

The Project “Enhancement of Production of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Turkey”, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey

In 2015, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey (MFAL) has started a project titled as “Enhancement of Production of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Turkey” . The main aim of the project is to enhance the production/cultivation and export capacity of MAPs sector in order to save the natural resources of Turkey while benefiting from the rich biodiversity of the country in a sustainable manner in terms of production/cultivation and trade.

Within the framework of the project, four workshops had been organized in different provinces of Turkey which are important for cultivation of MAPs; Antalya, Denizli, Trabzon and Hatay. The participants of the workshops were all stakeholders of the MAPs sector from private companies, universities, research institutes, development agencies, NGOs and related ministries as well as cultivators and traders. The objective of the workshops were to analyze the current situation of the sector and to define risks and opportunities as well as defining the priority varieties for the regions. In this regard, the participants had studied in three working groups as “Cultivation of MAPs”, “Processing of MAPs”and “Marketing and Finance of MAPs”. After each workshop, the conclusions of the working groups had been consolidated and published as an “Advisory Report on MAPs Sector of Turkey”. These reports were intended as a roadmap of conducting the project by the decision and policy makers of the MFAL. In the Advisory Reports, the main raised issues were importance of R&D studies and cooperation between NGOs, private and public sector, production of MAPs in compliance with the international standards, establishment of alternative marketing channels, export of indigenous species and management of the sector by establishing value chain analysis.

The other main activities of the project were the demonstration sites and trainings for cultivators. In this context, demonstration of hops were established in Bilecik province. In the demonstration sites, it is aimed to introduce the new methods to farmers in order to increase the yield and quality of hop. Also, trainings on production techniques of hops were organized for the producers of Bilecik.

While project has nearly reached the end of the first year, the main output of it is the inclusion of MAPs for the first time within the scope of the subsidies provided by MFAL. In this regard, in 2015 MFAL has provided 100 TL (Turkish Liras) subsidies for per decare of thyme, cumin, coriander, buckwheat, saffron, cumin, fenugreek, anise, basil and medicinal sage. The activities of the project will be continued during the year 2016 as well as provided subsidies for the producers.