

ROLE OF SMALL SCALED FAMILY ADMINISTRATIONS ACTING ON AGRICULTURE IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

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Abstract

The agricultural sector has a strategic importance regarding sustainable development in our country as well as throughout the world since it provides chances for employment, especially in rural areas. For this reason, analysis of problems related to economic development, employment and educational status of small scaled family administrations acting on agriculture and solutions for these problems are quite important due to contribution of them to this sector. Under the scope of this point of view, the purpose of this study has been to reveal agricultural structure in rural areas away from industrial zones and how small scaled agricultural family administrations are effected from this structure and role of these family administrations in sustainable development. For this purpose, a research has been made over the sampling related with small scaled agricultural family administrations located at Bolu and Düzce Provinces. In this research; scanning model has been preferred and data have been obtained through questionnaire and interviews. According to the results of this research; it is found out that regarding sustainable development, education is an important factor at management of small scaled agricultural family administrations and regarding employment, becoming a cooperative which is a social organization unit is an important factor to decrease migration from rural areas to urban areas.

Key words: *Small Scaled Agricultural Enterprise, Sustainable Development, Economic Structure*

INTRODUCTION

Agricultural sector has a strategic importance in our country due to utilization of labor and natural resources and especially regarding contribution in employment and rural development in our country. Within 10th Improvement Plan; it has been explained that inadequacies of marketing and educational services regarding small scale agricultural enterprises cause an important problem for the sector. Problems emerge in community development and persistence of these problems have a negative impact over these enterprises. Community development should be fair and ethical in income distribution based on honor and respect for the people and should secure the future regarding honor. Problems faced by family administrations have effects over societies regarding sustainable development and cause decrease both in quality and quantity of production. It is necessary to make some important modifications and to develop some ideas in order to solve community problems. It seems not possible for the communities which do not adopt change and innovations to improve. Unless ideas related with community development are operationalised, these ideas shall fall behind the solutions for the problems. For this reason, it is quite important to analyze the current situation, to determine the problems and to find out the solutions. Accurate analysis of studies performed for requirements of family administrations allow the goals to be selected in the correct direction at the beginning. In fact, efforts spent to develop these administration may provide a significant contribution over community and sustainable development. Otherwise, this situation may both have a negative effect over the agricultural activities and also may cause increase migration from rural areas to urban areas. For this purpose, a field research has been made over the sampling related with small scaled agricultural family administrations located at Bolu and Düzce Provinces. Data have been obtained through questionnaire and interviews. According to the results of this research; the purpose has been to analyze the agricultural structure at the rural areas and industrial structure and the urban areas and to

find out how small scaled agricultural family administrations are effected from these structures and the role of these administrations in sustainable development.

1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

1.1. National and International Dimension of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development has been described as “development meeting requirements of today without compromising from meeting requirements of future generations”. According to this description; the important factor is not only to satisfy today's requirements economically but also to hand over natural and other resources to the future by utilizing them in a fair and equal manner (Çelik, 2006: 20-24; Yıkmaz, 2011; Colin H.,1997; David.,1988). Starting form 1980s, development and environmental approaches have described the development satisfying requirements of today without compromising from satisfying requirements of future generations as "sustainable development". Based on this approach; development of a country or community can only be provided by sustainability in today's and future economic, social and ecological matters. On the other hand; sustainable development is closely related with elimination of poverty, equal distribution of natural resources, prevention of high population increase and technologies not having an adverse effect over the environment (Yıkılmaz, 2011). At national level; Turkey has been a party of some international agreements after year of 1992 and have made some national arrangements. In Turkey, Ministry of Development is the national coordination agency for sustainable development (Undp, 2016).

“Sustainable development” statement has been used in basic strategy, policy and plan documents together with "sustainable growth and economy" and sustainable agriculture, energy and rural development concepts since 2000s (Yıkmaz, 2011; Gür, 2012: 87-106). At the international level; protection of the environment and a clean world matters have acquired an international dimension within 1972 World Environment Conference and this dimension has been transferred to "sustainable development" concept for environment, economy and community axis by “Brundtland Report” published as of 1987. This concept has become widely used concept by "Our Common Future Report" shortly named as Brundtland Report which has been published by United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development as of 1987. Rio Agreements which have been signed as of 1992 have been the most important global step in putting the sustainable development into force (Undp, 2016). As of 1992, sustainable development concept has become even more important by Agenda 21 and United Nations Environment and Development Summit held in Rio de Janerio. Finally, it has been discussed at Rio +5 Summit as of 1997 and 2002'de Johannesburg Summit as of 2002 how the principles approved at Rio Conference are implemented in a whole (Özmehmet, 2012). Three factors which have effect over this matter have been described in the following paragraphs.

a. Development Plans: At 6th Development Plan of Turkey; prevention of waste and protection of environment matters have been adopted for economic and social development and in usage of natural resources. At 7th Development Plan; sustainable development policies supporting integration of environment and economy have been emphasized. Similarly, at 8th Development Plan, an approach of protecting human health, ecology, historical values in economic and social development has been adopted as in previous plan. At 9th Development Plan; a different approach has been developed in sustainable development by describing basic strategic goals integrated with significant development goals (Undp, 2016). 10th Development Plan; includes matters such as human development, protection of environment and sustainable usage of resources (Tcma, 2016). Briefly in our development plans; policies based on sustainable development regarding economy-environment-community interactions at international levels have been improved.

b. Sustainable Development Report: At 2012 dated report, the goal has been to evaluate studies related with sustainable development of our country, to determine policies and visions for future and to find solutions for problems in the light of global approach. Within this context, "green development" approach has been preferred as a tool in sustainable development (Undp, 2016; Gürlük, 2010:85-99; Tutar ve diğ., 2007:65-83).

c. National Rural Development Strategy: Basic purpose of this strategy including 2014 and 2020 date interval is; to increase minimum rural life quality to the average of whole county's life quality and to harmonize rural business and life conditions with urban business and life conditions and to provide sustainability of these matters. Similar strategy has been focused on five elements as rural economy, rural environment, rural settlements, rural community and local development capacity (SP, 2016).

1.2. Small Scaled Agricultural Family Administrations

Organizational structures of Small Scaled Agricultural Family Administrations in our country are at a small scaled level. Since these administrations are small scaled, this causes deficiencies in agriculture, higher production costs and lower efficiencies. Since such administrations do not have sufficient capital, it becomes difficult for them to get internal or external agricultural loans (R.T. Ministry of Development, 2014). Whenever salaries and social benefit are compared in between agricultural sector and other sectors, it is seen that there are significant differences. This fact causes inequality in income and social benefits per person within the same sector. For example, in our country annual per capita income at provinces has been 8590\$ as of 2009, it has been 3700\$ at rural areas. This fact causes increase in poverty at rural areas and while poverty ratio for a family having 6 members is 37, %68 in urban areas this ratio reaches at % 53,95 in rural areas (Olhan, 2011; Meral, 2003).

a. Employment: In our country only 1/3 of whole population can be employed in agriculture sector. While the ratio of agricultural employment has been % 34,9 as of 2002, this ratio has regressed to %21,5 as of 2014 (Gthb, 2015). It may be said that workforce over age of 15 working in this sector are employed in family administrations. Besides, approximately %83,8 of the workforce of this sector work informally. On the other hand, almost all of women population (%96,2) working in this sector work informally (TOBB, 2013; Yücel ve diğ: 2016:247-270). Based on these facts; workforce of this sector is consisted from the ones having low level of education or from the one who cannot find jobs at other sectors. So, some of workforce prefer this sector mostly out of desperation especially during crisis. It may also be mentioned that if a person working within this sector can find a job from another sector he/she leaves his/her job and in cases when he/she has economic or employment problems, he/she returns to this sector. In other words, this sector is either used as a stepping stone or as a transition point. Increasing poverty, lower level of income and social benefits cause business and social security problems and this fact increases the importance of secured employment (Olhan, 2011).

b. Education: Education levels of both employees and small scaled administration owners acting in this sector are quite low. At the researches, it has been understood that education levels of owners of administrations and employees are primary school level. This fact has a direct impact over management actions, decision taking phases, perception against innovations and implementation processes. For this reason, in general it may be said that as the levels of education increases both in Turkey and rural areas, workforce turnover ratio increases. Besides, low level of education in younger women population forms the basis of employment problem in rural areas. Poverty of families also increases the levels of these mentioned problems. In fact, local training programs based on local requirements are also inadequate (Olhan, 2011). Therefore; children of such families residing in rural areas start working at younger ages and they are deprived of necessary education. So based on poverty and low level of social and occupational education, loop is continued and agricultural workmanship is based on information conveyed from generation to generation.

2. METHODOLOGY

At the research section of the study, quantitative research method has been used. Data of the research have been obtained by questionnaire and answers given to formatted questions. Besides, scanning model has been used in the research and current status of the family administrations have been tried to be determined and the effect of these current status over the sustainable development has been analyzed.

2.1. Goal and Importance of the Research

Agricultural structure of Turkey mostly includes Small Scaled Agricultural Family Administrations. These administrations perform small scaled production lack of business and social security and they act only as family administrations. Management levels, capital and education levels of these administrations are quite low. So, owners of such administrations try to solve their problems via migration or by working at different jobs. Even the agriculture sector is supported by plans, projects, internal and external finance, solutions to the problems are at insufficient levels. Nevertheless these administrations try to hold their own levels both in Turkey and throughout the world. Under this scope, family administrations continue to family farming activities. United Nations has declared year of 2014 as "international family farming year" to emphasize struggle against starvation-poverty, preservation of natural resources, provision of sustainable food security, decreasing migration from rural areas to urban areas and importance of "family farming" due to continuity of agricultural production activities. Regarding these points; despite of all negative aspects, the purpose of this study has been to understand the effect of small scaled agricultural family administrations over sustainable development. Support provided by small scaled agricultural family administrations over sustainable development under current conditions emphasizes the importance of the research.

2.2. Target Population and Sampling of the Research

It may be said that agricultural activities are dense at the provinces over which this research has been made but also industrial activities are being performed. However, sustainable development is only possible at the locations of these administrations and by preserving natural resources. Based on these justifications, target population of the research is whole of Small Scaled Agricultural Family Administrations acting in Bolu and Düzce Provinces and sampling consists of 300 administration owners who have been selected by convenience sampling method.

2.3. Collection and Evaluation of Data

Data which have been collected by questionnaire and interview forms have been analyzed using SPSS 15 program. At the analysis of the data, frequency and percentage analysis has been used and results have been reached using obtained findings. So, it has been tried to determine economic structure, educational level, employment status of family administrations who have participated in this research and the effect of these findings over the sustainable development.

3. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

a. Education and Employment Status: There has been no woman administration owner among the participating administrations. For this reason, it has been understood that despite women participates in production activities in such administrations they are free family workers. Whenever the education status is analyzed; education level of % 87 of administration owners is primary and secondary school. This result proves the low level of education in agriculture sector and that is the most important and general problems of this sector. Regarding education levels of the people participating in this research; it has been understood that the education levels of the ones acting only in agricultural activities are %96,1 primary-secondary school and %3,9 are high school; the education levels of the ones acting both in agricultural activities and also in other sectors are % 81,5 primary-secondary school and %12,7 are high school and %5,2 university. Based on these data; as education level increases employment in other branches together with agriculture increases.

b. Status of Participation in Employment: %37,3 of the administration owners act only at agriculture and % 62,7 of them act in different sectors as well. These data shows that administration owners prefer agricultural activities due to their requirements and due to the fact that there is no other alternative field of operation and also prevents them to work at high quality jobs other than agriculture.

c. Annual Working Interval at the Sector: The ones who have participated in this research have mentioned the following periods within one year; %18,5 works for 1 to 2 months, %45,3 works for 3 to 4 months, 14,9 % works for 5 to 6 months, %8,0 works for 7 to 8 months and % 8,3 works for the whole year. Agricultural working period is 4,3 months per year in average. In these provinces; for hazelnut at some definite months labor is dense but for other products, work is done throughout the whole year.

d. Monthly Income Status at the Sector: According to April 2016 research of Confederation of Trade Unions of Turkey; hunger threshold of a family with 4 members have been specified as 1.387 TL and poverty threshold has been specified as 4.518 TL (Türk iş, 2016). %69,5 of the participating administrations obtain an income in between 1 and 999 TL from agricultural activities. Average income is 860,2 TL. Income level of % 22,1 is between 1000 and 1999 TL and income level of % 6,5 is between 2000 and 3999 TL. Therefore, it is understood that these administrations satisfy their basic needs from the food they plant and they try to provide minimum sustainable quality of life for their families. These data emphasize that life in rural areas is mostly under the hunger and poverty thresholds.

4. CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

Sustainable development is based on economic, social and environmental facts and the principle of utilization of opportunities provided by development equally by future generations. Turkey has integrated sustainable development with development and economic policies. However, it has not been possible to put into force all components of the development at all levels and fields (Undp, 2016). Related policies should be implemented, followed and evaluated and cooperation and data sharing should increase among related establishments and roles of local administrations, private sector and non-governmental organizations should be increased in order to have a fast sustainable development (Tcma, 2016). Finally, the result of this research has been mentioned in three different areas in general;

a. Economic Structure: Means of livelihood in Bolu are agriculture and stockbreeding and %63 of the population is employed in these two sectors (Bolu, 2016). In Düzce, there are also low level of industrial activities together with agriculture and stockbreeding. As of 2015, %37,8 of the population lives in villages (Düzce, 2016). According to the results of the research, % 69,5 of small scaled administrations obtain income in between 1000 and 999 TL from agricultural activities and average income is 860,2 TL. These values are under the calculated poverty and hunger thresholds. Administrations make productions for their own requirements and market their products at a price lower than the specified market price. These types of administrations may increase their efficiencies and incomes by becoming a party of cooperative and may provide sustainability in finance, employment and agricultural production. Briefly, one of the important parameters of sustainable development in rural areas are become a cooperative.

b. Employment: Agricultural sector provides high level of contribution to the employment directly in rural areas and indirectly in urban areas. Besides; undeclared income, seasonal and free family workforce make this sector more important from employment point of view. At the research it has been seen that while the ratio of agricultural employment has been %34,9 as of 2002, this ratio has regressed to %21,5 as of 2014. %37,3 of the participating administrations act only at agriculture and %62,7 of them act in different sectors as well. Agricultural working period is 4,3 months per year in average. %45,3 of administration owners work for 3 or 4 months in a year and % 14,9 work for 5 or 6 months and %8,3 of them work throughout the whole year. Since growth food (hazelnut) and stockbreeding (poultry husbandry) require labor dense production, working period throughout the year increases. United Nations has announced "family farming year" to emphasize the importance of these administrations over the employment. It is suggested to develop industrial activities in rural areas. Otherwise, migration from rural areas to urban areas shall increase and there shall emerge lots of problems which are more difficult to find proper solutions.

c. Education: Education levels of small scaled agricultural family administrations located in rural areas are found out as primary or secondary school. This fact has a significant role over management actions, productivity and being effective regarding power of information, decision taking phases, perception against innovations and marketing. Under this scope, at the research performed in administrations located in Bolu and Düzce, it has been found out that this level is %87. This is a very high and remarkable ratio. Since the publication activities in this sector are insufficient, education is adversely affected from all these insufficient publication activities. For these matters, ministry of food, agriculture and livestock may increase its support via conferences, seminars, on the job trainings and distance education. As a result; cooperatives which are social organizations may have significant positive impacts over agricultural administrations regarding sustainable development (Elkington J.,1994: 90-100).

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