



Short Communication

Volume 2 - Issue 4: 136-137 / October 2019

**CLASSIFICATION OF VILLAGES IN BAFRA
DISTRICT ACCORDING TO SMALL RUMINANT
EXISTENCE**

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Received: February 20, 2019; **Accepted:** May 06, 2019; **Published:** October 01, 2019

Abstract

In this study 103 villages belonged to Bafra district of Samsun province in Turkey was clustered according to existence of small ruminant (sheep and goat) to classify the villages for giving decision support to policymakers. For this aim hierarchical clustering with nearest neighborhood method and Squared Euclidean distance was used. Results showed that most of the villages had same characteristics and only two of 103 villages differ from others according to small ruminant existence. According to results same policies can be applied all the villages in Bafra district except two villages (Tepebasi and Merkez -M) which had more number of animals and business than others.

Keywords: Small ruminant, Hierarchical cluster, Policy making, Sheep, Goat

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Cite as: Önder H. 2019. Classification of villages in Bafra district according to small ruminant existence. BSE Eng Sci, 2(4): xx-xx.

1. Introduction

Small ruminant production is an essential alternative role for the farmers especially in rural harsh environment where is mountainous and marginal regions of Turkey (Atasever et al., 2015). Small ruminants both sheep and goat are being recommended as a considerable food source because of their ability convert unusable vegetation on poor pastures to meet and some other usable products (Ocak et al., 2006).

In Turkey small ruminant population is about 50.4 million head consist of 38.7 million head of sheep and 11.7 million head of goat (Sakar and Erisek, 2019; Anonymous, 2019). In Bafra district small ruminant existence is about 70000 head that raised mountainous regions (Yildirim et al., 2017). Some villages have small amount of animals and some villages has many animals. This imbalance brings some hardness for policy making for villages.

In this study, it was aimed to cluster the villages according to small ruminant existence for producing information useful for policy makers.

2. Material and Method

Data for the study was taken from Bafra District Agriculture and Forestry Directorate of for 103 villages of the district for the year of 2018. Small ruminant existence of villages varies from 20 to 6176 head of animals. For the statistical analysis Hierarchical cluster analysis with measure of Squared Euclidean distance and method of Nearest Neighbor (Dogan et al., 2018) was used by SPSS 20.0 version (Karaokur et al., 2019) via Ondokuz Mayıs University license. Cluster analysis are one of the multivariate statistical analysis methods that are not known precisely, which contribute to grouping variables into similar group or classes (Tirink et al., 2019).

3. Results and Discussion

Obtained Dendrogram was given in Figure 1.

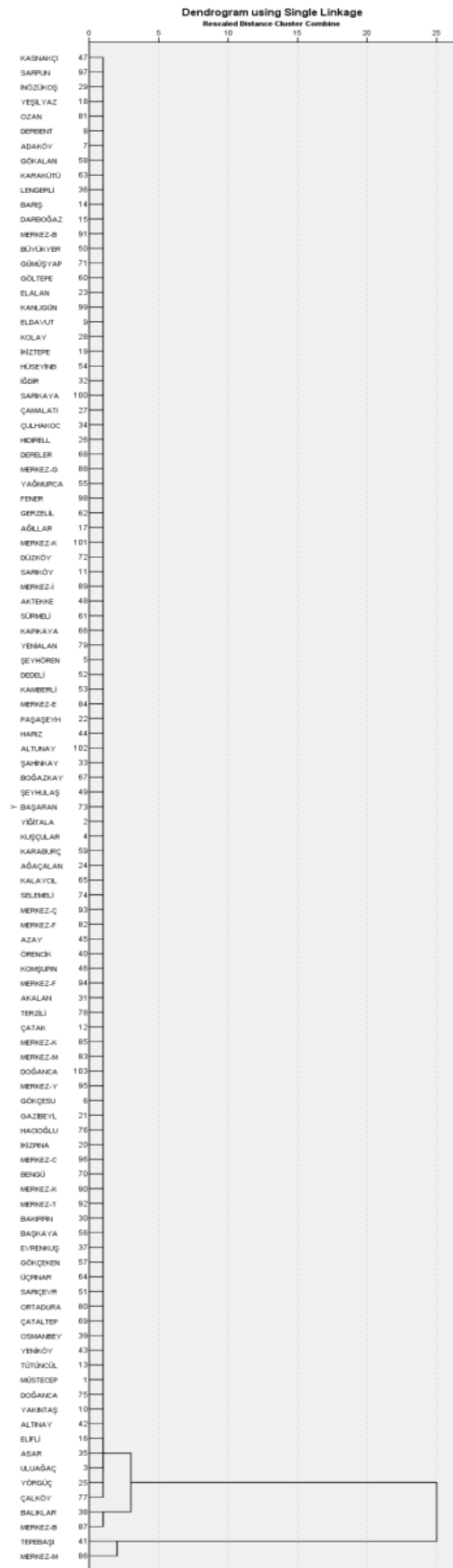


Figure 1. Dendrogram for villages of Bafra district according to small ruminant existence.

According to Figure 1 all villages of Bafra district except four (Balıkklar, Merkez-Bahçeler, Tepebaşı and Merkez-Mevlana) were clustered in same group. Tepebaşı and Merkez-Mevlana villages were constituted another group significantly different from others. Balıkklar and Merkez-Bahçeler villages were constituted another group significantly different from others.

According to the results it can be offered for policy makers that Tepebaşı and Merkez-Mevlana have first importance and Balıkklar and Merkez-Bahçeler have second importance because these villages has 24.5% of small ruminant population among 103 villages. For these four villages pastures may be improved, heath protection should be differentially planned for these villages. Small ruminant associations should give special importance for these villages.

This results also important for traders' financial and human capital and trading practices such as use of brokers and regular suppliers and customers had varying effects on margins and costs of small ruminant trade. It is also amenable to public policy to improve the market environment and marketing efficiency (Jabbar et al., 2008).

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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