



PASTINNOVA – Innovative models for sustainable future of Mediterranean pastoral systems

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National Policy Meeting in Adana – 04/25/2024

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Participants – Plenary meeting:

Engin UNAY, Tarım ve Orman Bakanlığı (TOB, Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forests) Head of Animal Breeding Department, Ankara

Mehmet Nuri KUCUKOGLU, TOB, Chairman of Adana Office

Cansen AZGIR, TOB, Adana

Birsen ERGUN, TOB, Vice - Chairman of Adana Office

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Murat SEN, ADKKYB, Chair of Sheep and Goat Breeders Association, Adana

Nazan KOLUMAN, Professor, *Cukurova University (CUNI)*

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Jean-Paul DUBEUF, INRAE, Corte, France

Jean-Paul Dubeuf introduces the meeting and reminds that its objective is to identify with the participants what are the priorities for Animal production in Turkey and what orientations could be implemented and with what logistic and financial support they could help to promote pastoral activities. He presents synthetically the PASTINNOVA project and the methodological approach of the white paper on the Mediterranean pastoralism

Dr. Mehmet Nuri KÜÇÜKOĞLU, the regional chairman of TOB in Adana, stated that the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for feeding people, especially in terms of meat and milk. He mentioned that within this scope, the ministry has carried out numerous projects related to animal production. He noted that a significant portion of the ministry's budget is allocated to supporting and granting subsidies for animal production. He also expressed readiness for collaboration in international projects, both at the ministry level and specifically at the Adana branch. He emphasized that they are ready for collaboration in the Adana region based on the outcomes of this meeting. He also mentioned that Adana, Mersin, and Osmaniye regions were selected as pilot areas for a project funded by IFAD, focusing on infrastructure development for small-scale and nomadic production in rural areas. Under this project, initiatives such as improving roads, electricity, water infrastructure, solar energy, tent shelters, and accommodation facilities along migration routes have been implemented. He highlighted that significant improvements have been made, particularly in electricity and solar panels, aimed at enhancing food security.

The main priorities in agriculture are presented at the national level in Turkey by Dr. Engin UNAY, Head of the Animal Breeding Department of the Ankara Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:

Priority projects will primarily focus on increasing productivity, especially for milk and cattle meat, and achieving local sufficiency.

Developing drought resistance.



Reducing methane emissions.

Improving poultry exports to Europe.

These are the key areas where projects will be implemented on a priority basis.

Animal production is important in Turkey with around 17 million heads of cows for milk (21,5 million tons) and meat (2million tons), 55 million heads of small ruminants

Regarding animal production, the National policies are :

- Production planning
- Developing contracts with industry
- Developing an action plan for milk
- Improving genetic breeding
- Developing professional capacities
- Animal health action plan
- Developing support
- Favoring loans for investment

The main risks for animal production in Turkey:

The precipitation and temperature changes in the Mediterranean basin with gradually decreasing water resources in Central Anatoli. 35% of the pasture areas are facing an high risk of desertification, 52, 45 % a medium risk and 13% only a low risk with a high danger of overgrazing. 80% of the lands could be irrigated but could be affected by water shortages.

The number of animals per hectare on pastures was 0 30 animals in the 1950s, it increased to 0 80 head animal units in a 70-year period, and the support policy has to take in account this reality.

Consequently, the TOB is aware that the need for newmodels in Animal production is an important challenge that involves research and Universities. Another important need is to support to keep new generations of young breeders in this activity and supporting small scale farmers (5millions USD/year). The TOB has also increased subsidies to favor local feed stuff production rather than imported feedstuffs.

Supporting breeders is an important role for the TOB with 23 million Sheep and Goats supported for 185 000 breeders in 2023. Extension services would be mainly in the hands of the TOB. The Ministry of Agriculture employs technicians and veterinarians with the objective to increase the number of animals (for instance from 52 to 58 million heads and by decreasing the mortality rate). The information and veterinarian recording would be very efficient in all the country. There are little extension services by cooperatives and Associations

In the Adana sector, there is a high level of confidence between the technicians and the breeders, each breeder having a geographical sector. In this province, there is an important development gap between plain farmers (good lands and irrigation) and mountain farmers (pastoralism and transhumance). In Adana, the support service works well with 260 0000 cattle and 1 million SR. Dr UNAY has quoted also the IFAD project thanks to International

funding is in 4 regions (ADANA, MERSIN, OSMANIYE, MARAS) that provides basic services for transhumant breeders (tents for the flocks; provide energy, food security, water tanks) and help the organization of local Bazaars.

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