



Uplands Rural Development Programme and Investigation of the Program Process in Kastamonu Province

Osman INAN^a, Fatih GÜREL^b

^a Department of Agricultural Economics, Institute of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal, Tekirdağ, TURKEY

^b Kastamonu Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, Support Branch, Kastamonu, TURKEY,

(*) Corresponding Author: fatih_gurel@hotmail.com

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ABSTRACT

There are significant threats to the security of agricultural supply from people migrating from rural areas to urban areas due to economic difficulties and disadvantages arising from a lack of extension. However, agricultural production is strategically important for Türkiye and the most important economic activity for rural areas. People who migrate to cities prefer to stay in output if agricultural subsidies are provided to encourage production. In addition to the support of the Turkish government, it is important to benefit from the work of international organizations such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which works in rural areas and supports the agricultural sector. IFAD is well aware of the needs of Türkiye's rural areas with 11 projects implemented with a total cost of USD 697.91 million and IFAD contribution of USD 251.84 million. In Türkiye, Uplands Rural Development Programme (URDP), financed by IFAD, supports the disadvantaged people living in rural areas. In this study, information about IFAD and its activities in Türkiye is given the ongoing URDP of the organization in Türkiye, the studies carried out in the process of including Kastamonu province in the programme, the project acceptance process in Kastamonu province and the results of the programme in Kastamonu province in 2020 when the programme was implemented for the first time in Türkiye, are examined in detail. As a result of the research, the utilisation of the fund by taking into account the needs of rural areas and the monitoring process were found to be positive.

Keywords: Agricultural policies, Agricultural supports, Rural development, International organizations, The International Fund for Agricultural Development, Uplands Rural Development Programme

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INTRODUCTION

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is an international financial institution of the United Nations, established on 30 November 1977 following the World Food Conference in 1974. The aim of the IFAD is to increase food production in developing countries to combat hunger and rural poverty, to provide new job and income opportunities, and to provide low-interest and long-term loans to rural development projects, especially to help poor people ([Aras and Arisoy, 2021](#)).

The fund finances projects specifically designed to develop and expand food production systems. The fund contributes to agricultural development projects in developing countries through donations and loans with favourable conditions. The development projects to be supported must have features that increase food production, prevent poverty and improve nutrition. IFAD implements agricultural development programmes aimed to increase food production in the most vulnerable developing countries. Today, 177 countries are IFAD members, headquartered in Rome/Italy. IFAD carries out its activities with the resources provided as contributions from various countries. There are industrialised countries in the first category, oil producing developing countries in the second category and developing countries in the third category ([Aytekin, 2012](#)).

Türkiye became a member of IFAD in 1982. Türkiye aims to participate in the activities of IFAD actively. In this framework, the activities of the Governing Council and the Executive Board, the decision-making and executive bodies of IFAD, are followed. For IFAD's 11th Resource Renewal Period (2019-2021), Türkiye contributes USD 5 million.

"Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the IFAD on establishing an IFAD Country Office - Eastern Europe and Central Asia Hub" was signed in Ankara on 5 November 2018. After that, the work between IFAD and the Government of Türkiye has gained a more advanced dimension. It is important to analyze IFAD's activities in rural areas, pave the way for more effective activities, and make the best use of financing resources.

MATERIALS and METHODS

The study is a compilation of secondary data, primarily obtained from IFAD and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, publications that examine the assistance of international organizations in Türkiye, especially IFAD. General information on the Rural Disadvantaged Areas Project (2018-2026) was obtained from IFAD's international website documents and records of Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry in Türkiye where the programme is implemented. The data on the implementation of the URDP project in the Kastamonu province were compiled from the records obtained from the Kastamonu Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry.

PREVIOUS AND ONGOING IFAD PROJECTS IN TÜRKİYE

IFAD projects implemented in Türkiye aim to increase rural people's income and living standards. From the past to the present, 11 projects have been implemented

by IFAD in Türkiye. The total cost of these projects is estimated at USD 697.91 million and the contribution provided by IFAD is USD 251.84 million.

It is calculated that 1,486,238 households are affected by the IFAD projects implemented. Eight of these projects have been completed and, three are still ongoing (IFAD, 2021). Figure 1 shows, the completed and ongoing IFAD projects in Türkiye by indicating the regions where they are implemented.

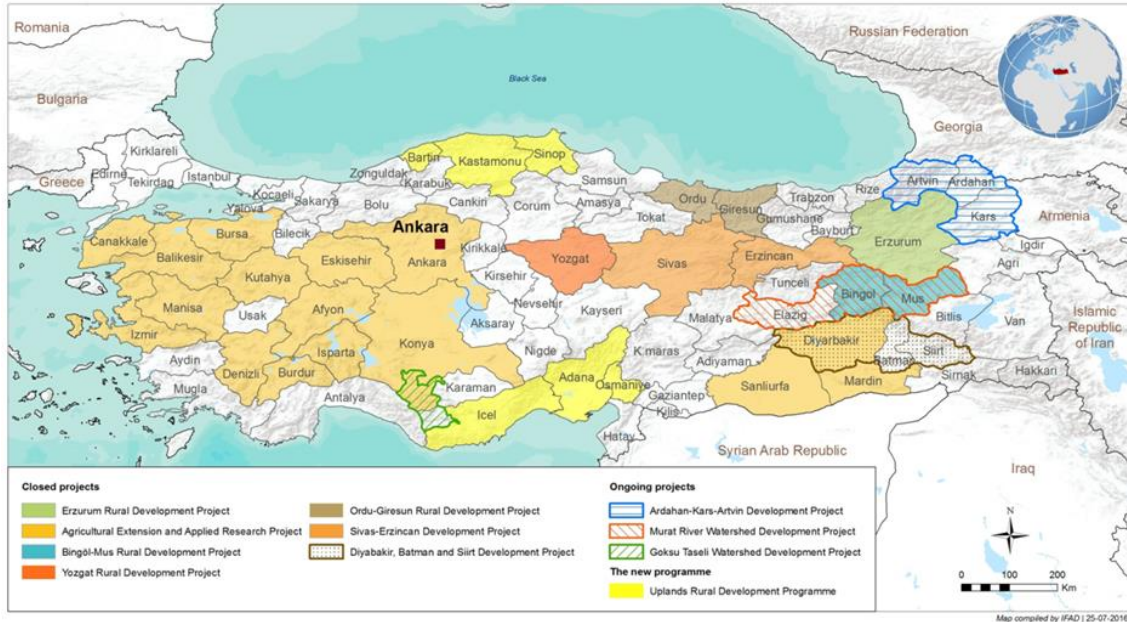


Figure 1. IFAD projects implemented in Türkiye from past to present (IFAD, 2021).

IFAD Projects Completed in Türkiye

1) Erzurum Rural Development Project (1982-1989): The project was implemented between 1982-1989 as a rural development project in the region. The total project cost was estimated at USD 104.80 million. Of this, USD 58.50 million was contributed by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 15.20 million by IFAD and USD 31.10 million by external financing. 36.200 households were affected by the project.

2) Agricultural Extension and Applied Research Project (1984-1993): The project was carried out for research, extension and training purposes. Total project cost: USD 164.90 million. Of this, USD 94.40 million was contributed by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 6.50 million by IFAD and USD 64 million by external financing. 1.20 million households were affected by the project.

3) Bingöl-Muş Rural Development Project (1989-1999): The project was implemented as a rural development project in the region. The total project cost was calculated as USD 52.20 million. Of this, USD 13.80 million was contributed by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 19.90 million by IFAD, USD 9.40 million by local financial institutions and USD 9 million by external financing. 35.000 households were affected by the project.

4) Yozgat Rural Development Project (1990-2001): The project was implemented as a rural development project in the region. Total cost of the project: USD 40.50 million. Of this, USD 24.10 million was contributed by the Government of the

Republic of Türkiye and USD 16.40 million was IFAD financed. 30.000 households were affected by the project.

5) Ordu-Giresun Rural Development Project (1995-2005): The project was implemented as an agricultural development project in the region. Total cost of the project: USD 51.20 million. Of this, USD 18.20 million was provided as Turkish Government contribution, USD 20.00 million as IFAD financing, USD 4.80 million as beneficiary contribution and USD 8.20 million as external financing. 44.000 households were directly affected by the project.

6) Sivas-Erzincan Development Project (2003-2013): The project was implemented as a rural development project in the region. The total cost of the project was calculated as USD 30.20 million. Of this, USD 4.40 million was contributed by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 13.10 million by IFAD, USD 2.60 million by beneficiary contributions and USD 10.10 million by external financing. 10.000 households directly benefited from the project.

7) Diyarbakır, Batman and Siirt Development Project (2006-2014): The project was implemented in the field of credit and financial services in the region. The total cost of the project was calculated as USD 36.90 million. Of this, USD 4.40 million was contributed by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 24.10 million by IFAD and USD 7.60 million by beneficiaries. 5,000 households were directly affected by the project.

8) Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development Project (2009-2017): The project was implemented as an agricultural development project in the region. The total cost of the project was calculated as USD 26.30 million. Of this, USD 3.20 million was contributed by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 19.20 million was IFAD financed and USD 3.90 million was beneficiary contribution.

IFAD Projects Ongoing in Türkiye

9) Göksu-Taşeli Basin Development Project (2015-2023): The project is being implemented as a rural development project in the region. The total cost of the project was calculated as USD 25 million. Of this, USD 3.80 million was planned as the contribution of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 18.30 million as IFAD financing, and USD 2.90 million as a beneficiary contribution ([Aras and Arisoy, 2021](#)).

10) Murat River Basin Rehabilitation Project (2012-2021): The project is being implemented as an agricultural development project in the region. The total cost of the project is calculated as USD 61.50 million. Of this, USD 7.40 million will be provided through the contribution of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 36.30 million through IFAD financing, USD 2.60 million through local financing sources and USD 25.20 million through external financing. Twelve thousand five hundred households will directly benefit from the project.

11) Uplands Rural Development Programme (2018-2026)

- Eastern Mediterranean Rural Development Programme (2018-2026)

- Western Black Sea Rural Development Programme (2018-2026)

The programme is calculated as a rural development programme to be implemented in disadvantaged rural areas. The total cost of the project is calculated as USD 98.50 million. Of this, USD 23.60 million will be provided by the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, USD 56.90 million by IFAD, USD 2.90 million by the

Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF), and USD 15.10 million by the beneficiary ([IFAD>HB, 2018](#)).

UPLANDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (2018-2026)

The difference between these supports of IFAD from other IFAD activities is that they are prepared as projects, while this type of support is planned as a programme. The programme was initially planned to cover the years 2017-2023 under the name 'Uplands Rural Development Programme (URDP)'. The final draft of the programme was prepared in 2017. The subsequent process delayed the implementation period of the programme. The programme was extended until 2026 and planned as an 8-year project covering the years 2018-2026, with the revisions made in the programme through negotiations between IFAD delegations and Turkish government officials.

The programme was launched in 2020 under the name of Uplands Rural Development Programme (URDP) with an agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to increase the welfare and resilience of small-scale farmers living in disadvantaged areas, to ensure rural transformation, and to facilitate access to rural finance through the clustering method. With mutual negotiations, clarification of the application conditions, review of the processes, and preparation of the implementation procedures, the programme's first beneficiaries in Türkiye could benefit from the programme in 2020. In the programme's first phase, the budget was determined as USD 52.50 million and USD 98.50 million in total.

In the first phase, the programme will be implemented in six provinces and two regions, namely Eastern Mediterranean (Adana, Mersin, Osmaniye) and Western Black Sea (Bartın, Kastamonu, Sinop), covering 35 districts and targeting 30,000 households. The programme is implemented in 35 villages in 6 provinces in first phase.

In the second phase, the programme will assess the feasibility of covering two more provinces: Kahramanmaraş (Eastern Mediterranean) and Çankırı (Western Black Sea), with a total of 45 districts, 2,132 villages and 30,000 households in 8 provinces.

The programme is intended to benefit investors concentrated or clustered in upland and transitional areas in the programme provinces, where agricultural and pasture lands are mostly at altitudes above 600 m and where most of the forest villages and villages adjacent to the forest are located. The individuals and groups targeted by the programme are defined as follows ([IFAD, 2017](#)).

- People with low income, living on subsistence or semi-subsistence, suffering from poverty,
- Especially people living in high areas above 600 altitude,
- Especially those living in forest villages or villages close to forests,
- Regions considered to be more backward,
- Aimed at young people,
- Regions with relatively good agricultural potential in a particular area,
- People or regions with migration forecasts.

New Approaches in Rural Areas with URDP

1) Creation of Economic Development Clusters: In general terms, clustering is the tendency of firms carrying out similar activities to establish close to each other in a particular area without any obligation (Crouch *et al.*, 2001). In the URDP approach, people engaged in the same agricultural activities in the rural areas of the provinces were brought together and benefited from the support. For example, if a region of the province is divided into several districts and the intensive economic activity is livestock breeding, 10-15 people engaged in livestock breeding in this region are brought together, and allowed to collectively apply for support. The benefits of the clustering approach can be listed as marketing advantages, information sharing, and increasing the effectiveness of extension services (Tutar *et al.*, 2011).

2) Establishment of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms: Under the programme, MSPs are established to regularly exchange information on practices and skills, and as a result, take a common stance to influence decision-making within the economic development cluster. These MSPs are intended to work on the bases of the strategic investment plan of each cluster, such as determining the primarily agricultural production in the Economic Development Clusters (EDC), prioritising the infrastructure, individual investment issues, etc., during the establishment process. These platforms have effectively in prioritised the needs in the provinces and districts where the programme has been implemented and in forming several EDCs. It is calculated that the decisions of the MSPs will be important in the works to be carried out in the future processes of the programme.

3) Establishment of a Rural Credit Guarantee System: The programme is aimed at small farmers who are disadvantaged in the upland areas and it is foreseen that the beneficiaries will have problems with collateral. For this reason, it is planned that farmers who have difficulties in providing collateral will be able to obtain the credit they need under the rural disadvantaged areas project together with the CGF and will not have to worry about providing collateral. In this context, Turkish government allocated a budget of 5 million € to overcome the difficulties in providing collateral. The CGF is aimed to utilise a credit volume of 300 million ₺ with the grants to be given to those living in the provinces within the scope of the URDP projects.

Distribution of Supports Provided with URDP by Category

URDP provides subsidies in the categories of cluster investment partnerships, young entrepreneur start-up packages, improvement of livelihoods of nomads, privately shared economic infrastructure, public economic infrastructure and rural roads. Table 1. shows the amounts of the subsidies distributed according to the categories provided by the URDP.

Table 1. Distribution of the support provided by the URDP according to categories (IFAD, 2017).

Category	Indicative Ceiling (€)	Contribution of URDP	Beneficiary Contribution	Tax	Investor Type	Secondary Beneficiaries
Clustering Investment partnership	14.500	%70	%30	Investor Individuals	Individual, groups	Individual, group members
Young Entrepreneur Start-up Package	5.000	%70	30% in kind or in cash	Investor Individuals	Educated young entrepreneur	Young people
Improving the Livelihoods of Nomads	5.000	%80	%20 kind	Republic of Türkiye	Yoruk households	Members of the nomadic community
Privately Shared Economic Infrastructure	25.000	%75	%25	Investor Individuals	Cooperative, Union	EDC Stakeholders
Public Economy Infrastructure	150.000	%100	-	Republic of Türkiye	Local Government	EDC Stakeholders
Rural Roads	-	%60	%40	Republic of Türkiye	Local Government	EDC Stakeholders

Examples of the forms of support can be given as follows:

- Support for Cluster Investment Partnership; it can be plant production and livestock farming grant investments.
- Supports Young Entrepreneurs; can be planted production and livestock farming grant investments.
- Small farmers and/or men and women processing small-scale products: barn repairs, tents, greenhouses, greenhouses, animal drinking water structures, living conditions improvement investments, etc.
- Supports Economic Infrastructure Investments: storage, cold air unit, milk collection centres, product processing facilities, and geographical indication related activities.
- Public Investment Support can be in small-scale fruit and vegetable wholesale markets, animal markets, rural road construction for the market, animal drinking water structures, and irrigation facilities investments.

Subjects and Rates of Support Allocated to Rural Areas with URDP

- The project support plant and animal production.
- Production in these areas is supported at 70 per cent.
- The grant rates for farmers under 40 years of age are between 70% and 100%.
- Grants of 75% are given for economic infrastructure works by unions, co-operatives and KOBİs.
- The grant rates for nomads engaged in animal husbandry activities in the Taurus Mountains are 100%.
- Small-scale vegetable and fruit markets, animal markets, slaughterhouses, pressurised irrigation systems, pasture and market roads, animal drinking water structures and pasture infrastructures etc. 100% of the investments made for use in the public sphere are covered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

- Not only real persons but also agricultural enterprises, unions and cooperatives can benefit from grants.

Documents Required for URDP Application Process

Project applications are made in consultation with the Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry in the provinces and districts, taking into account that the documents may differ. Common documents that may be requested in each province and group can be counted as follows:

- Photocopy of the Republic of Türkiye identity card
- Income certificate
- Current Farmer Registration Certificate and/or Animal Information System record
- Residence certificate
- Documents showing land information
- Documents encouraging agricultural production

Support Subjects Provided to Rural Areas with URDP

The topics of support provided by the programme may vary according to the province-district and EDC. Table 2 and Table 3 show the components, sub-components and the distribution of support according to the subjects of the components within the scope of URDP.

Table 2. Supports under the sub-component of supporting individual investments for the development of the URDP value chain (Anonymous, 2020).

Main Component	Promoting Economic Development Clusters
Subcomponent	Supporting Individual Investments for the Development of Value Chain
	BARN AND CORRAL REHABILITATION - Barn Rehabilitation- Corral Rehabilitation
	MODERN TENT BARN AND CORRAL CONSTRUCTION - - New Barn Construction (Tent), - New Corral Construction (Tent)
	PURCHASE OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT - Purchase of Baler Machine, - Purchase of Mower Machine - Purchase of pneumatic grain seeding seeder machine - Silage Machine Purchase, - Feed Mixer Purchase - Feed Crushing Machine Purchase
	ELECTRIC FENCE FOR BEEKEEPERS
	MUSHROOM GREENHOUSE INSTALLATION
	BEEKEEPING TOOL AND EQUIPMENT PACKAGE
	WALNUT CULTIVATION
	GREENHOUSE INSTALLATION

Table 3. Subsidies under the sub-component on skills and organization of farmers in the URDP (Anonymous, 2020).

Main Component	Promoting Economic Development Clusters
Subcomponent	Farmers' Skills and Organization
	DEMONSTRATIONS - Calf Care and Feeding Demonstration - Walnut Garden Demonstration - Linen Demonstration - Mushroom Greenhouse Demonstration - Greenhouse Demonstration - Soilless Agriculture Strawberry Greenhouse Demonstration - Forage Crops Cultivation Demonstration

Other Transactions Performed by Provincial Directorates of Agriculture

- List of villages: The list of villages that can benefit from the programme is announced.
- Application Call Announcement: Information is given about the application time and investment periods.
- Cluster Project Distributions: EDC and the support to be provided in these clusters are announced.
- Letter of Undertaking: The required letters of undertaking regarding the support issues are announced.

WORKS CARRIED OUT IN KASTAMONU PROVINCE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF UPLANDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The rural development platform (Multi-Stakeholder Platform) was established on 27 October 2014 with the participation of 13 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Kastamonu province. Afterwards, RDP notified the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry of their request for the implementation of the IFAD Project ([KITOM, 2015](#)).

Based on the request of RDP, Kastamonu Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry prepared Kastamonu Province Rural Situation Report on 18 March 2015 ([KITOM, 2016](#)).

Kastamonu Province Rural Situation Report was sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on 19.03.2015, and an external project (IFAD) was requested ([KITOM, 2016](#)).

On 15.04.2015, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry stated that the request of the Kastamonu Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry would be evaluated ([KITOM, 2016](#); [IFAD>BH, 2018](#)).

In March 2016, a team of experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Foreign Funded Projects and IFAD carried out inspections and visits in İnebolu, Devrekani and Taşköprü districts. Kastamonu province was included in the scope of 'Western Black Sea Rural Development Project' together with Bartın and Sinop provinces ([KITOM, 2017](#)).

A mission delegation consisting of IFAD and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry General Directorate of Agricultural Reform experts visited Kastamonu province between 27 February-01 March 2017 to carry out the necessary studies in the project area and carried out the First Feasibility Field Study ([KITOM, 2018](#)).

On 27 February 2017, the project stakeholders, Kastamonu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kastamonu Commodity Exchange, Kastamonu Chamber of Agriculture, Kastamonu Village Development and Other Agricultural Purpose Cooperatives Union, Kastamonu Breeding Sheep and Goat Breeders Union, Kastamonu Breeding Cattle Breeders Union, Kastamonu Bee Breeders Union, Kastamonu Red Meat Producers Union, Representatives of Kastamonu Milk Producers Association, Kastamonu Chamber of Agricultural Engineers, Turkish Agriculturalists Association, Kastamonu Chamber of Veterinary Doctors, Kastamonu Special Provincial Administration General Secretariat, ARDSI Kastamonu Provincial Coordination Office, North Anatolia Development Agency (KUZKA) General Secretariat, DSI Regional Directorate, Forestry Regional

Directorate, Kastamonu Handicraft Training Centre Directorate and Kastamonu Governorship Project Coordination Centre (KITOM, 2018).

On 28 February 2017, the IFAD delegation went to Afşar Village of Taşköprü District and Çaybaşı Village of Hanönü District and met with farmers and conducted a feasibility study. On 01 March 2017 Wednesday, the IFAD delegation visited Kızacık Village of Devrekani District, Çatalyazı Village of İhsangazi District and Avlacık Village of Araç District and met with farmers including women and young people. Their problems and needs in the village were identified and observed on site (KITOM, 2018).

A Feasibility Report was prepared in March 2017 and submitted to the Ministry of Development in April 2017. The Ministry, IFAD, Undersecretariat of Treasury and Ministry of Development agreed in principle to implement the project (KITOM, 2018).

A delegation consisting of experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) carried out detailed field studies in Kastamonu Province between 19-22 May 2017 for the preparation of the project's main report (KITOM, 2018).

The delegation first visited the village in Ağlı District, interviewed the villages's residents, and examined the livestock enterprises in the village. On 20 May 2017, the delegation went to İnebolu district and visited the town there (KITOM, 2018).

Afterwards, a large-scale stakeholder meeting was held at the Kastamonu Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry Güray KOÇAK meeting hall with the participation of representatives of Public Institutions and Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations in Kastamonu Province, and mutual opinions were exchanged with all stakeholders attending the meeting (KITOM, 2018).

In addition, some experts from the delegation visited the milk collection centre and feed preparation facility of S.S. Kastamonu Village Development and Other Agricultural Purpose Cooperatives Union in Çetmi village in Taşköprü district. During the visit, interviews were made especially with female co-operative members. Observations were made for the details of the main report of the project (KITOM, 2018).

On 11 August 2017, before noon, the delegation visited the market place in Taşköprü district, and after this visit, the delegation paid a visit to the Taşköprü District Directorate of Agriculture. In the afternoon, a stakeholder meeting was held in the meeting hall of Kastamonu Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry with the participation of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Commodity Exchange, Agricultural Credit Cooperatives, Producer and Breeder Organizations, Cooperative Supreme Unions and Chambers of Agriculture (KITOM, 2018).

On Saturday, 12 August 2017, visits were made to the Kastamonu marketplace, input suppliers, and local markets. Finally, the IFAD Delegation visited and exchanged information at S.S. Kastamonu Village Development and Other Agricultural Purpose Cooperatives Union and left Kastamonu on the same day (KITOM, 2018).

On 16 August 2017, the Project was submitted to the Ministry of Development for inclusion in the 2018 Investment Programme and a positive opinion was given (KITOM, 2018).

The project was published in the Repeated Issue of the Official Gazette no. 30302 dated 15 January 2018 and included in the 2018 Investment Programme (Anonymous, 2018). The final programme and grant guidelines have been prepared (IFAD, 2017; IFAD, 2020). The start of the project is planned for the end of 2018 (KITOM, 2019). The project is envisaged to be completed in two phases in a total of 8 years, and Çankırı and Kahramanmaraş provinces are planned to be added to the programme in the second phase (IFAD, 2017).

In Kastamonu, there are ten districts and a total of 676 villages belonging to the districts within the scope of the project. There are differences between these districts regarding agriculture, agriculture-based industry, climate and marketing.

Considering the 2004 Kastamonu Provincial Agricultural Master Plan and the similarities and differences between the districts, the study area of Kastamonu was divided into 3 Economic Development Clusters (EDC). These Economic Development Clusters are shown below as follows;



Figure 2. Kastamonu Province Economic Development Clusters (EDC) (KITOM, 2021).

It is calculated that these 3 EDCs are supported in their own regions in the following subjects;

- EDC 1: Support is provided to clusters in the fields of dairy farming, fruit growing, viticulture, cut flowers, garlic, paddy, and greenhouse cultivation.
- EDC 2: Support is provided to clusters in Dairy and Livestock Breeding, Field Crops (Siyez Wheat), and Fruit Growing (Uryani plum).
- EDC 3: Support is provided to clusters on Livestock Breeding (Specialised Organised Industrial Zones Based on Agriculture (TDIOSB)), Tuberous Crops, Sugar Beet, Potato, Fodder Crops.

Following the URDP opening and promotion meeting held in Ankara on 05 March 2019 with the slogan "The Future will be Shaped in the Countryside", a URDP kick-off workshop for Regional Project Management Unit (RPMU), Provincial Project Management Unit (IPMU) and Farmer Support Teams (FSA) were held in Ankara Haymana District on 05-08 March 2020 (KITOM, 2020).

Training and preparatory work was carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Department of Studies and Projects, G&G Consultancy firm at Ilgaz Mountain Biological Diversity and Natural Resources Research and Training Centre on 2-3 May 2019 for Kastamonu, Bartın and Sinop IPMU and FSA staff who will conduct the baseline survey before the start of the project (KITOM, 2020).

In May-June 2019, 264 questionnaires were completed in a total of 33 villages, 31 in-scope villages and two out-of-scope villages in 9 districts in Kastamonu province and sent to the G&G consultancy firm (KITOM, 2020).

Bilateral and Multiple Interviews, Farmer Meetings, Institution and Stakeholder Visits, ESP Meetings, Data Collection and Literature Review, Geographical, Demographic and Economic Structure Situation Analysis, Infrastructure Analysis, Current Situation Analysis, Value Chain Analysis, SWOT Analysis, Vision and Strategic Objectives Determination studies were carried out.

A Training and Workshop on the Preparation of Strategic Investment Plans was held in Afyon Sandıklı on 26-29 August 2019, and in September - October 2019, Strategic Investment Plans of 3 EDCs were prepared and sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (KITOM, 2020).

The memorandum of understanding of the existing Multi-Stakeholder Platform was harmonised with the Working Procedures and Principles of the URDP RDP (KITOM, 2020).

Taking into account the selection criteria and representation rates of the RDP members, 12 new members were included in the existing platform to cover Economic Development Clusters. Thus, the number of RDP members was increased to 25. A total of 7 RDP meetings were held, including 1 meeting in 2018, 4 in 2019 and 2 in 2020 (KITOM, 2021).

At the widespread farmer program (YÇBP) workshop held in Antalya on 12-13 December 2019, the investment plans of the provinces for the activities within the scope of the project were reviewed. In March 2020, the budgets for 2020 were revised and sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In June 2020, the 2020 budget was updated and sent to the Ministry and the preparation of Implementation Plans started.

On 21 July 2020, Bartın, on 22 July 2020, Kastamonu and 23 July 2020, Sinop provinces were visited by the Head of Studies and Projects Department of the

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other technical staff and one-to-one work was carried out on implementation plans (KITOM, 2021).

In June- August 2020, Grant Implementation Plans were prepared in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the activities included in the 2020 budget (Anonymous, 2020).

Participation was ensured in the information meeting organised by the Head of Studies and Projects Department of the Ministry on Zoom for the IPMU personnel in June 2020 regarding the works and procedures to be carried out within the scope of the budget studies for URDP 2020 (KITOM, 2021).

2020 Work Construction Agreements were signed for the infrastructure activities included in the budget of the year 2020 (KITOM, 2021).

From August to September 2020, applications for Infrastructure Investments Supporting Clustering, CIP Individual Grants and Demonstration were received;

- 2,000 units for Fodder Crops Demonstration (133 K, 1,988 E, 465 G),
 - 121 units for Paddy Demonstration (2 K, 119 E, 4 G),
 - 71 units for Calf Care and Feeding Demonstration (14 K, 57 E, 28 G),
 - 214 units (16 K, 198 E, 53 G) for the purchase of a Feed Mixer Machine within the scope of CIP
 - 4 for Privately Shared Economic Infrastructure projects,
 - 7 units for Public Economic Infrastructure Investments,
- 2,417 applications were received, evaluated and sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (KITOM, 2021).

In November 2020, grant agreements were signed with 50 investors for the purchase of feed mixer machines within the scope of CIP Individual Grants, the purchase procedures were completed and the grant amount of 633,773.82 ₺ (70%) was transferred to the accounts of the beneficiaries (total project amount excluding vat is 909,418.30 ₺) (KITOM, 2021).

Uplands Rural Development Programme (URDP), which is included in the Cross Expertise sub-component of the Cross Expertise sub-component in the 2020 budget, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and UNDP provided the rental vehicles needed by the RPMU and IPMUs, and six service vehicles were allocated to Kastamonu province and delivered to Kastamonu Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry with a ceremony held on 14 January 2021.

Work and transactions within the scope of the 2021 budget of the Rural Disadvantaged Areas Development Project continue. The works are carried out in line with the National Rural Development Strategy (UKKS, 2021), which states that "Integrated development projects carried out with international resources are determined to improve the socio-economic structure of the population living in rural areas, employment opportunities in rural areas and to encourage small farmers to take initiatives in groups or individually, to improve social infrastructure, production and the capacities of institutions directly linked to the poor in rural areas. In addition, it is aimed to reduce rural poverty by improving the agricultural value chain in the project area and ensuring economic diversification through sustainable natural resource management. In this respect, implementation priority will be given to regions where such activities have not yet been carried out. Expenditures from the 2021 budget will be compiled in November 2021.

CONCLUSION

For the continuity of food production, it is important to ensure that the people who produce food gain economically from this work, to ensure that they can continue production willingly and to improve their living conditions. When this situation is taken into account, the situation of the rural areas where the producers live should be reviewed and the people living in these areas, which are considered less developed than the cities, should be supported economically and should be informed and strengthened in the light of current scientific developments in technical issues.

Policies for ensuring the sustainability of food production and agricultural policies should not be evaluated separately from each other. It is known that the interest in cities is high, and the population of cities is increasing day by day. This population increase in the cities is due to the effect of people who have to migrate to the cities due to economic difficulties and disadvantages arising from lack of extension. This detachment from rural areas decreases agricultural production. Agricultural production is still the most important activity in rural areas. Production should be increased according to the increasing number of people and their needs, and agricultural policies encouraging production should be developed.

Rural and/or agricultural production can be supported by governments within the country, cooperatives, non-governmental organizations or affiliated international organizations. One example of an international organization that supports agriculture is IFAD. IFAD, of which Türkiye is a member, is an organization with many activities in rural areas and agriculture in the world. The experience and financing opportunities that this organization can bring to the country should be well evaluated.

The co-operation between IFAD and the government of Türkiye in rural development has a long history. When the ongoing projects are taken into consideration, it is seen that mutual relations have been successfully maintained despite the positive and negative effects and setbacks of 11 projects in total. This process has provided IFAD officials with an understanding of the needs of Türkiye's rural areas and Turkish governments with experience in relations with IFAD. At this point, programmes that are more aware of the needs of rural areas and that can be better implemented in rural areas of Türkiye have been developed.

URDP is important in that it is implemented in the form of a programme and specifically targets the development of people living in high altitude areas, who are more disadvantaged in the agricultural sector. In addition, it should be seen as a model that should be monitored, studied and its outputs should be evaluated with its recent important rural development approaches such as EDC, Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and the establishment of a rural credit guarantee system.

It is seen that the adaptation to the programme in Kastamonu province went through a long process. IFAD officials and Turkish representatives struggled for a long time to ensure mutual adaptation, held many meetings, and expected participation in order to bring relations to solid foundations. It was calculated that the total project amount excluding vat in Kastamonu province in 2020 was 909,418.30 ₺, of which 633,773.82 ₺ was transferred to the accounts of the beneficiaries in the form of grants (70%). It should be seen that it is too early to see the reflections of URDP on rural areas. The programme was implemented and

supported for the first time in 2020. In 2021, applications were evaluated, but programme outputs were not received as the process was not completed yet. It should be well known that the positive effects of the programme on rural areas can be better seen in the medium term.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that there has no conflict of interest.

CREDIT AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Osman İnan conceptualised and developed the format of the study, ensured the acquisition of data from IFAD and checked the accuracy of the information, contributed equally to the drafting of the manuscript and carried out the writing and visualisation of the final version of the manuscript.

Fatih Gürel created the research idea, conducted the research process, collected and checked the accuracy of the data obtained from Kastamonu province, contributed equally to the drafting of the research, reviewed and checked the final text of the article.

ETHICS COMMITTEE DECISION

This article does not require any ethical committee decision.

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