fairs in ten provinces where the project has been implemented since last September.



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

Women bear the majority of the burden of the food and agriculture sector and are therefore a priority for FAO-Turkey. Last year saw a breakthrough with women's cooperative with 22 initiatives supported under different FAO-Turkey projects.

In this issue, you will find details of a new study carried out jointly with Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkey on activities that strengthen women's access to information and educational activities in the agricultural sector.

Each month we offer a contribution from an important name from academia and industry. This issue we present a contribution from Mr Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia.

We hope that 2022 will be a year that sees positive change for the future.

Happy Reading

## In the spotlight

### A year of struggle and success

The fact that the climate crisis now appears at the top of the list of global problems shows how little time remains to reach a solution. In this context, a number of projects that FAO-Turkey is carrying out offer promising results to counter the effects of the crisis. Results obtained in 2021 for a number of projects carried out by the Global Environmental Fund and FAO-Turkey permit us to look at the future with a measure of hope.

#### Performance against CO2 emission reduction targets:

- The rehabilitation of degraded forests results in total captured emissions of 79 499 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq per year.
- Rehabilitation of degraded pastures results in total captured emissions of 82 049 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq per year.
- Conservative Agriculture practices in the KCB region result in total captured emissions of 36 768 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq per year.

To demonstrate climate friendly agriculture practices in the Konya Closed Basin with a focus on promoting Conservation Agriculture practices that combat wind erosion and support climate change:

- Live fences and three windbreaks were established in pastures and 11 windbreaks were created on agricultural lands.
- Six demonstration plots were established with drought

tolerant chickpeas and green lentils to promote different varieties and the production techniques of legume crops in drought-prone areas of the basin, with a view to improving soil carbon levels and the livelihoods of farmers under dry conditions.

- Fourteen Farmers Field School (FFS) sessions were conducted with farmers to assess the results of demonstration sites established in 2020. In addition to a pasture FFS, winter grain direct sowing and traditional sowing plots were established in seven locations. Farmers also took part in the establishment of demonstration plots as FFS sessions.

#### Integration of biodiversity into land use plans:

- The Biodiversity Monitoring Concept/programme supported by the Biodiversity Management Plan has been completed.
- For the first time, the sustainable management of low-density dryland forests has been certified and the potential to use this certification for the marketing of non-forest wood products has been demonstrated.
- Two drones were procured to monitor forestry activities and forest biodiversity within the scope of Forest Management Certification, and training was provided to users.

#### As incentive mechanisms:

- 70 tonnes of Hungarian vetch seeds were distributed to the farmers in order to reduce grazing pressure on pastures.
- In order to support biodiversity and provide an alternative stream of revenue, 1 220 beehives/colonies and sets of equipment were distributed to farmers in project implementation sites and basic beekeeping and honey production training was provided.

A Gender Action Plan was completed and implemented to promote the empowerment of women in rural areas.

## The FTFP continued its activities in 2021

The Boosting Restoration, Income, Development, Generating Ecosystem Services (BRIDGES) project is being implemented in Eritrea, Mauritania and Sudan within the scope of the FAO-Turkey Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP). Activities continued under the components of this project including: building an enabling environment and capacities for implementation, restoring degraded lands and promoting sustainable land management practices, enhancing knowledge management, and improving communications and visibility.

The FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme stand at the 8th Organization of Islamic Cooperation Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, held in Istanbul on 25-27 October 2021, was supported by BRIDGES project materials.

The FTFP's goals, portfolio and activities carried out within the scope of the programme were presented at a side event at the Second Session of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems session, entitled the "Ankara Initiative and FAO-Turkey forestry partnership in practice: Turkey's efforts to sustainable dryland management". The event was held online on 17-18 November 2021.

A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed with the Chamber of Forest Engineers to develop draft project documents for the concept notes: "Improving Biodiversity and Sustainable Forestry" and "Strengthening the Collaboration between FAO and MAF through Enhancing the Capacity of the International Forestry Training Centre".

Within the scope of this LoA, an online kick-off meeting was held on 17 December 2021 with the participation of representatives from FAO, the Chamber of Forest Engineers, SEC countries and Montenegro. The agenda introduced the above concept notes.



Another women's cooperative has been established in Kahramanmaraş.

## One more step to a new hope and a new life

The project "Building the Resilience of Syrians under Temporary Protection and Host Communities in Turkey through Supporting Socio-Economic Integration and Creating Livelihood Opportunities" was launched with the motto "Promoting resilience through improved livelihoods". Funded by the European Union, the project was shaped around the idea of developing the most appropriate means to ensure the socio-economic integration of SuTPs on a large scale. It builds on and upscales FAO's previous activities related to strengthening the resilience of SuTPs through employment generation.

The year 2021 was a good one for the project. All vocational training, FFS and Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP) activities have been completed to great success. One hundred and five batches consisting of 2 486 beneficiaries (60.7 percent women) have completed vocational training, 834 beneficiaries have finished Turkish Language Training, 1 361 SuTP beneficiaries (57.7percent women) have benefited from ASDP activities, 47 batches of 1 180 beneficiaries have completed FFS and 977 beneficiaries have found jobs with the assistance of ISKUR Service Points (ISPs). Finally, FAO has supported 247 beneficiaries by paying their social security (SGK) premiums for a period of six months.

ISKUR Service Points (ISPs) have been established in each project province under the Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry, and have registered project beneficiaries into the ISKUR database in order to actively facilitate their employment. To date, around 39percent of all graduated vocational training beneficiaries have found employment.

Ten women's cooperatives have been selected in project provinces for an entrepreneurship and marketing support programme operated by FAO. To this end, a framework for a nationwide online sales platform was established.

## The struggle with the effects of the climate crisis continues

Trends in Soil Organic Carbon is one of three global change of state indicators used to monitor progress towards land degradation neutrality (LDN). The LDN Turkey GCP/TUR/065 project aims to develop a model for monitoring these LDN indicators. To this end, the project developed Potential Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) Sequestration maps ("Predicted SOC change by 2040" and "Potential SOCseq by 2040") for Turkey in order to contribute:

- to decisions on where to invest in carbon sequestration;
- to the identification of regions and catchment areas where sustainable soil management will be more effective in terms of SOC;
- to the development of scenarios under different forms of land management; and
- to improve the LDN SOC indicator.

On 30 November 2021, a workshop organized with the participation of project partners presented the maps, the methodology used and the spatial analysis employed within the LDN Decision Support System. The participants explored possibilities of improving the maps through questions and discussions.



The Turna Women's Cooperative received two awards.

## An FAO-supported cooperative in Izmir received two awards on International Migrants Day

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the Turna Women Cooperative, a venture benefiting from the support of FAO and the Government of Japan, received two awards on the occasion of International Migrants Day.

The cooperative is managed by five Syrian and nine Turkish women and received support under two projects financed by the Government of Japan. On International Migrants Day, the Turna Women Cooperative received an award for Social Entrepreneurship presented by Rotaract District 2 440 and a social cohesion award presented by the Izmir Directorate General of Migration Management, IOM and Ege University.

Beginning in 2018, FAO launched a series of initiatives to facilitate the establishment and management of micro-enterprises under women-led agrifood cooperatives. These initiatives were implemented within the framework of the Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan (SRRP) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and with the support of the Government of Japan. These inclusive and transformative initiatives provide SuTPs and their host community members with an opportunity to meet, exchange experience and collaborate within cooperatives. In 2021, the project secured stable incomes for more than 75 percent of its beneficiaries.

This cooperative has become a model of success leading FAO to expand its cooperative programme and entrepreneurship initiative to other provinces.

## A road map is being prepared for Gaziantep and Adana

Two important workshops were held on a project conducted by FAO in collaboration with the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) under the "Supporting Economic

Opportunities for Refugees and the Host Community in Turkey (PEP)" programme funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The project aims to draw up agricultural production and labour force profiles of the provinces of Adana and Gaziantep. The two workshops, which were attended by key agricultural stakeholders in these two provinces, gathered information on expectations and suggestions. With the help of a large-scale survey conducted in the field, important data were then compiled for the proposed projects and their possible contributions to employment estimated. These data will be converted into a comprehensive report in the first months of 2022 and a roadmap will be drawn up in the field of agriculture and employment for the two provinces.



The project aims to draw up agricultural production and labour force profiles.

## Women's power Women are realizing their power

One of the main aims of the Sustainable Land Management and Climate Friendly Agriculture (GCP/TUR/055/GFF) project is to improve the livelihoods of female farmers in rural areas. In this context, a basic cooperative training course was organized in Emirgazi/Konya on 22-24 November 2021. Ayşegül Selişik, FAO Assistant Representative, Governor and Mayor of Emirgazi participated in the training programme and delivered the opening speeches. Thirty female farmers received training on the history of the cooperative business model, the governance of cooperatives, cooperation and decision-making, sales and marketing, production and packaging. An increasing number of women are expected to have an opportunity to realize their full potential through the training programme.

## Empowering rural women, improving rural livelihoods

The agriculture sector is underperforming in many developing countries. One underlying reason is that women, who comprise near to or even more than 50 percent of the agricultural workforce, do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need



Women, comprise near to or even more than 50 percent of the agricultural workforce.

to be more productive. There is an urgent need to address the widespread barriers that women face in rural labour markets, so that they are no longer trapped in informal, low-status, low-skilled and poorly paid jobs, without legal or social protection.

To address this challenge, a project recently kicked-off in Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkey, under the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture (FTPP II), funded by the Republic of Turkey. The project aims to improve rural women's access to knowledge and skills, and to create sustainable economic opportunities through an enabling policy environment. In particular, the project will focus on the capacity development of key stakeholders to better understand the concepts of gender mainstreaming and to apply basic gender analysis to formulate evidence-based and inclusive policies. The project will conduct a gender-sensitive analysis in Turkey and bring together ministries of agriculture from each country, providing a regional space to share policy solutions, good practices and challenges faced in implementing agriculture, while exploring rural development policies and programmes that are gender responsive and meet the needs of the disadvantaged groups of rural population.

## Programmes in action

### Central Asian countries will benefit from Turkish expertise through South-South cooperation efforts

FAO and Turkey have signed a South-South and Triangular Cooperation agreement on deploying Turkish experts to projects sites in Central Asia as part of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme for food, agriculture and forestry. The signing ceremony took place on 26 October on the margin of the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Islamic Cooperation Organization on Food Security and Agricultural Development, with the participation of Vladimir Rakhmanin, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, and Bekir Pakdemirli, Turkish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey.

Fielding Turkish experts to Central Asian project sites will not only widen the expertise and knowledge of beneficiary countries in a variety of areas (e.g. agriculture, agribusiness, food security and nutrition, forestry, nature conservation, drought management, combating desertification, biodiversity and climate change), but will also help develop solutions for common development issues in the food and agriculture sector.

## The “Breath for the Future” campaign is in its third year

An event to mark National Afforestation Day was held in the National Garden at the July 15 Democracy Museum, with the participation of Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey. National participants, ministers and ambassadors of invited countries, and representatives of international organizations participated in the event. The event highlighted Turkey's activities in the areas of afforestation, rehabilitation and combating erosion.

The participants also discussed steps towards becoming a party to the Paris Agreement, ways to place the green development revolution at the centre of the 2053 vision, and the action plans created within the scope of the Forest Fires Workshop.

National Afforestation Day was launched in 2019 with the participation of citizens from 81 cities. In its third year, 252 million saplings – three saplings for each citizen – planted before the end of 2021. By the end of 2023, the aim is to plant 7 billion saplings and to increase Turkey's forest assets to cover one-third of the country's total area.

The event continued with online video links to afforestation sites in various cities of Turkey.

FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena M.Q. Semedo participated in National Afforestation Day and planted an FAO sapling in the National Garden.



The fairs also aim to build an information sharing network.

## Employment fairs create hope

Having completed the vocational training and FFS components of the project “Building Resilience of Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) and Host Communities in Turkey through Supporting Socioeconomic Integration and Creating Livelihood Opportunities”, attention is now focused on encouraging beneficiaries to register for employment and contributing to their inclusion in the labour market. Accordingly, the project has organized employment fairs in ten provinces to assist beneficiaries in accessing local labour markets. Employment fairs follow the same approach as İŞKUR Service Points, which function as agriculture-oriented employment facilitation desks.

Employment fairs bring together all potential actors including SuTPs, host communities and beneficiaries with international protection status who have participated in vocational training in the relevant project provinces, as well as local producers, farmers and intermediaries involved in the production process. The fairs also aim to establish better communication and build an information-sharing network. In addition to their role in acting as a bridge between multiple actors in the labour market, the employment fairs also intend to provide information on issues such as involvement in working life, legal obligations, rights and incentives.

Accordingly, employment fairs were organized in ten project provinces under the leadership of FAO and with the active involvement of actors who play an active role in the labour market. Representatives of İŞKUR (the Turkish Employment Agency), SGK (the Social Security Institution), food and agriculture sector associations, and local administrations were also invited to help ensure strong cooperation at the national level.

This year, the first of the employment fairs was held in the province of Van on 24 November 2021 and was featured in both local and national media as well as receiving positive feedback from participants.

## Installing windbreaks to combat degradation

### *The establishment of api-culture forests, live fences and windbreaks in Konya*

The project (GCP/TUR/055) aims to establish api-culture forests, live fences and windbreaks with the intention of:

- supporting implementation of the Apiculture sub-plan of the Eregli Integrated Forest Management Plan, which was developed under the project;
- supporting sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation and sustainability, combating climate change and reducing pressure on natural resources;
- increasing awareness of biodiversity conservation by local people; and
- maintaining the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded pastureland to prevent soil degradation from erosion, enhancing carbon stocks in non-forest lands, and supporting climate change and biodiversity conservation practices.

Accordingly, a live fence was installed on pastureland in Cihanbeyli and three windbreaks were planted on pastures in Karapınar and 11 on agricultural land in Saravönü.



A live fence and 14 windbreaks were put in place at Konya.

## Distributing Hungarian Vetch seeds to farmers in Konya and Karaman

The project distributed 70 tonnes of Hungarian vetch seeds to local farmers as a contribution to the local agricultural economy and to reduce pressure on pastures, which are classified as poor quality under project assessments to identify and quantify ecosystem services. A distribution ceremony was carried out in cooperation with the Karaman Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forests, and with the participation of parliament members, the governor and mayor of Karaman, representatives of chambers of agriculture, breeding and producer associations, and 80 farmers from the region. The distribution ceremony for Hungarian Vetch seeds was also the occasion of a Presidential ceremony for the distribution of wheat and

barley seeds.

## Observations from FAO



Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative

### A renewed FAO is ready to strengthen cooperation

Since becoming a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1948, Turkey has remained a steadfast and committed partner in the global fight against hunger and malnutrition. The establishment of the FAO country office in Ankara in 1982 represented an important milestone in the FAO-Turkey partnership. The partnership was further strengthened in 2007 with the creation of the Subregional Office for Central Asia in Ankara, which supports the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan, and subsequently by the launch of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP). Together, FAO and Turkey are working to address challenges in the areas of agriculture and forestry. We are privileged to have Turkey's support as a long-term partner.

As the year 2021 comes to an end, the world continues to deal with the long-term, socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of these challenges, FAO and Turkey have maintained a strong commitment to supporting those in greatest need.

The ongoing relationship between FAO and Turkey is defined by extensive collaboration and partnership with a large and ever increasing portfolio covering diverse areas. At the national level, using FAO's own resources, the Technical Cooperation Programme brings critical technical support to FAO's Turkish counterparts in areas such as integrated land use planning, e-agriculture, soil and fertilizer management, and food literacy. Another important aspect of this cooperation is our joint response to the Syrian crisis. Thanks to Turkey's commitment, we have reached vulnerable areas where resilience building and emergency response are crucial to addressing the impact of the crisis. We have also contributed to the food security and livelihoods of millions of Syrian refugees and

Turkish host communities.

The FAO-Turkey Partnership Programmes provide a unique example of cooperation at the sub-regional level. Turkey has allocated substantial funds – totalling USD 30 million to date – and collaborated with FAO to support other countries in their efforts to ensure food security, mitigate poverty and promote the sustainable management of natural resources.

Last year, the FAO-Turkey collaboration was further amplified by the signing of a South-South and Triangular Cooperation agreement. Through this framework, Turkish experts will be deployed to projects sites in Central Asia as part of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme for food, agriculture and forestry.

In all these endeavours we have collaborated closely with the Government of Turkey, and have had the privilege of their full support, for which we are grateful. I am pleased to state that the renewed FAO is ready to strengthen this cooperation further in order to ensure better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.

Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin

FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative

## Key facts



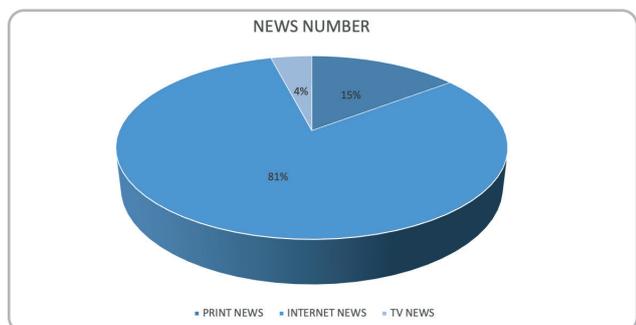
## Publications and Media FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme website launched

A website fully dedicated to the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programmes is now operational. It provides information and news about activities conducted, upcoming events and details of projects implemented under the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programmes on Food and Agriculture and Forestry, funded by the Republic of Turkey. The website also provides access to all publications developed under the programmes as well as photos from the project sites.

## Newsroom

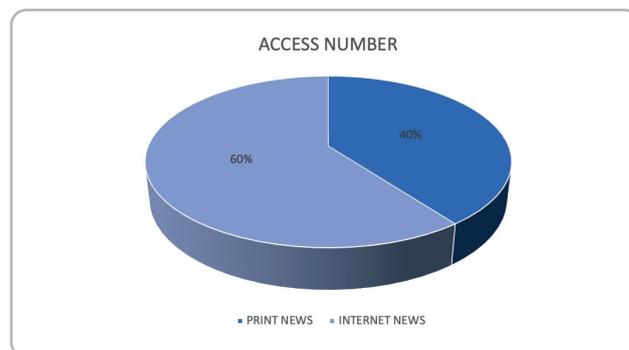
### NEWS NUMBERS (November - December)

	NEWS NUMBER
PRINT NEWS	702
INTERNET NEWS	3882
CTV NEWS	193



### ACCESS NUMBERS (November - December)

	ACCESS NUMBER
PRINT NEWS	29604098
INTERNET NEWS	44833582

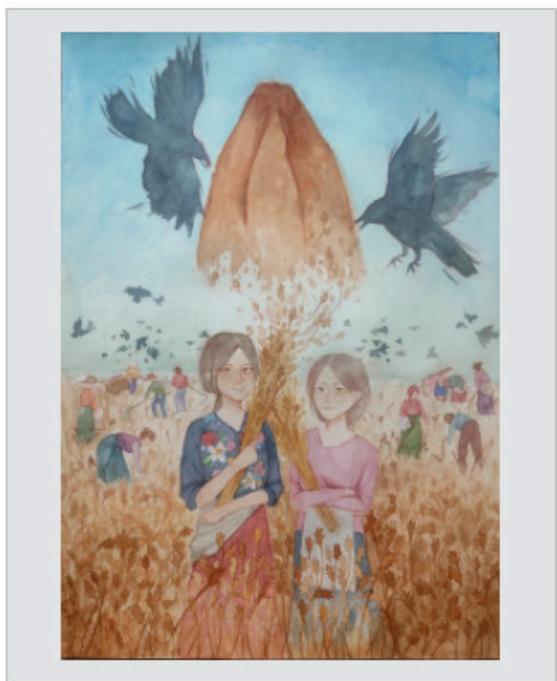


## ONE SHOT: Photo of the month

### A runner-up in the poster contest is from Turkey

The poster competition organized by FAO as part of World Food Day 2021 hosted hundreds of successful works.

A participant from Turkey, Gülden Başaran, is among the 12 finalists of the World Food Day Poster Contest 2021, having obtained second place in the 16-19 age category.



### Gülden Başaran

age 16

Turkey



Herkesin kolayca ulaşabildiği ekmeğin bile ne kadar çok insanın emeğiyle yapıldığını anlatmak istedim. ( I want to tell even bread which people reach easily is made by a lot of people's work.)

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