



International Fund for Agricultural Development and Evaluation of Turkey's Practices

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Özet

Abstract

Purpose: The aim of this study is to raise awareness about IFAD, which has an important experience in agriculture and rural development at the international level and in Turkey.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The International Agricultural Development Fund is a specialist institution affiliated to the United Nations, which uses its financial funds and technical background to encourage investments and improve life in order to increase prosperity in rural areas in less developed countries. It carries out activities in the field of investing in the rural area through public institutions by bringing together different sectors and disciplines, primarily agricultural production. It aims to contribute to sustainable development goals through all the activities it carries out. The study material is mainly based on secondary data.

Findings: IFAD supports agricultural development projects in rural areas of all member countries, especially underdeveloped and developing countries. It is important that IFAD, which is active in nearly 40 years in Turkey, to continue transfer its experience with efficient and effective way. Especially, to overcome the economic and social problems, experienced in Turkey, because of Syrian war, lobbying needs to be done in direction of implement more projects and programs. Accordingly, the creation of employment should be targeted so as to be included in IFAD decision support processes. It is necessary to raise awareness about international organizations, especially among the graduates of the Faculty of Agriculture, especially the students of the Agricultural Economics department.

Originality/Value: With the study, it was revealed that the awareness of IFAD and the effectiveness of its activities in Turkey should be increased and Turkish experts should have been more employed and active under the institutional roof of IFAD. In addition, it was concluded that it is important to increase the interest of experts and academicians working in this field in Turkey.

Key words: The International Agricultural Development Fund, Turkey, rural development, Agricultural Economist

Uluslararası Tarımsal Kalkınma Fonu ve Türkiye Uygulamalarının Değerlendirilmesi

Özet

Amaç: Bu çalışmanın temel amacı, uluslararası alanda ve Türkiye'de, tarım ve kırsal kalkınma konusunda faaliyette bulunan ve önemli bir deneyime sahip olan IFAD hakkında farkındalık oluşturmaktır.

Tasarım/Methodoloji /Yaklaşım: Uluslararası Tarımsal Kalkınma Fonu, daha çok az gelişmiş ülkelerde kırsal alanlarda refahı artırmak için yatırımları teşvik etmek ve yaşamı iyileştirmek amacıyla sahip olduğu mali fonları ve teknik birikimi kullanan Birleşmiş Milletlere bağlı uzman bir kuruluştur. Başta tarımsal üretim olmak üzere farklı sektör ve disiplinleri bir araya getirerek kamu kurumları eliyle kırsal alana yönelik yatırım yapılması noktasında faaliyetler yürütmektedir. Yürüttüğü tüm faaliyetlerle sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerine katkı vermeyi amaçlamaktadır. Çalışma materyali ağırlıklı olarak ikincil verilere dayalıdır.

Bulgular: IFAD, başta az gelişmiş ve gelişmekte olan ülkeler olmak üzere üye tüm ülkelerin kırsal alanlarında tarımsal kalkınma projelerini desteklemektedir. Türkiye'de yaklaşık 40 yıldır faaliyette olan bu uzman kuruluşun sahip olduğu deneyimi etkin ve verimli bir şekilde aktarmaya devam etmesi önem arz etmektedir. Özellikle, Suriye savaşı nedeniyle Türkiye'de yaşanan ekonomik ve sosyal problemlerin aşılması için daha fazla proje ve programın uygulanması yönünde lobi faaliyetlerinin yapılması gerekmektedir. Bu doğrultuda IFAD karar süreçlerine dahil olacak şekilde istihdamın oluşturulması hedeflenmelidir. Ziraat Fakülteleri mezunları başta olmak üzere özellikle Tarım Ekonomisi bölüm öğrencileri nezdinde uluslararası kuruluşlarla ilgili farkındalığın artırılması gerekmektedir.

Özgünlük/Değer: Çalışma ile IFAD hakkında farkındalığın artırılması, Türkiye'de yürüttüğü faaliyetlerin etkinliğinin artırılması ve Türk uzmanların IFAD kurumsal çatısı altında daha çok etkin olması gerektiği ortaya konmuştur. Ayrıca Türkiye'de bu alanda çalışan uzman ve akademisyenlerin ilgisinin artırılmasının önemli olduğu sonucu çıkmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Uluslararası Tarımsal Kalkınma Fonu, Türkiye, kırsal kalkınma, Tarım Ekonomisti

1. INTRODUCTION

The International Agricultural Development Fund (IFAD) is the only international specialized organization affiliated to United Nations which it focus on agriculture and rural development projects and food security and poverty reduction in rural areas, and has funding to support initiatives in this direction. With its experience, it contributes greatly to the national policies and programs of countries (IFAD, 2020). International organizations such as IFAD, which produce many projects at international, national and regional level, have financial incentive practices, and have technical expertise infrastructure, are considered as an important opportunity for underdeveloped and developing countries in reducing the rural poverty in the world.

Many countries in the world benefit from IFAD resources. Turkey, IFAD has been a member in 1981. It is still both a donor (donor) and beneficiary country. IFAD Turkey relationship began with the implementation of the first project in 1982. 8 projects have been completed so far. 3 projects are still ongoing. IFAD is the contact point of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Turkey, project processes and activities are followed up by the relevant units of the Ministry (IFAD, 2019).

With the support of IFAD, up to now 669 million dollars worth of projects in Turkey has been transformed into investment in agriculture and rural development. 231 million dollars of this budget is used as a loan from IFAD, the rest was paid by Turkey as co-financing. When evaluated spatially, these projects were implemented in 36 provinces (IFAD, 2019). The realized projects have contributed significantly to the rural development of Turkey. The budget contribution of IFAD in implemented projects is 34.5%. Projects realized with the Country Strategic Opportunities Program (COSOP) documents are evaluated and new strategies are developed. In the current process, projects aimed at reducing rural poverty in upland areas of Turkey are at the forefront.

Academic studies evaluating IFAD, which contributes to the realization of very large projects in terms of its scope and budget in the field of agriculture and rural development in Turkey, are extremely limited. Limited availability studies are generally project-oriented. Atsan (1998) examined the Erzurum Rural Development Project in terms of agricultural extension, Tuncel and Yalçın (2011) in terms of their impact on animal husbandry. Berk and Akdemir (2006), Yozgat Rural Development Project, Baydaş et al. (2018) investigated the effects of Murat River Basin Rehabilitation Project on producers. The number of international studies is also limited. Despite this, there are also studies that approach the subject as holistic. Shuai et al. (2011) in China and Oghenebrume et al (2017) in Nigeria investigated the economic, social and ecological impacts of IFAD projects carried out, and concluded that IFAD projects play an important role in reducing rural poverty. IFAD's projects and studies in Turkey, there are not adequate academic work to evaluated in a holistic way. In addition, any evaluation work related to IFAD's COSOP documents prepared for its activities in Turkey was not conducted.

The aim of this study is to raise awareness about IFAD, which has an important experience in agriculture and rural development at the international level and in Turkey. In this field, where there is not enough academic work, it is aimed to inform stakeholders such as institutions and organizations, universities and non-governmental organizations that are active in agriculture and rural development and to direct their work. In addition, this study aimed to raise awareness of employment opportunities for all Agricultural Engineers, especially Agricultural Economists, who may be involved in decision support processes in the international arena.

2. MATERIAL and METHOD

The study material is mainly based on seconder data. First of all, the information notes and reports shared by IFAD on the corporate website were used. In addition, other open access sources and academic studies and various documents related to the subject were utilized.

As well as the compiled secondary data, primary data obtained as a result of bilateral talks with Turkey's IFAD country representative, officials of the General Directorate of Agricultural Reform, which is the contact point of the Ministry, representatives of IFAD of General Directorate for European Union and Foreign Relations

3. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Corporate Structure of International Fund for Agricultural Development

In the 1970s, there was a food shortage that had a large impact in the world. The lack of an organization that will provide solutions to hunger, famine and malnutrition crises especially in the Sub-Saharan countries of Africa had been felt (IFAD, 2019). While these developments were taking place, the World Food Conference was held in 1974 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with the participation of 140 countries in Rome. One of the most important outputs of the conference is the decision to establish IFAD. IFAD was established as an international financial institution three years after the conference, in 1977. The aim of the fund is to increase agricultural production in developing countries and to reduce rural poverty.

In this framework, IFAD supports projects aiming to increase agricultural production, social development, gender equality, income generation, nutrition improvement, environmental sustainability and effective management, and provides countries with long-term, low interest loans and grants. In addition, the organization contributes to the preparation of national strategic plans and ensures the execution of agricultural projects.

IFAD, with international legal entity, is a specialized organization affiliated to the UN system. Operating in order to increase food production, new jobs and income opportunities to combat hunger and rural poverty in developing countries, IFAD offers private loans and additional resources to developing country governments to finance programs and projects designed within this scope. The financial resources required for IFAD activities are provided by the voluntary contributions of the member states (IFAD, 2018). IFAD carries out its activities with its 42 offices worldwide.

Operating in a wide area in the world, IFAD carries out effective projects in many countries around the world with its large number of members. IFAD is a structure made up of countries from all over the world who struggle with poverty in rural areas or care about this issue. Membership to 176-member IFAD is open to any state that is a member of the United Nations, one of the specialized organizations or the International Atomic Energy Agency. Member states are divided into classes as follows (IFAD, 2019)

List A (primarily contributing developed countries)

List B (primarily contributing developing countries)

List C (potential recipient countries)

Sub-list C1 (countries in Africa)

Sub-list C2 (countries in Europe, Asia and the Pacific)

Sub-list C3 (countries in Latin America and the Caribbean) Turkey in Europe, Asia and Pacific group of countries, which is the group C2.

The main decision-making body of IFAD is Governing Council. This council is the decision-maker and, in other words, approving authority, where the senior representatives of the member countries take part and convene annually. The governing council has the power to decide on issues such as the admission of new members, the appointment of the chairman, the issues regarding permanent membership, the approval of the budget, the acceptance of policies, criteria and regulations.

As a Governor, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, as to Deputy of Governor, Ambassador of Rome represent for Turkey in the presence of IFAD.

The second main administrative body of the IFAD after Governing Council is the Executive Board. The President of IFAD, appointed by Governing Council, is the head of the Executive Board. Executive Board; fully authorized in policy, annual administrative budget, membership and personnel issues, business plan, project approval, grant and action acceptance / recommendation / decision making. Executive Board meetings are held 3 times a year, in April, September and December. So far, Turkey, 2009, 2010 and 2013 years has made membership in the Executive Committee for and "Performance-Based Working Group on" served as a member (GTHB, 2016)

The Audit Committee, established as a sub-unit of the Executive Board, is responsible for matters relating to the audit.

The Evaluation Committee, another subcommittee of the executive committee, besides their strategies and methodologies, is tasked with in-depth evaluation of certain selected issues and presenting them to the Executive Committee.

Evaluation Committee is responsible to Executive Board and all evaluation reports it makes are reviewed and approved by the board. The Board appoints or dismisses the managers of the committee. It also approves the annual program and budget of the Independent Evaluation Office (IOE) and policies aimed at increasing the independence and effectiveness of the evaluation.

Financial Structure of International Agricultural Development Fund

IFAD conducts its financial activities in line with the principles partaking in the financial regulations and related documents. IFAD basically has 2 financial products, namely credit and grant. Credits are determined in line with the gross national income per capita and creditworthiness assessment of the countries according to IFAD Finance Policies and Criteria document. Credits are divided into three according to the interest rate and repayment conditions applied. These are highly concessional, blend or ordinary terms loans. Which credit package the applicant countries can use is determined according to the World Bank country classifications. Gross domestic product is the most important criterion.

Highly concessional terms loans; Loans are made available to underdeveloped and developing member countries with low interest rates. Loans with high privileged conditions have a 40-year maturity period, including a 10-year grace period starting from the date of approval by the Board of Directors (IFAD, 2019).

Blend terms loans; Starting from the date of approval by the Board of Directors, it has a 25-year maturity period including a five-year grace period.

Ordinary terms loans; these loans have variable terms and grace periods. The maximum maturity period that the borrower can request is 35 years, depending on the maximum average payback term of 20 years.

Grants; i) developing countries, ii) it is used by intergovernmental organizations in which it is a member of IFAD member countries, and finally iii) to countries deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee. Grant-supported resources cannot exceed 6.5% of the annual loan program. IFAD projects in Turkey, 1 million USD / Euro up amount, can be used as grants for training and technical support is disbursed to the beneficiaries and the implementing agency of this project amount (IFAD Turkey Regional Office, 2019).

International Fund of Agricultural Development Strategic Documents

IFAD carries out all its activities in line with the strategy plans prepared as a basic framework document. It is expected that all programs and projects will comply with these framework plans and serve the objectives included in the plan. There are many strategy and planning documents in force. These plans are periodically updated as they cover certain periods in terms of time. Considering the application to IFAD projects, it is important to carefully examine these policy documents. Below is a list of some of the strategy documents currently in effect.

- IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025
- IFAD Strategy and Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2019-2025
- IFAD Action Plan - Rural Youth 2019-2021
- IFAD Private Sector Engagement Strategy 2019-2024
- IFAD Annual Work Plan

Project Process at IFAD

The project processes carried out by IFAD with the member countries begin when countries submit their project requests to IFAD. Project requests in these processes are not collected by methods such as call for proposals. Developing or underdeveloped countries, which are eligible to receive support among member countries, forward their project implementation request to IFAD, as long as it determines its location. This request is examined on-site by a team created for preliminary survey by IFAD. Then, this request is transformed into a concept paper and the project design begins when it is approved by the President of IFAD. The project design is completed in line with the needs of the region where the project will be implemented and the requests of the relevant units of the state. The project is finalized through the IFAD board and enters the applicant country's investment program. Then, making the loan negotiation, process is completed with the financial agreement (IFAD Turkey Regional Office, 2019).

The ideas that are transformed into projects with IFAD as a result of the evaluations made on the requests submitted to IFAD through the institutions like Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry responsible for making projects and the guarantor institutions like Ministry of Treasury and Finance authorized to use loans, are also carried out using Treasury guaranteed loan by the Ministries (IFAD Regional Office of Turkey, 2019)

The rate of support given in projects implemented by IFAD in the previous years may be limited in proportion to its own resources. However, the recently implemented system is the Performance Based Allocation System. In recent period, approximately 75% of project costs can be borrowed. However, it can be stated that this support seems high due to the inability to measure the country's contribution completely.

4. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT and TURKEY

Bilateral Relations

Turkey's relations with the IFAD started in 1982 with Erzurum Rural Development Project, once this relationship has evolved into collaborations such as knowledge management and capacity development. In addition to its relations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, IFAD develops collaborations with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency and Regional Development Administrations (IFAD, 2019).

Turkey is both beneficiary country and donor countries. Turkey has made contributions of approximately 23.8 million dollars to pay for ten replenishment period until today. For the 11th resource replenishment period, it made a commitment of \$ 5 million. these payments on behalf of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, is maintained by the General Directorate of Agricultural Reform (TOB, 2019; DİB, 2019; IFAD, 2019).

Turkey, located in different activities and initiatives to increase awareness at the international level and to improve its relations with IFAD. In this context, one of the lobby lounge, situated in IFAD center, Rome campus was built by Turkey and has been registered on behalf of Turkey. The hall was furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and was opened during the 38th Council of Governors on 17 February 2015 (IFAD, 2016).

Apart from this, attempts have been made for the opening of IFAD's regional office in Turkey. Within the framework of the realization of IFAD's restructuring plans; Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and to include Uzbekistan, in Istanbul, the establishment of the Central Asian and Eastern European Center for IFAD had been offered to Turkey and opened regional office in Istanbul in 2018.

International Fund for Agricultural Development Strategy for Turkey

IFAD conducts its activities based on the Country Strategic Opportunities Program (COSOP) Reports they have prepared in line with their strategy documents. So far, 3 COSOP has been prepared for Turkey.

Third COSOP document, covering the period 2016-2021, which is still in force constitute the framework of programs and projects to be carried out in Turkey. The overall strategic goal of Turkey COSOP program is to contribute to reducing rural poverty in Turkey in upland areas. To achieve this goal, two mutually supportive strategic objectives have been created. These objectives; Strategic objective 1: "Enhance market access for productive, poor smallholder farmers" and Strategic objective 2: "Mainstream sustainable natural resource management into all aspects of upland agricultural production and increase upland climate change resilience"

Turkey's COSOP Report especially focused on upland areas. In line with this focus, "Rural Disadvantaged Areas Development Program (URDP)" has been created and took in the project investment program for upland areas in Turkey. There are 4 projects within the scope of Turkey COSOP (2016-2020) (IFAD, 2017).

1. Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development Project
2. Murat River Development Project
3. Göksu-Taşeli Basin Development Project
4. Uplands Rural Development Program

COSOP was reviewed in the second half of 2019, and recommendations were submitted on the evaluation of the project work carried out and the issues that could be addressed within the scope of COSOP until the end of 2021. Works on the renovation of COSOP is expected to begin in 2021.

IFAD Project in Turkey and Impacts

So far, 669.26 million US dollars financing mobilized for 11 projects with IFAD's supported in Turkey. \$ 231 million of this source met from IFAD, the remaining portion was met by Turkey as a source of co-financing contribution under the name of investment program and the beneficiary country. Co-financing comprises of central government budget, the budgets of local governments where the project's implementation areas, the contribution of the beneficiaries and finally the resources obtained by the initiative of the Republic of Turkey from other external funding. To date, World Bank, OPEC, International Development Fund and Swedish Development Union have been used as external sources.

As seen in Table 1, about 65% of IFAD projects and programs of the Republic of Turkey are met from co-financing budget. Approximately 37.5% of the total budget was obtained from the central government, 7.4% beneficiaries and 20.5% from other national and international funding sources.

Table 1. Development programs and projects supported by IFAD (Million \$)

Program and Project	IFAD Support	Co-Finance Turkey Central Government	Co-Finance Turkey Local-Beneficiars Support	Co-Finance External Source	Total Budget
Erzurum Development Project (1982-1989)	15.21	58.56	0	30.98	104.75
Agricultural Extension and Applied Research Project (1984-1993)	6.51	94.4	0	64	164.91
Bingöl Muş Rural Development Project (1989-1999)	19.89	13.84	9.44	9	52.17
Yozgat Rural Development Project (1990-2001)	16.4	24.13	0	0	40.53
Ordu Giresun Rural Development Project (1995-2005)	19.99	18.22	4.81	8.17	51.19
Sivas-Erzincan Development Project (2003-2013)	13.08	4.4	2.67	9.9	30.05
Diyarbakır, Batman ve Siirt Development Project (2006-2014)	24.1	4.45	7.61	0	36.16
Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development Project (2009-2017)	19.2	3.22	3.99	0	26.41
Murat Nehri Havzası Rehabilitation Project(2012-2022)	36.29	7.42	2.66	15.11	61.48
Göksu-Taşeli Watershed Development Project (2015-2023)	18.29	3.85	2.86	0	25
Kırsal Dezavantajlı Alanlar Development Program(2017-2023)	41.96	18.27	15.64	0	75.87
Total	230.92	250.76	49.68	137.16	668.52

IFAD's budget contribution in projects and programs implemented in Turkey is 34.5% proportionally.

8 of 11 projects implemented in Turkey completed and 2 projects and 1 program is still ongoing. With these projects, approximately 1.5 million households will be affected positively (IFAD, 2011; IFAD, 2018; UNDP, 2019).

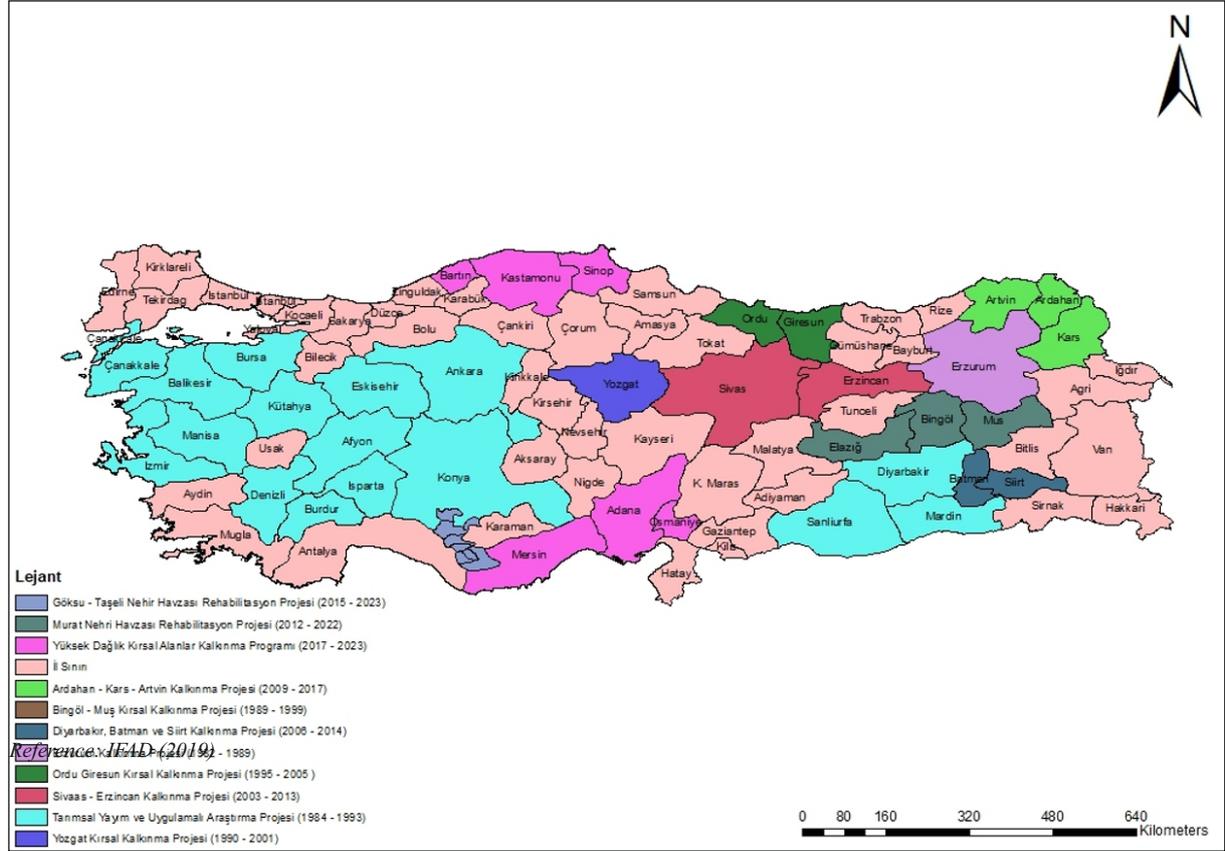


Figure 1. Completed and ongoing IFAD projects in Turkey

In Turkey, except from ongoing and closed project and program, there are any signed, approved and planning program and project. When completed and ongoing projects are examined, it is understood that certain amounts of grants were received from IFAD sources, being in the first place technical support and trainings in every project.

Completed Projects

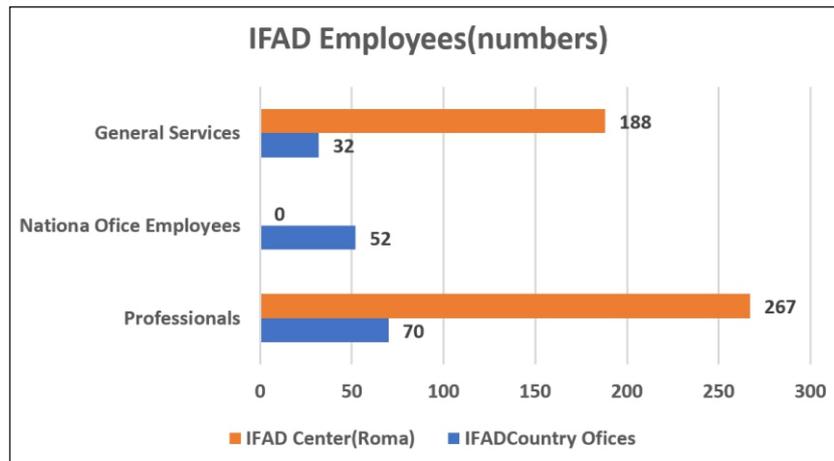
8 IFAD project in Turkey has been completed. The total budget of these projects is \$ 506.17 million and approximately 26.5% of this value is credited by IFAD (IFAD, 2019)

Ongoing Projects

Turkey made credit application for 2 project and 1 program to IFAD between 2010-2017 years. The total budget of these projects is \$ 162.35 million and the IFAD contribution is \$ 96.54 million (www.ifad.org).

Working Conditions and Career Opportunities

When the IFAD human resources statistics are analyzed, as of December 31, 2018, a total of 609 people are employed. 337 of them are consist of consultants, field experts, program assistants, program managers, 220 of them are as a general administrative service staff, and 52 of them employed in countries where IFAD offices are located. In The interviews with IFAD officials, as of 2019, it is understood that a total of 7 Turkish staff that are employed in Turkey Sub-Regional Office and the other office in the world. 4 of them work in administrative services and 3 of them in assisted services staff. In order to have Turkish employees to be in effective positions, political and international ownership must exist by Turkey.



Reference: IFAD (2019)

Figure 2. IFAD Distribution of Staff (number)

IFAD has a very rich staff structure composed of different ethnicities and cultures. Employees consist of 98 countries that are members of IFAD. When gender distribution of IFAD employees is examined, it is understood that approximately 57% of the employees are women.

One of the strongest aspects of IFAD is the diversity of ethnic personnel and the commitment of its employees to work. When examining in which positions employees work within IFAD, it is understood that there are very different staff structures.

IFAD Staff Categories;

Professional: The Professional category demands a high level of analytical and communication skills, substantive expertise and managerial leadership ability

National Professional Officer: A National Professional Officer (NPO) is recruited locally in the country of assignment and performs functions at the professional level. The qualifications for an NPO are the same as for the Professional category.

General Service: The functions in the General Service and related categories include administrative, secretarial and clerical support as well as specialized technical functions – for example, printing, security or building maintenance.

Other employment opportunities: IFAD partners with other organizations and governments for the recruitment of fellows, special programmer officers and other individuals. Employment opportunities vary based on the agreement between IFAD and the sponsor.

Consultancies: Consultants are employees who are recruited for a maximum of 11 months in a 12-month project period, who have technical competence or special skills in the project implemented. They play a vital role in increasing the effectiveness of IFAD projects.

Junior Professional Officer (JPO): They are young employees under the age of 35 who are university graduates. It is the personnel financed by the member countries and working for 1-2 years for investment in human resources.

The Internship Programme: It is a position for students who have recently graduated from the university or students who are trained in the fields of interest of IFAD.

The working time of the permanent staff and contracted personnel varies depending on the title and the nature of the job.

Types of Appointment

- Fixed-term
- Short-term Professional
- Short-term General Service

Qualifications of Staff

Professional and administrative staff must be at least university graduates. It is also expected to speak fluently one or more of the official languages of IFAD, English, Arabic, French and Spanish.

International organizations affiliated to the United Nations, such as IFAD, offer significant career opportunities to those involved in relevant undergraduate graduates or postgraduate programs that can work in agriculture and rural development. In recent years, job advertisements especially for Agricultural Economics have been encountered. Not only IFAD, but many institutions that carry out projects and programs in the field of agriculture and rural development are making vacancy announcement for candidates who are graduates of Agricultural Economics or have at least master's or doctorate degrees in this field.

It was taken some special details about graduates of Agricultural Economics in the interviews with The Officials of IFAD Turkey Sub-Regional Office. It is stated that job descriptions are very important in entering international institutions, and graduates of agricultural economics department can be one step ahead in recruiting for IFAD.

However, it has been particularly emphasized that knowing a language or even two languages may be an advantage. It is stated that additional features such as dealing with project implementation, management and especially rural development projects, general culture, knowledge of the duties of international organizations and working on sustainable development goals may have a positive effect.

It is thought that applications for suitable positions should be encouraged and turned into a country policy, since the representation of our citizens is weak not only in IFAD but also in the United Nations.

5. DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

Turkey is a member of IFAD for 28 years, in this period Turkey completed 8 projects and has been carrying on 3 project. Following the membership transactions in 1981, he used his first loan in 1982 and realized the Erzurum Development Project, which lasted about 8 years. Because of the loan rates and easy payment, IFAD's loans which are appear attractive for Turkey, they are so important in relation to accessing financial resources for rural development projects.

IFAD's financial contribution to the project budget in Turkey is 34.5%, which is below the proportional contribution to the projects implemented by IFAD in the world this rate. Agricultural Extension and Applied Research Project is a project that reduces the average contribution rate of IFAD. With its 3.9% contribution, it significantly reduces the average. When the average contribution is evaluated over 10 projects, the IFAD average contribution rises above the world average to about 49%. This ratio has increased even more especially in ongoing projects.

The evaluation of the donor countries as Turkey, have limited opportunities to use the grant from IFAD. At the point of overcoming the economic problems caused by the intense migration wave after the Syrian war, projects for agriculture and rural development have gained importance. These kinds of projects are carried out intensely especially by international organizations. In this direction, it is of great importance to establish grant programs for integrated projects that prevent migration and generate employment, especially in province, region and rural areas where affected by heavy migration.

Turkey, which has made the project partnership with IFAD for nearly 40 years and been both donor and beneficiary, has achieved gains in many ways. As well as financial and technical assistance, in the EU accession process of Turkey, the capacity about the IPARD program also strengthens.

Except "Republic of Turkey Country Program Evaluation" study by IOE in 2016, there is not any a wide range of academic or expertise work which evaluated or analyses effect of IFAD works. It is important to reveal the effectiveness of the programs and projects that have transformed approximately 669 million dollars of financing into agricultural rural development investment until today.

In order for such studies to be carried out, IFAD should open to share a database for the projects it carries out. The documents on the website for IFAD projects do not provide sufficient content and information for analysis and evaluation. Project documents are more open to IFAD staff and consultants. In order to promote these resources more, it is important that country offices take initiatives in this field or create a demand in this direction.

IFAD realizes its missions in countries in line with the country framework documents (COSOP). The third COSOP document, which remains in force, covering the period 2016-2021 for Turkey, is binding for IFAD's mission will be conducted in Turkey. In these documents, sort of priorities and areas of intervention are determined for that country. Being involved in the preparation processes of these documents and contributing to the institutional and scientific level will have a positive effect on the success of these documents. Particularly, the contribution to the plan preparation processes of subject specialists, who are graduates from agricultural economy or have master of science regard as agricultural economy, other related departments and academic studies in the field of agricultural economics, will have a positive effect on the success of these documents.

IFAD, an international organization specialized in rural development, has many projects it has implemented. More projects need to be implemented in our country in order to benefit from this experience. Except financial projects, it is expected that organizations operating in the field of development at local level will take steps towards developing cooperation with IFAD. Provincial Coordination Units by Agricultural and Rural Development Support Institution, Regional Development Agencies, Regional Development Administrations should be enabled to contribute to IFAD projects.

IFAD has announced a 5-year strategy document for the involvement of the private sector in development projects in rural areas in 2019. It is anticipating that the private sector will accelerate rural development projects and increase the resistance to overcome the problems in rural areas. In this direction, participation of the private sector in projects that will contribute to IFAD strategies will be supported. Turkey's needs to be ready for this new policies and carry out lobbying activities in order to the private sector to benefit from low interest loan opportunities for rural development projects are required to conduct.

In projects to be carried out in rural areas, the locomotive sectors are agriculture and food sectors. It is important to raise awareness among the graduates of agriculture faculties, veterinary faculties and food engineering departments that provide education in this field. It should be ensured to raise awareness among the students of the Agricultural Economics Department of the Faculty of Agriculture, who have academic studies especially in the field of agriculture and rural development. In addition, development programs for the qualifications required by IFAD in the undergraduate and graduate curricula should be provided.

It is important that the graduate students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Economics, who receive training at national and international standards, especially in the fields of project preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation in the field of agriculture and rural development, follow IFAD and similar international organizations operating in the field of agriculture and rural development.

Transfer the experience gained from both IFAD resources and from other resources with IFAD partnership to the other countries which are on the way development, motivating the employees of the relevant institution, and assigning more experts within the scope of technical collaboration should be evaluated as an important policy area.

Contribution Rate of Researchers Declaration Summary

The authors declare that they have contributed equally to the article and have not plagiarized.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

The authors of the article declare that there is no conflict of interest between them.

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