

## Country Report 2018- Turkey

Parallel to the developments in the world, cooperatives have also developed in Turkey. Today, cooperatives have a direct role to address close to 7.5 million people and have played an important role in the development of the society in terms of economic, social and cultural aspects with its diversity of activities. Cooperatives in Turkey depend on three ministries: the Ministry of Customs and Trade, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanism. There are 84.232.000 cooperatives operating in 37 different areas in Turkey and 8.109.225 member of them.

Agricultural cooperatives with the highest number of cooperatives in terms of activity area. There are 13.315 agricultural cooperatives and 4.518.385 member of agricultural cooperatives in Turkey. In Turkey, beet crop farmers cooperatives (1.638.981 members) are followed by agricultural credit cooperatives (1.082.978 members) and agricultural development cooperatives (842.563 members), respectively. The common number of ORKOOP, which is included in the agricultural development cooperatives, exceeds 288.668 members.

In Turkey, 912 new cooperatives and 12 cooperative regional union were established in 2017. Approximately 172 of the 912 cooperatives established in 2017 are related to agriculture. Other hand, as of 2017, 16 % of the total number of cooperatives and 55,7 % of the total member of cooperatives are in cooperatives operating in the agricultural field. The largest number of cooperative agricultural cooperatives are agricultural development cooperatives (8173 cooperatives). The number of cooperatives connected to ORKOOP is around 3000. These are followed by irrigation cooperatives (2497 cooperatives) and agricultural credit cooperatives (1767 cooperatives).

By the end of 2017, the number of active agricultural sales cooperatives in our country is 447, the number of unions is 17, and the number of members is 630.793.

Agricultural Sales Cooperatives; Trakyabirlik (37.212 members), Marmarabirlik (29.946 members), Karadenizbirlik (24.639 members) and Tariş Olive Union (22.318 members), which are the cooperatives with the highest number of cooperatives and the largest number of cooperatives are Fiskobirlik (50 cooperatives and 143.496 members) it is observed that Fiskobirlik is followed by its large number of partners. In addition, 17 independent agricultural sales cooperatives, of which 9,066 persons are partners, continue their activities in their respective fields.

Agricultural Sales Cooperatives are purchasing from producers of oil sunflower, natural cotton, olive oil, olive oil, seedless raisins, shell nuts, soy, dried figs, rose flowers, mohair and wet cocoon products. Although it is in small quantities, olive oil is purchased by Çukobirlik by oil sunflower and Taris Olive Union.

Although the amount of products purchased for agricultural sales cooperatives and associations varies according to years, in some products, a significant part of the country's production is bought for cooperatives.

38.8% of the oil sunflower produced in the country, 16.8% of the dry grape production, 10.5% of the mass cotton production, 9.2% of the olive production, 7.5% of the fig production and 9.2% of olive oil production is purchased.

The products which are bought in agriculture sales cooperatives and associations carry mohair, rose oil, cocoon, fig, olive and olive oil regional product feature. In some species with regional crops, the quantity of crops purchased for agricultural sales cooperatives and associations is important in respect of the region in which the cooperative / association is located.

As a matter of fact, the amount of sunflower purchased by Trakyabirlik, which is locally established, corresponds to 62-66% of the production of Trakya region and similarly 70% of the amount of mass cotton purchased by Antbirlik is purchased by Tariş Cotton and Oil Seeds Agricultural Sales Cooperatives Association the amount of massive cotton constitutes 25% of the area production. On the other hand, unions in products such as mohair and cocoon (Tiftikbirlik, Kozabirlik) are purchased from the producers in close proximity to the products produced.

Arrived points have an important place in the economy of the country, both in terms of regional and sectoral, with their businesses and affiliates. While agricultural sales cooperatives and associations play an important role in the cultivation of grapes, figs and olives from traditional exported products of our country, they are also important actors in exporting. Agricultural sales cooperatives and associations are seen to have an impact on the development of local economies as well as agricultural technical support activities.

Agricultural development cooperatives are organized on the basis of themes such as the Central Union of Village Development Cooperatives of Turkey (KÖ Y-KOOP) Central Cooperatives of Agriculture Cooperatives (TAR-KOOP), Central Cooperative Association of Livestock Cooperatives (HAY-KOOP), Central Partnership of Turkey Forestry Cooperatives (OR-KOOP) They were organized under the titles of Central Union of Cooperative Unions (ÇAY-KOOP).

The implementation period of the Cooperative Action Strategy and Action Plan, which will guide Turkey's cooperative policy ended on 31/12/2016. However, taking into account the needs of the cooperative movement, it is desirable to continue the increase in the visibility achieved through the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan in 2018.

It is demanded that further efforts to expand the cooperative spirit in the country and the development of cooperatives in new fields are desired.

The representatives of the cooperatives are also involved in the work of regulating the cooperatives in order to facilitate their work and to solve the problems of the cooperatives.

In order to strengthen the institutional structure of the cooperatives in Turkey and to improve the quality of the services offered to the cooperatives, preparations for a new Turkish Cooperatives Strategy have been started. These studies are planned to be completed with the cooperation of the public, cooperative sector and non-governmental organizations and put into practice in the coming years.

It is aimed in 2018 that cooperatives will be pursued and coordinated in a coordinated manner and that they contribute to the exemplary position of the Turkish cooperatives in the world. The Cooperative Strategy and Action Plan aims to reach a level of stronger, more reliable, more efficient enterprises of Turkish cooperatives.