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Contribution of Turkey

to the CSTD 2016-17 priority theme on ‘The role of science, technology and innovation in
ensuring food security by 2030’

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CSTD 2016-17 Priority Theme2: “Role of Science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030”

- The Turkish Grand National Assembly adopted The 10th Development Plan (2014-2018) on 2 July 2013.

In this plan, Agriculture and Food are considered as a separate title, aims and targets are determined, and developments and Targets in Agricultural Structure and Food Safety are revealed.

During the preparation process of the plan, the Commission on Agricultural Activity and Food Safety has been established and this commission issued a report.

The concept of food safety is defined as the ability to reach adequate, healthy and nutritious food appropriate to the nutritional needs and preferences of people, physically, socially and economically at all times, for an active and healthy life in this report. Today, four dimensions of food safety are defined and these four dimensions must be realized at the same time to ensure food safety. These four components are; (1) Discoverability of Food, (2) Accessibility of Food, (3) Quality and Reliability of Food (4) Stability. Turkey ranks 36th among 105 countries in the 2013 Global Food Security Index. According to the dimensions of food safety, Turkey is ranked 44th in accessibility (economic accessibility), 26th in availability (physical accessibility) and 35th in quality and food reliability.

In the 10th Development Plan (2014-2018), it is aimed to establish an agriculture sector based on adequate and balanced nutrition of the society, based on advanced technology, solving infrastructure problems, having high organizational and productivity, efficient and demand-based production structure, increasing international competitiveness and using natural resources sustainably.

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) is the main actor in the establishment of an infrastructure and control and supervision for food safety in Turkey. According to the MFAL Strategic Plan (2013-2017) it is indicated that;

“The studies are carried out to develop quality varieties which are resistant or tolerant to biotic and abiotic stress conditions, highly productive, and appropriate for industry, export, and consumer patterns.

- For this purpose; the leading organization for agricultural research in Turkey, MFAL - General Directorate of Agricultural Researches and Policy (GDARP), is working on. It operates with a total of 49 research institutes, including 10 Central Research Institute, 10 Regional Research Institute and 28 Subject Research Institute in the whole country. Research area of GDARP has a wide coverage as field crops, beekeeping, agricultural economics, aquaculture, plant biodiversity, geofit, figs, pistachios, olives, apricots, vineyards, cotton, garden cultures, food-feed controls, such as livestock research and pesticides. As a result of the researches, 95% of bread wheat, 98% of durum wheat, 99% of barley, 100% of chickpea, 100% of safflower, 100% of peanuts, 100% of rye

and 67% of oats are native varieties developed by the institutes affiliated to GDARP.

In addition; *“A strategy for fighting against drought is being carried out against the risk of drought which would likely to emerge as a result of global climate change”*. is also noticed. Despite the risk of global warming and climate change;

- The Drought Test Center was established in Konya at 2010 and started to be used for drought-resistant variety development activities, mainly wheat and barley.
- The Coldness Test Center was made available for researchers in Erzurum which is the coldest city in Turkey at 2015.

It is also indicated in MFAL Strategic Plan (2013-2017) that; *“Other studies continue for protection and registration of genetic sources of animals and plants; protection, characterization, and registration of genetic sources; using these sources within sustainable agriculture as genetic resources; and covering them by the culture.”* Within this scope;

- Turkey Seed Gene Bank, second seed gene bank of the Turkey and also one of the biggest gene bank in the world, is established in Ankara at 2010. The number of materials kept is more than 60.000 now and increasing constantly.

“Our genetic resources will be integrated with the modern bio-technology, and Turkey will become a leader agricultural technology transfer center in its region.” Parallel to this strategic goal;

- Biotechnology Research Center was established in Ankara at 2015 and has started to researches especially on filed crops.

The other important point on the food safety and security is the responsibility to produce, process, preserve, store, and market all food materials and food contact materials, to adopt technical and hygienic rules for ensuring food safety, and to protect consumer health as much as possible. MFAL-General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC) has the main responsibility on this subject.

- In this sense, the objective of the inspections and controls is to ensure reliable and hygienic food production in accordance with the Turkish Food Legislation, and to develop technical and hygienic norms for food-related businesses. The inspections and controls regarding food hygiene, which constitute a significant part of food safety, include the recognition/registration of companies, together with various services and techniques such as suspicion, complaint, monitoring, traceability, observation and inspection from the initial production phase to consumption, including the controls carried out during import and export. GDFC has 41 food control laboratories all around the county.
- The other subject is about Alo 174 Food Line. The ministry sees all citizens as a food inspector with this point of view. This contributes to the formation of food safety awareness in the society. Since the date it started, there has been 800.00 more reports. As a result of these notices, necessary inspections have been carried out.

As noted above, GDARP, leading organization in agricultural research, by means of the institutes within the country, various projects are proposed that prioritize innovation in science, technology and food safety for food supply such as;

- General Budget Projects
- TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) Programs
- International Projects (Annex 4)
- Private Sector Cooperation Projects

Ministry; Within the scope of the Communiqué on Research and Development Support Program, supports the R & D projects carried out by universities, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, farmers' organizations and the private sector on the agriculture sector needs. Within this context, between 2007 and 2015, a total of 290 R & D projects have been provided with 37.5 million TL. Only a total of 76 projects with an upper limit of 300,000.00 TL were supported in 2015. In addition, a total of 61 projects were found worthy of support under the 11th call in 2016.

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