AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOOD AND LABOR MARKETS FOR SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE HOST COMMUNITIES IN SIX PROVINCES OF TURKEY
AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOOD AND LABOR MARKETS FOR
SYRIANS UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE
HOST COMMUNITIES IN SIX PROVINCES OF TURKEY

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“Agricultural Livelihood and Labour Markets for the Syrian and Vulnerable Host Communities in Six Provinces of Turkey” is the result of a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Ankara University Development Studies Research & Application Centre (AKÇAM).

The completion of the report has involved 10 authors whose list and affiliations are provided in Authors’ Affiliations in Appendix 3. The entire report was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Bülent GÜLÇUBUK and Prof. Dr. Feryal TURAN. Technical support and feedback were provided by Brenda Lazarus, Keigo Obara, Ayşegül Selüşık and Sheikh Ahaduzzaman (FAO).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Turkey currently hosts the most the Syrian people in the world. More than 3.5 million Syrians live in Turkey, concentrated mainly in the Southeast Anatolia Region that borders Syria. The majority of Syrians have been there for over 3 years and have joined the agricultural labor force. A significant proportion of the them are young people with limited skills and work experience, working in irregular or seasonal agricultural work, or families (men, women and children) who work together in agriculture. With difficult working and living conditions, agricultural workers, and in particular seasonal agricultural workers, face many challenges.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has made a regional needs assessment of the agricultural sectors in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey that focuses on both the Syrian, and host communities. In accordance with this, the FAO office in Turkey and Ankara University Development Studies Research & Application Centre (AKÇAM) have conducted this research on how the Syrian workers enter the agricultural labor market, what proportion of they hold, what kinds of problems they encounter, and their effect on the local labor market.

The main objective of this research is to determine how the Syrian and the Turkish host community engage with the agricultural labor market, what types of work they do and their working conditions, in order to understand the impact of the Syrian Crisis on the labor market, and look for opportunities within current value chains. This will provide the necessary information to guide strategies and programs in order to generate revenue opportunities within the agricultural sector (which includes crop production, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture, and forestry) for the Syrian and host community members.

Data was collected using qualitative research techniques, allowing for the opportunity to understand underlying perspectives and dynamics of the individuals and groups under study. Data was collected through a Literature Review, Focus Group Discussions, In-depth Interviews with key persons such as representatives of Civil Society Organizations, municipal employees, and officials in public institutions, and direct observation. A total of 78 focus group meetings were held with host community, and Syrian, men and women working in agricultural production from a variety of production spheres, cotton, olives, citrus, vegetables, and grapes and in livestock production and breeding. In-depth interviews were conducted with 60 people.
**Turkish Seasonal Agricultural Communities**

The majority of Turkish agricultural workers participating in the research have a low level of education, for most women this is at basic literacy or primary school graduate level. Most women married at a young age and have many children. Interviewed workers were involved in various types of seasonal agricultural work which are mostly low-skilled and low-paid, in some households, men also work in construction. Participants stated that their livelihood opportunities are limited due to their limited educational and work experience, asset ownership (land) and employment opportunities. Households usually work on someone else’s land in vegetable production, livestock breeding, fishery, etc. The high unemployment rate in the research area, as in all of Turkey, is due to limited work opportunities and a low educational level which limits livelihood resources.

Agricultural activities such as soil preparation, sowing-planting, irrigation, and harvesting varies depending on the age and gender of those working in agricultural production. Men carry out work that is considered more physically demanding such as carrying and transporting products, irrigation and fertilizing-spraying, while women and children do things like sowing-planting, tilling, and harvesting. Children were observed working during this research.

**Syrian Agricultural Worker**

Syrian families often have many children. The average age of the population is low between the ages of 16-25. Longevity and undernutrition are issues with a large household size and the whole family often must work, as this is not the case in their homeland, the Syrians experience difficulty adjusting. It is estimated that approximately 80% of the Syrians interviewed in Kilis, Adana, and Gaziantep work in the agricultural sector, the rest work in construction, textiles, and other sectors, a similar situation is found in Şanlıurfa, Mersin, and Hatay. The Syrians have challenges finding employment and cannot be selective in the agricultural work that they do.

Syrian FGD participants in Hatay, Adana, and Mersin, indicated that women were more involved in food processing and packaging while men worked in more physically demanding work, or work that required more qualifications. Some women indicated that they worked in livestock production in Syria, but we did not come across any women working in this sector in Turkey. In some places, women are paid 10-20% less than men.

Syrians have stated that they cannot buy a sufficient amount of food due to low income conditions and high prices, which mostly affects children. This has led to new eating habits, for example consuming a lot less meat. It was emphasized that they did not know where to find and buy fresh and cheap products when they first arrived, because they did not speak Turkish, but eventually started shopping from the market or directly from producers, coping with economic difficulties by reducing dietary quality and diversity.

Agricultural workers usually find work through ‘elçi/elci’ who are Syrian or local unofficial middle-men or agents. These intermediaries make all the decisions about employment conditions under their supervision such as working hours, duration of employment, wages etc. Workers are dependent on the intermediaries in finding employment and there are no enforced regulations for the employers. The workers have no say in the determination of their daily wages and with little opportunities for rejecting such arrangements must accept whatever condition the agricultural intermediary agrees to. Agricultural
intermediaries get a percentage or a cut, between 10% and 25%, deducted from the workers’ daily wages. The working and shelter conditions are very harsh for Syrian and are especially severe for those who cannot stay in the camps or rent a house/flat due to economic reasons.

The main issues that Syrians encounter in their working life are the lack of livelihood assurance (especially for young people), lack of regular work, informal work, risks of working outdoors, lack of food and shelter assurance, inability to become a community, anxiety and uncertainty about the future, harsh living conditions of children, challenges in integration with local communities. It is critical to identify challenges of Syrians working in agriculture to improve their working conditions, to develop solutions against future economic shocks and social instability, and to support them in acquiring the occupational training necessary to become part of the qualified workforce and gain sustainable livelihood resources.

The Impact of Syrian Communities on the Agricultural Workforce

Traditionally in the research area, local workers from host communities were employed in the agricultural sector and the influx of Syrian community has led to changes in their working conditions and wages. Syrians are now the main unskilled labor-intensive workforce, and local-host communities feel that the Syrians have caused their wages to fall, along with a decrease in employment opportunities because Syrians accept lower wages and longer working hours. There appears to have been no direct effect on the wages of workers working in livestock breeding and fisheries.

Both local and Syrian agricultural workers have a similar income and agricultural labor is the primary and most important means of their livelihood. Agriculture is the primary source of income in Adana and Gaziantep, but there is some employment available in the construction and textile industries. This, of course, is not applicable to everyone since these sectors require more qualifications.

The second and third sources of income for the Syrians are state, local, and international aid and support, this has led to much criticism from the local poor population living in the research area. They indicate that aid is given to Syrians, when their own condition is no better, and has in fact deteriorated due to the reduction in working wages. Although at first local populations were inclined to help the Syrians, this perspective has changed over time, some have expressed that they have no connection to them and prefer to live separately.

Some of the other problems encountered with Syrian workers is their inability to pay rent or make other payments. The future plans of more than half of the Syrians who find temporary or permanent jobs, in or out of agriculture and whose children continue their education, include staying in Turkey.

The Syrian crisis did not have an effect on input usage in vegetable production. Fertilizers, pesticides, and seed intake have not been subject to change. Some stated that cheaper oil could be bought across the border prior to the Syria crisis.

Suggestions

Improvements to the lives for local and Syrian agricultural workers should start with the agricultural intermediary system. Projects can be developed that focus on the registration of agricultural intermediaries
and introducing accountability for the work they do via monitoring mechanisms. Legal measures should be enforced against unofficial agricultural intermediaries, and priority should be given to providing them with continuous training about employment safety. A ‘contractual agricultural intermediary’ system can be introduced to register intermediaries formed between agricultural intermediaries, farm owners and employers and agricultural workers. Turkish Employment Agency (Türkiye İş Kurumu (İŞKUR) ) can monitor this process.

The difficulties having official documents has an impact on the participation of Syrian workers in the labor market. Due to difficulties for work permits and having ID cards, they tend to rely on informal intermediaries for finding employment. Further interventions should include social protection, economic protection, providing access to resources, and increasing professional capacities.

Many accidents occur due to the harsh living-housing conditions, and work-related accidents also occur. Agricultural work, especially for children, can lead to discomfort and occupational diseases from working in very hot, or damp environments, inaccessibility to basic sanitary needs, and inadequate shelter. These include lumbar diseases, joint diseases, asthma, inadequate physical development, sunstroke, scorpion-snake poisoning, etc. Health and safety precautions are not taken for agricultural workers in the area. A call center for employees to report these issues should be established.

In order to improve the conditions of agricultural workers, it is of great importance to provide clean water, waste disposal, sewerage, electricity, and heating; carrying out public-private projects aimed at improving working and living conditions; enforcing regulations and audits to ensure that employers fulfill their legal responsibilities fully; and establishing auditing and evaluation units and committees. The development of the agricultural sector has the potential to develop the quality and productivity of the labor market, adding value to agricultural products via processing and marketing has the potential to improve labor quality, productivity, and wages. Training will be required for agricultural workers for this. There are Syrian workers who show an interest in growing olives and vegetables in small scale, if possible.

While local workers are involved more in technical and knowledge based agricultural jobs, the Syrians do more labor-intensive and low-paid agricultural jobs. As the experience and knowledge of the Syrians increase this situation may cause competition in the labor market for host communities.

In agricultural production, the costs of inputs such as fuel oil, electricity, fertilizer, and pesticides are high, causing the most complaints among the farmers. The use of renewable energy sources such as solar energy could help reduce costs. It is important for the state to maintain cost-reducing support for the continuity of production.

Climate changes have worsened to the extent that they now pose threat to the future (of agriculture as well). In field research, it was emphasized that there were serious problems in productivity in irrigation and crop diversity due to climate change.
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Currently, Turkey is host to the highest number of Syrians. According to 2019 data, more than 3.6 million Syrians live in Turkey, mostly concentrated in the Southeast Anatolia Region that borders Syria. The majority have been there for over 3 years and apart from humanitarian aid their main source of income is from waged labor. A significant proportion of the Syrians are young people with limited skills and work experience, working in irregular or temporary seasonal agricultural work, or they are families (men, women, and children) who work together in agriculture. Syrians community encounters a lack of livelihood assurance (especially for young people), lack of assurance for food and shelter, an inability to form a community, anxieties and uncertainties about their future, harsh living conditions, and difficulty in integrating with the local community. Syrians working in agriculture are confronted with issues such as irregular temporary work, lack of employment continuity, informal (undeclared) work, risks of working outdoors, etc. It is critical to understand their challenges in order to improve working conditions, to develop solutions that can contribute to greater confidence against economic shocks and social instability in the future, and to support them in terms of acquiring the necessary occupational skills to become part of the qualified workforce and to gain sustainable livelihood resources. All this must be done while considering the needs of the local population working under similar conditions.

Due to its international mission and responsibility, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been working intensively with the Syrians, especially those engaged in agriculture as part of the cheap agricultural workforce. To increase the effectiveness of future programmes the FAO has conducted a ‘Syria Agriculture Damage and Loss Need Assessment’ on how the internal conflict in Syria has affected household livelihoods and the agricultural sector (including crops, livestock, fisheries/aquaculture, and forestry). For neighboring countries, this assessment provides limited information on the impact of the Syrian crisis on the agricultural sector. To strengthen interventions and programming in the Turkish agricultural labor market, additional information was needed on the impact of the Syrian community crisis on the agricultural sector, on the current needs of the communities hosting Syrians, and on the entry points to FAO programs.

Although some studies and evaluations have shed light on the impact of Syrian workers on agriculture, no literature that provides in-depth information on these issues has been found. In order to fill this knowledge gap, FAO has conducted a regional needs assessment for the agricultural sector in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey that focuses on both the Syrian and the host communities. In accordance with this, the FAO Office in Turkey has conducted this research carried out on how Syrian workers entered the agricultural labor market, on the space they hold, on problems they encounter, and on what kind of effects they have had.

The main objective is to determine how Syrian and host communities in Turkey engage in the agricultural labor market, what types of work they do, and their working conditions. Another objective is to provide FAO with information to guide the development of strategies and program needs to generate revenue opportunities within the agricultural sector (which is comprised of crop production, animal husbandry, fishery/aquaculture, and forestry) for Syrian and the disadvantaged host community members.
1.1 Main Objectives:

- To determine the place of the Syrian agricultural workers and their effects on the agricultural labor market in Turkey,
- To identify the working areas of the Syrian agricultural workers in agriculture and their problems,
- To reveal the working areas, conditions, and problems of local communities or the local population working in agriculture,
- To determine the labor market dynamics in agriculture, production, and marketing chains and food consumption patterns and emerging changes,
- To identify opportunities in the agricultural sector for Syrian workers and/or disadvantaged households and to determine how these opportunities can be broadened to increase household incomes, shape employment, improve social protection and integration,
- To determine the future plans of the Syrian workers and the households of the disadvantaged host and the possibilities for establishment of conditions to make their future plans possible,
- To identify the areas of social opportunity and protection with relation to gender.

1.2 Methodology and Data Collection

Data was collected using qualitative research techniques, allowing for a detailed examination and providing the opportunity to explore perspectives and dynamics of individuals and groups involved in the research and the underlying reasons relating to observed results.

Data was collected in this study using the following techniques:

- Literature Review
- Focus Group Discussions
- In-depth Interviews (with key persons such as representatives of Civil Society Organizations, municipal employees, officials in public institutions)
- Observation

i. Literature Review

The research started with a review of available secondary data sources; TSI data, official reports, and studies related to the subject. This data from secondary sources provided general information about the scope of the project and about agricultural production and potential issues. In addition data was compiled by examining the related publications of shareholders. 142 studies made on Syrian workers in Turkey were reviewed, 62 research papers, 57 reports, 20 postgraduate theses, and 3 books/congress books. 54% of the studies were based on primary data; 33% based on literature and 13% on secondary data (see Appendix 2). Of the 62 essays published in academic journals, 31 are based on fieldwork, 17 are compilation essays and 14 based on secondary data. The literature review reveals issues of the host and Syrian communities, some of which are common, and some unique.

The literature provides information about Syrian and host communities’ livelihoods, where Syrian workers are employed, employment relations, details on wages, gender, and household demographics. Syrians are mostly employed in agriculture as unskilled labor, often illicitly and without social security making them vulnerable. Two reports found in some areas Syrians want to return home as
soon as possible. In some regions Turkish workers can’t compete with the increased labor competition from Syrian workers, causing tensions. Demonstrations in July 2014, and attacks on Syrian shops and vehicles reflect this. Tuğsuz and Yılmaz (2015) studied policies of Turkey’s political parties on the Syrians (STuP), and (Karataş 2015) look into the portrayal of the crisis on various Turkish news channels.

Other studies find a positive impact of the Syrian crisis on the labor market, in some sectors there was previously a labor deficit, cheap Syrian labor can fill this and increase production capacity in sectors such as textile, construction and agriculture, although there is still a deficit in skilled personnel. There are also findings showing a current boost to the border region economies.

ii. Focus Group Discussions
A total of 78 Focus Group Discussions (FGD’s) were conducted (see Table 1). A FGD is a process structured to gain detailed information on a particular topic. Discussions usually consist of 6 to 12 participants discussing a clearly defined topic, and an ideal session lasts from 1 to 2 hours. A facilitator asks open-ended questions to guide the discussions. For this research great care was taken to ensure that at least 6 participants were present in each FGD. Within the framework of this research, a total of 78 FGD’s were held with local and Syrian female and male agricultural workers and children. Great care was taken to include workers from a variety of agricultural fields. In this respect, the FGD’s focused on agricultural workers taking part in the production of cotton, olives, citrus, vegetables, and grapes and livestock.

iii. In-depth Interviews
In-depth interviews were conducted with key persons considered to be relevant for the project (NGO representatives, mayors, representatives of institutions, and organizations involved in the project) in order to gather related data. Interviews were conducted on the basis of a semi-structured questionnaire with a total of 60 people. In these interviews, great care was taken to ensure that the opinions of different sections, the managers, employees, and decision makers from different sections were represented and evaluated. The list of interviewees is Table 2, with the locations shown on Map 1.

iv. Observations
This study used participant observation, a qualitative research technique used to investigate the behaviors of individuals. Within this framework, the living conditions and behaviors of Syrian workers, and indigenous Turkish workers were observed to support data collected using other techniques.

vi. Field Research
The field study has been conducted through 2 groups, each consisting of 5 and 6 researchers, each of these groups contained an Arabic translator. A team with good knowledge and experience was established to provide a productive working environment and to evaluate the results more effectively.

Two-day training was given to all researchers and translators involved to ensure a good standard in collecting data was met and to minimize interviewer bias. During the training questionnaires were reviewed after information about the purpose and scope of the project, the focus group discussions, taking notes, etc. was shared.
v. Pilot-Test Work and Final Shaping of Questions

The questionnaire used in the focus group discussions was first applied in the town of Beypazarı, located near Ankara. Meaningfulness and sufficiency of the categories included in the answers, the flow of the interview, the length of the questionnaire, and the duration of the interview were tested. After piloting, the questionnaires were re-examined by AKÇAM and FAO experts and given their final design. Field Research was carried out in the cities of Hatay, Mersin, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, and Adana between October and November, 2017.

Table 1. Focus Group Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Type of Product</th>
<th>Local FGD</th>
<th>Immigrant FGD</th>
<th>Key Individuals/ People</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Olives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Food, Agriculture, and Animal Husbandry District Directorate of Hassa–</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural Engineer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Hatay Chamber of Agriculture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zootechnist</td>
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<td>6. Trading Agent</td>
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<td>7. Large Scale Farmer</td>
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<td>8. NGO-Syria Relief</td>
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<td>9. Large Business Owner in the Dörtyol District</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10. Kırıkhan Chamber of Agriculture Presidency</td>
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<td>11. Veterinarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilis</td>
<td>1. Provincial Director of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock of Kilis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Food, Agriculture, and Livestock Provincial Director of Kilis</td>
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<td>3. Provincial Director of Immigration in Kilis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. President of Kilis Chamber of Agriculture</td>
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<td>5. Chamber of Agricultural Engineers– Kilis Provincial Representative</td>
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<td>6. NGO-El Re Sala Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7. President of the Organic Olive Producer Association</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8. Headman of the Neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaziantep</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. President of Şahinbey Chamber of Agriculture</td>
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<td>3. District Governor of Şahinbey</td>
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<td>4. STK –MinberŞah Association</td>
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<td>5. STK - WelfHugerHilfe</td>
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<td>6. Chamber of Agricultural Engineers– Head of the Gaziantep Branch</td>
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<td>7. Supplier (Seed, Fertilizer, Pesticides)</td>
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<td>8. NGO -Shafak</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9. Headman of the Neighborhood</td>
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<td>10. Nizip Chamber of Agriculture Presidency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Şanlıurfa</td>
<td>1. Provincial Director of Agriculture and Livestock in Şanlıurfa</td>
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<td>2. Deputy Mayor of the Turkish Grand National Assembly</td>
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<td>3. Head of the Irrigation Union</td>
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<td>4. Big Farmer</td>
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<td>5. Chamber of Agricultural Engineers– Head of Şanlıurfa Branch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6. President of Cattle Breeders Association of Şanlıurfa</td>
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<td>7. Supplier</td>
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<td>8. President of Şanlıurfa Chamber of Agriculture</td>
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<td>9. NGO-PAR CZS – Japan</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>
Cities | Key Persons
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Adana | 1. Sarıçam District Governor  
2. Chairman – Board of Çukobirlik  
3. Provincial Director of Adana Food, Agriculture, and Livestock  
4. Food, Agriculture, and Livestock District Directorate of Sarıçam – Agricultural Engineer  
5. President of Sarıçam District Chamber of Agriculture  
6. President of the Adana Citrus Produce Association  
7. President of Ceyhan Chamber of Agriculture  
8. Large Scale Farmer  
9. President of Yumurtalık Water Products Cooperative  
10. Headman of the Neighborhood

Total | 10

Mersin | 1. Provincial Director of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock of Mersin  
2. President of the Chamber of Agriculture in Mersin  
3. President of Chamber of Agriculture in Tarsus District  
4. Chamber of Agriculture of Tarsus District – Agricultural Engineer  
5. Large Scale Farmer  
6. Supplier  
7. President of Karaduvar Aquaculture Cooperative  
8. Agricultural Drug Dealer  
9. Directorate of Food, Agriculture, and Animal Husbandry of the Mezitli District  
10. Food Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock of Tarsus  
11. Headman of the Neighborhood  
12. Akdeniz District – Veterinarian

Total | 12

Subtotal | 60

Map 1. Interviewed Key Contacts
vi. Limitations
Inevitably some obstacles were encountered during research, particularly during field studies. These were:

- Difficulties in communicating due to language barriers, particularly with Syrian women.
- Difficulties in organizing focus group meetings due to the long hours of agricultural workers, including evenings. The fatigue felt by the workers decreased their willingness to respond to questions during interviews.
- The lack of numerical data about either local or Syrian agricultural workers.
- Children’s skeptical attitude towards the study during group meetings and their unwillingness to talk or respond.

Great care was taken to overcome these limitations and to minimize their effect on the overall study. The research continued during nights when necessary, and when group discussions with little participation were ineffective, the participants were changed and interviews were conducted with new groups. The lack of quantitative data was minimized through interviews conducted with stakeholders. The questionnaires were first prepared in English and then translated into Turkish and interviews with Syrian workers were translated by Arabic-speaking translators, which might have had shortcomings.

1.3 Overview of Agriculture in Turkey

Despite a gradual decline in recent years, agriculture remains one of the most important sectors generating employment in Turkey. According to data from 2016, the total labor force participating in agriculture is 50.8%; 70.9% for males and 31.1% for females. Women’s participation rate is lower than that of men, however the agriculture sector is still the most important sector for women and often women work in this sector in an unofficial capacity. Typically, half of agricultural workers are female, so it is especially important to examine and observe women working in agriculture. The number of farmers registered in the Farmer Registration System in Turkey is 2,267,176, including unregistered farmers brings this to an estimated 3 million+.

Total agricultural land in Turkey is 23.763 million hectares (2016), Land registered in the Farmer Registration System is 14,785,863 hectares.
Seasonal work changes according to the product type. In Şanlıurfa in terms of cotton production, there is less work between January and March, and intensive work between July and August. Soil preparation and maintenance are done in the January-February period, planting in April-May, heavy watering in July-August, and cotton harvesting in October-November. In citrus fruit production, pruning and fertilization are carried out in January-February, most weeding between May and September, and irrigation and harvest between September and January. Different fertilizers are used in January-June and October-November. An outline of the agricultural annual work schedule is found on Table 3.

1.4 Basic Agricultural Data from Research

Cities¹ Hatay

In Hatay, soil structure, climate, and other natural conditions make it possible to grow a variety of products with early harvest, second cropping and production in all four seasons of the year. Total land area is 552,400 hectares, 33% of the agricultural area is irrigated.

Hatay is Turkey’s highest producer of cotton with 242,357 tons produced in 439,594 acres.

Adana

Adana with its favorable climate and soil conditions has some of the greatest agricultural potential in Turkey. 71% of agricultural land is fertile and irrigable, and agricultural variety and production are high. Wheat, barley, oats, and rice are grown, alongside cotton, production of cotton seeds, peanuts and citrus fruits. 38% of the land area (1,403,000 hectares) is agricultural.

Adana produces 17% of Turkey’s corn production, 61% of its soybean production, 58% of its groundnut production, 35% of its citrus production, 19% of its watermelon production, and 7% of its wheat.

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1 The cities were selected in terms of their high capacity of agricultural production and having high number of the Syrian people,
Şanlıurfa

Şanlıurfa includes about 5% of the total agricultural area in Turkey with 1,155,226 hectares of arable land. The region produces wheat, barley, lentils, chickpeas, grapes, pistachios, and sesame seeds. With the Southeastern Anatolia Regional Development Project, the widespread use of irrigated agriculture has resulted in significant increases in cotton production. In recent years, important developments have also been achieved in greenhouse (tunnel systems) agriculture. Şanlıurfa holds 9% of Turkey’s overall irrigated farmland. It has the highest irrigated area – with a share of 48% – of the 9 provinces covering the Southeastern Anatolia Region.

Mersin

Mersin has good climatic conditions enabling the growth of many agricultural products such as bananas, and tropical and subtropical citrus fruits. Underground and aboveground irrigation resources are rich, enabling the development of vegetable and greenhouse cultivation.

72% of Turkey’s total banana production, 70% of lemon production, 40% of strawberry production, and 15% of orange production is provided by Mersin. Also produced are various fruits and vegetables such as pepper, mandarin, cucumber, grape, tomato, and watermelon.

Gaziantep

Gaziantep (682,280ha) consists of 53% agricultural land of which 15.6% is irrigated. Gaziantep is suitable for the growth of many products, pistachio is one of the most valuable, followed by grapes and olives. Gaziantep produces 37% of Turkey’s total pistachio crop, 20% of its chili peppers, 6% of its olives, 4% of its red lentils, and 3% of its grapes.
Kilis

Kilis (144,400 ha) is 72% agricultural. Approximately 68% of this is suitable for irrigation. It produces 1.3% of Turkey’s grapes and 1% of its olives. In addition to pistachios, fruits such as pear, quince, plum, apricot, cherry, peach, sour cherry, walnut, almond, mulberry, fig, and pomegranate are produced. Peppers and tomatoes are the main vegetables produced, followed by watermelon and onion.

1.5 Regional Agricultural Production Data

![Agricultural Land use in Kilis]

Field Crops | Vegetables | Fruits
---|---|---

![Production Allocations for the 6 Research Areas]

Field Crops (Tons) | Vegetables (Tons) | Fruit (Tons) | Cattle (no of) | Sheep (no of)
---|---|---|---|---

Hatay | Adana | Şanlıurfa | Mersin | Gaziantep | Kilis

![Volume of Production for Crops, Vegetables, Fruit and Livestock]

Field Crops (Tons) | Vegetables (Tons) | Fruit (Tons) | Cattle (no of) | Sheep (no of)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Done</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field Preparation</td>
<td>Sowing-Planting</td>
<td>Pruning-Trimming</td>
<td>Weeding</td>
<td>Spraying (against rodents, etc.)</td>
<td>Fertilization</td>
<td>Irrigation</td>
<td>Harvest</td>
<td>Soil Preparation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Corn, Olives, Peppers</td>
<td>Citrus, Grapes</td>
<td>Citrus, Olives, Grapes, Pepper</td>
<td>Citrus, Olives</td>
<td>Citrus, Olives, Grapes</td>
<td>Citrus, Olives, Grapes</td>
<td>Citrus, Olives, Grapes, Pepper</td>
<td>Citrus, Olives, Grapes</td>
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<td>Citrus, Olives, Grapes</td>
<td>Citrus, Olives, Grapes</td>
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</table>

**Table 3. Annual Work Schedule According to Products**

- **Soil Preparation**: Olives, Pistachio
- **Sowing-Planting**: Olives, Pistachio, Vegetables
- **Pruning-Trimming**: Olives, Vegetables
- **Weeding**: Citrus, Olives, Cotton, Corn
- **Spraying (against rodents, etc.)**: Citrus, Olives, Grapes
- **Fertilization**: Citrus, Olives, Grapes
- **Irrigation**: Citrus, Olives, Cotton, Corn
- **Harvest**: Citrus, Olives, Spices, Vegetables
1.6 Livestock Breeding

In interviews with experts on livestock breeding, it was stated the number of animals bred has decreased, one person described how in Mersin ‘Last year there were 40,000 (large) cattle and this number dropped to 33,000-34,000 this year. There is no decrease or increase in the number of small cattle’. Half of key interviewees felt animal husbandry had improved in the last 8 years while the other two said it had deteriorated, due to a lack of facilities and high input prices.

A small number of livestock workers are employed in large businesses. These workers receive minimum wage. More males work in large cattle breeding, but in some cases a whole family is employed. Women are employed in poultry farming and more maintenance work, men perform work organization, input supply, marketing, and work done outside the home. There has been no major change in livestock production since the Syrian crisis.

Livestock breeders generally obtain animal feeds from companies in their own district, and animal care and drug-veterinary services from authorized private clinics. Larger cattle are given feed, small cattle and sheep often graze in grassland and plateau. Use of plateaus is allocated to distinct villages, there has been no significant change in the use of resources in this context and it appears not to have been affected by the Syrian crisis.

Farmer suggestions for improvement of livestock production are:

• Feed support
• Provision of inputs
• Directly giving animals to those breeding/raising them instead of giving them support

1.7 Fisheries

Fisheries were discussed with the heads of co-operatives and unions. In Mersin, sardines and grey and red mullets are the main catch, sardines and grey mullets are caught all year, red mullets are mainly caught in September, October, and November. The vast majority of fishing boats are self-owned and only a few large business owners have troll and purse-snatchers. All fish are sold to local fish sellers and sellers in Antakya, Istanbul, and Ankara. Three interviewees said that fishery production levels has been gradually declining/worsening in the last eight years, while one indicated there was no change.

Men generally work in fisheries, family members occasionally help. Interviewees stated that economic conditions of the majority of households working in fisheries were poor, and fishermen live only on the income they receive during fishing season.

Fishermen identified fishery problems encountered as:

• There is a decrease in fisheries.
• There is difficulty in finding workers because they have migrated from villages to cities.
• Fishermen cannot sell their fish directly and thus earn less.
• There is a lot of illegal fishing and unlicensed boats.
• Fish are being killed in those places where they lay their eggs.
• Changes in the climate are affecting fisheries.
Suggestions from Fishery workers are as follows:

- The condition of lagoons should be improved.
- The rental system needs to be changed.
- The construction of illegal fishermen’s shelters must be prevented.
- Illegal fishing should be prevented.

The Syrian crisis has not caused a change in the wages of fishermen, there are no Syrian workers permanently employed in this sector with only a few in temporary jobs. One fishermen said that they could not go close to the Syrian border due to the crises, which had narrowed the area available for fishing. (S) he has also stated that stricter control checks were carried out due to the emergence of human trafficking after the Syrian crisis or illegal immigration.
2. LIVELIHOODS

2.1 Livelihoods Analysis of Turkish Agricultural Households

**Human Capital (skills, knowledge, access to information, ability to work, health)**

The agricultural workers who participated in the focus group discussions are composed of the most uneducated and poorest section of society. Most women have basic or primary school level literacy, married at a young age and have many children. The local workers interviewed within the scope of the research are those whose economic situation is poor and whose livelihood is largely based on agricultural labor.

**Natural Capital (land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, environment)**

A small portion of households who rent land, with family members working together at each stage of production. A small number of households have small-scale agricultural production sites for the household’s own consumption.

**Financial capital (savings, credit, remittances, pensions)**

Using the definition of Economic well-being as ‘not being in debt and meeting one’s [basic] needs’, approximately half of FGD interviewees felt only 10% of households live under good economic conditions. Of the remaining households, 5 people said that 60%, 4 people 50%, and 4 people 40%, were living under bad economic conditions.

**Physical capital (transport, shelter, water, energy, communications)**

Aid such as food for the elderly and education is given to some poor households. Problems relating to the physical environment of agricultural workers: infrastructure, unsuitable places of work, child care, transportation to the work place, food, cleaning, washing, etc. Transportation to work places seems to be a major problem among agricultural workers.

**Social capital (networks, groups, trust, access to institutions)**

Donations containing such foods as dried legumes, bulgur, oil, and tea are made to households in poor economic condition. Not being registered, not being organized, the state’s attitude, anxiety over loss of work, the lack of legislation, and the position of being abandoned (unprotected) make it impossible for workers to demand their rights. Many work-related accidents occur due to the harsh living-housing conditions. Thus, the establishment of ‘Monitoring of Working and Housing Conditions of Seasonal Agricultural Workers’ units are vital to increase their visibility. These can be set up in each city within the public institutions as sub-units to generate reports on the occupational accidents that agricultural workers encounter. In addition, contributions can be made to the organization of agricultural workers to help them be heard publicly, NGOs can play an important role in this issue. In fact, STK (Provincial Directorates of Turkey Employment Council) could also play an important role, but before that, the way they have fulfilled their duties regarding this situation should be taken up and discussed.

**Dietary Consumption**

Household food consumption is generally bulgur wheat, pasta, and other flour based foods, some households produce vegetables such as cucumber, tomatoes, and peppers for their own use during
summer months and some households breed cattle and chickens to meet their needs. Household poverty, together with the limited time for food preparation has left people undernourished. Workers generally buy fruit and vegetables from the market and other products from the cheapest possible store, and cannot often afford meat. Local people stated that although consumption did not change much after the Syrian crisis a rise in food prices and decrease in wages has had a negative effect.

2.2 Livelihoods Analysis of Syrian Communities

**Human Capital (skills, knowledge & info., ability to work, health)**
Syrian people have high numbers of children and a high average age between 16-25, the population changes rapidly due to high birth-rate and relocation. The Syrian people previously lived in rural areas and worked in agriculture, and are less skilled and experienced than the local host community workers. The Syrian people describe their life in Syria as easier because in Turkey they work under harder conditions, with a different approach, and for longer hours. Syrian women have more extreme examples of educational levels, there are illiterate women, and there are many women who are university graduates, with some even holding doctoral degrees. Educated Syrian women using their profession were not observed among agricultural workers; however some Syrian women were using their professions in the camps.

**Natural Capital (land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, environment)**
Some of the Syrian households in the towns of Kırıkhan and Hassa have a few animals, mainly dairy cattle. Acquiring property by them is not possible as they are not Turkish citizens. A small number of Syrians stated that they have rented land, through unofficial means, near where they live and use this to produce food.

**Financial capital (savings, credit, remittances, pensions)**
Given the refugee status of the Syrians, they have little or no financial capital. According to our findings, the income sources of Syrian are as follows: 80% from agricultural labor, 20% Kızılay aid or from other benefactors, and the rest from other non-agricultural jobs.

**Physical capital - transport, shelter, water, energy, comms**
Almost all of the Syrians interviewed in the households are faced with challenging conditions of shelter and nutrition. Some Syrians live in 1-2-room houses with high rent and poor living conditions, sometimes in crowds of 14-15 persons. Conditions for work and shelter for the Syrian people are harsh and especially severe for groups that cannot stay in the camps or rent a house/flat for economic reasons. A significant majority of the Syrian people conduct their lives in inadequate shelters that lack electricity, water, and sewerage. The Syrian women who live in tents or other unfavorable conditions struggle to manage under severe conditions. Some of the Syrians emphasise that some landlords have taken advantage of their situation by demanding high rent for places that are ‘no better than a barn’ and that they take it because they have no other choice. Syrians who live in such conditions usually present two kinds of solutions: to return to Syria after the war is over and the situation returns to normal, or to migrate to other Turkish cities if they find better jobs.
Social capital - networks, groups, trust, access to institution

The Syrian people receive support and aid from the state, NGOs, local organizations, and small-scale aid agencies. The registered Syrians receive 100TL worth of food aid per person per month, some families are receiving 120 TL / month from Kızılay for their children and some receive coal aid. Those who own homes in Syria, who have a certain amount of land or immovable goods, or who still have relatives there, do wish to eventually return back to their native country. Some Syrian have changed locations in Turkey to places where they have close acquaintances, relatives, or better job opportunities. The unregistered Syrian people are unable to benefit from health services and have stated that this creates major problems, especially for children. The Syrian people staying outside the camps are particularly vulnerable.

Syrian NGO Manager in Gaziantep

- The livelihoods of the Syrians; NGO aids, Red Cross aids, Municipal aids, etc.
- Soup kitchens, small scale tradesmen (tailoring, grocery, shoemaker, chicken diner shop, etc.)
- When they first arrived, they had problems with the language and in adjusting. These problems are overcome more easily for those who do not want to go back.
- Syrians can work in livestock breeding. They have experience in this field.
- Input support should be provided for production for Syrians.
- There are some vegetables in Syria that are not grown here. The seeds should be obtained from Syria. If the opportunity is given, we can also take part in agricultural activities. There are Syrian agricultural engineers and veterinary specialists.
- The Syrian children beggars in the region need to be rehabilitated.

Consumption

Many Syrian people stated they cannot buy enough food due to low income and high prices, which mostly affects children, and families now consume a lot less meat. They describe how it was a challenge to buy/find fresh and cheap products when they first arrived due to the language barrier but with time they started shopping from the market or directly from the producer. All Syrians prefer to obtain their supply of food from Syrian suppliers, grocery stores, etc. whenever possible, with Syrian run grocery stores, groceries, and markets in all of the cities under focus.
3. THE AGRICULTURAL LABOR MARKET IN THE TURKISH REGIONS

The primary livelihood in the regions is low-waged agricultural employment although in some households, men also work in construction. The majority of interviewed households work on a seasonal or daily basis, usually working on someone else’s land in vegetable production, livestock breeding, or in fisheries. As in much of Turkey there are limited employment opportunities and high unemployment rates in the research area, with low educational levels.

3.1 Finding Work

Agricultural workers find work using ‘elçi/elci’ who are middle-men or unofficial agents and who can be Syrian, or Turkish. These intermediaries make all the decisions about working conditions under their supervision, making the workers vulnerable as they have no power to adjust or improve their conditions. Workers are dependent on intermediaries for finding employment and the employer has no accountability to these workers. Although some employment is found directly from employers, intermediaries are usually a matter of necessity as it is easier to find a job in this manner. The Syrians have stated that they trust Syrian intermediaries more than they do local ones.

3.2 Working Conditions

Workers have no say about their working conditions, everything is agreed between the employer and the agricultural intermediaries, these conditions are based on traditional rules that have been established over the years or to agreements made between an intermediary and employer. Working hours and the number of breaks vary according to product type and to the agreement between the intermediary and employer. There are no regulations for working hours and workers do not get days off, they are only paid for days they work and do not receive additional payments for extra hours. There is a lack of permanent work and a limited number of working days. The environment and working conditions lack basic sanitary facilities. Workers are often not registered and have no health insurance which FGD’s found is their greatest worry. Syrians emphasize that agriculture in their homeland is simpler and more primitive and work such as harvesting, and irrigation require more labor in Turkey.

3.3 Employers

With an ample supply of labor for unskilled work, the employer usually selects Syrian workers because they cost less. Some employers express challenges with employing Syrian workers, saying they ‘lack work discipline’, have weak loyalty, are not specialized, and want to work in a more flexible manner.

3.4 Wages

Wages are set by ‘provincial fee [Remuneration] determination’ commissions, which although legally binding, are unenforced. The wages determined are generally valid for local workers, however wages for the Syrians in the market remains at the initiative of the employer and the agricultural intermediaries,
workers have no say. Wages are differentiated according to product type, the work undertaken, gender, and sometimes age. For example in Mersin in 2018, men workers collecting mandarins earn 57 TL / per day while women workers earn 54 TL / per day - men are paid more because they are said to do heavier work, although it is not legal, in practice women are paid less than men. Syrians who did not receive pay were encountered and it is not possible for them to seek legal action because they are not registered.

Agricultural intermediaries get a percentage, between 10% and 25%, deducted from the workers’ daily wages. Workers indicated that they sometimes experienced difficulties in receiving wages, and wages are often not paid on time. One intermediary explained this was since (s) he has an agreement with the employer to complete the work at a certain time, they pay 1-2 days of wages later so that workers will not leave work unfinished. Some intermediaries give workers receipts to buy groceries from a particular store instead of their daily wages, this is said to be due to an inability to pay cash immediately so shopping receipts enable workers to meet their urgent needs. However, there are serious concerns about who is profiting here, intermediaries are able to direct employees to certain grocery stores, without giving information about what kind of agreement (s) he has made with the store.

The main problems concerning wages are summarized as follows:

- Wages are low
- Cuts are made to their wages by intermediaries
- Payment of wages are late in certain cases
- There are differences in wages according to gender.

3.5 Division of Labor

Agricultural activities such as soil preparation, sowing-planting, irrigation, and harvesting vary depending on age and gender, and to the crop grown. Men carry out work that is considered physically demanding such as carrying/transportation of products, irrigation, and fertilizing-spraying, while women do sowing-planting, tilling, and harvesting. Syrian FGD’s that took place in Hatay, Adana, and Mersin indicated that women were more involved in food processing and packaging while men work in more difficult (‘heavier’) work or work that requires more qualifications. Some women indicated that they worked with livestock in Syria, but we did not come across any conducting this work in Turkey.
Table 4. Work Allocation in the Production of Citrus by Gender and Task

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Type</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Male Children below 16</th>
<th>Female Children below 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil Preparation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sowing-Planting</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeding</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of the women working in agriculture are unpaid family workers. According to TÜİK (TSI) data, 95% of women work without payment, creating a precarious position for them. Since women work alongside household responsibilities and child-care their lives are particularly challenging. It is necessary to provide mobile health services, especially for children and women, and to carry out routine checks in agricultural labor.

3.6 Education and Training

Access to, and availability of, educational opportunities are important for agricultural workers, particularly affecting women. Among local workers, female agricultural workers are more likely than men to seek education. Women argue they give more importance to education than men, and would seize educational opportunities, ‘If we could learn an occupation, we would obtain the opportunities for setting up our own businesses’.

Although male workers with children indicate that boys and girls are not different in terms of education, the general impression was that if possible, priority would be given to boys. Women did not show this inclination and stated it is more important for them to educate their daughters and they would make sacrifices to realize this. This does not usually go beyond wishing, because the key influences are economic conditions and the role and attitude of the father. If the child is willing and successful, and if the family ‘pushes’ its circumstances to meet specific goals, gender becomes less of an issue. In some families, there is no difference between boys and girls, and both can get an education if they want, and when it is possible. It appears mainly the level of education and the economic condition of the father that is decisive.

3.7 Accessibility of Basic Services

Agricultural laborers can struggle to access to health and other basic services. Access means workers are able to be part of the social security system, apply to health institutions in case of illnesses arising from work accidents and working-living environments. Although the registered Syrian and workers
from host communities can benefit from basic health services, those experiencing health problems caused by their employment were said not to be taken to health institutions by employers and/or intermediaries as they latter would have to pay a fine/compensation to worker(s) diagnosed with a permanent disease relating to work. Both Syrian and local participants indicated that there were children, only a few, who became ill due to families being in agricultural work, affected by the use of fertilizers and agricultural pesticides. Children can be poisoned with empty pesticides containers or directly from agricultural pesticides.

For agricultural workers, the lack of water in the workplace is a major problem. Although employers and the agricultural intermediaries provide water services, there are complaints about the quality of water in the summer with drinking water presented in inappropriate conditions causing serious illnesses.

**A Syrian Agricultural Worker**

Here [in Hatay] we work in citrus and olives harvest. We are paid a wage of 40-60 TL / day. The working hours are long. The breaks are very short. We cannot consume meat. We mainly eat carbohydrates and vegetables. There are a lot of expenses because there are a lot of children. Food prices are more expensive in Turkey compared to the time we came, making it difficult for us. The house we live in is in bad condition, and the rent is high.

The wages were very low in the first few years, since we didn’t know the work, but the wages increased as we learned. Now, we make up 2/3 of the agricultural workers in this area. We wonder who would be doing the work if it wasn’t for us.

We are in an ambiguous situation regarding the future. If we stay here, our condition is not good, if we go to back to Syria, our situation is not good. We will return to Syria if the conditions change to what they were before we left. It might be good to organize some training programs in the field of agriculture and livestock breeding, so that we can do something in the agricultural field when we return.
4. THE EFFECT OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS ON THE AGRICULTURAL LABOR MARKET

Agricultural labor is the main source of income and livelihood for both Syrian communities, and host communities. Since the majority of the Syrian people arriving in Turkey were agricultural workers in their homeland, agricultural work remains their main source of employment. There are 3.6 million Syrian people in 2019, 51% of them live in 6 regions which are covered by this research. According to the data obtained from the 6 provinces at least 60% of those at a working age are in the agricultural sector, and at least 30% of the agricultural workforce of these provinces is made up of Syrian workers, over 40% in some provinces, with at least 300,000 Syrian agricultural workers. Some of them are employed as entire households in large enterprises, these workers are mostly engaged in animal care. Men are preferred for livestock-related jobs. The future plans of more than half of the Syrians who find temporary and/or permanent jobs, whose children continue their education, and who find work outside of agriculture, include staying in Turkey, if they had little or no land Syria, future potential is more important than location. There are indications that those who were livestock producers in Syria would like to want to continue this in Turkey.

Great (Large-Scale) Farmer in Kilis

After the Syrians came, we started to find workers more easily, but that was not good for our sweaty workers. Because their wages fell, some of them gave up agricultural labor. This creates ambiguity for the future.

The Syrian women here work on vegetables, pepper collection, irrigation. The men work tilting, harvesting, loading, irrigation. We pay 35-50 TL/day to Syrian women and 40-60 TL/day to men. The intermediaries make a cut from their wages.

Even if they are only a few, some Syrian women in Kilis contribute to their family economy by making pomegranate syrup or tomato paste.

Support for local agricultural workers (for those with small amounts of land) is important for sustainability in production. For instance, for women: support can be given in product processing, marketing, egg poultry, growing mushrooms. For men: support in buying tractors, small-area processing machines, irrigation, livestock.

Agricultural earnings have declined compared to 2010. Farmers are struggling; farmers are in trouble because input prices are constantly increasing and product prices are not rising at the same rate.

I can also deduce the following here: at this rate, the Syrians in Turkey will have more of a say about agriculture in Turkey, because the Syrians who do not want to return to their countries have begun to engage more and more in agriculture and trade.
4.1 Wages

In recent years agricultural production in Turkey has been challenging. Increasing input prices and a low increase in agricultural product prices have led to the abandonment of agricultural production, and where agriculture remains, cost cutting takes place where it can, affecting wages. Perspectives from the research are that input prices for agriculture increased substantially after the Syrian crisis. The continuous increase in input prices, and inadequate income from agricultural production means only large landlords can employ external workers. Smaller landowners reduce costs by trying to grow their products only with help received from family members.

Wages received by Syrian workers and local workers differ according to product type. Evaluation of interviews find the biggest effect of the Syrian crisis has been a reduction in wages, with a greater pool of labor, local workers receive lower wages without insurance and security. In the first years after arrival, Syrian workers had been working for 25-40 TL a day, such wages were considered low by local workers and created unfair competition, and as a result many local workers have given up agricultural labor altogether.

However, some large landowners and employers said there had been no significant change in wages. Employers state that without Syrians workers, they would find it difficult to find labor and that prices would have been too high for production. This causes some debate, for example, ORSAM (the Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies) (2015) claim that the Syrian people work in fields (for portage, shepherding, garbage collecting, being a worker, etc.) where locals do not want to work, therefore there is no substantial substitution impact. The Syrian crisis did not have a direct effect on the wages of workers working in the livestock sector. The problems experienced in livestock breeding are not related to the Syrian crisis, but to the general economic situation.

4.2 Employment Opportunities

Almost every employer in the research area employ Syrian workers. Agricultural employers emphasized it is increasingly difficult to find local workers, if there were no Syrian workers, there would be difficulties
finding workers at all and wages would be much higher perhaps putting farms out of business. Although employers indicate that they are employing and will continue to employ Syrians whether qualified or not, a few indicated that they will employ local workers in particular jobs (such as pruning and irrigation) and disregard the costs. Some employers stated that while low wages are advantageous, the Syrians low level of agricultural skills and difference in approaches to work are negatives sides.

Syrian workers in Southeastern Anatolia and the Eastern Mediterranean region, where seasonal agricultural labor is particularly intense, have now become the main supply of the agricultural labor and the key determinants in the workforce: particularly in cotton and livestock cultivating in Şanlıurfa; pistachio, olive, and fruit harvesting along with pruning, irrigating, and shepherding in vegetable fields in Gaziantep; vegetable tilling and harvesting and olive harvesting in Kilis; citrus and olive harvesting as well as tilling in vegetable fields and shepherding livestock in Hatay; and additionally, peanut, citrus, and olive harvesting, and providing the labor force required for greenhouse works.

The influx of the Syrian workers employed in the agriculture sector has led to changes in opportunities for local agricultural workers and host communities. The Syrian workers were observed in almost all agricultural sectors from tillage-fertilizing to pruning-harvesting, sowing-planting, and livestock. Host communities describe their employment opportunities have decreased because Syrians accept lower wages and longer working conditions. This has created competition between the locals and Syrians and the rising unemployment rate of the local population is on the rise, making the condition of poor households even more severe, at least half of the host communities have been unable to rejoin the agricultural workforce. In Adana, Gaziantep, and Hatay, most of the local agricultural workers moved on to work in textile and other sectors.

In interviews, it was indicated that some locals and Syrian workers who want work unrelated to agriculture had migrated. For example, local agricultural workers interviewed in the town of İslahiye of Gaziantep stated that ‘if things continue this way, they will migrate to the cities where there are more job opportunities in the near future’.

The Syrian workers have had not had any visible effect on the division of labor based on gender in agriculture.

4.3 Views from Turkish Agricultural Workers

‘There was a drop in income sources. My aunt’s husband takes Syrians. But he doesn’t take me. They work for 50 TL per day. They work cheaper, but they cannot do the work like us, but they do not take us because they have to pay us more’ (FGD, Mersin – Woman).

‘The Syrians were not much trouble when they first arrived, but their numbers have increased dramatically. The drop in wages on their arrival has affected us severely. There is nothing positive about their coming’ (Hatay, FGD– Man).

‘Even landlords-rich farmers employ shepherds from the Syrians. Those workers are cheap. They do not give us jobs’ (Hatay, FGD– Woman).
National, local, and international aid provided to the Syrian people leads to criticism from host communities who indicate that their own condition is no better, especially since the reduction in working wages makes living conditions worse. Although participants described how people from local regions were first inclined to help, this has changed with some people expressing that they have no connection to the Syrians and prefer to live separately.

4.4 Perceptions of Employers

Employers stated that they were unable to find sufficient agricultural labor before the Syrian crisis and Syrian workers have filled this gap. The arrival of Syrian labor increased availability providing opportunities for landowners and agricultural enterprises that need the agricultural workforce. However, they also report the Syrian workers do not know the work well and the majority lack both experience, and work discipline.

‘Unemployment has gone up. Products are not bringing in their value. The locals have left the villagers. The land is more valuable, but the income has decreased. There are 20,000 Syrians. 15,000 live with aid while the locals do not get their labors’ worth’ (Mersin, President of the Chamber of Agriculture).

‘The Syrians were selling the aid they received, like olives, oil, coal. A market was set up. Then these aids were cut off’ (Şanlıurfa).

4.5 Changes in Working Conditions

Kilis – Head of the Production Association

- Income has been decreasing since the Syrian crisis. Labor is cheap, costs are expensive. Life has become more expensive. Meat consumption has declined at least by 50-60% for everyone. There is an environment for more carbohydrate and vegetable-based nutrition.
- Problems in crop production are irrigation water, electricity costs, labor wages, high input prices, etc.
- In Kilis, the Syrians are working in every field of work.
- Sometimes there is anger about the decrease in wages due to the Syrians.
- Syrian children work everywhere. Girls under the age of 16 in harvest, men work on sacks, tilting.
- There is no cultural exchange between the Syrians and the local population. There is no communication unless it is compulsory.
- Syrian children are living under poor conditions.
- Life is more difficult for them, rent is expensive.

The working conditions for local populations or members of host communities are generally the same. Local workers have listed the hardships of working in agriculture as the following: long working hours, physical hardship, insufficient number and duration of breaks, low endurance under the sun and hard working
conditions, lack of agreement with the employer, the commission received by the agricultural intermediary, wages being kept too low, agricultural intermediary’s insensitivity, the lack of social security, the lack of sanitary (toilet-water) needs in the workplace. Although working conditions are not solely related to the Syrian crisis, after the arrival of the Syrian workers, employers have become more insensitive to working conditions since it is easier for them to find workers.

4.6 Input Usage and Procurement in Production

It was stated that the Syrian crisis did not have an effect on input usage in vegetable production. Fertilizers, pesticides, and seed intake have not been subject to change. Some stated that cheaper oil could be bought across the border prior to the Syria crisis.

Participants indicated that they have difficulty in using methods that increase productivity and in using technological innovations mainly due to the high price of seed, fertilizer, and agricultural pesticides. Small landowners and producers have stated their situation gets worse every day. It has also been asserted that the use of technological developments by small landowners and the use of quality products are both becoming increasingly difficult.

4.7 Challenges and Suggestions for Agricultural Workers

The problems of the local agricultural workers are similar to the Syrians workers, and are summarized as follows:

- Unofficial work
- Lack of Social Security
- Low wages and late payment of wages
- Unofficial agricultural intermediaries and random (unofficial) applications
- Lack of adequate state control
- Hard working conditions
- Failure to comply with business safety requirements
- Primitive working conditions and shelter
5. OTHER IMPACTS OF THE SYRIAN WORKERS CRISIS IN THE REGIONS

5.1 Relations between Host Communities and the Syrian Communities

At the beginning of the Syrian crisis, the Turkish people were supportive to the Syrian people. However, during this research it was found the local population has an overall negative view of the Syrian population, which has created a cheap and unregistered workforce leading to a reduction in wages, a decrease in the number of working days available, and competition among poor people for already scant resources and opportunities. Other complaints by local populations are the enormous rise in rent, rise in food prices, and the change in the social texture of the areas highly populated by Syrian people.

The aid and health support given to the Syrians has begun to be considered ‘unfair’ by the local population. Initially, support given to Syrian people was solely economic. The fact that each Syrian receives 100 TL’s worth of food support per month while the locals get nothing is described as unjust/unfair. This has created an increasing sense of injustice among the local population, leading to underlying tensions.

Communication, interaction, solidarity, and cooperation between host communities and the Syrians in terms of psychological and traditional culture are difficult issues. Although different in individual settlements, there appears to be little positive relationships between host communities and the Syrian people, even though many years have elapsed since the Syrian crisis. In some settlements there are a few cases where people visit each other’s houses, however these relationships are the rarity rather than the norm, everyone is mainly concerned with sustaining their livelihoods and gaining an income. There is slightly more communication between women.

5.2 Perspectives of Local Administrators

Local administrators and local governments have important roles and responsibilities regarding the Syrians, their settlements, and social integration, and were interviewed for this fieldwork. The answers given have important implications for the future of the domestic agricultural workers as well as the Syrian people. 12 of the local administrators stated that households in a bad economic position have become deteriorated in the last year, only 3 administrators say conditions had improved. None of the local administrators interviewed said that the Syrian crises had a positive effect, the majority (11 people) felt there had been a negative effect with 6 individuals saying there was no effect. Those who felt there was a negative effect suggested the following reasons:

• Reduction in wages
• Reduced employment opportunities
• Increase in rent prices
• Immigration of local workers in the region
• Increase in unemployment for local people
• Tensions between local people (host community) and the Syrian people.

The local managers interviewed stated that the Syrian presence makes their job challenging but that they are working intensively to solve issues. They felt overall that although disagreements between the local population and the Syrian people occur, it is not on a scale that would turn into a social disturbance. It has been emphasized that while it is easier to manage the Syrians in the camps, it is difficult to reach the ones outside, especially those unregistered. Local authorities expressed their belief that even if the Syrian crises is resolved, at least 70-75% of the Syrian people will stay and continue to live in Turkey, in some opinions it was stated that their high child-birth rate, education-schooling, occupation, and integration need urgent attention.
10 of local administrators stated that there was no change in access to basic food consumption in comparison to before the Syrian crisis, while 7 stated that there was a change. The reasons for the change in access to basic food sources were seen to be:

- A reduction in wages leading to a decrease in food expenditures because the income of households has been reduced.
- Rapidly rising food prices

**NGO – Representative**

We are planning for the future. After the crisis is over, we will do irrigation work in 10 places in Syria. Work will be done for good quality production.

For the future, small-scale projects, self-sustaining agricultural projects are planned for women. For men, training is given in livestock breeding, irrigation, plant production. Wheat is a strategic product for Syria. We will give priority to this. Small gardens and greenhouses are planned as a precaution for future difficulties. If they are disseminated, problems can be overcome more easily.

Syrians in Turkey can do agricultural work as a group if they can lease land. Working conditions are more suitable for women in Turkey. Before the crisis in Syria, women did not work, they did not go out.

**Gaziantep – District Property Manager**

- It is a district with a high population. The economic status of 10% of the population living in the city is ‘good’ 20% is ‘medium’ and 70% is ‘bad’. Those who are not ‘good’ are poor, landless, unskilled workers, etc. An indicator of wealth in agriculture is irrigated land, agricultural mechanization, processing plant, large-scale animal husbandry, etc.
- The main sources of income for the households in the sub-province are labor, agricultural workers, small tradesmen, traders-SMEs.
- The situation of the poor became even worse with the Syrian crisis. Labor has become cheaper, and there is no guarantee. Housing and food prices increased. Government aid given to those with poor living conditions (cash aid, food aid, fuel aid) is increasing.
- Women become even more tired and vulnerable in poor families. They have to work to contribute to the family economy.
- It will be effective if micro-loans are given to the poor working in agriculture for vegetable, small greenhouse, home type production, etc.
- Syria’s livelihoods throughout the district are composed of textile workmanship, agricultural workmanship, services, and factory workmanship. On the other hand, the Syrians work as shepherds throughout the city. Nearly all of the workers earn informal (unregistered) and low wages. 20 thousand Syrian families are given coal. There is not much trouble between the Syrian population and the local population.
- The first thing that must be done to resolve the problems is future planning. It is important to focus on the development of professions and small enterprises.
6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Syrian workers have become the key players of the workforce. Therefore, whether public or private sector, planning must take this into consideration. To create an environment in which the Syrians can work more efficiently, the implementation of ‘agricultural education-publishing programs’ and effective planning of the labor market at the national level are necessary. The basic needs of agricultural workers are measures against work accidents, unfair and varying wages, unofficial agricultural intermediaries, informality, exclusion from the social security system, long working hours, and poor land conditions.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has various agriculture-related trainings and projects. Training services are provided for the people/households who are engaged in livestock breeding. Those coming from Syria urgently need training in matters such as animal care, health, and herd management. One of the interviewed individuals suggested that family businesses should be supported to improve livestock production. Women who took part in the focus group discussions did not participate in training activities related to agriculture.

Solutions for local and Syrian agricultural workers should start with the agricultural intermediation system. Projects can be developed concerning agriculture intermediaries, such as registration and accountability measures and priority should be given to providing with continuous training on work safety, work health, etc. A ‘contractual agricultural intermediary’ system can be introduced to register them. The contract can be formed between ‘agricultural intermediary-field owners [the employers], and the agricultural workers’. Türkiye İş Kurumu (İŞKUR, Turkey Employment Agency) can be one of the regulatory bodies for monitoring this process. Unofficial intermediaries must be stopped by legal measures.

Many work-related accidents occur due to harsh living-housing conditions. Thus, the establishment of ‘Monitoring of Working and Housing Conditions of Seasonal Agricultural Workers’ units are vital. These can be set up in each city within the public institutions as sub-units to generate reports on occupational accidents agricultural workers encounter. To improve the living conditions of agricultural workers clean water, waste disposal, sewerage, electricity, and heating need improvement alongside infrastructure, child care, transportation to the work place, food, cleaning, washing, etc. Public-private projects aimed at improving working and living conditions are needed; enforcement of regulations and audits to ensure that employers fulfill their legal responsibilities; and auditing-evaluation units-committees established. An ongoing ‘call center’ set up to assist agricultural workers where they can report problems can help resolve some of the problems of agricultural workers. Priority should be given towards improving infrastructure, the resting facilities, water, toilets.

Un-registration, anxiety over loss of work, and a lack of protection make it difficult for workers to demand their rights. Contributions can be made to the organization of agricultural workers to help them be heard publicly, NGOs can play an important role in this issue. STK (Provincial Directorates of Turkey Employment Council) could also play an important role, before that current duties should be discussed.

Agricultural work can lead to many discomforts and occupational diseases due to working in the sun and in damp environments, inaccessibility to basic sanitary needs, and inadequate shelter. These include lumbar diseases, joint diseases, asthma, inadequate physical development, sunstroke, scorpion-snake poisoning, etc. Workplace health and safety precautions are not taken for agricultural workers. Employment of children in agricultural labor in any form is prohibited both by law and by the international agreements to which Turkey is a party.
The main actors in improving basic needs and helping to resolve the issues are: agricultural intermediaries, Türkiye İş Kurumu (Turkey Employment Agency), Local Administrators, Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services, the Ministry of National Education, Chambers of Agriculture, Immigration Administration General Directorate, AFAD, Local Authorities, Chambers of Commerce, and Employers. These actors require, more of experts and personnel, improved and accurate job descriptions, audit training, CSR training, feedback mechanisms to hear from agricultural workers and improved coordination between departments.

Farmers have expressed that alongside the increase in input prices and the low prices of products, a third issue is challenges in marketing. Training for host communities, farmers and the Syrian workers in aspect of agricultural production including marketing will be beneficial.

**Interview with members of Chamber of Agriculture in Gaziantep**

The economic conditions were better before 2010. Income from agricultural products were better. The carpet and textile sectors were livelier.

The economy is not good because of the turmoil in neighboring countries in recent years. Food expenditure increased, protein consumption decreased. There are 4 Syrian households in our neighborhood. In addition, there are about 200 Syrian workers. Syrians work mainly in lentils, vegetable tilting, chickpeas, collecting land stones, fruit harvest.

Among Syrian agricultural workers there are those who are lawyers or teachers. The daily rate of Syrian workers is 45 TL. This is 10 TL for the mediator. They get 35 TL / day. The fee for women and men is the same. Local workers get 55-60 TL / day, no deduction. Syrian workers are doing 90% of agricultural jobs in the region.

We are implementing the ‘Agricultural Education Project’ together with the Chamber of Agriculture, FAO, and the Gaziantep Food, Agriculture, and Livestock Provincial Directorate. This is a project for 150 individuals in Gaziantep. 70% of the participants are Syrian, and 30% are locals. Training is given on pistachio, viniculture, olive, pepper, pomegranate husbandry. The basic sources of living for the Syrians are agricultural labor, textile workmanship, animal husbandry, unskilled work.

**6.1 Main Intervention Areas for the Future**

Interventions are required to improve the conditions of both local populations and the Syrian workers. These should be in the form of social protection, economic protection, access to resources, and increasing professional capacities.

- **Social protection:** improvement of the living and working environment, developing strategies for disadvantaged groups, establishing social communication environments between local and
Syrian people, including children, particularly Syrian, in the education system, developing communication skills, and enhancing and improving the capacity of decision makers in terms of social protection.

- **Economic protection interventions:** the registration of the agricultural intermediary system and its strict control, the control of wages and the surveillance of those employing workers with low wages, development of strategies for those who want to establish their own business, the reduction of input costs, common conduct in the provision of basic needs, and importance given to social security applications. In areas with concentrated Syrian populations, measures must be taken to create educational opportunities for children.

- **The area of accessibility to sources of interventions:** providing access to basic inputs for small land owners and/or those owning a small number of animals; contributing to market entry; supporting small scale activities such as greenhouse mushroom growing, small cattle breeding, and poultry stockbreeding; determining strategies to help Syrian workers who want to do such activities; and providing them with adequate conditions.

- **Occupational capacity interventions:** training and dissemination activities for both local and the Syrian populations to increase occupational capacities of workers in agricultural jobs. Topics such as greenhouse, pruning, irrigation, animal husbandry, and mushroom growing should be supported. Conditions are set by the Occupational Health and Safety regulations, and they should comply with legal sanctions.

- **New technologies:** Participants indicated that they face difficulties in making use of new techniques in increasing productivity and technological innovations. The biggest problem is the high price of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides, livestock breeders complain about the high price of animal feed and veterinary services. Interviewees state it is becoming harder and harder for small scale landowners to make use of technological developments and to use good quality products, and their situation is getting worse. Assistance here is required.

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**Kilis – Syrian NGO Representative and Employees**

- In the province of Kilis, the condition of 15% of the Syrians is good while 20% is average and 65% is poor. The good one’s trade and open their own businesses. The bad ones are unemployed, they have no home, and they work for very low rates when they find work.

- The households of the Syrians with average living conditions make 700-900 TL per month. Syrians work 10-12 hours a day, and most of the family members participate in the workforce.

- Their need for food is supplied through association grants, state grants, benefactors, and their own income. 140 families with very poor financial conditions are given 300 TL a month.

- Women are experiencing more difficulty in working life. Housework, child care, and work outside the home are very tiring. There are women working in textiles. The working hours are long.

- The working conditions and wages for women must be improved. The sources of livelihood for Syrians are generally agricultural work, factory work, tradesman-trade, and all kinds of unskilled work.
• As an association, we offer courses for women and men. In addition to this, in a workshop we have them (and train them in how to) prepare pomegranate syrup, process olives, and pack spices. This workshop has 40 male and 32 female employees. The increase in such initiatives is particularly important for Syrian women and the poor population.

• Even though the number is not very high, some girls are forced to marry at a young age for financial reasons. We are taking initiatives in these issues, but it is not enough.

• Women and young girls want to be educated in the fields of tailoring, handicrafts, olive farming, vegetable cultivation, etc. We are trying to plan for this, and we need support in these matters.

Agricultural Training and Extension Services for the Syrians

A new FAO project targets the Syrians (STuP) and host communities in Turkey, for development of vocational skills in the agriculture sector. The aim is to provide employment opportunities for some 900 people in five provinces of Southern Turkey: Adana, Gaziantep, Isparta, Mersin and Sanliurfa. Through vocational training, the project is expected to benefit three groups: agricultural producers, seasonal agricultural Syrian and local workers. It aims to improve social cohesion between Syrian and their host communities by creating employment, increasing household incomes, improving productivity, and raising the quality of agricultural products. Given the similarities between the agricultural landscapes of south-eastern Turkey and neighbouring areas of Syria, many workers already have some work experience on farms and agricultural enterprises. For those who have not worked in agriculture before, the project provides an opportunity to acquire skills that are in high demand, and gain hands-on experience to improve their employability.

Vocational training focus will be on livestock care and herd management; cultivation and harvesting of apple, grape, olive, pistachio and cotton; harvesting and post-harvest processes for pepper, citrus and pomegranate; greenhouse vegetable production; and irrigation management, farm management and food hygiene. A series of workshops was designed to prepare a cohort of trainers. It covered instructional design, effective presentation and facilitation skills, adult learning principles, training evaluation, identifying and addressing common training problems, best practices for communicating with the Syrian workers, FAO’s perspective on each technical topic, and review of the training curriculums.

The project has six main implementing partners operating in different subject areas: Mediterranean Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Businessmen Association, Western Mediterranean Economy Development Foundation, Gaziantep Chamber of Industry, Gaziantep Provincial Directorate of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Sanliurfa Cattle Breeders’ Association and Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock.
In the scope of the research a value chain analysis was carried out for selected agricultural products which are grounded in the region, these were chili peppers, olives, pistachio, and vegetables. The main purpose here was to reveal the current situation and value of the products, to understand the impact of the Syrian people on local populations, and to make informed future predictions. Interviews were conducted with all stakeholders from the beginning to end of production, with workers, suppliers and Civil Society Organizations.

Chili Peppers

For the cities of Şanlıurfa, Kilis, Hatay, and Gaziantep, chili peppers are an important product providing work for a large number of people. Thousands of workers are employed in chili pepper farming especially during the periods of tilling, irrigation, and harvesting. The Syrian workers were working in chili pepper farming in Kilis and Gaziantep. With development of the processing and packaging industry, employment could be provided for a qualified worker population. For example, in the district of Elbeyli in Kilis, and the district of İslahiye in Gaziantep, chili peppers are the product with potential to contribute the most to economic development, but the industry here is currently operating in a low capacity. Therefore, value chain analysis for chili peppers, a product with high potential, even without the branding process, is important in terms of employment and for the local economy.

There are 2 basic workforces related to chili peppers: producers and their local and the Syrian workers, and processing businesses. Young people tend to migrate from the regions of pepper cultivation, because they cannot find jobs, and generally, unemployment and low income employment were underlined as the main problem in this sector. If the chili pepper processing sub-sector added value is increased, the number of individuals working in this field may also increase. Currently two companies operating at low capacity are marketing their products in many cities. When a serious and institutional organization of production and operations takes place in the district, the growth rate and production capacity of this sub-sector will increase even further.

The sources of information that will assist in the production and processing of chili peppers are as follows: Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock, private enterprises, producers, and universities. The existence of such institutions can serve as a driving force in the development of human and information resources for the development of the chili pepper sub-sector in the district. The realization of these will create both employment opportunities and the chance to employ more qualified individuals under the social security umbrella.

Elbeyli and İslahiye are suitable areas for the production of chili pepper. Marketing, the increase in added value, and the establishment of good processing plants (or renewal, the modernization of existing ones), appear as important economic advantages and employment sources for the future. Chili pepper production in the district, which is the most important input of this sub-sector, has fluctuated over the years but is sufficient. During the field study, no problems with obtaining stock were observed. It seems that there will be no problems in terms of raw material if quality seeds and conditions suitable for the use of inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) are provided. Although it was not stated that the Syrian crisis had any effect on chili pepper breeding, there was mention of an increase in input prices in recent years.
İslahîye is located at a strategic intersection point (Nurdağı district) near Gaziantep, Adana, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş, providing an advantage in terms of distribution of raw materials. It makes it appealing for businesses coming from outside the district. It is possible to examine the sub-sector demand situation regarding chili peppers in three categories: provincial, regional, and national. However, the few enterprises that will be established as larger enterprises will be able to realize productions on a provincial, regional, and national scale. What is important is to produce good quality, standardized, branded chili pepper products.

State support plays an important role in the development of crop production. The use of quality inputs, input support for increased yields, and investment incentives can contribute to the increase of investments in cities and to the expansion of chili pepper cultivation. In the districts, public institutions, the private sector, and NGOs in the provinces need to act jointly in order to develop chili peppers and other crop sub-sectors.

The key findings of the analysis of the development of chili pepper and related products sub-sectors can be summarized as follows:

- There is existing experience of chili pepper production
- There is continuity in production when there is a constant market
- The districts are suitable for chili pepper cultivation
- There is no difficulty finding labor
- There might be problems in finding qualified workers
- Government support-incentives exist, although they are limited
- There are logistical advantages due to the geographical location
- The development of the chili pepper economy will contribute to the increase in the quality of the labor force
- Raw material presence and proximity is an advantage
- The organization of producers is limited
- Marketing competence is weak
- Full and clear competition conditions are insufficient

**Olives**

Olives are an important product for Gaziantep, Kilis, and Hatay. The region is advantageous for olive production because they can be locally processed, stocked, branded, and exported to the market as olive oil. There are also a high number of olive and olive oil producers in the towns of Nizip, Hatay, and Kilis and businesses that process and market their products. During field studies, it was observed that olives were becoming more widespread in the region. The production of olives provides employment in the region in terms of cultivation and for other businesses.

High unemployment and low-income employment exist in the regions. The labor force related to olive cultivation and its sub-industries are producers, local workers and the Syrian workers, and olive-processing enterprises, a large number of the Syrian families’ work in olive cultivation. In terms of olive processing, there is a great expertise in the region. The number of individuals working in the field will also increase if the olives are processed in a manner that could increase their added value. A considerable area of olive
groves in the region are still young, however, in 5-10 years, it may be one of the most important industrial subdivisions in the district.

The most prominent sources of information that will assist in the development of olive cultivation and olive oil production are as follows: Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock, Fruit Research Stations, producers, and universities. The existence of such institutions will serve as a driving force in the development of human and information resources for the development of olive cultivation in the region.

There is no problem in supplying inputs in olive agriculture in the region. The Syrian crisis has not had an impact on input supply, but the increase in input prices in recent years has been frequently emphasized by farmers. The demand for olives and olive oil can be examined in four levels; towns, cities, regions, and national, there are enterprises operating on a town and city scale, regional, and at national scales. An area for potential development is in production of good quality olive oil and processed olives in accordance with set standards. This needs research on how enterprises that process olives can improve quality. Interviewees stated that olive oil in Nizip, Kilis, and Hatay is of particularly good quality.

The development of olive cultivation and the olive-based sub-industry in the region is directly related to the continuity and quality of olive production. The use of certified seedlings and raw material, and the assignment of modern fields/gardens, can both change the quantity and quality of the products in the region. State support plays an important role in the development of plant production. The use of quality and certified inputs, the provision of input support for increased yields, the transition to pressurized irrigation systems, and investment incentives can contribute to the increase of investment relating to olives, opening up more employment opportunities.

The main findings of the analysis of the development of the olive and olive oil sub-sector can be summarized as follows:

- There is existing experience of olive production
- There is continuity in production when there is a constant market
- The districts are suitable for olive cultivation
- Olive cultivation can be developed
- There is no difficulty finding labor
- There might be problems in finding qualified workers
- Government support-incentives exist
- It has logistical advantages due to geographical location
- The development of the olive economy will contribute to the increase in the quality of the labor force
- Raw material presence and proximity is an advantage
- Work is being done in order to offer a variety of good quality olive products
- Good quality olive production is becoming widespread
- The Syrian workers show an interest in olive cultivation
- Producers are organized
- Producers desire to bring their business up to a regional and national scale
- The awareness of the importance of a qualified workforce should be improved
Pistachios

Pistachio is an especially important product for Gaziantep, more than one third of the agricultural land in the district is used for pistachio cultivation. In the town of Nizip, pistachio production stands out, there are many facilities in the district for pistachio processing. The quality and oil content of the pistachios grown in Nizip is high, and is priced accordingly.

Pistachio is a product that both the locals and the Syrians are familiar with. There are 3 main labor forces working with pistachio cultivation and its related processing industry: producers, the local and the Syrian workers, and those who process pistachios for human consumption. There is a great deal of expertise in the region in terms of processing pistachio. If pistachios are processed in a way that will increase their added value, the number of individuals working in this area in the districts may also increase (or not migrate). Currently there is migration into the area, especially Syrian, in the urban and rural areas of the Nizip district, due to a need for a workforce, and the tendency for young people from the local populations to break away from agriculture leaving a gap in the workforce.

Among the sources of information that will help the development and branding of pistachio production in the region are: Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock, Fruit Research Stations, producers, and universities. The existence of institutions for this can be the driving force in the development of human and information resources for the development and branding of pistachios in the region.

Nizip is well located where raw material meets demand, with good transportation links, providing an advantage in terms of obtaining materials and market access. In the district, it is possible to examine the demand for pistachio in four categories, the sub-province (town), province (city), regional, and national levels. There are enterprises operating on a sub-province and province level, there are regional enterprises, and others operating at the national level.

The development of the pistachio industry and of the processed pistachio sub-industry in the town is directly related to the consistency and quality of pistachio production, state support plays an important role. The use of certified seedlings and raw materials and the assignment of modern fields/gardens can change the quantity and quality of the products in the region. The use of quality and certified inputs, the provision of input support for increased yields, the transition to pressure irrigation systems, and investment incentives can contribute to increased investment.

The main findings of the analysis on the development of the pistachio sub-sector can be summarized as follows:

- There is both experience and a long history of pistachio production
- There is continuity in production when there is a constant market
- The cities of Gaziantep and Kilis are suitable for pistachio production
- There is no difficulty in finding workers at the present, but problems might arise in the future due to the tendency of the young people to migrate
- State support-incentives are present
- There are logistical advantages due to the geographical location
- The development of the pistachio economy will contribute to the increase in the quality of the labor force
• Raw material presence and proximity is an advantage
• The Syrian workers show an interest in pistachio cultivation
• Producer organization is weak
• Investments in irrigation are important for efficiency
• Producers desire to bring their business up to a regional and national scale/level.

Vegetables

Vegetable cultivation is important in all the areas under focus excluding Şanlıurfa. Vegetable cultivation particularly in Hatay, Adana, and Mersin is important not only for the region, but also for Turkey. A significant portion of greenhouse vegetable production in Turkey is from these three cities, making it one of the most important fields of employment in the region, as it requires a large workforce.

Vegetables are sold and shipped from the region around Turkey and to other countries. The development of vegetable cultivation, processing, and presentation to the market are not only important for farmers but also for agricultural workers and the logistics sector. In terms of the future (especially in the context of climate change risk and irrigation planning), vegetable cultivation is a market with high potential and local and foreign demand. In Gaziantep, Kilis, and Hatay, drying and processing vegetables for consumption during the winter months in Turkey’s other regions is an important tradition. Although we have observed a problem in terms of demand, preferring high value added dryers and carrying out research on new types of packing and packaging techniques can increase the demand and profit. This situation can also increase labor productivity and quality.

There are many companies involved in vegetable cultivation and processing in the region. It is important for these companies to follow the current developments (in demand) in the sector and to have more institutional structures for branding to order to increase added value.

In addition to the intensive cultivation of vegetables in the region, it has been reported in some villages that there are those who dry vegetables for family self-consumption instead of working for pay. It is clear that new employment opportunities will emerge in the region with the investments that companies make in the field of packaging and marketing vegetables.

Among the sources of information that will assist in the development of vegetable and dried vegetable production are Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock, Agricultural Research Stations, producers, and universities. The existence of institutions for this can be a driving force in the development of human and information resources for the development of vegetable plants in the region.

There is no serious problem in the supply of inputs in the vegetable sector. However, farmers state that high input prices affect production and sustainability. It should be noted that vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides were sold to Syria before the crises, but this has decreased recently. There is a link between the Syrian crisis and the development or decline of vegetable cultivation.

The region is well located where raw materials meet demand, with good transportation links, providing an advantage in terms of obtaining raw materials and accessing the Middle-Eastern market.
it is possible to examine the demand for vegetables in four categories; sub-province (town), province (city), regional, and national levels. There are enterprises operating on a sub-province and province level, regional enterprises and national level enterprises, and still others that have gained access to the international market.

It is important to produce good quality, healthy (hygienic), standard-complying vegetables, and dried vegetables. The development of the sub-industry based on vegetable growing and dried vegetables in the region is directly related to the continuity and quality of vegetable production. The use of certified seedlings and raw materials and the assignment of modern fields/gardens can both change the quantity and quality of the products in the region. State support plays an important role in the development of vegetable production. The use of quality and certified inputs, the provision of input support for increased yields, the transition to pressure irrigation systems, and investment incentives can contribute to increased investment.

The main findings of the analysis on the development of the vegetable cultivation can be summarized as follows:

- There is regional experience in vegetable cultivation, especially in Hatay, Adana, and Mersin
- Traditional production is observed in some towns
- Although problematic, there is continuity in production when there is a constant market
- The region is suitable for vegetable cultivation
- Vegetable drying and packing can be improved
- In small settlements there is organic vegetable growing and interest in this field
- There is no difficulty in finding workers at the present but future problems might arise due to the tendency of young people to migrate
- The Syrians are mostly employed in the sector, but they are all unregistered, and there may be problems in terms of the continuity of the workforce
- There are logistical advantages due to the geographical location
- Raw material presence and proximity is an advantage
- It is important to preserve/protect the local seeds and to use them
- The Syrian workers show an interest in growing vegetables for self-consumption
- Investments in irrigation are important for efficiency
- Producers desire to bring their business up to a national and international scale

Value Chain Analysis – Findings and Opportunities

The agricultural sector is still the most important sector for the region.

In the region and in the agricultural sector, the Syrian workers are increasingly becoming determinants regarding employment particularly in labor-intensive and relatively low-paid jobs.

The development of the agricultural sector in terms of quality and quantity in the region has potential to improve quality and productivity in the labor market.

The lack of access to working documents has an impact on the participation of the Syrian workers in the labor market.
The processing of agricultural products and their marketing may also increase labor quality, productivity, and wages.

The preservation of traditional products and production techniques and their transfer to the future is important, especially to be used by the family labor force.

There are the Syrian workers who show an interest in growing olives and vegetables on a small scale, if possible.

Olive and vegetable cultivation have a capacity that could be triggered.

The involvement of the Syrian workers in the agricultural labor market can exclude host communities or the local population from agriculture. This may pose a risk for future labor market planning.

The agricultural product market may differ for selected products. When olive and pistachio cultivators see the need, they keep their products and wait for price formation in the market that would meet their high expectations. On the other hand, small-scale farmers sell their products earlier in the local market while large enterprises can sell their products to cities and non-regional markets.

The increase of irrigation facilities can especially increase the productivity and variety in agricultural production. For this reason, irrigation support is important.

Climate changes have come to the point of becoming a threat (to agriculture) in the future. In field research, it was emphasized that there were serious problems in productivity, irrigation, and crop diversity due to climate change.

There is a great deal of knowledge about combating both diseases and the harmful effects of pesticides in the region and thus there are no problems in these areas.

While local workers are involved in more technical and knowledge based agricultural jobs, the Syrians are more involved in labor-intensive and low-paid agriculture. However, as the experience and knowledge of the Syrians increase with time, this situation may create serious competition in the labor market.

Small scale producers of olives and vegetables in the region sell their products to locals and relatives without packaging or processing, while large enterprises tend to sell them as processed products.

In agricultural production, the costs of inputs such as fuel oil, electricity, fertilizer, and medicine are high, causing the most complaints among farmers. The use of renewable energy such as solar energy in agriculture is important in terms of cost. It is also important for the state to maintain cost-reducing supports in terms of the continuity of production.

If an analysis of the future agricultural labor market, starting with the Syrian workers, is made the following aspects must be considered: what kind of workers does the workforce market demand, who is involved in the supply of labor to the market, what kind of education can increase the productivity of the labor force, how should we balance gender inequalities, and what advantages can be discovered by studying which topics?
APPENDIX 1: LIFE RESOURCES PROFILE

1. Information

With the emergence of the Syrian crisis, millions of people had to leave their homes and go to other countries. Turkey, as one of the countries neighboring Syria, has hosted the Syrians who were forced to leave their homes from the very beginning of the crises. The fact that millions of Syrians came to live in certain regions in Turkey for the long-term had an effect on the social, economic, and cultural life of the local communities and brought certain burdens upon the socio-economic communities. It can be said that competition for access to livelihoods has increased, particularly in its effect on the livelihoods and working conditions of especially the poor in the local communities. At the same time, there are some problems in meeting basic services. In order to identify these problems and solutions, FAO has undertaken a study to evaluate the livelihoods of host and the Syrian communities. The evaluation of livelihoods aims to provide basic information to build a strategy for the food security and livelihoods of the host and of the Syrians.

2. Objective

Within the scope of the research project entitled ‘Agricultural Livelihood Resources and Labor Market Assessment for Syrian and Host Communities in Turkey’ focus group meetings and interviews were conducted with key persons in order make a livelihood profile analysis. This report presents an assessment of both the available secondary sources and data based on field research.

The research aims to determine the following:
• the way that the local and the Syrian communities identify themselves according to economic groups,
• the basic income sources of the locals and the Syrians,
• the sources of food for the locals and the Syrians,
• effective strategies for coping with various problems

3. Identification of Poor Households and Economic Groups

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute report for 2013, the regions where poverty is most intense in Turkey are Southeastern Anatolia with 32.5%, followed by the Mediterranean region (15.1%) and the East Anatolia region (13.2%). These are also the regions that are the most intense in term of seasonal agricultural workers and consequently where the Syrian workers are most concentrated. The agricultural workers here are either temporary or traveling workers, and their basic livelihoods are based on agricultural work.

The poverty rate among the Syrian peoples forced to migrate to Turkey is high, and a significant part of this population is working in agriculture. In this respect, ‘according to one data, 57% of the Syrians live in poverty and 31% live below the hunger limit’ (Milliyet, 04.09.2015). According to another report, the percentage of people living under the hunger limit among the the Syrian people, including the Syrians, is 70% (American Voice, 05.07.2016). As a result, the poverty rate of Syrians is ‘over 50% in Turkey’ (http://tplondon.com/books/9781910781364/978191078136408.pdf).
NGO representatives working on the Syrian people in Şanlıurfa and Hatay stated that Syrian immigrants could not benefit from basic services including health services, especially because they are required to be registered in order to benefit from state aid, and some people cannot register for various reasons. In the focus group discussion conducted with the Syrian women in Mersin, they stated that the children had problems when they were sent to school. However, in a meeting with an expert on this subject, (s)he said, ‘The places that they live in are poor areas, and the classrooms of these schools are already overcrowded. Thus, the reasons for not taking Syrian children may be the lack of space in the schools. ‘For Syrian children, this can be regarded as the primary obstacle stopping them from continuing their education.

During interviews conducted during field work, the ‘poorest’ groups have been defined as those who have no immovable property and who provide for their livelihood through the wages they receive from agricultural labor, in some cases needing aid and having problems in meeting their basic needs. In general, the groups discussed here lack social security.

Table 5: Identification of Economic Groups: the Local and Syrian Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Better Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local People</strong></td>
<td>Those who do not own land or houses.</td>
<td>Those who hardly meet their basic needs.</td>
<td>Those who own at least a bit of land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those who have problems in meeting their basic needs.</td>
<td>An individual from the family who has temporary work.</td>
<td>Those who do not have debts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those with debts.</td>
<td>Being able to also find jobs outside of agriculture.</td>
<td>Those who can meet their basic needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those who need aid.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Those who own a few animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those who do not have permanent work.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Those having a working individual in the family, even if it is someone who earns a low monthly income.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those lacking a profession.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local People</strong></td>
<td>Those who have problems in meeting their basic needs.</td>
<td>Those who hardly meet their basic needs.</td>
<td>Those who can meet their basic needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those with debts.</td>
<td>Those with more than one individual working in the family.</td>
<td>Those with more than one individual working in the family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those who need aid.</td>
<td>Those able to pay their rent.</td>
<td>Those who have knowledge in agricultural work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those who cannot find a job.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those with a large number of children.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those lacking a profession.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Those who lack shelter or live in houses under poor conditions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The basic features of the poor households in residential areas within the research scope can be stated as follows:
- They work in seasonal or temporary jobs.
- Education levels are low.
- The households are large and the number of children is high.
- The income they receive from their work is low.
- There have no social security.
- They lack the training for farming.
• There have no regular income nor anyone in the family to maintain their livelihood.
• The places they live in are not healthy and lack basic infrastructure services.
• Children do not have a healthy nutritional intake.

4. Income and Livelihood Resources

The majority of the households in the research area depend mostly on agricultural labor as their main livelihood resource. The individuals in these households usually participate in the production process through vegetable production, livestock farming, fishing, and so on. Some of the households with ‘better’ economic conditions also make a living by renting land. A small number of households have land for small-scale agricultural production. Those that are considered the poorest do not own any animals, but some of the better-rated local households have animals for their own consumption.

In all the cities covered in this study, agricultural labor was found to be the most significant source of income for the Syrian people. In Adana and Gaziantep, agricultural income is the primary source of income, and there are also people working such fields as construction, textile, and industry. And in fact, many of those working these jobs are qualified workers work in such jobs. Other sources of livelihood for poor Syrian households are the aid received from the state, NGOs, local organizations, and benefactors.

The prevalence of unofficial work means that nearly all agricultural workers lack social security, unemployment benefits, and paid holidays. The important point in terms of livelihoods for indigenous groups is that there is a fall in wages after the Syrian crisis. The decline in wages has led to worse conditions in local poor dwellings.

The livelihoods of poor local households have become even worse due to the high unemployment rate, high input prices, and the rise in food prices in Turkey after the crisis in Syria. The low level of education of these people, unskilled labor, and the limited availability of jobs limit the livelihood of these households. The number of people in the household and the number of children particularly is high in poor Syrian households. It is easier to make a living for a smaller household when resources and limited work opportunities are considered. With regard to the Syrians with limited livelihood sources, the size of households and the number of children make the situation even more difficult.

In a survey we conducted on the economic impact of the Syrians in Kilis, the participants were asked: ‘Did the Syrians working in different jobs in Kilis increase the unemployment rate of the local people?’ To this question, 75.3% answered that it increased, 15.3% said there was a partial increase, 4.7% said it did not increase, and 4.6% answered that they had no idea. In the same survey research, the participants were asked: ‘Did the Syrians contribute to the revitalization of trade in Kilis?’ 46.3% of the respondents answered yes, 26.3% partial yes, 18.6% no, and 8.8% responded that they had no idea. The following can be deduced from this: the locals’ dissatisfaction with the workforce in Kilis due to the influx of the Syrian people is tolerated on account of the resulting revival of trade.

Access to various financial institutions or credit services for the Syrian and host communities is virtually absent. However, they can borrow money from relatives and close friends. We have not received enough information to comment on this issue.
In focus group discussions, the main factors that pose a problem in meeting the basic needs of local and Syrian agricultural workers are determined as follows:

- Increases in food prices,
- Chronic illnesses preventing work,
- Failure to find work,
- Discontinuation of aid,
- Not being a part of the qualified workforce,
- Lacking a profession,
- Increase in input prices,
- Decrease in product due to drought or other natural disasters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue and Livelihood Ranking</th>
<th>Poor Households</th>
<th>Households with Average or Better Living Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Agricultural labor</td>
<td>Agricultural labor, Renting land and trade (although very little)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Income/wages from work in construction or textile, etc.</td>
<td>Working in construction or the service sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>Temporary work that does not require a specified skill, help</td>
<td>Registered in the social security system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: Income and Livelihoods in Agricultural Workers’ Local Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue and Livelihood Ranking</th>
<th>Poor Households</th>
<th>Households with Average or Better Living Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Income received from temporary work</td>
<td>Agricultural labor, Renting land and trade (although very little)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Income received from temporary work</td>
<td>Income received in service sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>Aid (Local, State, NGOs and International Organizations, etc.)</td>
<td>Aid (Local, State, NGOs and International Organizations, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Income and Livelihood of Syrian Agricultural Workers

In focus group discussions, the main factors that pose a problem in meeting the basic needs of local and Syrian agricultural workers are determined as follows:

- Increases in food prices,
- Chronic illnesses preventing work,
- Failure to find work,
- Discontinuation of aid,
- Not being a part of the qualified workforce,
- Lacking a profession,
- Increase in input prices,
- Decrease in product due to drought or other natural disasters
5. Basic Food Sources

Food consumption can be regarded as the most important indicator of household food safety. Market factors as well as the conditions within households are determinants of food consumption, especially in poor households. Basic food sources of both local and Syrian households are pasta, bread, bulgur, and cheap vegetables, and the consumption of such foods as meat, protein, and fruit is limited. Nutrition is predominantly carbohydrate, and it can be said that especially children, pregnant women, and those who need special nutrition have problems in terms of nutrition. All the local administrators interviewed said that food aid was provided for the poor Syrian households. Almost all of the participants in the focus group discussions stated that they could eat 3 meals a day to feel full. However, there are no regularities in terms of working conditions and mealtimes, and meals are eaten during breaks.

Local and Syrian agricultural workers acquire their food supply from nearby markets, grocery stores, and markets. Local workers said that the market was cheaper, but that they were not always able to go to the market due to working hours. The Syrians, if possible, prefer shopping from Syrian sellers or markets, grocery stores managed by them, etc. In all cases, there are grocery stores operated by Syrians or markets where various products are sold. In Şanlıurfa and Hatay, there is a food called ‘Mulkhiyah’ in Syria that is unique to them. Some of the Syrians indicated that their eating habits have changed in Turkey. They cannot consume meat, fruits, and certain other foods due to low wages and high food prices, and this constitutes an important nutritional problem. Children, pregnant women, and individuals who require special nutrition are affected negatively from this situation.

Clothing as well as food is a problem for Syrians. Most of the workers buy their clothes second-hand and have created mini-shops among themselves to meet their clothing needs. Some Syrians said that they were given old clothes from people in the area as aid.
Syrians pay cash to markets but obtain their needs from small grocery stores with the requisite to pay later. But this time the prices are higher. In Adana and Mersin, interviews with some elders (agricultural intermediaries) disclosed that some Syrian agricultural workers were given coupons to shop at certain markets instead of cash. The situation is suspicious in terms of the prices of the products and what kind of benefit the mediator has from this situation.

Poor households spend a large proportion of their total income on food. They are barely able to meet their needs when work is intensive in the July-November period, but they cannot save money for periods when there is less work. It is possible to deduce the following: neither the Syrian nor the local agricultural workers have healthy nutrition, and food constitutes their primary spending item.

Table 8: Basic Food Items in Local Workers’ Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Ingredients</th>
<th>Food Ingredients</th>
<th>Households with Average or Better Living Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread, pasta, wheat rice, etc.</td>
<td>Basic Nutrition Needs (More than 50%)</td>
<td>Basic Nutrition Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat and meat products</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Limited Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Consumed when cheap</td>
<td>Sufficient Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>Insufficient</td>
<td>Insufficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Products</td>
<td>Insufficient</td>
<td>Sufficient Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legumes</td>
<td>Consumed when cheap</td>
<td>Consumed according to opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Very Limited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9: Basic Food Items Consumed by the Syrian People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Ingredients</th>
<th>Poor Households</th>
<th>Households with Average or Better Living Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread, pasta, wheat rice, etc.</td>
<td>Basic Nutrition Needs (More than 70-75%)</td>
<td>Basic Nutrition Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat and meat products</td>
<td>Consumed Very Little</td>
<td>Rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Consumed when cheap</td>
<td>Sufficient Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>Insufficient Consumption</td>
<td>Consumed when cheap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Products</td>
<td>Insufficient Consumption</td>
<td>Limited Consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legumes</td>
<td>Insufficient Consumption</td>
<td>Consumed when cheap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>Consumed very little</td>
<td>Very Limited Consumption</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of meeting food intake needs, the concerns of local and Syrian agricultural workers differ in some respects. While Syrian workers are more concerned about food aid, local agricultural workers are concerned with the rise in food prices. In both cases, the problem is basic human needs. These concerns about nutrition availability will be the most pressing ones in the future, regardless of which solutions are pursued now.
6. Conditions of Shelter

Although the conditions for shelter vary according to the cities, Syrian workers generally live near the fields where they work. In some cases, workers are picked up from their residential area and brought to the field by the intermediary. It has been observed that the residential areas of both local and Syrian workers are unhealthy and that in some living areas, toilets and showers are shared. Generally, there are refrigerators in the places where they live, but furniture is rather limited. One of the most important complaints voiced by the Syrians is high house rents and poor quality of houses.

In this regard, a Syrian in Gaziantep-İslahiye said: We live in a house like a barn, 13 individuals live in 2 rooms. We are paying 600 TL rent per month for a house like a barn. The Syrian (STuP) camp was not available. We try to stay alive in this unhealthy environment and try to raise children.

In Mersin, some the Syrian people live in tents and try to cater to all their needs there. They sit on rugs and cushions that are spread all over the place. The households are separated from each other with plastic curtains. The toilets are shared, and the water is carried by women and children from the outside. One of the most common complaints by the Syrians is ‘privacy’ That is, they have stated that they have difficulty living their own family life.

Table 10: Concerns about Meeting Food Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Anxieties</th>
<th>Syrian Agricultural Workers</th>
<th>Local Agricultural Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aid</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rise in Food Prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Cash</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of land ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Employment</td>
<td></td>
<td>The decreasing in wages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure: A Place Where Syrian Agricultural Workers Live, Mersin Province
7. Ways to Deal with Problems

Since the income of the households is low during field work, they developed some coping mechanisms to meet their basic needs. These can be summarized as follows:

- Eating less
- Reducing the amount of food
- Growing tomatoes, peppers, etc. for self-consumption
- Shopping at cheap places
- Having a diet heavy in carbohydrates
- Engaging in ‘common’ cooking
- Applying to charities
- Living in houses with low rent
- Supplying water from other places
- Searching for cheap clothes or getting them from others (who give them away), etc.

8. General Evaluation

In the context of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding livelihood sources:

Generally, agricultural labor is the main source of income and livelihood of both local and Syrian agricultural workers. Fees are low and inadequate to meet basic needs.

The majority of Syrian immigrants do not speak Turkish, which leads to serious obstacles in finding and maintaining work.

The wages of the Syrian workers are lower than those of the local workers and even lower for women and children.

All the agricultural workers have poor household conditions, but the conditions of the Syrians living in some places like Mersin and Gaziantep are even worse. It has been observed that water, bathroom, and toilet are inadequate in places where seasonal workers live.

It is difficult to say that most diets of the persons interviewed were healthy and balanced. Food aid is being provided by various organizations. It is possible to say that the basic needs of these households have not exactly been determined.

Both local and Syrian agricultural workers are concerned about how they can make a living with their low income and high food prices. They often expressed their difficulty in meeting their basic needs. In particular, the Syrians have stated that they might face hunger, malnourishment, etc. if their benefits are cut off.

Local agricultural workers have stated that their wages have fallen since the Syrians arrived, and their working options have narrowed. It has also been stated that people are emigrating from places such as Gaziantep and Kilis, with a high Syrian concentration.
### Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Primary Income Source</th>
<th>Work Done</th>
<th>Primary Grown Products</th>
<th>Primary Basic Food Source*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hatay</td>
<td>Agricultural labor</td>
<td>Tillage, Sowing-Planting, Harvesting-Collection, Packaging, Transport</td>
<td>Greenhouse products, citrus fruits, olives, grapes</td>
<td>Carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Şanlıurfa</td>
<td>Agricultural labor</td>
<td>Tillage, Harvesting</td>
<td>Cotton, Corn, Grains</td>
<td>Carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaziantep</td>
<td>Agricultural labor</td>
<td>Tillage, Pruning, Harvesting-Collection, Irrigation, Packaging, Transport</td>
<td>Olives, Pistachio, Pepper, Vegetables, Pomegranate</td>
<td>Carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mersin</td>
<td>Agricultural labor</td>
<td>Tillage, Spraying, Fertilization, Harvesting-Collection, Irrigation, Packaging, Transport</td>
<td>Greenhouse Products, Citrus, Grape, Olive, Fishing</td>
<td>Carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilis</td>
<td>Agricultural labor</td>
<td>Tillage, Spraying, Fertilization, Harvesting-Collection, Irrigation, Transport</td>
<td>Olives, Pepper, Vegetables Pomegranate, Grapes</td>
<td>Carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, chicken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adana</td>
<td>Agricultural labor</td>
<td>Tillage, Spraying, Fertilization, Harvesting-Collection</td>
<td>Cotton, Corn, Citrus, Vegetables, Fishing</td>
<td>Carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, chicken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Here, the food households receive as aid have not been considered.

### Table 11: Livelihood Components of Local and Syrian Agricultural Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Economic Integration</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Market</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Security, Nutrition</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Syrian News</td>
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<td>Social Analysis</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration, Law and Policies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Sources


APPENDIX 3: Authors’ Affiliations

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