



FAO distribution efforts have strategically targeted key locations impacted by the recent earthquakes.

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World Food Programme (WFP) Türkiye Country Director Negar Gerami writes for FAOTURN.

From the Country Representative

The twin earthquakes that struck the southeastern provinces of Türkiye on 6 February left tens of thousands injured and millions displaced. The impact of this catastrophe was particularly severe in the region known as the "Fertile Crescent". Irrigation canals were destroyed, agricultural machinery was buried and warehouses collapsed. The effects of this devastation extended beyond Türkiye's borders, raising the possibility of a regional and global food crisis.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) responded swiftly, working tirelessly on the ground in the earthquake-stricken provinces to support the agriculture and food sector. Our initial phase involved providing immediate and



Viorel Gutu, Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia and FAO Representative in Türkiye.

unconditional financial aid and vital assistance to affected individuals. We have now entered the second phase, which is framed by the UN's Türkiye Emergency Appeal. Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other relevant partners and stakeholders, we have crafted a comprehensive three-year plan, worth USD 112 million, to help rebuild the sector. Our chief focus is on providing the necessary resources to empower farmers in the region to resume production.

At FAO, we are well aware that women and female farmers in rural areas have been among the worst affected by the earthquakes. In this issue of FAO Türkiye Newsletter, we shed light on their circumstances, highlighting ways in which gender inequality has deepened in the aftermath of the disaster, and exploring ways to improve the current status of rural women in the region.

FAO-Türkiye takes pride in executing remarkable projects across all the regions of Türkiye and is pleased to share its achievements in regional and international fora. As recounted in this issue, we recently had the privilege to showcase a success story on Land Degradation Neutrality in the Upper Sakarya Basin at an international workshop held in Ecuador.

In this issue, we are also honoured to welcome Negar Gerami, the Country Director of our sister organization, the World Food Programme (WFP), who shares some insights into our joint project dedicated to the Turkish wheat sector, an impactful initiative implemented collaboratively under the UN umbrella.

We genuinely believe that you will find our fourteenth edition captivating, with its compelling articles and stories. Your interest and support are invaluable as we continue our mission to create a better and more sustainable future, leaving no one behind.

Happy reading.

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

In the spotlight

Reviving agriculture in earthquake-stricken areas takes priority

In the aftermath of the February earthquakes in Türkiye which claimed the lives of over 50 000 people, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was the first agency to provide emergency assistance. Since then, the Organization has begun the implementation



FAO is actively engaged in providing vital support to earthquake-affected areas in Türkiye.

phase of aid efforts to help farmers living in the Fertile Crescent to recover and resume production. As part of these efforts, material support was distributed to farmers in the region and a comprehensive three-year plan was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) to repair the damage caused by the disaster.

FAO is actively engaged in providing vital support to the earthquake-affected areas in Türkiye. Recognizing the importance of revitalizing the agricultural sector in these regions, FAO has undertaken a comprehensive effort to distribute essential agricultural inputs, empowering local farmers to resume their farming activities and secure their livelihoods.

FAO's distribution efforts have been strategically targeted across key locations impacted by the earthquake, reaching 250 beneficiaries in Gaziantep, 441 in Hatay, 441 in Kahramanmaraş, 75 in Kilis, 80 in Adıyaman and 80 in Malatya, for a total of almost 1 500 farmers, providing them with the necessary resources to rebuild and restore their agricultural operations.

The distributed agricultural inputs include a range of vital resources: fertilizer (50 kg sacks), seeds (50 kg sacks), seedlings (Viol), dairy feed (50 kg sacks), crushed barley grains (40 kg sacks), 50 knapsack sprayers, 50 chainsaws, 100 milking machines, 20 milk cooling tanks and 254 pheromone traps. These inputs play a crucial role in re-establishing agricultural productivity, supporting livestock rearing and facilitating the overall recovery of farming activities in earthquake-affected regions.

By ensuring the availability of these essential inputs, FAO aims to promote the resilience and sustainable recovery of the agriculture sector in affected areas, contributing to their long-term food security and the livelihoods of local farmers.

Implementation of FAO's three-year USD 112 million recovery plan is underway

FAO, in collaboration with the MoAF, has initiated a three-year Earthquake Response and Recovery Plan (ERRP) valued at USD 112 million. The plan aims to address the needs of the agricultural sector with support to 700 000 rural individuals in the 11 provinces impacted by the earthquakes in February 2023.

The plan builds on FAO's contribution to the Türkiye Earthquakes Recovery and Reconstruction Assessment (TERRA) developed by the Strategy and Budget Office of Presidency and a series of needs assessments conducted with the MoAF. The ERRP aims to sustain agricultural production and restore rural livelihoods in the provinces of Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Hatay, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa.

The plan's three goals are restoring agrifood systems, revitalizing the agriculture labour market and empowering rural communities. The ERRP integrates various approaches, including women's empowerment, disaster risk reduction, Build Back Better, private sector engagement, and climate-smart and nature-based solutions.

The short-term actions elaborated in the ERRP prioritize the provinces hit hardest by the earthquake: Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Malatya, while the medium-term plan extends to all 11 provinces, focusing on immediate recovery needs specific to production patterns and seasonal timelines in each one. The longer-term strategy will promote sustainable rural development, women-led enterprises, climate-smart agriculture and community resilience.

In the months since the earthquakes, FAO and the MoAF have collaborated closely in assessing the needs of the agriculture sector while advocating for additional support. To address the urgent needs of the affected rural communities, FAO is currently providing urgently required agricultural inputs to over 1 300 farmers and unconditional cash transfers to 7 720 rural community members in order to maintain production in dairy, crops, fisheries and food processing.

Women's power The earthquakes in Türkiye reinforced gender inequality

Existing gender inequality has been worsened by the recent earthquakes, increasing the workload and responsibilities of women and disrupting their previously organized lives.

The earthquake caused widespread devastation to the village, resulting in the loss of tractors, barns, livestock and agricultural machinery for most villagers. Essential infrastructure such as transformers and electric wells were also destroyed. Women from Eroğlu who were affected by the earthquakes on 6 February share their stories here.

Asiye Eroğlu lives with her eight-year-old twin children in the Elbistan Höyüğü Neighbourhood of the İslahiye District in Gaziantep. The family used to farm on their own land and had houses in İslahiye and the now-destroyed village of Eroğlu. Since the earthquakes, Asiye has faced challenges in meeting basic needs, providing for the children and dealing with water shortages. Temporary displacement and living arrangements in tents and containers have added to their hardship.

Filiye Eroğlu lost the workplace of her family's rented carwash during the earthquakes, their tractor was buried under debris and their barns collapsed, leaving her to take care of her husband, children and animals. Like many villagers, the family struggled to stay warm and fed, but after three days they received community food donations. Previously Filiye and her spouse undertook agriculture activities on rented land, which made them eligible for registration in the agricultural registry system and for retirement benefits. These now seem uncertain.



The earthquakes damaged the brand-new tractor and car of Cevher Eroğlu and her family.

Cevher Eroğlu lost the family's brand-new tractor and car, which are now damaged beyond repair and unsellable. Without barns to shelter their animals or the means to purchase feed, they had to sell them at very low prices. She explained that farmers in the village are facing immense difficulties, having lost their tractors, animals and agricultural tools. Her relatives Cuma, Kadriye and Senem Eroğlu also express their concerns about the collapsed water well, which prevents them from irrigating their fields and unable to plant corn, despite having previously grown wheat and sugar beets.

Emine, a widow with six children, lived on 17 acres of farming land with her husband's relatives. Their house was damaged by the earthquake, and they initially sought

refuge in their car. Relatives from Alanya then provided them with food and clothing while they lived in a tent for one-and-a-half months. Currently residing in a container, Emine emphasizes the urgent need for shelter and the means to rebuild their house. Having lost her cow and with her barn completely destroyed, she faces many difficulties including the upcoming wheat harvest.

Hatice Yılmaz lived in Oniki Şubat District of Kahramanmaraş. She is studying Health Institution Management at the university, with only two courses remaining before graduation. She holds a driver's license but cannot drive a tractor. Her house was severely damaged in the earthquakes, and since then she has been living in Elbistan Höyüğü village, prioritizing the reconstruction of her house and working to ensure her children's education and future, which is of the utmost importance to her.

The stories of all these women of Eroğlu and others in the village highlight the gendered impact of the earthquakes and the urgent need for support in different areas, including agricultural tools, irrigation for drying crops, social security support, house reconstruction and education.

Harvest time Regional workshop in Ecuador presents efforts to combat land degradation in Türkiye and examples of good practices

A regional workshop to improve South-South cooperation in projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on "Common challenges and lessons learnt in Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM)", took place in Ecuador on 6–9 June 2023. This workshop formed part of the implementation process for the LDN framework and facilitated discussions and exchange between projects, decision-makers, regional country representatives and strategic partners



The LDN Upper Sakarya Basin Project presented its activities.

such as World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), GEF and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The aim of the workshop was to create a space where participants could facilitate knowledge exchange and identify the next steps in enhancing synergies among ongoing initiatives, including links with the GEF-8 replenishment cycle (2022–2026). The workshop also explored the mainstreaming of the LDN concept into national policy and strategies.

The LDN Upper Sakarya Basin Project is one of the first LDN Projects, and was therefore invited to the regional workshop to present its activities and explain how they contribute to achieving the LDN targets. The project team's presentation detailed their reporting process to UNCCD, the development of an LDN Decision Support System and an LDN SLM (Sustainable Land Management) Action plan, as well as their efforts to achieve LDN on the ground. The project attracted great attention from the regional countries leading to discussions about opportunities for cooperation.

Preserving Kaz Dağları for everyone

FAO and the MoAF have launched a new project to protect and restore the biological diversity of the Kaz Mountains for future generations. The new project aims to strengthen the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of forest landscapes in Türkiye's Kaz Dağları Region. It is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and will be implemented by FAO in collaboration with the General Directorate of Forestry and the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks.



A new project aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in Türkiye's Kaz Dağları region.

The project was inaugurated in Çanakkale with the participation of numerous local and national experts

and project partners including Kadir Çokçetin, General Director of Nature Conservation and National Parks; Ozan Hacialioğlu, Director of Nature Conservation and National Parks Çanakkale Branch; and FAO representatives.

The opening was also attended by Dilara Koçak. “Anyone who lives in harmony with nature and dedicates their work to the environment is an eco-worker for me”, she explained. “From forest villagers to volunteers, we are all ecology workers. I am very happy to be here to support this project.”

FRIENDS project gains momentum with team missions in the sub-region

The “Forest Restoration Improvement for Environmental Development and Sustainability in Central Asia – FRIENDS” project aims to boost the national capacities of beneficiary countries to restore forests and other wooded lands while also strengthening their expertise in preventing degradation. The project is being executed in the sub-region under the auspices of the FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme (FTFP).

In May 2023, the project team conducted successful visits to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. During these visits, the team met with relevant national authorities and experts in country offices. The team also assessed project needs and inspected potential pilot sites. The project team’s visits to the beneficiary countries in the region are expected to contribute to project implementation and will help strengthen ties with the country offices and national authorities.



Field studies and workshops were organized in collaboration with stakeholders within the scope of the CACRust project.

Wheat rust diseases through the lens of the CAC-Rust project

Wheat is the most cultivated food crop in the world and an important strategic crop for many countries. A key factor in obtaining a good wheat harvest is protection from harmful diseases. With a view to contributing to monitoring the

wheat rust diseases and sharing information on the topic, the project “Strengthening regional collaboration and national capacities for management of wheat rust diseases (CACRust)” organized training workshops and conferences in May and June 2023, under the umbrella of the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture (FTPP II).

Within this framework, a ten-day training workshop was organized in Izmir in May with the participation of international experts. In addition, a CAC-Rust conference was organized in Baku on 18 May 2023 to combat the rapid spread of rust diseases in wheat, with the collaboration of FAO and the Agrarian Services Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture. Finally, in June 2023, the CAC-Rust project organized a workshop and training course in Bishkek to validate the national strategy and contingency plan for the prevention and management of wheat rust diseases in Kyrgyzstan.

FISHCap project raises awareness about fish through a colouring book for children

A new colouring book for children called “Identifying and Colouring Fish” has been developed as part of the awareness-raising activities of the FISHCap, a project implemented under the FTFPP II. The book provides children with brief information about ten different fish species, and includes a colouring section to encourage children to learn more about fish.

Closure of the ECO-RCC and FLW projects

The project “Support the Transformation of the ECO Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCC)”. During its implementation phase the project contributed to strengthening the Centre’s capacity to provide systematic and useful support to member countries and to enable them to acquire the necessary advice, guidance and information to improve their food security and nutrition policies and programmes.



The conference featured the high-level participation of representatives from Türkiye and other countries in the region.

The project “Reduction of Food Loss and Waste (FLW) in SEC Countries” supported participating countries in developing national strategies and action plans to prevent and reduce food loss and waste at the individual, community and national levels. The project contributed to national capacity development on FLW and good practices to prevent and reduce waste and raised awareness through the Save Your Food Campaign, webinars, conferences and other outreach activities, such as kitchen events or gleanings.

Both projects were implemented within the scope of the FAO Türkiye Partnership Programme on Food and Agriculture (FTPP II).

Programmes in action

SRRP scheme makes nine grant payments to SuTP and IPASH beneficiaries

Under the Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan (SRRP), FAO-Türkiye aims to increase employment opportunities for both Syrian and Turkish communities by supporting small and medium-scale agricultural businesses. To achieve these objectives, two grant programmes targeted at different groups have been implemented. These include micro agri-food input grants for vulnerable family businesses operated by Turkish or refugee rural populations, and small agri-business investment grants for existing small-scale entrepreneurs. The goal of the grant scheme is to improve income-generating opportunities and agricultural production, and ultimately increase employment opportunities for others.

Payments for the grant scheme were disbursed in April and May, with a total of nine disbursements made. Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTPs) and International Protection Applicants and Status Holder (IPASH) status holders were employed in the eight project provinces in accordance with seasonal production. The monitoring process for the grant scheme began with field missions in June.

The grant scheme has reached 297 beneficiaries in the provinces of Adana, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Izmir, Kahramanmaras, Kilis, Manisa, Sanliurfa and Van. Forty-nine micro grants for agro-food establishments and 248 small grants for primary producers have been awarded. The total number of women beneficiaries is 172, accounting for constitutes 58 percent of the total. Most investments consisted of machinery and equipment for

agricultural, apiculture and livestock production, the supply of breeding animals, and the development and improvement of establishments.

Roadmap for the Turkish wheat sector ready for use

A detailed analysis of the Turkish wheat sector was conducted as part of a project that brought together three UN agencies. Entitled “Supply Chain Analysis for the Turkish Wheat Sector: Establishing a Resilient Food System”, the project represented a collaboration between the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Türkiye, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), working in coordination with the MoAF. After months of work with stakeholders across Türkiye’s eight major wheat production basins, the process produced a report and roadmap designed to make the sector more resilient to crises.

The report was shared with project partners at a closing meeting held in Ankara in May. In his opening speech at the meeting, Viorel Gutu, the FAO Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia and Representative in Türkiye, drew attention to the fact that wheat is the second most produced crop in the world after corn. Gutu further emphasized that wheat is a strategic product as it serves as the main source of food for 2 billion people and 35 percent of the world’s population.



The roadmap prepared within the framework of the United Nations’ joint project provides important data for the future of the Turkish wheat sector.

Alvaro Rodriguez, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Türkiye, stated that important work has been carried out at the country level to ensure stability during a period of ongoing instability worldwide. He elaborated: “We are going through difficult times. But in the third decade of the twenty-first century, we need to focus on projects like this. Although we are not on course globally to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, I am hopeful about Türkiye.”

Observations from FAO partners

Supply Chain Analysis for the Turkish Wheat Sector: Building a Resilient Food System



WFP Türkiye Country Director Negar Gerami.

This project was initiated in response to the Russia-Ukraine war and its potential impact on the global wheat supply. The aim was to develop a contingency plan to address any disruptions in wheat production. However, unforeseen events, such as two earthquakes in Türkiye, served as a reminder of the need for constant vigilance and contingency planning.

The study highlights the interconnectedness of nations in the global food landscape, particularly in the wheat trade. Türkiye plays a significant role as both an exporter and importer of wheat, supplying countries in the Middle East and North Africa while also supporting the UN World Food Programme. The report emphasizes the importance of a well-functioning value chain and the involvement of all stakeholders to ensure an efficient and sustainable food supply system.

I would like to express my gratitude for the privilege of being able to be a part of this study conducted in collaboration with FAO and IFAD, and with the invaluable support of the MoAF. This work serves as a gateway, opening avenues for further detailed studies on wheat and agriculture. Our collective efforts to improve food security worldwide rely on continuous research, innovation and collaboration.

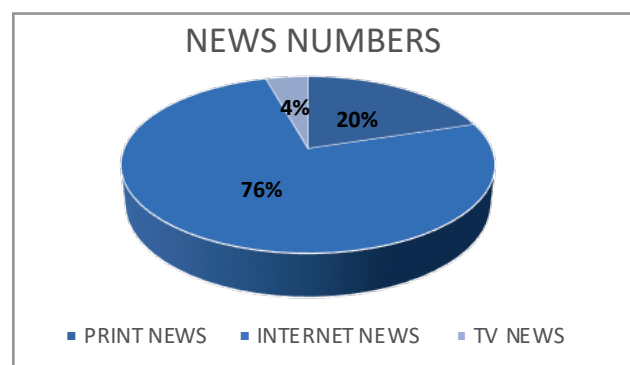
In conclusion, let us recognize the vital role of the processing industry, the importance of addressing risks to sustainable supply chains and the potential for Türkiye to contribute significantly to the development of the wheat sector regionally. Together, by implementing the recommendations outlined in our study and fostering cooperation among stakeholders, we can advance the wheat sector's sustainability and contribute to a more secure and prosperous future.

Publications and media

NEWS NUMBERS (April-May-June)

NEWS TYPE	NEWS NUMBERS
Print news	1 077
Internet news	4 027
Tv news	233

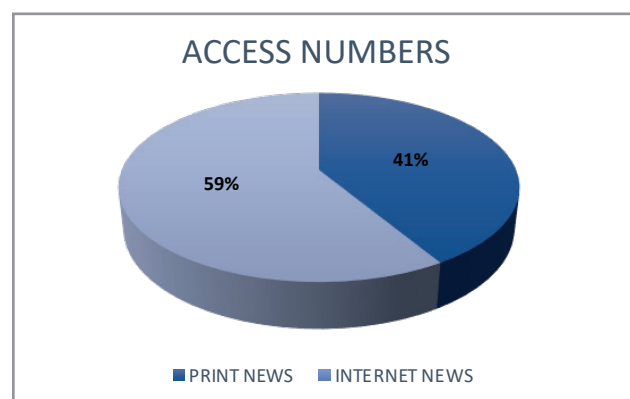
Source: FAO Türkiye



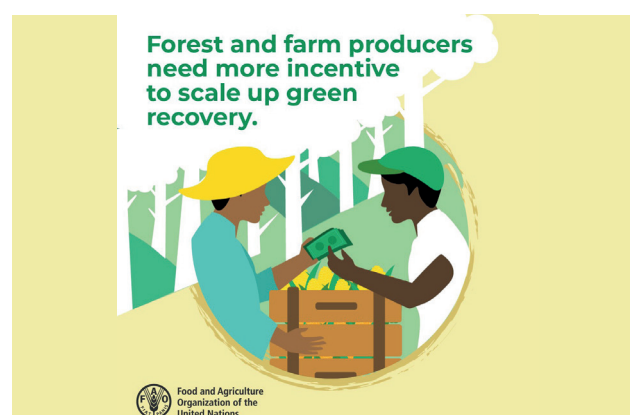
ACCESS NUMBERS (April-May-June)

NEWS TYPE	ACCESS NUMBERS
Print news	38 882 334
Internet news	55 176 814

Source: FAO Türkiye



Key facts



Yedigöller will breathe easier

Yedigöller National Park, known for its unique landscapes and attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, is threatened by human activities and climate change. The combined impacts lead to resource depletion, biodiversity loss and the spread of invasive species.

In response, FAO and the MoAF have launched the project “Enhancement of Ecosystem Services through Sustainable Management of Yedigöller National Park.” The project aims to protect the park’s ecosystems, promote effective and

sustainable utilization of natural resources, and enhance climate change resilience in protected areas.

As part of the project, the “Yedigöller National Park Sustainable Management Plan” will be developed to ensure the sustainable use of soil and water resources, facilitating climate change adaptation and mitigation. Additionally, the project will raise awareness among stakeholders about an ecosystem-based approach and actions to enhance climate change resilience. These landscape approaches show promise in addressing climate change, improving biodiversity management and securing better livelihoods.

ONE SHOT: Photo of the month



©FAO/ Yedigöller Milli Parkı

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