Chickpeas are the most produced pulse in this region, followed by lentils. Traces of lentils and chickpeas for domestic use were found in excavations at Hacilar, Turkey, and Jarmo in Iraqi Kurdistan, indicating that these crops have been consumed in the area for at least 8,000 years.

Turkey, the bridge between Europe and Asia, is the fourth global producer of lentils and sixth of chickpeas.