



Agribusiness Interventions/Innovations in Refugees Response

Training Workshop Report

10-11 July 2019

Savon Hotel – Antakya



Introduction:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) sector, organized a training workshop entitled: “Agribusiness Interventions/Innovations in Refugees Response”. The training workshop intended to enhance the capacity of FSA sector partners in implementing agribusiness interventions in the context of the response to the current Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey. It also aimed to provide the opportunity for participants to discuss and exchange information on agriculture development programmes, and how these programmes can foster farm resilience, generate and stabilise farm income, and reinforce existing initiatives for both refugees and host communities. The training workshop was held at the Savon hotel in Antakya and lasted for two days, on the 10th and the 11th of July 2019. This event was covered by the local media.¹

Scope and objectives

The objective of the training was to support FSA sector partners in implementing and managing agricultural livelihood interventions that have potentials for growth in Turkey.

Specific objectives of the training were for participants to:

- obtain capacity in planning and designing agribusiness interventions;
- be equipped with the best practices and lessons learned from past and current agricultural livelihood interventions;
- identify the gaps and challenges in planning and designing agricultural livelihood activities in the current context; and
- better understand related laws and rules for efficient collaboration and coordination with the local authorities.

Participants:

The workshop gathered about 38 participants from national, international and governmental entities, who are interested in the food and agriculture programmes in Turkey. Local authorities from Hatay Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry (PD MoAF), as well as Hatay Municipality, attended this workshop.

Workshop sessions:

The workshop was facilitated by the Coordinator and Information Management Associate (IMA) of Food Security and Agriculture sector. The workshop alternated between presentations, plenary and group work sessions. Emphasis was given on maximizing the sharing of experiences between participants and practically experimenting a methodology for joint planning.

¹ <https://www.haberler.com/hatay-da-gida-guvenligi-ve-tarim-sektoru-calistayi-12230859-haberi/>
<https://www.dha.com.tr/son-dakika/hatayda-gida-guvenligi-ve-tarim-sektoru-calistayi-gerceklestirildi/haber-1679654>
<http://www.hataysoz.com/haber/gida-guvenligi-ve-tarim-sektoru-calistayi-24704.html>

Session 1: Opening

In this session, the FSA sector Coordinator introduced the objectives of the training, major contents and timetable as well as the expected results and outputs followed by the introduction of the participants. In addition, the participants were requested to write down their expectations of the training course which were matching the workshop objectives.

Session 2: Support from and collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for agribusiness interventions in refugee's context.

Mr Burak Güreşinli, the EU Expert from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in his presentation provided background information on the support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) for food and agriculture projects under the 3RP (Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan). He focused on the following issues in his presentation:

- Duties of MoAF in supporting the 3RP partners.
- Main policy papers (the 10th National Development Plan, the 11th National Development Plan, the National Rural Development Strategy 2014-2020, the 2018-22 Strategic Plan of MoAF);
- Agricultural characteristics in Turkey: Favorable geographic and climatic conditions, large arable land, rich cropping patterns (4,000 endemic plant, and 12,000 plant species);
- The involvement of MoAF in the 3RP- Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) sector projects, as well as the national and international basis of MoAF's intervention on FSA sector for Refugees;
- Procedure for the partnership between MoAF and FSA sector partners, and potential areas for partnership as follow: Livestock production, green houses production, farm to market value chain support, irrigation management, agro-industry, and seasonal agricultural workers;
- Risk areas and mitigation measures in food and agriculture projects;
- Impacts of the food and agriculture projects: Increasing productivity and quality of products, supporting agricultural employment and household level income, strengthening social cohesion between Syrians and host communities, and capacity building of government and civil society partners.

Mr Murat Öcal, the Director of Reyhanlı Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry emphasized the continued and inclusive support from PD MoAF in Hatay for all food and agriculture projects in this region. In addition, he answered all quires from participants regarding the process for partnership with PD MoAF.

In his speech, Mr Ömer Faruk Çelebi, the Advisor of Hatay's Mayor acknowledged the presence of national and international agriculture and food security actors in Hatay. He stressed that this workshop comes at a critical time, when the authorities are working towards more long term development approach. In this regard, he explicitly recognized the importance of agriculture interventions for this shift and mentioned a group of agriculture activities (greenhouse production, medicine plants, ornamental plant, dairy products.....), which are considered as priority activities in Hatay for the coming years. He also added that this coordination platform is considered as a great step towards more collaboration and cooperation between all actors in

FSA sector. He invited all actors to participate in the Expo conference, which will be held in 2021 in Hatay.

Session 3: Farm resilience and income generation activities (IGAs) in agriculture sector: needs and opportunities

In his presentation, the FSA sector Coordinator emphasized that the agriculture sector is one of the main sources of income for vulnerable Syrian refugees. In addition, he stressed that FAO adopts the exit strategy from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) Programme in order to support the government in the transition plan from an emergency to a long-term development approach, through supporting the adaptation of the Syrian refugees to the agriculture labour market. He focused on the following interventions as income generation activities in the agriculture sector:

- Food drying, processing and preservation.
- Preparation and marketing of dairy products.
- Agricultural production.
- Establishment and improvement of livestock and poultry raising.
- Cash/food for work and community asset development.
- Conditional grants with skills training to support food and agriculture activities (home-gardening, agriculture, livestock, fish farming, beekeeping, mushroom production).

He provided a set of recommendations (selection of IGAs, target groups and participation of beneficiaries, technical feasibility, economic and financial profitability.... etc.) to be taken into consideration during the planning and implementing of income generation/agribusiness interventions.

Mr Omar Atik, the Programmes Manager of Shafak Organization presented a detailed technical information about mushroom production as one of the desired income generation activities in the agriculture sector. He mentioned that the requirements to establish mushroom production are cheap and available in Turkey with very good quality.

Session 4: Group work

The purpose of the group discussion was to give participants a chance to review problems and challenges that they are usually confronted with during planning, design and implementing agriculture projects, and to propose few solutions. The participants were divided into four groups by the type of projects (two case studies in rural area and the other two in urban area). FSA sector Coordinator and IMA facilitated the whole group discussion process. In the case study, the participants were asked to design, and plan agribusiness projects in the given context, highlighting challenges and best practices for each intervention. The groups presented their outputs to the plenary, and allowed other groups to comment and give recommendations and feedback, which helped to provoke the discussion on best practices in the agriculture sector.

Session 5: The role of agri-entrepreneurship and farming innovations for refugee in socio economic integration.

Mr Çağlar Baş, the expert from KOSGEB presented the related regulatory and legal issues for establishing partnership with KOSGEB in agriculture sector. KOSGEB's new entrepreneurship programme was introduced to the sector members. The programme supports the entrepreneurs while establishing their own enterprise (up to 5.000 TL) besides technical support, machine, equipment and software support, as well as consulting and enterprise coaching support. Size of support vary according to the technology level of business.

Session 6: Gender mainstreaming in agriculture interventions.

Ms Neşe Çakır, the Gender Expert from FAO provided a presentation about integrating and mainstreaming gender in agriculture projects. She stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender in agriculture interventions to enhance the effectiveness of these interventions and address all different constraints faced by men and women in agriculture production and marketing. Following issues highlighted in the presentation and training:

- Gender mainstreaming must promote gender equality of opportunity and access to all types of rural finance at all levels, from microfinance directed at the very poor to gender equitable financial services for women farmers and entrepreneurs who have moved higher up in the value chain. Second, gender mainstreaming must ensure that women not only access but also benefit from the use of these services in terms of their well-being and empowerment. Third, gender mainstreaming will require action, advocacy and linkages with movements that address the understanding bases of gender discrimination, which affect both women's access to opportunities and the degree to which they are able to benefit. Particularly, areas of concern include property rights, sexual violence and political participation to increase women's voice in economic and rural policy.
- Gender equality can be achieved by a strategy of mainstreaming which is defined as 'the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels'. Gender equality is not simply a matter of human rights. It is by closing the gender gap that sustainable agriculture and rural development can reach their full potential.
- The gender division of labour should be clear, for example, who does what in economic and livelihood activities. For example, in fisheries, which is commonly performed by men, women's engagement can be observed in pre-harvesting and post-harvesting activities, including net preparation and packaging. Furthermore, in many cases, access to large markets, dealing with agricultural extension services and public administration, transportation, managing machinery and dealing with providers tend to be male-dominated activities. Men's access to large markets also has a direct impact on who controls the income within the household.
- Questions such as who receives and controls the income, and who decides on what, how and where, gain particular significance. It is also important to recognize that the ability to generate income is closely related to the availability of time to engage in productive activity. This constitutes a significant disadvantage for women due to their heavy

- workload of domestic, caring and reproductive activities, usually identified as “women’s responsibility”.
- Considering the roles of rights holders and duty bearers, the following questions need to be asked:
 - Who has been left behind in the project or programme? Why?
 - Which rights are at stake?
 - Who has to do something about it?
 - What action do they need to take?
 - In Turkey: Research on the amount of time that rural women devote specifically to agricultural activities each day shows that, on average, these women divide their time almost equally between housework (5.21 hours per day) and agricultural work (4.98 hours per day), leaving minimal time for other activities such as handicrafts or rest. The agricultural work activities that women undertake include, “livestock production, post harvesting activities, food processing for family consumption and crop marketing.”
 - Best practices for gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development:
 - Strengthening gender equality.
 - Improving knowledge of the situation of women in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
 - Promoting specific training for women on fishing and aquaculture activities.
 - Raising awareness of women’s work in all areas of activity in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
 - Encouraging and supporting female associations.
 - Following a bottom-up approach throughout the policy cycle: working together with rural and fisheries women’s associations for increased impact.
 - Everywhere in the world, women face constraints that limit their capacity to contribute to agricultural production and take advantage of new opportunities arising from the changes shaping rural economies. They face overt and implicit discrimination in access to key productive resources such as land and to services such as credit and extension; they face wage discrimination in rural labour markets, and are more likely than men to be in part-time, seasonal and/or low-paying jobs when engaged in rural wage employment; and they often work without remuneration on family farms. It reduces women’s productivity and diminishes their contributions to the agriculture sector, and not only affects their well-being and that of their families, especially in terms of food and nutrition security, but also imposes a high cost on the economy through productivity losses.
 - Raising awareness on gender issues at all levels so that all stakeholders have shared understanding of the goal and objectives of gender mainstreaming
 - Life-ladder game applied to participants in order to show gender discriminations to the participants following the principle of leaving no one behind, which aims to ensure that sustainable development includes all segments of the society.

Session 7: Agency specific interventions

Through this session, the following organizations shared their experiences and results from their food and agriculture interventions: Ataa Relief; Qatar Charity; WHH; IOM; Tekamul and FAO. After the presentation, comments and feedbacks were given to each organization to improve the proposed interventions. The interventions were mainly around skills development, income generation and entrepreneurship support. It is worth to mention that more partners mentioned that they are planning to implement agriculture interventions in Hatay.

Conclusions and recommendations

The Two-day workshop provided the participants with concrete knowledge on planning, designing and implementing agribusiness programme. The participants found it very useful and relevant to their functions in the refugee response.

There is a need for a follow-up through more technical workshops on agriculture interventions for refugees. In addition, there is a necessity to enhance the gender knowledge of professionals working in the FSA sector considering the importance of integrating gender aspects in their work. The following suggestions have been proposed by the participants:

- To allocate one agenda item in the upcoming workshops for field visit to the ongoing FSA projects.
- To dedicate a session for social cohesion, and how to mitigate any potential competition between refugees and host community members.
- To allocate more time for group works.
- It was suggested to have a specific workshop to discuss the 2020-2021 strategy of the FSA Sector.
- Invite private sector, public institutions as well as academics to the upcoming workshops.
- The following topics were proposed for the upcoming workshop:
 - ✓ Agriculture value chain training and how to link sources, producers and market etc.
 - ✓ Market Information System (MIS).
 - ✓ Technical training such as irrigation methods etc.
 - ✓ Managing and accessing of agricultural land.
 - ✓ Food security assessment and nutrition in emergency situations.
 - ✓ Project proposal development for funding opportunities in agriculture sector.



