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Almond Producers' Perspectives Towards Agricultural Organizations: In Case of Dicle and Eğil

Songül AKIN[1*]
[1]Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Dicle University, Diyarbakir
(orcid.org/0000-0002-3543-7806)
***e-mail:** sakin@dicle.edu.tr

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Abstract: In this study was examined the organizational perspectives of the almond farmers who were members of the organic producers' association and operating in Dicle and Eğil districts of Diyarbakır province, Turkey. To this end, in total of 52 almond farmers in both districts were included in the study using complete enumeration sampling method. Study data were collected with questionnaires through face-to-face farmer interviews and qualified conversations. In analysis of the data were used descriptive statistics and Chi-Square analysis. In ordinal data obtained with Likert scales, an internal consistency analysis was also performed calculating Cronbach's alpha statistics. It was revealed that of all the members of Organic Almond Producers' Association, 78.9% became member just to access the government supports as 42.3% never visited the Association in one year of period and generally not agreed to the proposal saying "farmer associations have important roles in marketing." According to the results we concluded that organic producers' associations in the study area hitherto could never manage to accomplish their marketing functions and hence there was not any expectation formed in farmers' mind that associations might have an active role in marketing

Keywords: Almond, Dicle and Eğil, expectation, organizational function, agricultural organization

Üreticilerin Tarımsal Örgütlere Karşı Bakış Açıları: Dicle ve Eğil Örneği

Öz: Bu çalışmada Diyarbakır ili Dicle ve Eğil ilçelerinde faaliyette bulunan organik yetiştirici birliklerine üye badem yetiştiricilerinin bu örgütlere bakış açıları incelenmiştir. Araştırmada tam sayım örnekleme yöntemi kullanılmış ve adı geçen ilçelerde kapama badem bahçesi sahibi toplam 52 işletmenin tamamı araştırma kapsamına alınmıştır. Araştırma verileri üreticilerle yüz yüze yapılan anketler ve nitelikli sohbetler ile toplanmıştır. Verilerin analizinde tanımlayıcı istatistik yöntemler ve kikare analizi kullanılmıştır. Likert ölçeği kullanılarak elde edilen sıralı (ordinal) verilerde uyum analizi yapılmış bu amaçla Cronbach's Alpha istatistiği hesaplanmıştır. Çalışmada organik badem yetiştiriciliği birliğine üye olanların %78.9'nun destek almak için üye oldukları, %42.3'nün birliği bir yıl içinde hiç ziyaret etmedikleri, "pazarlamada üretici birliklerinin önemli olduğu" önermesine çok düşük düzeyde katıldıkları tespit edilmiştir. Elde edilen sonuçlara göre yöredeki organik yetiştirici birliklerinin bugüne kadar pazarlama fonksiyonunu yerine getiremediği ve buna bağlı olarak da üreticilerde üretici birliklerinin pazarlamada etkin rol alabileceklerine dair bir beklenti oluşmadığına kanaat getirilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Badem, beklenti, Dicle ve Eğil, örgütsel işlev, tarımsal örgüt,

1.Introductıon

In our country, the income of people engaged in agriculture is lower than the income of people living in cities. There are structural problems due to the fact that most of the agricultural enterprises are small family farmers. The main problems are low producer prices, inability to plan production, high production costs, and marketing problems. Organizing the producers is seen as an effective tool in solving these problems. One of the important indicators of being a modern society is organization. Organization includes democratic values and behaviors such as the realization of development in a way that includes all segments of society, a balanced sharing of welfare, facilitating access to resources, exhibiting common behavior and participation in management. For this reason, organization is especially important in the self-help and development of the rural community (IRFO,

2008). Especially in rural areas, business structures and rural socio-cultural environment create difficulties in problem solving. Small-scale and individual businesses affect the solution of the problems in the sector negatively. Achieving the organization in a modern sense will make significant contributions to the elimination of disruptions in production and the development of the region (Ertek ve Ark, 2016). Agricultural organizations play an important role in the economic and social development of rural areas (Karlı, 2001). Producers become members of agricultural organizations and cooperatives due to different expectations and reasons. The most important reason for producers to become members of cooperatives is to realize their economic goals or to improve their financial situation. In addition to these, producers can become members of cooperatives in order to realize their social goals (Hansen ve ark., 2002).

In Turkey, some product groups, numbered 5200 in 2004, producer associations at the district level after the publication of the regulations regarding the law has been established. Their number is 898 according to the data of the General Directorate of Agricultural Reform. Even though the number is sufficient, it cannot be said that the producer unions have shown the expected success in achieving their establishment goals. Although many factors have an impact on the success of organizations in general, and in particular, on the success of unions, it is known that the perspective of the partners or members to the organization affects organizational commitment. For this purpose, the aim of this study was to determine the perspectives of producers engaged in growing almonds in enclosed gardens, which are members of organic growers associations in Dicle and Eğil districts.

2. Material Method

The population of the research is composed of farmers engaged in growing almonds with the support of IFAD in Diyarbakır province, Eğil and Dicle. The research took place in two stages. In the first step, the conceptual framework was drawn by literature review. In the second stage, the hypotheses were determined based on the conceptual framework, the application part was presented by collecting data with field research. Questionnaire technique was used as a data collection tool in this study. In the implementation of the questionnaire, it is possible to observe all units that make up the community about which information is desired (Serper and Aytaç, 2000, Biçkes and). The questionnaire is the most effective and most used method in data collection (Yazıcıoğlu and Erdoğan 2004) and a written data collection tool (Balcı 2005). The surveys were conducted in February 2019. Since the data of the study were collected through a questionnaire study, it was determined that the study was not against the ethical rules with the decision of the Dicle University Science Ethics Committee 970858074-045.99-. For the purpose of the research, almond growers constitute the main mass of the study. The almond garden has been established with the support of IFAD in the two districts in question. 52 The full count method is used without the need to use another sampling method, with the movement that can be written and accepted (Gökçe, 1988). In answering the questionnaires, face-to-face interview method was used and it was ensured that he understood and answered the questions in the most accurate way. The respondents to the surveys are the farmers who own the land, according to the record book on the farm. The treatment of the questionnaires was carried out with the SPSS 17 statistics package program, and the answers to all questions were analyzed according to percentage and frequency values. In addition, semi-structured interview was used in this study, which was handled with qualitative data collection style. Qualitative research deals with process more than products or outputs. Therefore, meanings are important in qualitative research (Yılmaz & Altınkurt, 2011). Due to its certain level of standard and flexibility in semi-structured interviews, it is preferred by researchers because it helps to fill in and gain in-depth information on a particular subject to help research and research (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2003). Semi-structured interviews are neither as rigid as fully structured interviews, nor as flexible as

unstructured interviews, they are between the two ends. Structured interview was used for this flexibility to the researchers. Descriptive statistical methods were used in the analysis of the data and the Chi-square test was used in the analysis of qualitative data. In addition, harmony analysis was performed on ordinal data obtained according to the Likert scale and Croncbach's alpha statistics were calculated for this purpose. The α value obtained for all the questions determined according to the Likert scale indicates the total reliability of the questionnaire used, and α values below 0.7 indicate poor reliability of the questionnaire, and α> 0.8 indicates the questionnaire has high reliability. When it is desired to increase the reliability of the questionnaire, the reliability of the questionnaire is increased by reviewing the α values calculated for each question and removing the question that reduces the calculated α value for all likert scale questions. In the current study, four questions that decreased alpha value were excluded from the evaluation, and 0.785 alpha value was calculated for all other Likert-scale questions. Therefore, it is possible to say that the obtained information has high reliability (Tavakol and Dennick 2011).

In the present study, the subjects were asked to answer the questions structured according to the 1-5 Likert scale by choosing one of the options: fully agree, agree, partially agree, disagree, and strongly disagree. The obtained answers are evaluated as completely agree = 5, agree = 4, partially agree = 3, disagree = 2 and strongly disagree = 1 and the average of the results obtained is interpreted accordingly (0-1.45 = strongly disagree; 1.46 - 2.45 = disagree; 2.46 - 3.45 = partially agree; 3.46 - 4.45 = agree; 4.46 - 5.00 = fully agree). Data analysis was carried out with SPSS 23.0 statistical software.

3.Results and Discussions

In the study, the surveys conducted with 52 almond garden owners in total were evaluated. 29 of the enterprises are located in Dicle district and 23 in Eğil district. It was observed that 28.8% of the producers were in the age group of 25-45, 48.1% in the age group of 46-66, and 23.1% in the age group of 66 and over. The average age of producers was found to be 53.4 years old. The average age was found to be 44 in the study conducted by Sağlam and İnan on the Level of Knowledge on Agricultural Producer Organization and Problems in Uşak (Sağlam and İnan, 2014). Similarly, in a study conducted by Yılmaz in Cooperatives in Osmniye Düziçin, the average age of the producers was found to be 48.4 (Yılmaz, 2008). In a study conducted by Bayraktar in the villages of Malkara district of Tekirdağ province in 1997, producers who are partners of Trakyabirlik Oil Seeds Agricultural Sales Cooperative examined the relations with Trakyabirlik in terms of agricultural extension service and it was seen that 53.1% of the members were middle age (Bayraktar, 1997) It is also generally accepted that the economic strength of the middle-aged and older group and their opportunity to allocate time to agriculture is more than young farmers. In the study by Tatlıdil investigating the factors affecting the spread and adoption of sprinkler irrigation technology in Polatlı, it was determined that the relationship between the age of the producers and their adoption of agricultural technology was statistically significant (Tatlıdil 1989). It has been observed that 63.5% of the producers within the scope of the research are primary school graduates, 11.5% are secondary school graduates, 9.5% are high school and above school graduates, 1.9% are illiterate and 1.9% are literate. In studies on agricultural organizations, it has been observed that education has always been considered as a factor in revealing the relationship between the education level of producers and membership in agricultural organizations. In the study that Karaturhan et al. Conducted in Edirne in 2014; 70% of the producers are high school graduates, 19% are secondary school graduates and only 7% are primary school graduates (Karaturhan ve ark, 2014). In the study conducted by Everest and Yercan in Balıkesir, it was determined that the education level of the producers was stacked at the primary school level (69.48%) (Everest and Yercan, 2016). A positive and advanced significance relationship between education and

participation in cooperative management has been identified among the factors affecting the participation status of Yercan and Kınıklı in the cooperative management activities of the partners (Yercan and Kınıklı, 2018). Differences were observed in the education levels of cooperative members by region. It has been determined that the average farming experience of the producers included in the research is 24.33 years. In the study conducted by Ertek and his friends in 2016 to determine the factors affecting the membership of producers to the cooperative, it was determined that the increase in the producer experience had a negative effect on the cooperative membership status (Ertek ve ark., 2016). However, in the study conducted by Akın in Akşehir, 57.5% of the producers who started to deal with organic strawberry cultivation as an innovation were found to be producers with more than 20 years of experience (Akın, 2009). It is seen that the producers included in the research have an average of 6.37 years of almond experience. The Organic Grain Producers Association in Eğil was established in 2013 in cooperation with the GAP Regional Development Administration, Diyarbakır Governorship, Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. Dicle Organic Fruit Producers Association was also established at the end of 2012. It has been observed that both associations were established almost at the same time, and this is remarkable. In the semi-structured interviews with the producers, it was understood that the district agricultural organizations directed the producers to become members of the union and said that this was a precondition for "getting support". It has been observed that 55.2% of the producers within the scope of the research do not have any income other than farming. It was observed that 19.7 of the producers were retired, 15.8 were tradesmen, 1.3 were animal trade and 7.9 were civil servants. In the study conducted by Yercan and Kınıklı in İzmir, it was determined that 20.4% of the producers have non-agricultural income (Yercan and Kınıklı, 2018). Agricultural Development Cooperatives in Turkey in 2013; In the study named Member-Cooperative Relations, it was determined that more than half of the partners, 57.7%, had non-agricultural income (Şahin ve Ark., 2013).

It was observed that 17.3% of the producers within the scope of the research did not change their job search status in the last five years, 28.8% of them increased their job search and 53.8% did not look for a job. The reason for this is thought to be due to the fact that 40.3% of the producers included in the research are retired or civil servants and are economically self-sufficient.

It was observed that 38.5% of the producers within the scope of the research received training on almond cultivation and 61.5% did not receive training (Table 1). It has been interpreted that the education rate is not sufficient due to the existence of producer organizations in both districts and there may be a problem in agricultural extension education. Agricultural extension can be defined as transforming the research and results of modern and scientific working technologies into a form that producers can use in order to increase agricultural production and ensure the transparency of agricultural policies (Van Den Ban, Hawkins 1996).

Table 1. Almond-organic almond and organization status of producers
Çizelge 1. *Badem-organik badem konusunda eğitim düzeyleri ve birliğe üye olma nedenleri*

Education about almond			Where was organic almond training taken from			Reason to join the union		
	N	%		N	%		N	%
Yes	20	38.4	District directorate of agriculture	15	75.0	Because it is useful	11	21.1
No	32	61.5	Research Institute	1	5.0	To get support	41	78.9
Total	52	100	University Organic Growth. Union	2	10.0	Total	52	100
			Total	17	100			

One of the main objectives of publication is to increase the living standards of the population living in rural areas through non-formal education and publication activities all over the world. Extension is vital in ensuring sustainable rural development (Özçatalbaş, 2009).75% of the producers within the scope of the research stated that they received training on almond cultivation from the agricultural organization, and 10% of them received training from the Organic Product Growers Association (Table 1). In the study conducted by Karlı and Çelik in 2003, it was determined that cooperatives could not be effective enough in the stages of developing the knowledge and skills of the producers, evaluating and marketing the products (Karlı and Çelik, 2003). A Research on the Organization Level of Farmers and Their Expectations from Organizations of Sweat and Fire: In their study called the Case of Van Province, it was determined that only 8.5% of the producers had technical knowledge expectations from agricultural organizations. This is the case, are the farmers really knowledgeable? Or are they not aware of their shortcomings? or do they not know where to get the training from. In the semi-structured interviews conducted with the producers within the scope of this research, it was seen that the producers stated that they had a perception of “benefiting from the supports” when they became members of the organization, therefore they did not think about whether the unions had other duties. In Table 1, it is thought that 78.9% of the producers chose the option "to benefit from supports" as the reason for being a member of the union, confirming the data obtained from semi-structured interviews. The almond garden and organic almond cultivation is an innovation for the producers included in the research. Naturally it can be assumed that there is a relevant education gap. For this reason, the frequency of farmers' relations with possible sources of information can be considered as an indicator of their participation in extension activities and their attitudes and behaviors regarding extension services.

The question asked for this purpose stated that 13.5% of the producers watch a program related to agriculture every day, 28.8% two or three a week, and 36.5% once a week. These rates were interpreted as the moderate interest of producers in agriculture-related programs (Table 2). In the study of Kızılaslan and Ünal titled Determination of Agricultural Extension Awareness of Farmers (Tokat / Erbaa Example), it was determined that producers learned new agricultural knowledge and techniques from TV-Radio at a rate of 70.1% (Kızılaslan and Ünal, 2013). When the frequency of going to the agricultural institutions is questioned, 78.8% of the producers do not go in a year, 5.8% go once or twice a year, 3.8% go every two months, 3.8% go once a month and 7.7% were found to go once a week.

When the frequency of visiting the producers' union is questioned, 42.3% of the producers do not go to the union in a year, 11.5% go once or twice a year, 15.4% every two months, 21.2% once a month, 9.6% It has been observed that they visit the union once a week (Table 2). When the visits to the district directorate of agriculture and the union are compared, it is seen that the frequency of visiting the union is higher. However, in Table 1, a very significant portion of those who received organic almond training stated that they received the training from agricultural organizations. In the semi-structured interviews with the producers in order to eliminate this contradiction, it has been declared that this situation is due to the fact that the correspondence regarding the certification and support is done through the union. It was determined that 96.2% of the producers never visited the university, and 3.8% visited once a month. During the semi-structured interviews with the producers, it was determined that the university was working with the union due to the "organic grape juice project".

The sustainability of agricultural production depends on many economic and technical factors. In order to reveal the importance of these factors in the eyes of the producers, various propositions have been presented and the levels of participation in these propositions have been determined, and indirectly their expectations from the union have been tried to be revealed. The rationale on which producers agree at the

lowest level (1.5) is that climate change affects almond cultivation (Table 3). In Polat and Dellal's studies titled Determination of Climate Change Perceptions of Farmers Producing Paddy in Göksu Delta and Determination of Effective Factors in Good Agricultural Practices, 72.5% of the producers stated that climate change is very important for agriculture. In the same study, it turned out that 42.5% of the producers agreed that climate change will decrease efficiency (Polat ve Dellal, 2016). With an average of 1.7, the second lowest level of participation was realized with the statement "Organization is important in organic almond cultivation" (Table 3). Again, it was observed that the producers showed a high level of participation with an average of 3.7 in the proposition related to organization, "Organizing is sufficient in organic almond cultivation". It has been observed that there is the highest level of agreement with the statement "Agricultural organizations do not provide sufficient information support in organic almond cultivation" with an average of 4.3. This situation was interpreted as the existence of problems related to the efficiency of organizations (Table 3).

Table 2. Producers' relations with agricultural institutions
Çizelge 2. *Üreticilerin tarım kurumlarıyla ilişkileri*

Frequency of watching programs related to agriculture			The frequency of visiting the district directorate of agriculture		
	N	%		N	%
Once a month	6	11.5	No	41	78.8
Every 2 weeks	5	9.6	1-2 per year	3	5.8
Once a weeks	19	36.5	Bimonthly	2	3.8
2-3 per week	15	28.8	Once in a month	2	3.8
Eveyday	7	13.5	Once a week	4	7.7
Total	52	100	Total	52	100
The frequency of visiting your association			The frequency of visiting the university		
	N	%		N	%
No	22	42.3	No	50	96.2
1-2 per year	6	11.5	1-2 per year	-	-
Bimonthly	8	15.4	Bimonthly	-	-
Once in a month	11	21.2	Once in a month	2	3.8
Once a week	5	9.6	Once a week	-	-
Total	52	100	Total	52	100

Table 3. Level of participation in the criteria for organic almond production activity
Çizelge 3. *Organik badem üretim faaliyeti kriterlerine katılım düzeyi*

	N	Total Point	Mean
Climate change affects almond cultivation	52	76	1.5
Organization is important in organic almond cultivation	52	90	1.7
There is a lack of technical knowledge in organic almond cultivation.	51	98	1.9
Organic almond cultivation is an important source of income in the region.	52	103	2.0
Organic almond cultivation cannot be done without government support	52	121	2.3
Input prices are high	52	126	2.4
Organic almond cultivation is more advantageous than other horticultural cultivation.	52	132	2.5
Organic almond cultivation is a lucrative activity	52	149	2.9
Organic almond cultivation is also a hobby	52	151	2.9
Organizing is sufficient in organic almond cultivation	52	193	3,7
Agricultural organizations (union, cooperative) do not provide sufficient information support in organic almond cultivation.	52	222	4,3

The biggest problem in the agricultural sector is that the producer who bears the production cost, which is the first link of the marketing chain, obtains the least income due to the long marketing chain. By questioning the importance levels of the actors used by the producers in the marketing of the products within the scope of the research, the level of performing this duty of the producer union has been revealed.

In the research, it was seen that the institutions that producers attach the least importance to in marketing are producer unions and agricultural organizations (1.5), and online marketing is important for producers (3.3). Marketing through universities was seen to be very important for manufacturers (3.6) (Table 4). This result is surprising because marketing is not normally an expected function of universities. In semi-structured interviews with the producers on this issue, it was determined that the producers imposed this issue due to the positive communication established with the faculty members due to the "project" carried out by the university. By questioning the marketing style of the producers within the scope of the research, it is aimed to establish a relationship between the level of participation in the above propositions and their market practices. While 36.5% of the producers stated that they made sales to wholesalers, 42.3% to fruit brokers 1.9% to the garden (contractual), it was determined that there were no producers making marketing through the union (Table 5). This situation confirms the reason for the low level of agreement with the statement that the producer union is important in marketing in the view of the producer in Table 4.

Table 4. Importance of various actors in marketing
Çizelge 4. *Pazarlamada çeşitli aktörlerin önemi*

	N	Total Point	Mean
Producer unity is important in marketing	52	76	1.5
District of agriculture is Important in marketing	52	77	1.5
Merchant matters in marketing	52	162	3.1
Internet is important in marketing	52	173	3.3
University matters in marketing	52	189	3.6

Table 5. Manufacturers' marketing channels
Çizelge 5. Üreticilerin pazarlama kanalları

	Sayı	%
Wholesalers	19	36.5
In the garden (contract production)	1	1.9
Factory	10	19.2
Fruit brokers	22	42.3
Dicle Organic Fruit Producers Association	-	-
Total	52	100

Again, according to the districts, participation in the proposition that the unions do not provide sufficient information is important, was examined, it was observed that the producers in Eğil agreed less with this proposition than those in Dicle. It was determined that the differences between the answers according to the districts (P <0.002) were scientific at the level (Table 6).

Table 6. Levels of agreement and significance to the propositions about union by district
Çizelge 6. *Bölgelere göre birlik ile ilgili önermelerin anlaşma düzeyleri ve önemi*

It would be useful to get information about the Union's Working System and Functions.				It is an important problem that the union does not provide sufficient information.			
	Dicle	Eğil	Total		Dicle	Eğil	Total
I agree	9	11	20	I agree	12	5	17
I do not agree	16	5	21	I do not agree	14	5	19
I partially agree	4	7	11	I partially agree	3	13	16
Total	29	23	52	Total	29	23	52
X^2=6.171 P<0.046				X^2=6.170 P<0.002			

4. Conclusion

Producer unions have duties such as ensuring agricultural development and agricultural sustainability, contributing to marketing by providing technical and economic guidance for this purpose, ensuring the most appropriate

supply of inputs, providing producer training and extension services. In this study, it has been observed that the contribution of the unions to the producers in terms of training, publication and marketing is very low as can be seen from the level of participation of the producers in the propositions about organization. Because of the agricultural organizations that do not fulfill their functions, they have a negative perception or low expectation behavior towards the agricultural organizations, causing them to become insensitive to the organizations and not to form commitment to the organization. For this reason, policy makers should make regulations for the activation of agricultural organizations. For example, it may be beneficial to establish a mechanism that will provide consultancy services to agricultural organizations until they become effective. Due to the producer profile in our country, the commitment of the partners or members to the organizations is low from the beginning, since agricultural organizations do not have a bottom-up activation, that is, they are carried out by directing from top to bottom. In order to overcome this, it is thought that it will be beneficial to ensure its continuity starting from formal education institutions especially in rural areas and with non-formal education.

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