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in

Rubino R. (ed.), Morand-Fehr P. (ed.).

Systems of sheep and goat production: Organization of husbandry and role of extension services

Zaragoza : CIHEAM

Options Méditerranéennes : Série A. Séminaires Méditerranéens; n. 38

1999

pages 63-67

Article available on line / Article disponible en ligne à l'adresse :

<http://om.ciheam.org/article.php?IDPDF=99600135>

To cite this article / Pour citer cet article

Güney O., Oztürk D., Biçer O. **The Present Situation of Extension Service Organization in Turkey.** In : Rubino R. (ed.), Morand-Fehr P. (ed.). *Systems of sheep and goat production: Organization of husbandry and role of extension services* . Zaragoza : CIHEAM, 1999. p. 63-67 (Options Méditerranéennes : Série A. Séminaires Méditerranéens; n. 38)



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The present situation of extension service organization in Turkey

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SUMMARY - The Turkish national extension service is mainly organized under the control and responsibility of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). The MARA is organized in provinces and counties as Provincial Directorate of Agriculture (PDA) and County Directorate of Agriculture (CDA). Extension services are run by the Farmers Training and Extension Division of PDA and CDA. The Village Group Technicians (VGT) are an important unit in extension services that works under the CDA. The main constraints in Agricultural Extension Service in Turkey are: inadequate qualified extension staff, lack of coordination between general directorates of MARA, weak linkages among researchers, extension staff and farmers and their organizations, limited budget allocated for extension service, lack of farmers participation in the activities, etc. Sheep and goat farmers are the most difficult group to work with because there are not production records. Therefore, they are the least influenced by extension service activities in Turkey.

Key words: Sheep, goat, extension, Turkey.

RESUME - "Situation actuelle de l'organisation des services de développement en Turquie". Les services nationaux turcs de développement sont organisés essentiellement sous le contrôle de la responsabilité du ministère turc de l'agriculture et des affaires rurales (MARA). Le MARA est organisé en provinces et en comtés sous la forme de directeur provincial de l'agriculture (PDA) et de directeur de comté de l'agriculture (CDA). Les services de développement fonctionnent grâce à la division de formation et de développement des éleveurs au niveau des PDA et CDA. Les techniciens de groupement villageois sont une importante unité des services de développement qui travaille sous la CDA. Les principales contraintes des services de développement turcs sont : équipes diversement qualifiées, manque de coordination entre les directions générales du MARA, faibles contacts entre les chercheurs, l'équipe de développement et les éleveurs et leurs organisations, budget limité affecté aux services de développement, faible participation des éleveurs aux activités, etc. Les éleveurs ovins et caprins représentent un groupe avec lequel il est très difficile de travailler, parce qu'ils n'enregistrent aucun paramètre de production. En conséquence, ils sont les moins touchés par les activités des services de développement en Turquie.

Mots-clés : Ovin, caprin, extension, Turquie.

Introduction

The livestock population in Turkey is about 60 million heads including sheep, goats, cattle and water buffaloes. Sheep and goats form almost 70% of livestock population. They are mostly kept under extensive conditions and are depend on pasture and grazing land. 97% of farm enterprises deal with horticulture and animal production together. The herd size is 1-74 in 92% of farms. Within this picture of animal production, the national extension service of Turkey is mainly organized under control and responsibility of The Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). There are belonging offices of MARA in all provinces and counties in order to run the extension service. The responsibility in extension service that was formerly only in MARA's control was started to be shared with some public and None Governmental Organizations (NGO) since the reorganization of ministry in 1984. But even the reorganization couldn't bring the satisfactory progress. In general Provincial Directorate of Agriculture (PDA-80 in number at present) and County Directorate of Agriculture of MARA (about 850) run the extension service on all over the country.

Extension service organization

The structure of Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Provincial Directorate of Agriculture is shown in Fig. 1 and 2. Within this structure, the responsible units from extension service are Farmers Training and Extension Division of PDA, County Directorates of Agriculture (CDA) and Village Group Technicians (VGT) that are work under the CDA's. The VGT's formed with commencing of the Turkish Agriculture Extension and Applied Research Project (AERP) that is partially financed by the World Bank. The VGT's are placed in a group of 4-5 villages and live at the village. This is one of the most important nucleus unit in extension service organization because they applied face to face training to the farmers. But unfortunately they are occupied only at the provinces where AERP is conducted. The applied method in knowledge flow is visiting and training of farmers by the Training and Extension Division's staff. During these visits, extension staffs mostly work with the leader farmer of the village.

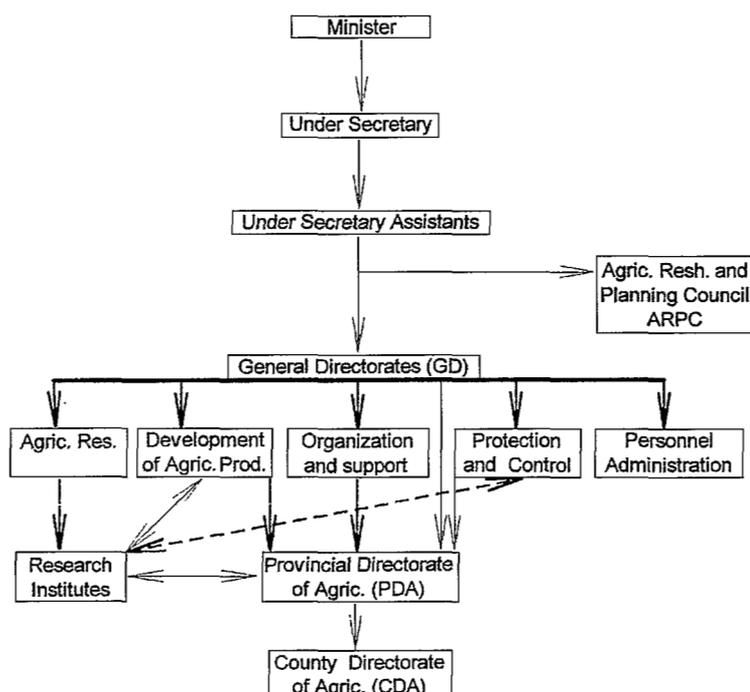


Fig. 1. The Present Organization of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA).

As it is seen in Fig. 2, provincial directorates show a complex structure and within this organization scheme, management of personnel and service is very difficult. Moreover, being responsible for different director generals create chaos in the system and decrease the performance of provincial directors and efficiency of extension staff.

Responsibilities of provincial directorates are summarized below:

- (i) To provide linkage between researchers and extension organization.
- (ii) Improvement of agricultural production system in the province and region by providing high merit breeding stock and organizing courses in different subject such as bee keeping, plant protection and fertilizer using, etc.
- (iii) Development of economical returns from farming and farm based activities, Provincial Directorates also control the projects that are financed by agricultural bank.
- (iv) Using efficient national extension programs especially production oriented ones such as vaccination programs and external and internal parasite control.

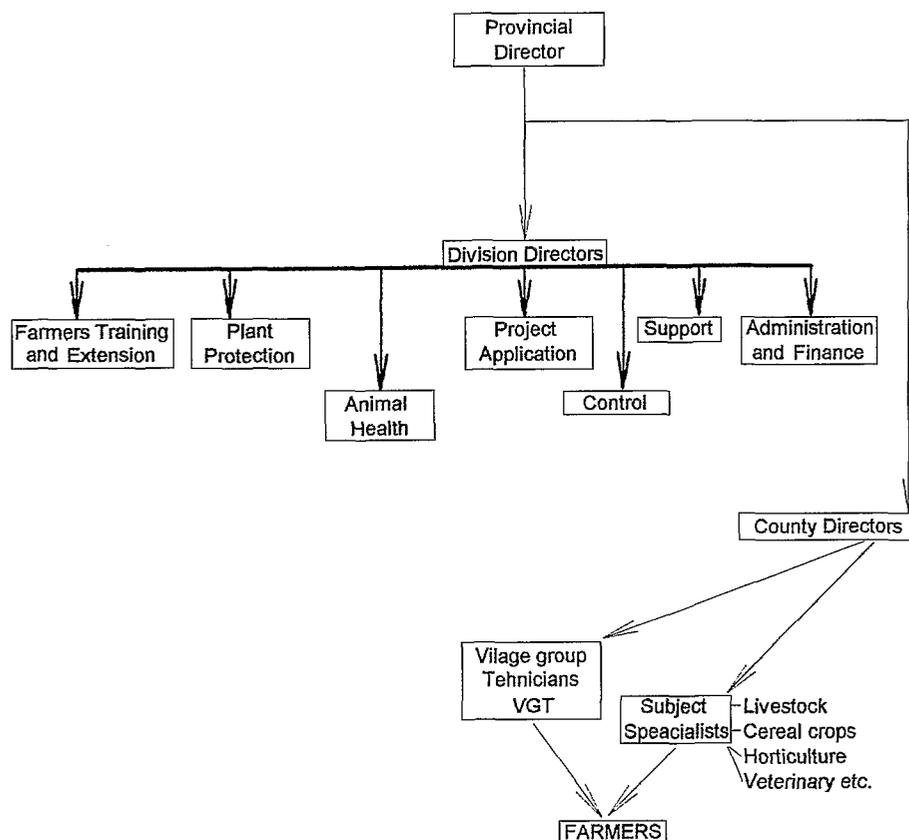


Fig. 2. The Structure of Provincial Directorate of Agriculture.

Research and extension linkages in Turkey

Agricultural researches are conducted and carried out by three organizations. These are: (i) Agriculture and Veterinary Faculties of Universities; (ii) Research Institutes of MARA; and (iii) Non Governmental Organizations such Farmer Unions and Agricultural Chambers.

Beside these organizations, there are 9 more research institutes belong to different Ministries such as Soil and Irrigation Research Inst., Tea Res. Inst. and Sugar beat Res. Inst. While the Faculties mostly conduct basic an applied researches, the institutes and NGO's deal with applied and adaptive research.

Researchers use the information provided by extension staff for diagnosis of problems or constraints of farmers. But visit done to the farmers by the researches is the main approach for diagnosis. According to the results obtained from researches, the recommendation done for solving the problems and constraints are disseminated to the farmers with the same channel as in identification stage (Fig. 3). There are also TV and radio programs to inform farmers about extension service and on farm trials and results at the leader farmers field.

The constraints in agricultural extension service in Turkey

The constraints in agricultural extension service could be summarized as follows:

- (i) Inadequate qualified extension staff although is sufficient in number.
- (ii) Weak linkages among researchers, extensionists and farmers and their organizations.

- (iii) Very little feed back from farmers, especially in animal production. Most of the sheep and goat farmers don't keep any record.
- (iv) Political interference on the appointment of staff.
- (v) Limited budget allocated for extension service from PDA budget.
- (vi) Lack of coordination between general directorates of MARA.
- (vii) Lack of motivation of technical staff to hard working and creativity and insufficient promotion system.
- (viii) Unwillingness in multidisciplinary working.
- (ix) Lack of understanding socio-cultural factors directly effect the acceptance and adoption of changes in all farming system.
- (x) From sheep and goat farmers point of view, activities are not generally addressed to farmers priority and problems. That means, not enough emphasis put on small ruminant production although it forms the biggest part of livestock population.
- (xi) Scarcity of farmers participation in the activities.
- (xii) No tradition of on-farm experimentation under farmer's condition and control.

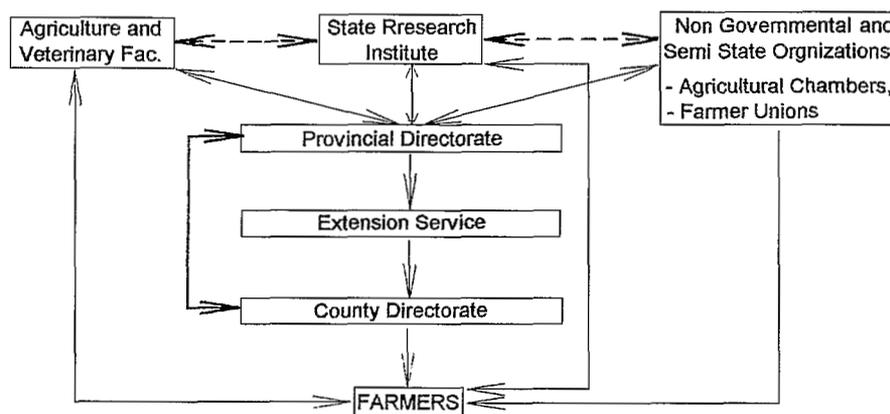


Fig. 3. Macro Information System in Turkish Agriculture.

Conclusions

In Turkey, because of very complex structure of MARA, giving extension service to the farmers is difficult. Even after reorganization of MARA in 1984, it couldn't be improved as much as it is expected. Sheep and goat keepers in Turkey are the most difficult farmers group that accept the recommendations produced by extension service. In the mean time, by switching the production from extensive into intensive system, they will get more profit from extension service given by MARA, Universities and None Governmental Organizations.

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