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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

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Abstract: Regardless of the economic system in any country, concepts such as economic growth and development are the basic concepts that should be emphasized on each country. Developed countries are striving to improve their economies, developing countries to improve their economies and underdeveloped countries, to develop policies and to prepare development programs its economies.

In the first years of the development concept, it was understood that the programs predominantly addressed by the industry and industry sectors were inadequate and the importance of developing rural development in parallel with the industrial sector was emphasized. In particular, countries where rural populations are concentrated have emphasized rural development.

Today, each country has created rural development policies and rural development strategies. Among the main objectives of rural development policies is to increase the income level of the rural population, to provide better living conditions, to employ the rural population in its own village, to provide a sustainable agricultural production that respects the environment.

Organic agriculture is an agricultural production activity that can play a role in fulfilling these purposes. Organic agriculture treats producers as a centre, allows producers to control their own resources, and contributes to the self-reliant and reliable nutrition of rural people in the food chain.

The purpose of this study is to examine how organic agriculture can play a role in rural development. While determining the advantages of organic farming in the study, the benefits of sustainable agriculture sensitive to environment should be discussed, by raising the

incomes of the rural population by setting out the relation with rural development policies and strategies.

As a conclusion that agricultural production without the use of synthetic chemicals; will ensure that future generations become healthier individuals. For this reason, organic farming; be adopted as a necessity of rural development and become a system of values. Family farming that will make organic agricultural production should be supported from production to marketing. Organic agriculture should be transformed into a production scheme that will create employment. Integration of rural tourism activities should be ensured in marketing of organic products so that the society can be consumed by wider segments.

Keywords: sustainable agriculture, rural development, organic farming, rural policies and strategies.

INTRODUCTION

Countries must use their resources efficiently in order to ensure the welfare and happiness of the society. Regardless of the economic system in any country, concepts such as economic growth and development are the basic concepts that should be emphasized on each country. Developed countries are striving to improve their economies, developing countries to improve their economies and underdeveloped countries, to develop policies and to prepare development programs its economies.

Although it is necessary for the country's economies to be in a healthy line, when it comes to development, it turns out that only positive economic developments cannot be satisfied. It is mentioned that economic growth is achieved with positive developments in the economy, but it cannot be mentioned without improvement. Because the development of the country is a multidimensional phenomenon, it is more related to qualifications (Geray, 1991).

It is an important question that must be answered in which indicators the countries can be distinguished as developed or developing countries. Indicators based solely on the economic structure reveal incorrect results. Whether an country is developed depends not only on economic indicators but also on social and cultural development of the society.

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Today, each country has created rural development policies and rural development strategies. Among the main objectives of rural development policies is to increase the income level of the rural population, to provide better living conditions, to employ the rural population in its own village, to provide a sustainable agricultural production that respects the environment

The purpose of this study is to reveal the relationship between rural development and organic agriculture. When determining the advantages of organic farming in the study, the benefits of sustainable agriculture sensitive to environment should be discussed, by raising the rural population's income by establishing a relationship with rural development policies and strategies.

It is possible to find many studies on rural development and organic agriculture. Gulcubuk (2010) set out policy recommendations for organic farming and rural development activities to contribute to rural development and prosperity for national development efforts. Turhan (2005) deals with sustainability and organic agriculture in agriculture. Atak et al. (2007) in their study of the potential of organic agriculture in Turkey to discuss its role in rural development.

WHAT IS RURAL DEVELOPMENT?

The concept of development does not refer to an economic development or activity, nor does it mean a general process of social change in society. Because countries and societies are always in a changing process. Development is a dynamic concept that suggests change by moving from the current position or the previous position (Oakley and Garforth, 1985). Development, production and increasing national income per capita mean that the economic and sociocultural structure is also changing (Savas, 1979).

Development; it may require the introduction of new and modern production techniques in a social system so that people can earn more income and raise their living standards. A development process should contain three main elements. Economic, social and human.

(1) Economic Development: Prosperity and happiness of people will increase by producing goods and services that people need in an advanced economic structure.

(2) Social Development: It is a developmental theme that is mainly aimed at improving the social life conditions and is a service-oriented development. These; health, education, infrastructure, urbanization, environmental issues.

(3) Human Development: Individual and socially all people use their potential for development and ensure that they play a constructive role in the development of the country in the positive direction. In human development, great importance is given to educating the people of the society.

The issues related to the development economy are the theories and policies for the development of the economies of the less developed countries. Attributes of development;

- Identification and implementation of a long-lasting economic policy that will ensure that the resources of the country are appropriately used in the conditions of the social structure,

- In order to increase productivity in the production sectors,
- Infrastructure investments will allow other sectors to develop development in form,
- A fair distribution of income in the national income distribution,
- Nutrition problems are not just calories per person, but healthy dissolving in accordance with feeding conditions,

- From the traditional education level of the problem of education,
- Resolving the problems of people such as health and housing at a certain scale,
- Understanding the changing stages of technology and culture and reaching a world view where personal interests and national interests can be reconciled (İlkin, 1979).

The welfare of the rural population and the hunger problems in undeveloped countries are the main objectives of rural development. Development requires concentrating on the basic economic issues such as efficient use of resources from one side, development of production life, provision of industrialization, acceleration of technological progress, while increasing agricultural productivity from the other side, development of infrastructure facilities and resolution of education, nutrition and health problems of the people of the country. Rural development with the simplest definition; to improve the conditions of the rural environment that bring negativities to human life.

Rural development is an integrated process in which rural communities are transformed into economic and social goals and developed community status. While this transformation is being achieved, economic, social and cultural structures of rural communities and the relations between these structures are trying to be in a good position (Tolunay and Akyol, 2006).

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN WORLD AND TURKEY

There were 57,8 million hectares of organic agricultural land in 2016, including in-conversion areas. The regions with the largest areas of organic agricultural land are Oceania (27,3 million hectares, which is almost half the world's organic agricultural land) and Europe (13,5 million hectares, 23 percent). Latin America has 7,1 million hectares (12 percent) followed by Asia (4,9 million hectares, 9 percent), North America (3,1 million hectares, 6 percent), and Africa (1,8 million hectares, 3 percent). The countries with the most organic agricultural land are Australia (27,4 million hectares), Argentina (3 million hectares), and China (2,3 million hectares) (Figure 1).

Currently, 1.2 percent of the world's agricultural land is organic. The highest organic shares of the total agricultural land, by region, are in Oceania (6,5 percent) and in Europe (2,7 percent; European Union 6,7 percent). However, some countries reach far higher shares: Liechtenstein (37,7 percent) and French Polynesia (31,3 percent) have the highest organic shares. In fifteen countries, 10 percent or more of the agricultural land is organic.

There were at least 2,7 million organic producers in 2016. Forty percent of the world's organic producers are in Asia, followed by Africa (27 percent) and Latin America (17 percent). The countries with the most producers are India (835 000), Uganda (210 352), and Mexico (210 000) (IFOAM, 2018).

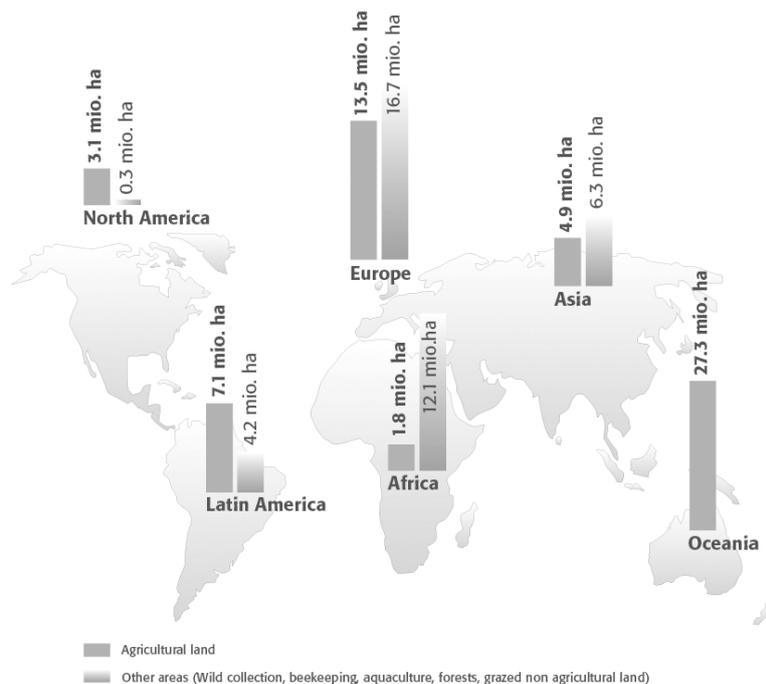


Figure 1. Organic farming land in the world

WHAT IS ORGANIC AGRICULTURE?

Organic farming defined as agriculture without the use of chemical substances or agronomists in the field of product cultivation, harvesting, cutting, processing, packaging, labelling, preservation, storage, transport and other processes until reaching the consumer.

Organic (ecological) agriculture is a sustainable agriculture method that is based on certain rules and requirements and does not exploit nature.

In the throughout of the definitions of organic agriculture, this concept of sustainability is at the forefront. The concept of sustainable agriculture in general is not limited to the protection of natural resources in the long run and the guarantee of their

productivity; economic, social and ecologically balanced agricultural system (Francis and Youngberg, 1990). On the other hand, in organic agriculture, the farm is seen as an interacting and living organism together with all elements (farmer, soil, organic materials, climate, plants, animals etc.) to form a whole (Lampkin, 1990). So instead of defining organic agriculture with inputs prohibited or allowed in production, production must be seen as a holistic approach.

Organic agriculture is a human and environmentally friendly production system aimed at re-establishing the natural balance that is lost as a result of erroneous practices in the ecological system. In addition to forbidding the use of synthetic chemical pesticides, hormones and mineral fertilizers, organic and green fertilizing, alternation, soil conservation, It is an alternative form of production which aims to increase resistance, to take advantage of natural enemies, to offer all these possibilities in a closed system, not only to increase the quantity but also to increase the quality of the product.

Every step from production to consumption, without using chemical inputs in production, is a form of controlled and certified agricultural production. Defective practices in the ecosystem include man-made and environmentally friendly production systems aimed at restoring the natural balance that has disappeared.

ADVANTAGES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

The advantages of organic farming can be grouped under seven headings.

No Poison Is Always Great

Organic farming does not use any type of harmful chemicals to keep pests away, unlike the majority of industrial farming. They use all natural methods that do not harm the consumer or the environment that they are grown in. Herbicides, pesticides, and artificial growth hormones are all forbidden on an organic farm.

Closely Regulated

In order for a food to be labelled as organic, the entire process of which is was created is thoroughly investigated. The organic food industry is internationally regulated, which means that organic means the same standards where followed, no matter where in the world it was made. This helps the consumers to know that they are truly getting what they think that they are.

Better Taste and More Nutrition

Fruits and vegetables that are organically raised have a much better taste than other mechanically farmed ones. This is due to the fact that they are given a much longer time to develop and are not pumped with artificial things. The sugar structures in these crops have more time to mature and develop into a tasty and nutritious product.

Costs Are Lowered

There is a deep stigma around anything organic that it had to have cost an arm and a leg to cultivate. This is actually the opposite of the truth. When you cut out the time that is spent to farm organic crops, the actual costs are minimal. These farmers do not have to shell out large amounts of money for expensive chemicals and massive amounts of water, unlike industrial farmers.

Lower Input Costs

Organic farming does not incur the same use or high cost of very expensive chemical inputs as conventional farming does. Because organic producers work hard to grow disease and pest resistant crops, plus use alternative disease and pest fighting methods, costs in this area are lower for the life of the farm and this can save you a lot of cash.

Healthier Soil

Healthy soil is technically considered an ecological or eco-friendly perk of organic farming, but because soil is such a significant issue, it should be considered a major organic farming advantage all on its own.

As a grower, soil health should be a key concern but soil health holds importance that goes far beyond healthier crops. Soil affects the entire world and organically grown crops support better soil health overall. Beyond organics building soil that's healthy and thriving, organic farming helps to combat serious soil and land issues, like erosion. Erosion isn't usually at the top of anyone's worry list, but maybe it should be. Erosion can kill off whole farmlands, wetlands, habitats, streams, and entire ecosystems, not to mention spread disease and ruin food security.

Drought Resistance Crops

Drought, and the high costs it can incur is a top concern of many growers, organic or conventional. However, organic crops are known to be more drought resistant naturally than conventional crops. This is mainly because often chemical fertilizers are water-soluble, so you need more water to grow conventionally.

If the worst happens and water is limited, organic growers are lucky enough to come out much better than their conventional peers. Considering that a study from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, shows that we may be facing extreme drought issues within just 30 years, this is good news for organic growers (Lombardo, 2015).

CONCLUSION

Among the main objectives of rural development policies is to increase the income level of the rural population, to provide better living conditions, to employ the rural population in its own village, to provide a sustainable agricultural production that respects the environment. As can be seen, increasing producer income and reducing suffer to the environment from the benefits of organic agriculture are compatible with main objectives of rural development.

Organic agriculture focus to producers, allows producers to control their own resources, and contributes to the self-reliant and reliable nutrition of rural people in the food chain. The use of low mechanization, avoidance of industrial inputs, efficient use of labour can make the workforce more dynamic in rural areas. Organic farming with these functions; sustainable use of resources, protection of biodiversity, conservation of traditional knowledge, and the development of healthy individuals. For this reason, organic farming; be adopted as a necessity of rural development and become a system of values. Family farming that will make organic agricultural production should be supported from production to marketing.

Organic agriculture should be transformed into a production scheme that will create employment. Integration of rural tourism activities should be ensured in marketing of organic products so that the society can be consumed by wider segments.

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