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Turkey, Populations

The Fight for Rural Turkey

There is at least one thing every country in the world has in common: agriculture. Although every country may have its type of agriculture, we all can share the values, benefits, and struggles that come with it. Currently, Turkey is trying to keep its production rates up and its migration levels to the cities down. In 2017, Turkey was the world's seventh-largest producer in agriculture ("Turkey: overview of the world's seventh-largest agricultural producer"). With the numbers of farmers lessening, Turkey's production rates have dropped.

In Turkey, being family orientated is extremely common. Living in a multigenerational household is customary. The average family size is small, so having older members of the family in the dwelling helps surround kids with different influences and education from others. The eldest in the home is treated with the utmost respect and is always put first. The eldest child is expected to be the caretaker of the home if their parents are absent. The man is always seen as the money maker in the house, while the woman is in charge of the children, cooking, and budget. The males in the family are often considered the caretakers of everyone and are often referred to as the leader of the household. They keep women in line and out of trouble. Although gender equality is on the rise in Turkey, male dominance is still common (Evason). Though education is free and accessible to many kids in Turkey, it is still important that they learn the way of life through their family. In rural Turkey, many children are taught the ways of their ancestors when it comes to farming and tending to the family.

Being one of the top producers in agriculture, over 27.8 million hectares of land is cultivated ("Agriculture in Turkey"). Apricots and hazelnuts are what Turkey is the top producer of. Turkey is also one of the main producers of wheat, poultry, milk, cotton, tomatoes, and sugar beets ("Turkey - Agriculture"). Turkey is one of the top agricultural producers in the world and is very well known for its exports. Many small farms help with Turkey's export rates. 67% of farms are 0.1-5 hectares of land and the remaining farms are over 5 hectares (Muthoo). Turkey is a self-sufficient country when it comes to agriculture. It is one of the few countries that relies on itself. Because Turkey has a wonderful climate that grants the opportunity to produce so many prosperous crops and exports.

There are 82 million people who live in Turkey, and the population continues to grow. Of those 82 million, 92.8% of them live in a city. The remainder of the population lives in a small village or a rural area (Ergocun). One of Turkey's main agricultural problems is the number of farmers farming in Turkey. Many farmers are moving into the city for higher-paying jobs and less work. This is decreasing the number of products Turkey is producing and exporting. Farming tools, equipment, and assistance are rising in price and many farmers are struggling to get the help they need to keep their farms running. Without people living in rural areas, there are many hectares of farmable land left untouched because of the lack of farmers. Many farmers are having problems supporting themselves and making a profit. This is driving many farmers away from their occupations and steering them towards jobs in the city. Agriculture in Turkey is losing its support and devotion from Turkish citizens. Many are turning away from Turkish agriculture and focusing more on the modernization of Turkey. This has caused less aid for farmers which leads to less farming. There is a lack in educating farmers, educating younger generations in agriculture, and educating the general public about Turkish agriculture. Many people do not understand

how big of an impact agriculture has on Turkey. Due to the rising costs of supplies and equipment, many farmers were forced to leave their farms and find a job in the city. Many farmers were not able to support themselves or their business. They found it hard to make a profit because of the costs it took to keep the farm running. The rise in prices could've been caused by a lack of government aid, the dropping number of farmers, or the higher demand for new equipment and supplies. Over 2.5 million farmers have been forced to leave rural Turkey and find new jobs in the city. Millions of hectares of land are left unfarmed and unused ("Turkish agriculture: Struggling with migration and climate change"). This is only hurting Turkey but not many things have been done to prevent it.

Agriculture is losing its support in Turkey. Many citizens are migrating to large cities instead of rural areas. This decreases the likelihood of booming agriculture in the future. Part of the problem is the lack of agricultural education. Younger generations aren't being educated as they should be on agriculture. Without proper education and knowledge, they don't understand the importance of farmers. Helping the Turkish citizens understand the importance of agriculture will help gain assistance from local governments and citizens.

All of these issues tie together. Since the population is rising, farming is as important as ever. If farmers don't get the support they need and deserve, farming won't be a priority in the future. There are numerous ways to help Turkey and spread awareness for Turkish agriculture. To solve all of these problems we need to face them head-on. They can all be solved together because they all relate to one another.

Education is needed to solve this problem. Farmers are moving from their farms because they can't support themselves or their business. That is due to the rising prices and lack of assistance. To help the farmers, we should educate them in the modern ways of agriculture. Turkish farmers cannot keep up with the rising prices and it's hurting their farms. 84% of farmers don't know how to properly budget and save for the future ("Guidebook to help Turkish farmers published"). If we can teach farmers how to properly budget and save time, farmers will be able to support their businesses.

Educating farmers is one of the most important steps in solving the problem. Turkish farmers cannot support themselves because they do not know how. They only know the way to do things because that's what they were taught. But in today's world, the original ways are too slow. To educate farmers, we need to send volunteers, advisors, mentors over to teach the Turkish farmers how to run their business in today's world. They are losing their businesses because they are not properly educated. We can send willing volunteers to teach farmers how to budget, operate, and be successful even when the world is changing. Farmers will be able to support themselves and understand what they need to do to run a successful business. As prices of equipment and supplies rise, they can learn to budget and grow their business to meet those prices. To send volunteers overseas to Turkey we need to raise awareness of the problem. We can fundraise, advertise, and gain aid through different FFA organizations, 4-H organizations, and farmers cooperatives. These organizations understand what it is like to adapt to a modern world. We can help educate farmers by educating the people around us first.

The Turkish government can also help educate farmers. By giving farmers access to free classes and programs that can help them learn about modern farming. Different kinds of foundations exist that are trying to help farmers, such as the TUI Care Foundation. The TUI Foundation is working on educating Turkish farmers on modern farming techniques and helping them boost their business. The Turkish Philanthropy Fund is an American-based organization that assists the needs in Turkey. They help raise awareness and select a problem that needs to be helped. Both of these foundations would be a great way to raise money to educate Turkish farmers in need.

Educating the citizens of Turkey is also important. Part of the reason Turkish farmers have no support is that the citizens of Turkey don't understand what Turkish agriculture is. Without the help of Turkish citizens, farmers will not be very successful. Having the support of the citizens of Turkey would help

farmers have hope and give them a reason to keep farming. When in need, they might be able to rely on some citizens to help them. We can educate citizens by setting up free classes and allow tours of local farms. Taking a tour of a local farm would help citizens understand what farming is. Attending free classes would help people understand why farming is essential. Holding tours would require a volunteer family from the local farm to show people attending the farm around. Not only would tours be open for Turkish citizens, but they would also be open to tourists who want to learn about Turkish agriculture. Having tours would be a great opportunity to show what farming is. Having classes would require having volunteers or maybe someone who farms could teach the class. The classes would be about what farmers farm, why it's essential, and why people need to understand what it is about.

The education of Turkish citizens is crucial, and educating Turkish youth is necessary. The young generations of Turkish citizens are moving out of rural areas to bigger cities. This is causing an unhealthy migration to larger populated areas, and leaving many hectares of farmland without tenders. If less of the young generation moved from rural areas, there would be more farmers in the future. Incorporating the study of agriculture in Turkish schools will help educate students on agriculture and why it is important. Many different organizations send teachers abroad to teach in other countries. The Agricorps is an organization that sends agricultural teachers to other developing countries to teach students about agriculture. By sending teachers to teach in Turkey, we can help educate the Turkish youth on why rural Turkey is in need, why farmers need more support. Teachers can teach in willing schools or hold classes in the community. This would get the young generations involved by informing them on how they can help.

By using education, we can solve the problem. Without farmers, agriculture rates will drop. Farmers need to be educated on how to run a business in today's modern world, and Turkish citizens need to be educated on why farmers do what they do. By educating farmers, holding classes for the community, starting tours of local farms, and educating the young generations, Turkish agriculture will begin to gain support.

Without support from fellow citizens, it is hard for farmers to keep going. There are not many farmers left in rural Turkey, and that needs to change. Although Turkey is in the top 10 agricultural producers in the world, they still face some difficulties. Farmers are losing their businesses, farmers have no support, and Turkish people don't know how to help. By solving these problems we can help Turkey grow through agriculture and continue to thrive. It is so important that farmers are assisted through hard times. Education through different foundations will help solve Turkey's problem. Foundations such as the TUI Care Foundation, the Turkish Philanthropy Fund, and the Agricorps can help bring these solutions to light. By gaining the support of others, we can assist the Turkish community through education. We can come together and help farmers the rest of Turkey through their education. Turkey's agriculture can continue to grow and succeed in the future.

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