Impact of Young Farmers Supports on the young farmers' willingness to continue farm activities: A case of TR52 region in Türkiye

Metin Türker*

DOI: 10.30682/nm2401g
JEL codes: O13, O18, P25

Abstract

There has been an increase in the demand for agricultural products and different support programs are implemented by countries to keep a sufficient, economically active population in agriculture. The aim of this study was to examine the impacts of the Young Farmer Support Program (YFP) in Türkiye. The primary data for this study was obtained from face-to-face surveys conducted with 155 young farmers. The logit model was used to analyse the factors affecting the willingness of young farmers to continue agricultural activities. The results showed that about half of the young farmers were not satisfied with the provided support, and 23.7% of them considered exiting the agricultural sector. The results of the Logit model showed that the satisfaction from the Program, the presence of social facilities in the rural areas, crop diversity, agricultural insurance, and investments in the farms were statistically significant and had an impact on the willingness of young farmers to continue their farm activities. Diversifying and expanding the scope of support policies for young farmers could make significant contributions to keeping young farmers in the agricultural sector and rural areas.

Keywords*: Impact assessment, Logistic regression, Support program, Young farmers.*

1. Introduction

Nowadays, the effective and efficient use of natural resources for adequate and balanced nutrition comes to the fore for the growing population. Meanwhile, the socio-economic challenges and changes faced by farmers in rural areas for agricultural production constitute a priority area. In this context, the shrinkage faced in the field of agriculture, the reduction in the scale of the operation, the increase in ownership issues, the depletion of natural resources, water scarcity, global climate change problems, as well as the migration problems in rural areas, the migration of young people from agriculture, and the aging agricultural population are among the extremely important issues of food supply. On the other hand, while global crises, pandemics, natural disasters, and rising food prices have increased the importance of the agricultural sector in meeting food needs, it is becoming more and more important for young people to remain involved in agricultural activities. An aging agricultural population is one of the most important problems for the sector in Türkiye. According to the Farmers Registry System, 69% of the farmers were aged 50 and above (MoAF, 2021). According to TURK-

* General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye. Corresponding author: metin.turker@gmail.com

STAT, by the end of December in 2022, there were a total of 57,934,583 individuals living in the localities categorized as densely populated in Türkiye. These areas covered just 1.6% of Türkiye's entire land area. To put it differently, densely populated areas accommodated approximately 67.9% of Türkiye's population (TURKSTAT, 2023). This reduces the effectiveness of digitalization, agricultural mechanization, education-dissemination, organization, and agricultural policies. In 2021, the median age in Türkiye was recorded at 33.1 years. Presently, 9.5% of the population is aged 65 and above, indicating a growing concern over population ageing as highlighted in various official policy documents. The current size of this age group is approximately 8 million individuals and is projected to surpass 27 million by the year 2080 (Yıldız *et al.*, 2023).

Because young farmers play an important role in the sustainability of agriculture and food security for countries, various support policies or programs have been implemented by both developed and developing countries to encourage young farmers to stay in the agricultural sector and to establish their own businesses. Thus, to find solutions to the problems of young farmers, the European Union (EU) provided financial assistance of 3.7 billion euros to 126,000 young farmers who started their own businesses in the period between 2007 and 2013, and it was expected to pay 2.6 billion euros to 180,000 young farmers during the existing period of support program (AP, 2017) within the scope of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The draft council regulation laying down the EU's multi-annual financial program framework for the years between 2020 and 2027 puts an emphasis on supporting young farmers, and the final declaration of the Agricultural Council held in 2019 includes the issues on supporting young and women entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Similarly, Young Farmer Support Program has been implemented in Türkiye. The aim of YFP is to prevent the migration of young farmers from rural areas by encouraging reverse migration from urban to rural areas, and to make young farmers choose agriculture as a profession and to implement a strong project prioritizing voluntary and disadvantaged groups aiming to develop entrepreneurship in the rural areas. Within the scope of the YFP, a grant of 30,000 Turkish Lira (TL) was paid to young entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 40 who live or commit to live in rural areas in the period of 2016-2018. Thanks to this support program, 47,750 entrepreneurs migrated from urban areas to rural areas and approximately 20,000 new businesses were established (MoAF, 2021).

The literature mentioned above examined YFP at the regional and provincial levels, but there has not been a study conducted in the TR52 Region (In the context of the Statistical Regional Units Classification (NUTS) of Türkiye, TR52 Region is one of the 2nd level regions, which includes Konya and Karaman provinces). In this study, the willingness of young farmers to continue their agricultural activities in TR 52 Region of Türkiye was examined based on the Young Farmer Support Program. After the implementation of the Young Farmer Project, the problems and expectations of young farmers about the program have been examined. In this context, Berk (2018) investigated the problems of young farmers and the factors affecting the departure of young farmers from agricultural activity in Niğde province. According to the findings of the study, young farmers left agriculture in search of better living conditions, especially for the education and health of their children. Moreover, Alkan and Özkan (2020) evaluated the realization potential and sustainability of the YFP implementation in Antalya province. The study showed that the vast majority of the farmers (85%) benefited from the project thought that the project was beneficial and 14.2% of farmers started agricultural production with YFP. On the other hand, Yalçın *et al.* (2020) conducted a study to determine the tendency of young farmers to stay in agriculture and migrate from rural to urban areas of young people between the ages of 18-40 who benefited from the Young Farmer Grant Support in Gaziantep and Şanliurfa provinces. The results of the study showed that 39%

Figure 1 - Research area.

Source: MoAF, 2021.

of the young farmers tended to migrate from the rural areas. Akkaya and Gülçubuk (2018) conducted a study about YFP in the Polatlı district of Ankara province, and the research results showed that 80% of the young farmers benefited from YFP see themselves as entrepreneurs and 36.7% of young farmers wanted to migrate from their farms. Çağlayan *et al.* (2020) evaluated YFP for animal breeders and developed new criteria to evaluate the success of the program. The research findings demonstrated that YFP was successful despite flaws such as insufficient grant funding. In a similar study, Aggelopoulos and Arabatzis (2010) determined that the outcomes reveal that following the initiation of the financing programme, the focus of the farms has shifted towards capitalizing on the comparative benefits of diverse regions through the cultivation of crops that are well-suited to the respective areas. On the other hand, Yılmaz and Keskin (2020) examined the YFP in Hatay province to identify the problems experienced in the implementation process of the project. The findings showed that the intended effectiveness level was not achieved, because the breeders did not receive the targeted efficiency or was not given the animal they wanted. Birol *et al.* (2020) determined a new criterion for the YFP support program and measured the willingness of the farmers to get paid with different scenarios and found that the biggest needs of entrepreneurs were marketing and that the support should be 51,000 TL for young entrepreneurs. And Can and Engindeniz (2020) indicated in their study that factors such as age, being a farmer within the family, and possessing family-owned farmland have a positive impact on the likelihood of students taking advantage of the YFP.

2. Materials and methods

The primary data for the study was obtained from young farmers in the TR52 Region (Konya and Karaman provinces) in 2021 through the face-to-face survey method. The research area was chosen purposefully, and the proportional sampling method (formula 1) was used to determine the sample size, since the research was aimed at a specific target group and audience. There is no significant difference between the two provinces selected as the research area in terms of crop pattern and infrastructure. The young farmer ratios in the provinces and regions were used in the sample size calculation. The sample size calculation was made by taking the 2020 FRS data into consideration. It has been determined that there was a total of 101,329 farmers in Konya and Karaman provinces, and the total number of young farmers (under 40 years old) was 13,274 and consists of 13.1% of the total population (Figure 1).

In this context, the p ratio was taken as 13.1% in the calculation. For the research, the number of samples was determined as 155, with a confidence interval of 99% and a deviation of 7% from the mean. Furthermore, to distribute the sample size to the relevant provinces, the proportion of young farmers in the provinces was taken into consideration. In this context, the

face-to-face survey was conducted with 127 young farmers in Konya province and 28 young farmers in Karaman province.

$$n = \frac{N * p * q}{(N-1) * \sigma_{P_x}^2 + p * q}$$

q=p-1

$$\sigma_{P_x}^2 = \left(\frac{r}{Z_{\propto/2}}\right)^2$$

where:
N = Population size
n = Number of sample size
p = Proportion of young farmers in the population
q = Proportion of non-young farmers in the population
σ = Standard deviation
R = Mean deviation
Z = Z-score (Newbold, 1995)

As of 2018, the TR52 Region constitutes 3% of the total population of Türkiye (about 2.5 million). In addition, it was observed that there was a reduction in the population size of the region, which is one of the reasons for the study area selection. There was migration from the TR52 region, and the migration rates fluctuated between 2 and 5% (MEVKA, 2019).

In the research, the logit model was used to analyse the factors affecting the willingness of young farmers to continue agricultural activities. Various trials were conducted in the selection of variables to be included in the logit model, and the variables generating the most meaningful results have been incorporated into the model. Some variables, however, were not included as they did not make a significant contribution to explaining the model. The logit model is expressed as (Gujarati, 1995):

$$P_i = F(Z_i) = F\ (\alpha + \beta X_i) = \\ = \frac{1}{1+ exp^{-(z_i)}} = \frac{1}{1+ exp^{-(\alpha+\beta x_i)}} \quad (1)$$

P_i is the probability of i^{th} household to select a specific choice, F is the probability function, is constant coefficient, Z_i equals *α plus* βX_i, β is the estimation of parameters for each explanatory variable and, x_i represents i^{th} independent variable. By rearranging the equation 1 and finding the natural logarithm of both sides of the equation, the equation becomes.

$$L_i = Ln\left[\frac{P_i}{(1-P_i)}\right] = Z_i = \quad (2)$$
$$= \alpha + \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \cdots \beta_n X_n + \varepsilon_i$$

Marginal probability shows the variation in the probability of poverty in accordance with the change in each explanatory variable (Greene, 2011). The estimated β-coefficients of equation (2) do not directly represent the marginal effects of the independent variables on the probability P_i. In the case of a continuous explanatory variable, the marginal effect of X_j on the probability P_i is given by:

$$\frac{\partial P_i}{x_{ij}} = \frac{\left|\beta_j \ \exp(-\beta X_i)\right|}{|1 + \exp(-\beta X_i)|^2} \quad (3)$$

If the explanatory variable is qualitative or discrete, however, $\partial P_i / \partial X_{ij}$ do not exist. In such a case, the marginal effect is obtained by evaluating P_i at alternative values of x_{ij}. For example, in the case of a binary explanatory variable x_{ij} that takes values of 1 and 0, the marginal effect is determined as:

$$\frac{\partial P_i}{x_{ij}} = P\left(X_{ij}\right) = 1 - P\left(X_{ij}\right) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics of the Logit model variables. The descriptive statistics were analysed in a split-file format to illustrate differences between the young farmers who were willing and not willing to continue in their farm activities. Based on below explanatory variables including the satisfaction from Young Farmer Support Program, the dependent variable of the model was taken as the willingness young farmers to continue agricultural activities (Y_i=1) and otherwise (Y_i=0). The descriptive results showed that 27% of the young farmers were willing to continue their farm activities, while 73% of the young farmers were willing to exit farm activities. About half of the young farmers were satisfied with the Young Farmer Support Program, while 63% the young farmer ensured

Table 1 - Descriptive statistics of the model variables.

Variables	*Definition*	*Mean*	*Std. Dev.*
Dependent variable			
WTCAGRACT	1 for willingness to continue agricultural activities, 0 otherwise	0.27	0.44
Independent variables			
SATYFARSUP	1 for farmer satisfied with the YFP, 0 otherwise	0.50	0.50
CROPDIVERS	1 for the young farmer that ensures crop and/or product diversity, 0 otherwise	0.63	0.49
AGINSURANCE	1 for the young farmer that has agricultural insurance, 0 otherwise	0.25	0.44
SUFSOCFAC	1 for the sufficient social facilities in rural areas, 0 otherwise	0.30	0.46
SUFINFRSER	1 for rural area that has sufficient infrastructure services, 0 otherwise	0.38	0.49
FARMINVEST	1 for the young farmer that has invested in the farm, 0 otherwise	0.61	0.49
INCOME	1 for the young farmer that has a monthly income higher than TL 1500, 0 otherwise	0.79	0.41
EDUCATION	1 for the young farmer that completed high school or higher education, 0 otherwise	0.64	0.48

crop and/or product diversity in their farms. About 25% of the young farmers insured their crops or animals. Moreover, 30% and 38% of the young farmers had sufficient infrastructure and social facilities in their rural areas, respectively. In addition, 61% of the young farmers made investments in their farms. About 78% of the young farmers had a monthly income higher than 1500 TL, and 64% of the young farmers had completed high school or higher education.

3. Results and discussions

The political, economic, and social developments have caused a substantial migration from rural to urban areas in recent years. It is also known that rapid and irregular migration leads to various problems in both the agricultural sector and urban areas. Investigating these problems is important in terms of troubleshooting the problems in the country. As it can be seen in Table 2, the average age of young farmers was 33.4 years. The young farmers have a household size of 4.6 with 2.3 children. The average agricultural experience of young farmers was 12 years. About ¾ of the young farmers have completed high school or below-grade education level. While the young farmers who were willing to continue farm activities had most commonly completed their high school education, the young farmers who were not willing to continue farm activities had most commonly completed their primary school education. About 60% of the young farmers have lived only in the villages, while the proportion of people living in the village was 35.4% for the young farmers who were willing to continue farm activities and 40% for the young farmers who were not willing to continue farm activities. The average land size of young farmers was 312.6 decares, and about half of the young farmers had 50 or fewer decares of land, and 27.7% of the young farmers' land had increased in the last 5 years. A high proportion of young farmers (81.6%) stated that they would be willing to continue their agricultural activities if the land was inherited from their families. In terms of education, residence place, land size, and income, there was a statistically significant difference at the level of 10% between the young farm groups. The lack of job opportunities and insufficient income levels in the rural areas are among the main reasons for young farmers to leave the rural areas. About two-third of young farmers had a household monthly income between 1501 and 5000 TL. There was a statistically significant difference between the young farmer groups in terms of income level. Furthermore, 69.7% of the respondents stated that they would prefer to live in the rural areas if their financial situation was good, and 22.6% of the

Table 2 - Descriptive statistics of the socio-demographic and economic variables.

	Willing to Continue		*Not Willing to Continue*		*All Young Farmers*	
	Mean/ Frequency	*Std. deviation/%*	*Mean/ Frequency*	*Std. deviation/%*	*Mean/ Frequency*	*Std. deviation/%*
Age (years)	32.10	5.65	33.84	4.845	33.37	5.12
Household size (person)	4.5	2.18	4.63	1.57	4.59	1.75
Children (person)	2.25	0.84	2.31	0.86	2.30	0.86
Experience (years)	11.07	7.20	12.64	7.67	12.21	7.55
Education (%)*						
Illiterate	0.0	0.0	1,8	1.2	1.4	0.9
Primary school	26.2	16.9	38,1	24.6	34.8	22.5
High school	52.4	33.8	35,4	22.8	40.0	25.8
University	21.4	13.8	24,7	15.9	23.8	15.4
Residence (%)*						
Village	54.8	35.4	62,8	40.5	60.6	39.1
District	21.4	13.8	18,6	12.0	19.4	12.5
Village & district	21.4	13.8	10,6	6.8	13.5	8.7
Urban center	2.4	1.5	8,0	5.2	6.5	4.2
Land size (decare)*						
<10	5	11.9	22	19.5	27	17.4
11-50	16	38.1	30	26.5	46	29.7
51-100	5	11.9	15	13.3	20	12.9
101-250	6	14.3	19	1.8	25	16.1
251-500	6	14.3	13	11.5	19	12.3
501 and above	4	9.5	14	12.4	18	11.6
Income (TL/Month) *						
0-1500	8	19.0	24	21.2	32	20.6
1501-3000	15	35.7	44	38.9	59	38.1
3001-5000	13	31.0	32	28.3	45	29.0
5001-9999	5	11.9	11	9.7	16	10.3
10000 ≥	1	2.4	2	1.8	3	1.9

** Means of the 2 subsets are statistically different at 10% levels.*

respondents were considering moving to the city within the next 5 years.

The results of agricultural activity granted skills and training needs of the young farmers are given in Table 3. About 32.6% of the young farmers benefited from bovine breeding activity, while others benefited from ovine breeding (26.1%), vegetable or fruit projects (15.2%), beekeeping, poultry, and sericulture (10.9%), greenhouse cultivation (10.3%), and medical aromatic plants and mushrooms (4.3%). About more than half of young farmers had the ability to drive tractor, use social media, do accounting, shop online and prune fruits, and less than one-third of young farmers had the ability to know about rural development programs, apply agricultural supports, prepare agricultural project, involve sport, operate the stock exchange and set up a business. The young farmers create an expectation that they will attend various courses and trainings on agricultural activities and become certified. About 40% of young farmers had a certificate of different agricultural field. Young farmers ranging from 21% to 55% need training

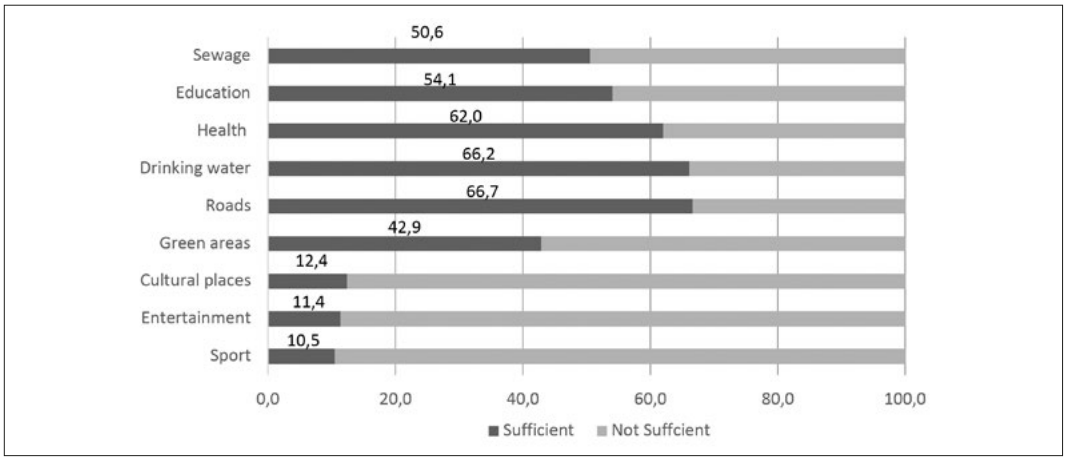
Table 3 - Agricultural activity granted, skills and training need of the young farmers.

	Frequency	*Percent (%)*
Agricultural activity granted by the young farmer		
Bovine animal breeding	51	32.6
Ovine animal breeding	40	26.1
Vegetable or fruit production	24	15.2
Beekeeping, poultry or sericulture	17	10.9
Subsoil or greenhouse cultivation	17	10.9
Herbal Production- Medicinal Aromatic-Mushroom, etc.	7	4.3
Skills of the young farmer		
Drive tractor	127	81.9
Use social media	103	66.5
Understand accounting	91	58.7
Shop online	87	56.1
Prune fruits	79	51.0
Knowledge on rural development programs	48	31.0
Apply agricultural supports	37	23.9
Prepare agricultural project	31	20.0
Involve a sport	24	15.5
Operate the stock exchange	12	7.7
Set up a business	10	6.5
Training or guidance needs of the young farmer		
Plant production maintenance works	86	55.4
Project preparation and finding financial support	81	52.3
Use of tools and equipment	68	43.9
Investing-starting a company	66	42.6
Information technologies	65	41.9
Accounting-sales	57	36.8
Sports activities	35	22.6
Fine arts	33	21.3

or guidance on plant production maintenance works, project preparation and finding financial support, using agricultural machinery and equipment, investing, and starting a company, information technologies, accounting and sales, and sports and fine arts.

The most important factor that encourages young farmers to continue their lives in rural areas is the adequacy and quality of public services brought to their place of residence. In this study, young farmers were asked to evaluate the services brought to their place of residence. The results show that the provincial directorates of district agriculture and forestry was ranked as the first institution among the others providing necessary services to young farmers. Half of the young farmers stated that they were satisfied with the services of this institution. About 52.9% of the young farmers could not protect themselves against the fluctuations in the price of the agricultural products, while 47.1% of the young farmers tried to protect themselves by following the market price of the products, storing their crops and selling crops or products in cash.

Figure 2 - Adequacy of infrastructure and facilities in the rural areas (%).



About 61.9% of the young farmers stated that a new employment area had not been created for young farmers in the rural areas during the YFP, while 60.4% of the respondents stated that various infrastructure investments were made by the state in their regions. Young farmers ranging from 50.1% to 66.7% stated that rural infrastructure such as sewage, education, health, drinking water, and roads was sufficient, while young farmers ranging from 57.1% to 89.5% stated that green areas, cultural places, entertainment, and sports facilities were not sufficient in their rural areas (Figure 2).

In the study, the expectations of young farmers were evaluated by the Likert scale statements in Table 4. The results showed that the young farmers agree with the statements such as "the problems of young farmers are not known sufficiently", "young farmers manage businesses better", "young farmers perform production more efficiently", "young farmers are sensitive to the disease and pest management", "young farmers are giving hope to the society for the future", "the young farmers grow higher quality crops", and "agricultural activities were adversely affected by the pandemic". However, some of the young farmers agree with the statements such as "young farmers are sufficiently interested in agricultural policies", "young farmers insured all crops and animals", "adequate support is provided to young farmers", "young farmers cooperate well with the universities" and "the state adequately meets the needs of young farmers."

The logit model results of the willingness of young farmers to continue agriculture are given in Table 5. The results of the Logit model showed that the satisfaction of young farmers from the YFP, the presence of social facilities in the rural areas, the attitudes toward crop/product diversity, agricultural insurance, and investments in the farms had statistically significant impacts on the willingness of young farmers to continue their farm activities.

Agricultural support is an important instrument in guiding and motivating young farmers in their agricultural activities, as well as making important contributions to the sustainability of the farms. The research results showed that the young farmers who were satisfied with the YFP were 23.4% more likely to continue their farm activities than their counterparts. Turkekul and Abay (2020) also found that agricultural support is one of the important factors on farmers' quitting decisions from the agricultural sector. In addition, Kan *et al.* (2018) stated that higher support should be given young farmers to improve their entrepreneurial spirits.

Moreover, physical infrastructure and social facilities in rural areas have also affected young farmers' willingness to continue farm activities. Social facilities such as adequate social opportunities in rural areas, access to education and health services as well as individual wishes

Table 4 - Expectations of the young farmers.

Statements	*Average**
The problems of young farmers are not known sufficiently.	3.74
Young farmers manage businesses better.	3.54
Young farmers perform production more efficiently.	3.54
Young farmers are sensitive to the disease and pest management.	3.50
Young farmers are giving hope to the society for the future.	3.42
The young farmers grow higher quality crops.	3.39
Agricultural activities were adversely affected by the pandemic.	3.39
The professional knowledge of young farmers is sufficient.	3.18
Young farmers have no marketing problems.	3.08
Young farmers have sufficient knowledge about the use of inputs.	3.07
Young farmers generally perform dry farming on their agricultural lands.	3.06
Young farmers have enough knowledge about soil reclamation, erosion control and drainage management.	3.06
Young farmers sell their crops/products faster with digital tools (social media).	3.01
The agricultural credit use of young farmers is low.	3.00
Young farmers are sufficiently interested in agricultural policies	2.95
Young farmers insured all crops or animals.	2.61
Adequate support is provided to young farmers.	2.59
Young farmers cooperate well with the universities.	2.55
The state adequately meets the needs of young farmers.	2.32

**1: I strongly disagree / 2: I disagree / 3: Indecisive / 4: I agree / 5: I strongly agree.*

Table 5 - Logit model results.

	Coef.	*Std.*	*P>|z|*	*Marginal effects*	*P>|z|*
CONSTANT	-0.265	0.660	0.689		
SATYFARSUP ***	1.577	0.472	0.001	0.234	0.000
SUFSOCFAC**	1.115	0.466	0.017	0.165	0.010
CROPDIVERS***	1.544	0.451	0.001	0.229	0.000
SUFINFRSER	0.680	0.550	0.216	0.101	0.207
AGINSURANCE *	1.052	0.610	0.085	0.156	0.077
FARMINVEST*	0.952	0.526	0.070	0.141	0.060
INCOME	0.990	0.635	0.119	0.144	0.093
EDUCATION	0.512	0.469	0.275	0.076	0.268
Number of obs	155				
LR $chi^2(11)$	40.15				
Prob > chi^2	0.0000				
Pseudo R^2	0.2217				

and desires keep young farmers in rural areas. The model results showed that the young farmers who consider social opportunities sufficient were 16.5% more likely to continue farm activities than their counterparts. Altintas *et al.* (2019) found also that the difficulties in rural areas caused the migration of farmers from agricultural sector.

The possibility and desire to increase crop/product diversity in the farm is an important factor keeping farmers in agricultural sector. Young farmers who want to increase their agricultural crop/product diversity were 22.9% more likely to remain in the farms than those who do not want to increase their crop diversity. Bragg and Dalton (2004) found also that greater diversification of farm income was more likely associated with a decision to leave dairy farming.

Insurance provides farmers with the opportunity to compensate for the crop and economic losses they experience when faced with risks. Young farmers who have agricultural insurance were 15.6% more likely to remain in agricultural sector than their counterparts.

Fixed capital investment in the farms is an important tool to increase their production and income. Young farmers who invest in their farms were 14.1% more likely to remain agriculture sector than their counterparts.

4. Conclusions

Aging of population in agricultural sector and migration from the sector are among the most important problems in Türkiye. To reduce exit from the sector and keep the young population in agriculture, the government should enable farmers to have access to basic physical infrastructure and social services in rural areas, as well as generate a sufficient income from their farms. Moreover, government programs for young farmers have to support the decision of the farmers to stay in the sector.

Many countries have implemented different programs aimed at assisting young farmers in embarking on careers in farming. Nevertheless, certain programs have faced criticism for their insufficient support, particularly due to a lack of consideration for the diverse profiles of young farmers. These criticisms arise from the realization that young farmers come from varied backgrounds, possess different skill sets, and face unique challenges. Therefore, it is crucial for farming programs to account for this diversity and offer comprehensive support that addresses the specific needs and circumstances of young farmers.

Türkiye needs additional measures to advance the implementation of the integrated administration and control system. The Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) currently encompasses all 81 provinces and is integrated into the agricultural production and registration system. However, the agricultural census is still ongoing, and there is a need to adopt a strategy for agricultural statistics.

In Türkiye, YFP was implemented from 2016 to 2018 to prevent rural migration, encourage reverse migration from urban areas to rural areas, and support young entrepreneurs. In this study, the impact of Young Farmer Support Program was evaluated. Young farmers believe that adequate services and supports have not been provided to them, and their expectations have not been fully met. In designing efficient policies, the government should focus on and meet the expectations of young farmers. The government should provide needed services and adequately supports to young farmers. To ensure the involvement of young farmers in the agricultural sector, the government should give satisfactory direct payments to professionally competent young farmers. In addition, new support schemes for young farmers such as setting up businesses and retirement program should be designed and applied. The majority of the young farmers (81.6%) were willing to stay on the farm activities if they inherited land from their parents and earned enough money from their farms. This situation emphasizes the necessity of solving multiple ownership problem in agriculture. Young farmers should be given the opportunity to acquire ownership of the land on which they have cultivated, with appropriate financing conditions. Young entrepreneurs should be privileged on renting public and/or private idle lands under appropriate con-

ditions, mediate in their sales, lower interest rates and longer repayment period on investment and business loans, increasing the project limits of YFP and facilitating access to loans, giving more additional points for young farmers in Rural Development Investments Support Program and IPARD supports, higher premium subsidy for TARSIM in order to set up an export-oriented marketing mechanism for the product storage. There had been inadequacy of infrastructure and social facilities in the study area. Therefore, the government should invest on improving social facilities in the rural areas. Agricultural insurance is not common among young farmers. Therefore, young farmers should be encouraged on increasing crop / product diversity with higher premium subsidies. Türkiye has achieved a moderate level of preparedness in the realm of regional policy and the coordination of structural instruments. Furthermore, there has been ongoing progress in accelerating the absorption of funds allocated under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II). This indicates Türkiye's commitment to effectively utilizing these funds for the country's development and integration with the European Union.

References

Aggelopoulos S., Arabatzis G., 2010. European Union young farmers program: A Greek case study. *New Medit*, 9(2): 50-55.

Akkaya M.A., Gülçubuk B., 2018. *The Challenge of Rural Youth with Entrepreneurship: A Study on Young Farmer Support Application*. Paper presented at the 4th International EMI Entrepreneurship & Social Sciences Congress, 29-30 November, Istanbul.

Aksoy A., Yavuz F., 2012. Analysis on the reasons for quitting sheep and goat rearing of farmers: A case of East Anatolia Region. *Anadolu Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 27(2): 76-79.

Alkan A., Özkan B., 2020. Research on the application and sustainability of young farmers project in the Antalya province. *Mediterranean Agricultural Sciences*, 33(1): 67-72.

Altıntas G., Altintaş A., Bektaş H., Çakmak E., Oruç E. Kızılaslan H., Birol D., 2019. Effects of young farmer project support on the tendency of young farmers to stay in agriculture: Case of TR83 Region, Turkey. *Turkish Journal of Agriculture - Food Science and Technology*, 7(10): 1682-1693.

AP, 2017. *Research for AGRI Committee - Young farmers - Policy implementation after the 2013 CAP reform. Study*. Brussels: European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/602006/IPOL_STU(2017)602006_EN.pdf.

Berk A., 2018. Factors affecting the exit from farming of young farmers in Turkey: the case of Niğde province. *Ciência Rural*, 48(8): e20180471.

Birol D., Yilmaz H.I, Akdemir H.A., Çobanoğlu F., 2020. Determination of parameters that can be criteria to young farmer supports in Turkey: Choice Experiment Method. *Turkish Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 26(2): 131-146.

Bragg L.A., Dalton T.J., 2004. Factors affecting the decision to exit dairy farming: A two-stage regression analysis. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 87(9): 3092-3098.

Çağlayan Z.C., Göktaş I., Örmeci Kart M.C., Gümüş S., 2020. Evaluation of the young farmer program in terms of animal breeders: Case of İzmir. *Journal of Agriculture Faculty of Ege University*, Special Issue: 107-117.

Can B.A., Engindeniz S., 2020. A research on the opinions and suggestions of the youth who study agriculture in Turkey on the Young Farmer Grant Project. *New Medit*, 19(4): 117-132. https://doi.org/10.30682/nm2004h.

Greene W.H., 2011. *Econometric Analysis*, 7th ed. London: Pearson Education Limited.

Gujarati D.N., 1995. *Basic Econometrics*, 4th ed. New York: United State Military Academy.

Kan A., Kan M., Dogan H.G., Tosun F., Uçum I., Solmaz C., 2018. Evaluation of young farmers project support program in terms of agri-entrepreneurship in Turkey. *Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 55(4): 1021-1031.

MEVKA, 2019. *Konya-Karaman Socioeconomic Outlook*. Konya: Mevlana Development Agency.

MoAF, 2021. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Agricultural Reform, Ankara.

Newbold P., 1995. *Statistics for Business and Economics*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall International.

Turkekul B., Abay C., 2020. Factors affecting the Turkish farmers' decision to quit farming. *Scientific Papers Series "Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development"*, 20(3): 617-624.

TURKSTAT, 2023. *Urban-Rural Population Statistics*. https://data.tuik.gov.tr/.

Yalçın E.G., Munis T., İpekcioğlu Ş., Birol D., 2020. A tendency to maintain agriculture of farmers benefiting from the grant support of a young farmer in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa. *Turkish Journal of Agriculture - Food Science and Technology*, 8(3): 526-530.

Yıldız D., Adalı T., Özdemir Ö., 2023. An overview of Türkiye's population on the 100th anniversary of the Republic. *Population and Societies*, 608. https://www.ined.fr/fichier/s_rubrique/33461/608a_ined_v3.d.en.pdf.

Yılmaz A., Keskin M., 2020. Investigation of the productivity of young farmer livestock projects under rural development supports. *KSU Journal of Agriculture and Nature*, 23(6): 1598-1607.