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# The Republic of Turkey and IFAD: Partnership for smallholder investments and opportunities





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## Acronyms

<b>ADC</b>	<b>Agricultural Development Cooperative</b>
<b>CBA</b>	<b>Cattle breeders' association</b>
<b>ECBA</b>	<b>Erzincan Cattle Breeders' Association</b>
<b>IFAD</b>	<b>International Fund for Agricultural Development</b>
<b>MFAL</b>	<b>Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Turkey</b>
<b>OFID</b>	<b>Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development</b>
<b>SEDP</b>	<b>Sivas-Erzincan Development Project</b>
<b>TRY</b>	<b>Turkish lira</b>

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Sivas landscape

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## Country programme overview

**The Republic of Turkey, an upper-middle-income country with a population of 76 million, is a candidate for European Union membership. It is also a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the G20, and an increasingly important donor to bilateral Official Development Assistance.**

Thanks to rapid economic growth following the 2001 crisis, poverty in Turkey dropped from 44 percent in 2002 to 21 percent in 2012. However, socio-economic imbalances and income inequality persist throughout the country, in both rural and urban areas.

**Agriculture.** Although agriculture is no longer Turkey's main driver of economic growth, contributing only 9 percent to the country's GDP in 2012, it is still important for rural development and incomes. From 2007 to 2012, agriculture accounted for about 61 percent of rural employment. It is also the largest employer of women.

Turkey is a regional hub for the production, processing and export of foodstuffs to large European and Middle Eastern markets. The sector has excellent potential, but investment is needed to help farmers update production techniques, boost productivity and cope with climate change. Assisting farmers, many of them resource poor, to move from subsistence to more commercial farming is also important. With support, farmers can improve the quality and consumer appeal of their products, and begin to see farming as a viable business.

**Climate and the environment.** There is consensus that climate change could increase water stress in Turkey, affecting the country's watersheds, for example. There are already signs that climate change has affected crop productivity and will put additional pressure on agriculture and industry in the coming decades.

**IFAD operations in Turkey.** For a period of more than 30 years, IFAD has supported nine projects in Turkey for a total cost of USD 610.2 million, including USD 170.7 million from IFAD loans and grants. Activities have directly benefited 1.3 million households. Based on the jointly developed Country Strategic Opportunities Paper, IFAD and the Republic of Turkey have supported targeted villages in northern and south-eastern provinces, where poverty is widespread. The main emphasis has been on increasing agricultural productivity, profitability and marketability; using natural resources sustainably; and supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises to link with markets, increase incomes and promote employment opportunities. Current Government partners are: (i) Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL); (ii) Undersecretariat of Treasury; (iii) Ministry of Development; (iv) Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs; and (v) Turkish International Development Agency.

# The Sivas-Erzincan Development Project—Achievements at a glance

**The Sivas-Erzincan Development Project (SEDP) was carried out from January 2005 to December 2013 for a total value of USD 30.2 million, including USD 13.1 million from IFAD, USD 9.9 million from the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), USD 4.4 million from the Government of Turkey, USD 0.2 million from UN Development Programme and USD 2.6 million in beneficiary support.**

The project covered two provinces – Sivas in Central Anatolia and Erzincan in Eastern Anatolia – that are among the least developed in the country. SEDP's overall goal was to help sustainably reduce rural poverty in both provinces. The strategic objectives were to: **(a)** increase agricultural productivity and income levels of the rural poor; **(b)** expand rural employment opportunities; **(c)** encourage individual and group initiatives of smallholders; **(d)** improve social and productive infrastructure; and **(e)** build and strengthen self-sustaining pro-poor institutions. The project focused on three components: village improvement; farming support and agricultural marketing; and project management.

An estimated 10,000 households in roughly 200 villages were the project's main target group. These included men, women and young people who rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. A secondary target group comprised new or established rural businesses meant to serve the needs of the community as a whole and deemed sustainably profitable by a supply chain analysis of local commodities and subsectors that have a comparative advantage. The project provided support for village improvement and farming and agricultural marketing through a number of farmer organizations. These included two cattle breeders' associations (CBAs), seven irrigation cooperatives and/or water user associations, one dried bean producers' association, one beekeepers' association and one agricultural development cooperative.

## Village improvement component

SEDP activities focused mainly on mountain and forest villages in zones with medium to low potential, targeting the areas' poorer residents. Irrigation improvement works were carried out across 2,871 ha of land for a total cost of USD 8.5 million. The irrigated area benefits 8,420 people (equivalent to 1,684 households). The beneficiaries either own or rent an average of 1.8 ha per household. SEDP financed and contracted the irrigation works for the primary and secondary systems, up to the field hydrant level. Beneficiary contributions financed the tertiary system for getting water from the hydrant head to the farm.

Key achievements included:

**Improvement of irrigation systems through drip irrigation.** This is an innovative approach in Sivas and Erzincan provinces. Drip irrigation reduces production costs and increases farmers' incomes and water-use efficiency. This technology enables farmers to expand the land under irrigation, and ensures better and timelier irrigation. Compared with rainfed farming, many crop yields have more than doubled, such as wheat, which increased by 130 percent, and grapes, which rose by 110 percent. Some 3 ha of winter wheat and tomatoes bring in a net

income increase of roughly TRY 6,000 (USD 2,300) and TL 60,000 (USD 23,000), respectively. Such achievements have encouraged farmers to produce cash crops under drip irrigation to increase profitability and save water, thereby reducing costs related to water user association fees. Other regions that offer similar possibilities can adopt this technology.

**Farmer buy-in to maximize investment.** The success of the investment in drip irrigation technology depends on the willingness of farmers to valorize it by using on-farm irrigation to grow their crops. It was agreed that the beneficiaries would adopt the tertiary system to direct water from the communal hydrant (where the project investment ended) to their own farms. In other countries, such as Morocco, farmers are asked to apply and confirm in writing that they will carry out the water-saving techniques (i.e. drip irrigation) provided by the project. Approval of the investment is contingent upon the number of farmers applying for the use of water from the pressurized network. This is a recommended approach by other donors who co-finance irrigation projects. Other projects require a share of the beneficiary contribution to be provided as an indication of beneficiary commitment. The significant yield increases, reduced labor and more appropriate use of fertilizers and pesticides are all incentives for farmers to use drip irrigation. Land consolidation is also recommended for future irrigation-based projects.

**Management capacity building for the irrigation cooperative/water user association.** This is crucial for the efficient operation and management of the irrigation system. Further training on best practices in irrigation (e.g. irrigation scheduling, crop water requirement, water saving, irrigation equipment use and maintenance), including demonstration plots, is needed. Institutional strengthening is a long process and should be given sufficient resources, regular training, expertise and time.

**Training and technical assistance.** The project supported two visits to familiarize beneficiaries with modern technical practices in irrigation and agricultural production, including closed pipe pressurized irrigation systems and drip irrigation. One group of 25 farmers visited the Izmir area in western Turkey. The other group (60 farmers and staff of water cooperatives/water user associations) visited an irrigation institute in Aydin in western Turkey. Farmers were grateful for the training, noting that it had opened their minds to new practices and technologies. On their own initiative, the farmers bought pumps, piping and sprinkler systems, as well as drip irrigation systems, to apply their newly acquired knowledge.

**Contractual agreements with service providers.** The same contractor implemented all seven irrigation schemes (two in Sivas and five in Erzincan), while two different engineering companies undertook their design and maintenance. For farmers looking to purchase drip irrigation equipment, water user associations should negotiate an agreement with the contractor for acquisition of the equipment (pipes, drippers and filters). This will ensure proper quality and reduced cost of the equipment, as well as appropriate maintenance assistance.

## Farming support and agricultural marketing component

The related SEDP activities were carried out in the two provinces, resulting in substantial gains for those involved. The project selected the dairy value chain as the main supply chain to be supported, and the CBAs as the main institution within that supply chain. The minimum requirement to join a CBA and receive a project grant was five milking cows and ownership

or rental of arable land to grow feed crops. The project also supported the honey value chain and dried beans value chain.

Key achievements included:

**Adoption of the supply chain management approach.** This approach, introduced by SEDP, helped link medium-scale rural businesses to markets, especially in the dairy value chain, increasing both productivity and producer income. The CBAs facilitated milk collection and market linkages. Whereas marketing and terms of payment by intermediaries were uncertain before the project, farmers are now selling their products through the CBA, and being paid monthly. Payments are deposited directly into the farmers' bank accounts. Although milk prices are volatile and differ among regions, farmers have generally reported an increase in the farm gate price. In the village of Aydoğdu, a sampling of farmers reported that annual milk production increased from 4.5 L/cow/day to 15 L/cow/day. The Sivas CBA as a whole also increased its milk sales to processors from TRY 506,922 (USD 200,000) in 2009 to nearly TRY 3 million (USD 1.16 million) in 2012. For the dairy value chain, improved breeds and the quantity and quality of milk also played an important role in boosting incomes.

**Beekeeping is a potential off-farm income source for poorer people.** Modern beehives (905 provided under the pilot project and 4,750 partially financed by the project, including pollen and propolis traps), tools and equipment were distributed to eligible beekeepers. Increases in the production of honey, pollen and propolis were registered. Poor quality honey and competition from inexpensive imported honey could make it difficult for producers supported by this project to continue in the future. Greater coordination among beekeepers is encouraged, especially in marketing-related activities. This could be done through training in management skills and marketing. Proper marketing infrastructure and effective quality control mechanisms are also needed to boost the sector's competitiveness. Reports suggest honey productivity per hive also tripled, from 5 kg to 15 kg. A beekeeper having 50 traditional beehives before the project co-financing had a net return of 4,345 TRY (USD 1,680) that increased to TRY 13,100 (USD 5,000) after the project. Therefore, a member farmer's average net income tripled after the project.

**Training and technical assistance.** Beneficiaries were exposed to agricultural production and marketing practices related to the three value chains. This included in-class training on crops and livestock, demonstration of technologies on horticulture and exposure visits. With respect to the dairy value chain, 17 groups of 25 farmers each (14 groups from Sivas and 3 groups from Erzincan) received a three-day training on modern dairy management practices with the SÜTAŞ company in Bursa. In the apiculture supply chain, 20 beekeepers from Sivas received one week of training at the Beekeeping Institute in Mersin on modern beekeeping practices and the breeding of queen bees. In the dried beans value chain, five technicians received a four-day training at the dried beans packing facility in Mersin on how to operate and maintain the facility. The beneficiaries felt the training was relevant and helped increase the quantity and quality of the value chain products.

**Support to farmer organizations (associations and cooperatives) in selected activities at local level.** This was crucial in boosting the associations' production and managerial capacity. Such support enables the associations to enhance and improve the services they provide to their members. It can also help increase productivity, improve members' bargaining power for better terms of trade and household income and increase membership, as was the case with the Sivas CBA.

## Spotlight on innovations in village infrastructure



## Altinyayla Irrigation Cooperative: pressurized irrigation systems save soil and water, improve yields and quality

Farmers, like Senati, from the Altinyayla Irrigation Cooperative in Sivas, used to irrigate their fields by pumping water from an open canal. But water losses were high, roughly 60 percent. Moreover, the water pumps and other equipment, a hefty expense, often didn't work well.

"Pumping water costs a lot of money," said Senati, whose entire family is involved in farming. "And there was a lot of leakage from the pipes."

With SEDP support, a new pressurized system was installed. Now in its first season, it already looks to be a success. Thanks to the system's higher irrigation efficiency, 50 percent more land can be watered. And it has cut down on labor.

"2014 was a very dry year without much rainfall," said Mehmet, another farmer from the cooperative. "Without the pressurized irrigation system, we would have been in trouble."

"Most of my land was under-irrigated," said Senati. "There was not enough water to irrigate the area. But now, thankfully, the area is irrigated."

Now that the irrigation system is in place, farmers plan to continue growing the lucrative sugar beet, which members of the cooperative sell directly to a private sugar processing company in Kayseri. Sugar beets can only be planted every two years because they leach nitrogen and other important nutrients from the soil. Maintaining the soil's fertility is important. In addition to improved irrigation, farmers would like to receive training on soil sampling and analysis, and have access to the soil laboratory.

In the future, farmers will gradually shift to drip irrigation, with Government support. This will enable the irrigation area to be doubled. And there are plans to build another small dam that will expand the area under irrigation even further.

**Fields are well irrigated thanks to new pressurized irrigation systems.**



**The members of the Altinyayla Irrigation Cooperative in Sivas met with IFAD to discuss SEDP.**



## Better community bakeries, improved social lives

Dağyurdu is a truly multiethnic village in Sivas. Its 155 inhabitants can reportedly trace their roots to Kurdish, Black Sea, Circasian and other origins.

But today, more people leave Dağyurdu than come here. Access to the village is difficult and infrastructure is poor. Young people migrate to Izmir, Istanbul or Germany in search of work. Children are sent to boarding schools, returning only for school vacations, holidays or extended weekends.

Making homemade bread – flat bread, or lavash, baked in the oven or on a griddle – is an important tradition kept alive by those still living in Dağyurdu.

Women from several households gather regularly to make large batches of traditional bread to eat with their families or send to relatives who have moved away.

Before SEDP, the women made bread in a small building. Conditions were unsanitary and the wooden building was poorly insulated, making it too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. The lack of ventilation also affected the quality of the bread.

At the women's request, SEDP constructed three pilot bake houses in 2011 in the villages of Tuzihisar, Höyüklüyurt and Dağyurdu, benefiting more than 400 people, including women and men.

Thanks to these new bakeries, the women are able to make more – and better quality – bread, and their working conditions have improved. Half a dozen women are able to work comfortably in the space at one time. The new facilities are so comfortable the women say they actually enjoy spending long hours there - a plus not only for bread making, but also their social lives.

**Women make lavash in new bakeries built with SEDP support.**



## Irrigation and income-generation in Kardere village

Like many farmers in the Erzincan province of eastern Turkey, Vahdettin grows walnuts, which he sells in the markets of Istanbul. He also grows a variety of vegetables and fodder crops and keeps cows, chicken and sheep. Although the name of his village – Kardere – is Turkish for “snow creek”, water has long been a problem here. Traditionally, local farmers used flood irrigation to water their crops. But this technique is costly, inefficient and environmentally damaging. Flood irrigation can mean a lot of wasted water. It can also raise water levels and create problems of soil salinity and alkalinity. All of these factors affect agricultural production, translating to lost income for farmers like Vahdettin. Now all this has changed. The IFAD-supported SEDP worked with the Turkish Government and local farmers from 2005 to 2013 to modernize their irrigation technology. Thanks to investments in systems like drip irrigation pipes and communal hydrants, some 320 people in Kardere have better access to the water they need. Since the end of the project, water use efficiency is now at 90 percent.

“Without the project, the trees would have dried up,” said Vahdettin. “There was not enough water. With the new irrigation scheme, we were able to irrigate the entire area and save the trees.”

Thanks to the project, farmers in Kardere also reported that tomato, green bean, walnut, apple and cherry yields had more than doubled, while the need for labor had decreased. SEDP also supported another village-led initiative, namely a training programme for women who design and make copper craftworks. Implemented by the Employment Agency (ISKUR) as a social support programme of the Turkish Ministry of Development, this project works to stop migration from the village. So far, 30 young women have attended the six-month training. By selling their craftworks in Istanbul and abroad, they’ve managed to bring in a shared income of TRY 40,000 (USD 25,000).

“We’ve stopped migration for now,” Vahdettin said. “There are some 70 young people in our village, and they all stayed.”



**Vahdettin Adiyaman, a Kardere village mukhtar, grew 100 kg of eggplants in three months thanks to the new drip irrigation system.**

## Üzümlü Irrigation Cooperative: improved irrigation system gets results

Ekrem runs a family farm, along with his wife, two daughters, son and mother, on 0.5 ha of land he leases, selling his produce at the local market.

After growing tomatoes for two years on the same plot, he switched to potatoes, beans and other vegetables. He went back to growing tomatoes two years later because he felt they were more profitable.

But the high cost of irrigation water is a problem. Ekrem buys water from the Üzümlü Irrigation Cooperative, which is pumped from wells. The drip irrigation system that Ekrem uses requires him to use a small pump to distribute the water, which is stored in a pond.

The SEDP project, however, improved the irrigation system. Now, Ekrem no longer has to pump, which means less labor and lower costs by an average of at least TRY 1,200 (USD 500) annually.

The Üzümlü area will soon have pressurized irrigation water from the outflow of the hydroelectric power plant and a nearby stream. The use of ground water will then cease. Farmers will install piping from the hydrant to their on-farm drip irrigation system.

According to Lütfi, Chairman of the Üzümlü Irrigation Cooperative, the new system will enable better usage. "In the morning, when I go to the field I look at leaves. If they don't look good, I water them. If there is sunlight, I do not irrigate," he said. "Excess irrigation water is not good. It leads to leaching, drainage, alkalinity problems and rotting of the crops. I don't waste water."



Farmers in Üzümlü benefit from improved irrigation.



## Spotlight on innovations in farming and agricultural marketing



## Sivas Beekeepers' Association: diversifying and increasing production with modern hives

"The most fragrant honey comes from thyme."

Hamza, a beekeeper for 22 years, knows a thing or two about honey. The 65-year-old farmer knows if an area is well irrigated, there will be good flowers – and good honey.

A member of the Sivas Beekeepers' Association, Hamza benefited from SEDP's co-financing grant, which provided some 4,750 modern beehives and pollen and propolis traps to 95 beekeepers. Compared with traditional beehives, modern beehives generate a much greater return – by as much as 200 percent, according to analysis from the project.

Each beekeeper received roughly 50 beehives, along with equipment such as uncapping machines, a honey extraction machine, a settling tank and a honey heating tank.

Thanks to the project, Hamza was able to take part in the national training programme, traveling to Izmir and Artvin to learn about the rehabilitation of queen bee breeding and stock, and good hygiene practices for honey products. He also learned how to increase profitability by producing other bee products that have commercial appeal, like pollen, a fixture in health food stores, and propolis, a glue-like substance used largely by cosmetic and pharmaceutical companies.

Unfortunately, because of the 2014 drought in Turkey, Hamza was only able to harvest 120 kg of honey and 15 kg of pollen from his 70 beehives. This is far less than he would produce in a good year, when he averages 12 kg of good quality honey with less sugar content per beehive.

What he lacked in quantity, Hamza made up for in quality. But in a market flooded with honey adulterated with glucose, Hamza currently only sells his high quality honey to relatives and neighbours. Unlike Hamza, the average consumer often can't recognize good quality honey from an adulterated product.

But better marketing infrastructure, quality control mechanisms and training on management and marketing could go a long way to improving the sector. The project managed to triple membership in the Sivas Beekeepers' Association, and increase honey production and incomes. Whereas farmers earned an average net income of TRY 3,850 (USD 1,500) before the project, they managed to bring in an extra TRY 7,800 (USD 3,000) in income after the project.

**Hamza, a member of the Sivas Beekeepers' Association, has been keeping bees for 22 years.**



## Sivas Cattle Breeders' Association: from farm to market, turning dairy production into a viable business

Established in 1998, the Sivas CBA languished for about a decade. But thanks to the stimulus provided by SEDP, the Sivas CBA has thrived of late. Now, with 1,400 members – up from 45 in 2007 – it is a well-functioning organization.

That has made a big difference to the dairy farmers and cattle breeders who have benefited from Sivas CBA initiatives, ranging from improving milk collection and monitoring milk quality (an ongoing challenge) to building more efficient barns and assisting with artificial insemination. The latter is a practice that significantly decreases the mortality of calves and enhances milk production by extending the lactation period to nearly 12 months.

Support for milk marketing and training programmes has given members the confidence they need to increase their herd size. According to the head of the CBA, milk yields have increased by an average of 25 to 30 percent recently, with some farmers pulling in over TRY 2,200 (USD 850) in sales per year – more than three times what they had previously earned.

But because income and education opportunities are limited, many families move to Istanbul, returning only in the summer. Those who remain in the village are not optimistic about the future of the livestock sector, though they continue to invest in dairy production.

Ali, a 56-year old farmer from Gemerek District (Eğerci subdistrict) in Sivas, however, sees its potential. He was the first to benefit from a new semi-open barn, built with SEDP support (85 percent provided by the project and 15 percent co-financed by the farmer).

“People keep asking me if my cows are going to die, as I keep them in a semi-open barn,” said Ali. “But a cool area is good for animals, and they can be kept in the open, as long as the temperature does not fall below –20C.”

Ali goes to great lengths to ensure his 80 cows are healthy and conditions are sanitary. This dedication appears to be paying off. Before the project, he had 15 cows. Now, with the modern semi-open barn reconstruction, he has 80 cows – 30 of which are milking cows. These include Simmental and Montafon breeds, as well as three Holsteins. He also attends regular conferences, most recently in Austria.



SEDP support enabled farmers  
in Sivas to modernize their barns.

“All other farmers come to me for advice and information,” he said.

This, according to the former SEDP Project Coordinator, is no surprise: “Ali is the model farmer for the project. He seeks out opportunities to improve his farming skills and shares his knowledge readily with others.”

Sinan, a 47-year-old farmer from Gemerek District (Yeniçubuk subdistrict) in Sivas, runs a family farm together with his brother. Sinan also benefited from SEDP, particularly when it came to replacing his old barn.

Sinan used to be a delivery driver. But with SEDP support, he was able to create a small family enterprise by taking up dairy farming and building a new semi-open barn.

“When you decide to start a business, you should start the best one – otherwise, it’s nothing,” he said. “In the future, I will try to make it as profitable as I can.”

With a small grant from the project, he bought a manure pump, pit and scraper, frost-proof water bowls, calf cabins and a milk cooling tank. He financed the milking machine on his own and was able to purchase 20 additional cows, a manure truck, an animal feed making machine and a milking machine. He also benefited from Sivas CBA’s artificial insemination programme. By Turkish law, all cows have to be artificially inseminated.

Sinan now has 120 cows, including 30 Simmental, Montafon and Holstein breeds. He sells milk to the Sivas CBA and uses the male cows for artificial insemination, selling them after some time.

“When I sell these cows, my income will increase,” said Sinan, who plans to expand his farm. “Male cows have a high price, and that is how I make most of my money.”

**Thanks to SEDP support, Sinan was able to set up a small dairy farming enterprise.**



## Erzincan Cattle Breeders' Association: getting started, from milk collection to marketing support

Founded in 2003, the Erzincan Cattle Breeders' Association (ECBA) provides its members with services such as milk collection and marketing, artificial insemination, animal registration and tagging and capacity building.

Thanks to support from SEDP, the ECBA saw its membership grow from 540 farmers to 2,600 farmers from 400 villages in nine districts of Erzincan. Project support also enabled the ECBA to start collecting milk in 2010, something the farmers, like those in Sivas, felt was a significant improvement. In the past, finding a market for their milk was difficult, time-consuming and unprofitable.

Today, ECBA member farmers milk their cows with milking machines and then take their milk to a tank in the village. From there, ECBA trucks transport the milk to the collection center in Yaylabaşı-Erzincan.

"The milk is then sold to three major clients, including a big one in Erzurum to whom we sell milk two days a week," said Yaşar, head of the ECBA. "Another is in the district of Kemah, who receives it four days a week."

The project also supported training programmes, the establishment of a milk collection network and the distribution of necessary equipment. ECBA's milk collection network consists of one main collection centre that can hold 15,000 L, and eight smaller collection points, each with a 1,000 L capacity.



The somatic cell count instrument is the newest piece of milk analysis equipment acquired by the ECBA.

“The SEDP project was the starting point for us,” said Yaşar. “It was not big money, but a good start, and it attracted more support from other donors.”

And it encouraged more farmers to join the ECBA, while also giving existing members the confidence they need to increase their herd size. On average, ECBA members have about 20 cattle; one even has as many as 200. Each cow produces roughly 15 kg of milk per day, though some farmers can get more than twice that per cow per day.

One notable SEDP achievement was in terms of payment. All farmers who sell milk to the CBA are promptly paid each month. The money is deposited into the farmers’ bank accounts, which they can withdraw using an ATM card.

Yaşar has seen first-hand the impact this has had on farmers. An old man approached Yaşar in a hospital, saying he wanted to kiss his hand.

“When I asked him why,” said Yaşar, “the man said my wife is sick, she has kidney problems. I took her to the hospital, where I got a prescription. At the pharmacy, they asked for 70 liras for her pills. I didn’t have any money, but then I remembered that maybe the ECBA transferred some money to my bank account for the milk I provided. I was surprised and happy to find TRY 800 (or USD 320) in my account. I was able to buy the medicine for my wife. When she asked where I got the money, I told her the head of the ECBA just put some money into my account.”



ECBA trucks transport milk to the collection center in Yaylabaş-  
Erzincan.

## Revived Erzincan Aydoğdu Agricultural Development Cooperative serves community

The village of Aydoğdu is rather large, with 120 family houses. Nonetheless, in 2007, Aydoğdu's main community-based organization faced bankruptcy. Luckily, the village was included in the pilot project under the Erzincan Dairy Farming Strategic Investment Plan, and its Agricultural Development Cooperative (ADC) applied for SEDP support, which it received. Thanks to SEDP support, 50 members of the cooperative received 200 Holstein cows at subsidized prices within the framework of the MFAL's Livestock Support Programme. The pilot project also provided machinery and equipment, such as a fodder grading and mixing machine and feed for calves, and rehabilitated 20 barns. As a result, members were motivated to continue dairy farming.

Thanks to the revenues generated, ADC was able to purchase a pickup truck to collect raw milk from individual producers in Aydoğdu and surrounding villages, and a milk cooling tank, into which the collected raw milk is poured.

"Now, Erzincan ADC is considered a model by other cooperatives in Erzincan," said Bülent, president of the cooperative.

In one particularly popular initiative, the project organized farmer visits to Bursa SÜTAŞ facilities to learn about animal feeding systems, health, barn and milk hygiene, farm management and modern barns. "We learned everything from the training programme," said Bülent. "We attended the workshop with specialists who showed us modern barns. We said to them in jest, 'why didn't you ask us to come here before?'" Bülent himself has a small farm with about 20 cows. His barn was modernized through another project initiative. He is especially pleased with the new ventilation system, and has big plans for the future. "We, as a cooperative, would like to establish a small dairy processing facility to make our own cheese, butter and yoghurt," he said. "For this, we need better equipment and resources."

Once the cooperative became stronger financially, it began to buy feed and hay, fuel, seed and fertilizer in bulk and distribute them to members. Local member and non-member farmers have used the machinery and equipment for a small maintenance fee. According to Bülent, SEDP activities played an important role in reviving and developing the cooperative, enabling it to serve the community. And the future looks promising, he added, noting that "the provincial MFAL Director is a good person, who comes here to talk to people and better understand our needs".



The SEDP project provided fodder grading and mixing machines.

# IFAD operations in Turkey



## Ongoing operations

### Murat River Watershed Development Project

Total project cost: USD 38.4 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 28.1 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 27.7 million  
 IFAD grant: USD 0.4 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 7.4 million  
 Beneficiaries: USD 2.9 million  
 Project type: Agricultural Development  
 Duration: 2012–2020  
 Directly benefiting: 12,500 households

### Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development Project

Total project cost: USD 26.3 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 19.2 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 19.2 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 3.2 million  
 Beneficiaries: USD 3.9 million  
 Project type: Agricultural Development  
 Duration: 2009–2016  
 Directly benefiting: 5,000 households

## Completed operations

### Diyarbakir, Batman and Siirt Development Project

Total project cost: USD 36.9 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 24.1 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 24.1 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 4.4 million  
 Beneficiaries: USD 7.6 million  
 Project type: Credit and Financial Services  
 Duration: 2006–2014  
 Directly benefiting: 5,000 households

### Sivas-Erzincan Development Project

Total project cost: USD 30.2 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 13.1 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 13.1 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 4.4 million  
 Beneficiaries: USD 2.6 million  
 Project type: Rural Development  
 Duration: 2003–2011  
 Directly benefiting: 10,000 households

### Ordu-Giresun Rural Development Project

Total project cost: USD 51.2 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 20.0 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 20.0 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 18.2 million  
 Beneficiaries: USD 4.8 million  
 Project type: Agricultural Development  
 Duration: 1995–2003  
 Directly benefiting: 44,000 households

### Yozgat Rural Development Project

Total project cost: USD 40.5 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 16.4 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 16.4 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 24.1 million  
 Project type: Rural Development  
 Duration: 1990–2000  
 Directly benefiting: 30,000 households

### Bingöl-Mus Rural Development Project

Total project cost: USD 52.2 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 19.9 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 19.9 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 13.8 million  
 Domestic financial institutions: USD 9.4 million  
 Project type: Rural Development  
 Duration: 1989–1999  
 Directly benefiting: 35,000 households

### Agricultural Extension and Applied Research Project

Total project cost: USD 164.9 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 6.5 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 6.5 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 94.4 million  
 Project type: Research/Extension/Training  
 Duration: 1984–1990  
 Directly benefiting: 1.2 million households

### Erzurum Rural Development Project

Total project cost: USD 104.8 million  
 Total IFAD financing: USD 15.2 million  
 IFAD loan: USD 15.2 million  
 The Government of the Republic of Turkey: USD 58.5 million  
 Project type: Rural Development  
 Duration: 1982–1986  
 Directly benefiting: 36,200 households

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