



SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is a kind of development that provides our recent needs without harming the next generations' ability to meet their own needs in the future. Moreover, Sustainable development is a term providing both using natural sources efficiently and giving importance to the environmental quality including ecological balance and economic balance. In a country, ecological development, economic development and social development should be considered together to create a sustainable development. How best to approach sustainable development has been increasingly becoming very significant issue in recent years all over the world because the population has also been increasing and accordingly the need of the people has gained importance. Therefore, people have begun to consume the environment unconsciously. As for Turkey, rural development has been considered as an important policy instrument besides agricultural development policy devices since 1970's in Turkey, but unfortunately it can be said either that problems in rural areas have been solved or that the projects' objectives have been satisfactorily achieved. In this paper we will discuss sustainable development and its roles in the world, as well as its different meaning and sample applications of rural development, especially, in Turkey.

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Sustainability has become much debated in recent years. It is usually used to mean uninterrupted and reasonable usage of resources without wasting yet using efficiently for the benefit of the society. Therefore, an efficient usage of limited resources is necessary for the needs of current and prospective generations. Sustainable development is a term including economic, social, ecological and cultural aspects. Rural areas are related to all these aspects of sustainable development. Accordingly, rural development is significant to all developing countries in the world.

Sustainable rural development is the most important part of all aforementioned subjects since it is related to each part of sustainable development. As the technology has developed rapidly, mechanization has also increased accordingly. This mechanization has caused unemployment in rural areas. Unless rural development is provided well, migration to urban areas will take place. If this migration takes place rapidly and in a short time, it causes different cultural, social and structural problems in these areas. So, rural development is playing the most important role in solving these problems.

Increasing the population in the rural areas and development of these areas are required for both urban and rural areas. Because 35 percent of the population of Turkey lives still in rural areas nowadays, rural development remains in the agenda. Many investments have been done for rural areas which are disadvantageous in the perspective of economic, society and economic when compared with urban areas in Turkey. Hence, new rural development policies have been introduced through experience from the policies introduced in the past and changes internationally. Rural development has been considered as an important policy instrument in agricultural policy devices since 1970's in Turkey.

In this article, firstly we will discuss sustainable development and its different aspects, and secondly the relationship between sustainable development and rural development. We will also talk about rural development in European countries. In the final section of our paper we will discuss samples of sustainable rural development in Turkey.

I. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The term “sustainable development” first appeared in the WCED’s report “Our Common Future” (also known as the Brundtland Report) in 1987. That report defined it as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This definition demands a long-term perspective about the consequences of today’s activities. It goes beyond economic aspects to include environmental and social concerns in formulating all types of policies. It also recognizes that global co-operation is required to achieve sustainable economic, environmental and social conditions worldwide.¹

Sustainable development can be also defined in technical terms as a development path along which the maximization of human well-being for today’s generations does not lead to declines in future well-being. Attaining this path requires eliminating those negative externalities that are responsible for natural resource depletion and environmental degradation. It also requires securing those public goods that are essential for economic development to last, such as those provided by well-functioning ecosystems, a healthy environment and a cohesive society. Sustainable development also stresses the importance of retaining the flexibility to respond to future shocks, even when their probability, and the size and location of their effects, cannot be assessed with certainty.²

We can point here that there are mainly three aspects of sustainable development.

- **Economic:** An economically sustainable system must be able to produce goods and services on a continuing basis, to maintain manageable levels of government and external debt, and to avoid extreme sectoral imbalances which damage agricultural or industrial production.
- **Environmental:** An environmentally sustainable system must maintain a stable resource base, avoiding over-exploitation of renewable resource systems or environmental sink functions, and depleting non-renewable resources only to the extent that investment is made in adequate substitutes. This includes maintenance of biodiversity, atmospheric stability, and other ecosystem functions not ordinarily classed as economic resources.
- **Social:** A socially sustainable system must achieve distributional equity, adequate

¹ OECD, *Policy Brief, Advancing Sustainable Development*, March 2006, 1.

² OECD, *Policy Brief, Sustainable Development: Critical Issues*, September 2001, 1.

provision of social services including health and education, gender equity, and political accountability and participation.³

II. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural development is related with development of people living in urban areas, and also covers totally their development socially, economically and cultural. Moreover, it helps them to be sensitive to their environment. Rural development which features maintaining underdeveloped countries to develop on their own or by means of outsourcing is a struggle including both public institutions' and NGOs' contribution.⁴

There is a commonly held image of what the rural world is. Nevertheless, it is difficult to establish a precise operating definition from an economic policy and research point of view. This difficulty is rooted in the diversity of territories that could be identifying as rural. A variety of more or less spontaneous concepts and perceptions associates rural spaces with barely populated remote territories surrounded by natural countryside, agriculturally dependent, culturally traditional, etc. But, it would be necessary to specify what is understood by barely populated and even by what constitutes a territory (a municipality, a province, a region). Also, not only remote zones, but also those close to city centers may be considered rural. Furthermore, a post-industrial space (with a minimum of natural zones) belonging to a region in decline that has suffered a process of intense depopulation could also be considered rural. The most utilized definition is provided by OECD (1994). It distinguishes two hierarchical levels of geographic detail, local community level and regional level. Local communities are classified as rural or urban, according to their population density (rural if there are less than 150 inhabitants per square kilometer). Regions are then classified according to the proportion of population living in rural or urban communes as “predominately urbanized” (less than 15%), “significantly rural” (15-49%) and “predominately rural” (more than 50%).⁵

1) RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE

With over half of the population in the 25 Member States of the European Union (EU) living in rural areas, which cover 90 % of the territory, rural development is a vitally important policy area. Farming and forestry remain crucial for land use and the management of natural resources in the EU's rural areas, and as a platform for economic diversification in rural communities. The strengthening of EU rural development policy has become an overall EU priority. The conclusions of the Göteborg European Council of June 2001 made this clear, stating that: “During recent years, European agricultural policy has given less emphasis to market mechanisms and through targeted support measures become more oriented towards satisfying the general public's growing demands regarding food safety, food quality, product differentiation, animal welfare, environmental quality and the conservation of nature and the countryside.”⁶

The interest in the development of rural areas in Europe comes from the effects of the development paths undertaken by occidental economies, where for a long period of time, the predominance of growth has centered on the active, and dynamic, role of urban and industrial areas. Between 1975 and 1995 the reduction of agricultural farms in Europe was more than forty percent in the EU-9, and 32 percent in the EU-12. As a consequence, rural areas have experienced increased economic and social problems in competitiveness. The income derived from the agricultural activity has systematically remained inferior to the average of the extra agricultural sectors. This has contributed to depopulation, as well as environmental and cultural degradation, of the rural areas. It has also produced important changes within the agricultural sector. Farm sizes have grown larger and larger over time, diminishing the role played by family farms. Larger farms can use resources more efficiently through economies of scale and thereby outplay non-industrial farms. Also, the development of multinational retailers in the food sector has changed the everyday life for producers. These big multinationals operate on the European and world markets and, because of their strong negotiating position, are able to determine the prices to the producers. The smaller farms have had to face a situation where the farmers' share of the consumer expenses has been continuously decreasing. Family farms, constrained by family needs, are less well suited to face the challenge of economic growth than big farms that are fully integrated in the market. All these factors have contributed to changing the appearance of, and the diminished role played by, rural areas. The uneven growth

3 Harris, Jonathan M. *Basic Principles of Sustainable Development*, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, Working Paper 00-04, 2000, 3.

4 <http://www.surkal.org.tr/projectDetails.aspx?id=1>

5 Raul de Arriba Bueno. “Globalisation, Economic Policy and Rural Development in Europe”, *Romanian Journal of Political Science* 23 (2012).

6 European Commission, “Fact Sheet, The Rural Development Policy 2007-2013”, accessed on 25.01.2011 http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/fact/rurdev2007/en_2007.pdf, 1.

of the urban and rural areas has marginalized the role played by agriculture in the national economies, with deep social effects. By rural development economists, one way of providing enhanced opportunities for rural areas ties quality and differentiation of products, as well as environmental impact, to a “new, cultural” dimension of consumption.⁷

In EU countries, rural development policy is designed to help rural areas respond to the economic, social and environmental issues of the 21st century. Nearly 60 % of the population of the 27 EU Member States lives in rural areas, which cover 90 % of the territory. National (and in some cases regional) programmes address their specific problems and needs. The programmes cover three groups of themes or ‘axes’:

- Axis 1: competitiveness in agriculture and forestry, focusing on knowledge transfer, modernisation, innovation and the quality of the food chain;
- Axis 2: biodiversity, the preservation and development of high-nature-value farming and forestry systems and traditional agricultural landscapes, water and climate change;
- Axis 3: quality of life in rural areas and diversification. To help ensure a balanced approach to policy, Member States and regions are obliged to spread their rural development funding across these three groups.⁸

2) THE IMPORTANCE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

While urban-industrial agglomerations are certainly the centers of economic and social development in Europe, rural areas will become more important in the future.

1. The quality and reliability of our food supply depends on the economic, political and social conditions of the agricultural sector and the state of our rural environment. Despite the emergence of global food markets, most of Europe’s food is still produced in the rural areas of Europe. Contrary to popular belief, Europe is also a large net-exporter of food commodities.

2. Rural areas provide vital natural resources to urban centers, such as freshwater, timber, or biomass. These resources are becoming increasingly important - either because of their scarcity, or due to their special relevance for sustainable development.

3. Many sports and recreational activities, such as horseback riding, downhill skiing, hiking, rafting, climbing, playing golf, or parachute gliding, require the open space, the beauty, or the land-characteristics of rural areas. On weekends and during the holidays there is usually

⁷ Folkesson, Carina. *Geographical Indications and Rural Development in the EU, School of Economics and Management*, 26.

⁸ European Commission, EU Budget 2009 Financial Report, accessed on 25.01.2011 http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/publications/fin_reports/fin_report_09_en.pdf, 30.

a massive movement of the urban population to the countryside. The beauties of natural and cultural landscapes are production factors in large sections of our tourist industry.

4. Many valuable natural ecosystems are located in rural areas. Some of them have a high density of endangered species and have been declared biodiversity reserves. Protected rural areas are not only important for preserving a rich gene pool for future generations, but also for educating urban populations about the beauty of untouched natural landscapes.

5. With an expanding transportation and information infrastructure and relatively low transportation and communication costs, rural areas in urban proximity are becoming attractive living environments to certain urban populations (such as tele-commuters, knowledge workers, or mobile business owners). In many parts of Europe we are facing a new wave of sub-urbanization, which will require new approaches in regional and infrastructure planning.⁹

III. SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The expression ‘rural development’ is currently used in various senses in a number of public policy programmes and can be said to be a somewhat overworked expression. Simply put, rural development is about implementing a political, economic and social project attuned to a collective vision of the future of rural regions. Whether at the European level or at that of existing or new member states, legislation, policy statements, and even research programmes on the future of agriculture, regional development or economic and social cohesion all increasingly refer to the need for rural development. This can be attributed to the vital role that rural areas play in fulfilling functions that are essential to the lifestyles of the urbanised population. Beyond the traditional productive function of rural areas, i.e., supplying agricultural, agro-food and forestry goods, goods from extractive industries and craft products, rural areas have become an environment for living and leisure. In view of this, sustainable development is paramount to maintaining its function of conserving nature and protecting natural resources.

Rural sustainability is best attained through well-planned and properly implemented initiatives that address the social, physical and economic facets of the environment in an

⁹ Gerhard K. Heiling. “IIASA, European Rural Development (ERD), Project Description”, 4th Revision, April 18, 2002, Laxenburg, Austria, 2.

integrated and participatory approach. This ensures that this generation's activities leave future generations with a better resource endowment than that which they inherited. The concept of sustainable rural development embraces both the natural and social environments.¹⁰

IV. SAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT in TURKEY

1) Sivas-Erzincan Development Project

Among the main objects of the project are preventing rural immigration by increasing vegetable and animal production of people living in rural areas of Sivas and Erzincan, and enhancing living standards of theirs, also getting rid of rural poverty by protecting natural resources around the cities.

The other objects:

Increasing the level of income and agriculture production of the poor people of underdeveloped areas in these cities;

Expansion opportunities of employment, encouragement small farmers' enterprise as a group or individually;

Rehabilitation infrastructure of social and production;

Improvement of living condition of rural people including men and women;¹¹

Some samples encouraged by the project:

- Bailing machine
- String trimmer
- corn forage harvester
- combined sowing machine
- feed grinder
- hoeing machine
- portable milking machine

About 200 villages in two of Turkey's poorest provinces will benefit from this USD

¹⁰ Emmanuel Adinyira, Samuel Oteng-Seifah, Theophilus Adjei-Kumi. *Sustainable Assessment of Rural Development: A Review of Methodologies, Sustainable Rural Development: What is the Role of the Agri-Food Sector?* Edited by Martin Petric and Gertrud Buchenrieder, IAMO, 2007, 19.

¹¹ <http://www.sekp.org/index.php/projenin-amaci>

30.0 million project designed to improve agricultural production, expand employment opportunities and foster community development. The seven-year project targets some 50 000 people in the provinces of Sivas and Erzincan, where rural poverty is widespread. An IFAD loan of USD 13.1 million, together with a USD 9.9 million loan from the OPEC Fund, and contributions from the government and beneficiaries, will support the government's poverty-reduction efforts in the area.

A key aspect of the Sivas-Erzincan project is community-driven development. The project helps establish various village associations, including development committees, cooperatives, women's farming groups, and water users' and grazing associations, and provides training and technical assistance to their managers and members. It then works with these groups to address constraints on agricultural production, such as limited access to basic financial services, marketing opportunities and technical knowledge. It also establishes opportunities for microenterprise that allow poor people to diversify their incomes.¹²

Moreover, The European Union has been funding anti-erosion activities since 2004 under the Eastern Anatolia Development Program (DOKAP). The initiative aims specifically at restoring sustainable range, forest, and farming to reduce soil erosion and increase productivity and income-generating activities. In addition, the IFAD funded project Sivas-Erzincan Rural Development Project (IFAD, US\$13 million) includes a component on soil and water conservation technologies; rangeland improvement; natural resource conservation, and biodiversity. Additional IFAD funds are expected to be channeled to three provinces in southeastern Turkey to support similar activities.¹³

2) Anatolia Watershed Rehabilitation Project

A loan of US\$77 million was approved for the Turkey Eastern Anatolia Watershed rehabilitation Project on March 11, 1993. The project closed on October 30, 2001, one year behind schedule. The total amount disbursed was US\$47.97 million, equivalent to 62 percent of the original amount. There was substantial devaluation over the project period providing a larger amount of local currency than originally projected. Partly due to this, but with the objective of spreading experience and skills, the project was spread to 11 Provinces from the

¹² IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture Development) in Turkey, accessed on 20.02.2011 <http://www.ifad.org/operations/projects/regions/PN/factsheets/tr.pdf>

¹³ The World Bank, Europe and Central Asia Region Sustainable Development Department, Integrating environment into Agriculture and Forestry Progress and Prospects in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Volume II, TURKEY, Country Review, November 2007, 13.

original 3, giving broader spread but lower density coverage.

The main objectives of the project were to “help to restore sustainable range, forest and farming activities in the upper watersheds of the three project provinces, reducing soil degradation, erosion and sedimentation in reservoirs as well as increasing productivity and incomes in this impoverished region of Turkey.” These objectives were to be pursued through efforts to improve productivity of range and forestland, promote production of fuelwood, fodder, and more sustainable use of marginal lands, facilitate the adoption of treatments for range and forestland to yield quick benefits, and to ensure increased involvement of local communities. A key underlying objective was environmental rehabilitation of degraded land. There was also a component for genetic resources conservation of indigenous species.

The project was to be implemented through an interactive planning process whereby local implementing agencies would work together with villagers to prepare and implement a plan across a micro-catchment, defining interventions for improved range management, reforestation and improved soil moisture cultivation methods.¹⁴

The main objects:

to help decreasing the level of contaminator caused by agriculture in Black sea.

to help decreasing contamination level in Black sea by starting agricultural application in which nutrient (azotes and phosphorus) would reduce to drain away the surface and ground water in watersheds pouring from Çorum, Amasya, Tokat and Samasun cities to Black Sea.

It is a project which provides participation of local people and all state units for a sustainable natural resource management with the project.

It is also a project aiming participation of people for protection of specific natural resources which are primarily important in terms of welfare of the population.¹⁵

Applications of Projects:

- Major components which will be applied about reducing the mixture of nutrients in micro-watersheds chosen:
- Fertilizer Management,
- Plant Nutrient Management,
- Organic Agriculture,
- And Water and Soil Quality Monitoring will be done to see the effects of all these

¹⁴ The World Bank, Project Performance Assessment report, TURKEY, Eastern Anatolia Watershed Rehabilitation Project, March 19, 2004, 1.

¹⁵ http://www.kkgm.gov.tr/birim/cevre/tarimsal_cevre/cevre_proje.html#amac

components. Moreover, people will be risen awareness at the level of local and national.

During these applications the following will take place:

• to determine analysis points of surface and ground water in macro watersheds and follow them periodically ,

• to store animal wastes and burn them,

• to improve the appropriate systems of fertilizer application in terms of macro watershed,

• to create financial and budget management yearly,

• to improve strategies in applications of nitrate management

• to do demonstrations for agricultural applications

• to support organic agriculture financially

• to program farmer education and apply them

• to establish farmer organizations and local association and cooperatives

• Basic Investments in a Micro Watershed:

• laboratory equipment for analysis of ground and surface water, and portable analysis tools and equipments

• investments for following programmes of water contamination

• purchasing central lands of animal fertilizer storage

• building central lands of animal fertilizer storage

• purchasing piezometer in about central storage lands

• buildings farm storage (solid, liquid)

• fertilizer distributors

• loaders

• vacuum-tankers for liquid fertilizer¹⁶

3) Diyarbakır-Siirt-Batman Development Project

The Diyarbakır-Batman-Siirt Rural Development Project is committed to a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach to rural development in the region. What does rural development encompass? Broadly, it encompasses such sustainable growth priorities as new technologies; skills training knowledge and capacity of rural communities; improved social infrastructure including improved access to health and education.

¹⁶ http://www.kkgm.gov.tr/birim/cevre/tarimsal_cevre/cevre_proje.html#uyg_alan

But importantly, and as this project will demonstrate, the relevant issue in rural development is to enhance the capacities of rural communities to contribute to the process of growth by empowering them to participate, on more equitable terms, in the dynamics of the market economy.

As such, the overall objective of this project is to identify sustainable and profitable opportunities, and develop strategies to link people in rural communities to these opportunities—thereby connecting rural communities to the more dynamic sectors of the market. The desired end-result is achieving a sustainable and direct impact in the lives of rural people in terms of assets, income, and the capacity to participate in an increasingly market-oriented rural economy. This requires focusing our attention on economic activities that will generate income, and target agricultural commodities in the region that have potential for growth.¹⁷

The objective of the project is to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) to pursue the reforms introduced by Government to move from traditional practices towards simpler and more effective management of local development. In this connection, MARA's more effective loan management capacity can be strengthened with managerial support in administering and in procurement of project inputs, including goods, services, human resources and technical assistance.

The UNDP will work towards achieving project objectives to improve the economic and social status of rural people in the provinces of Diyarbakir, Batman and Siirt. UNDP's added value as a main partner is based on both upstream policy-oriented advise and technical and field level experience, which enables UNDP to provide operational capacity and knowledge-building in the areas of technical assistance, implementation, and fostering dialogue with the Government on Turkey's rural development agenda.

UNDP's primary roles in joint implementation are in the areas of

- completing the recruitment process of the Project Management Unit's staff and national/international consultants and contract administration;
- securing flow of funds and financial management;
- ensuring procurement of goods, services, and works at the field level according to the guidelines; and
- providing technical assistance to commission studies and surveys, UNDP will also

17 Ayub, Mahmood A. UNDP Resident Representative, Launch of Diyarbakır-Batman-Siirt Rural Development Project Opening Remarks, Diyarbakır, June 23, 2007, 3.

assist in the preparation of the Annual Work Plan and Budget and monitor progress of the project activities at the field.¹⁸

a. Ardahan-Kars-Artvin Development Project

The objectives of the projects:

- to reduce rural poverty in the provinces of Ardahan, Kars and Artvin and enhance agricultural production
- to enhance the profit of rural farmers and those who are willing to pass commercial size from rural producers
- to resolve infrastructure inadequacies the people face
- to strengthen the service of institutional publishing and increase management capacity

Funding Source of the Project and Amount of Investment

IFAD Credit	19,2 Million USD Dollars
Internal Source	3,2 Million USD Dollars
Beneficiaries' Contribution	4 Million USD Dollars
Total	26,4 Million USD Dollars

Components of the Project:

A Component: investments for Non-farm management and small producers

A1- enhancing applications of animal production

A2- enhancing Fruit-Vegetable production

A3- support non-farm employment areas

B Component: Investments for rural infrastructure

C Component: Intuitional empowerment and project management¹⁹

b. The Project of Enhancing Small Farmers' Living Conditions in Eastern Black Sea Region

The objects of the project are to enhance small farmers' living conditions in this region and aims to cooperate with the following issues:

18 <http://www.undp.org.tr/GoZlem3.aspx?WebSayfaNo=1476>

19 <http://www.tugem.gov.tr/document/akakp.html>

- Enhancing new income sources in addition to tea and nut
- Creating emission model for multi-agriculture
- Ensuring the spread of multi-agricultural model to other areas

General Aims:

- Ensuring the spread of farm development method to small farmers in 6 provinces
- Enhancing living conditions of small farmers in the model area

The objectives:

- Enhancing the systems and frameworks of basic farm improvement in the 6 provinces
- Applying experimental multi-agriculture in the model area
- Offering the plan of farm development to the small farmers in the 6 provinces
- The project consists of 6 provinces of Eastern Black Sea. These are Artvin, Giresun, Gümüşhane, Ordu, Rize and Trabzon.²⁰

c. The Project of Çoruh River's Watershed Rehabilitation

Çoruh Watershed is located at northeast of Turkey, at the south of Black Sea and adjacent to neighbouring country Georgia border and covers nearly 2 million hectares land. The project is an integrated project and Artvin, Bayburt and Erzurum provinces are included within the project. There are 18 Micro-catchments within the project, 12 of them are of high priority and covers 604,301 hectares land, 242 villages and 55,000 people. The Project will be implemented between 2010-2016.

Çoruh River Rehabilitation Project is similar to the previous projects in a different part of the country with different characteristics; apart from the above mentioned activities, extending and supporting the solar energy system, which is a renewable energy source, was targeted in order to reduce consumption of fossil fuel. Furthermore; functional planning for forestlands, national park and hunting-wildlife improvements, eco-tourism planning and development are also included.²¹

Projected Activities: the project consists of 3 components. These are; “rehabilitation, protection and sustainable usage of natural resources”, “enhancing peasants’ living condition”

and “improvement capacity”.

To achieve the projected objectives, the following components will take place:

- Soil conservation activities to reduce of soil erosion, protection of vegetation cover, rehabilitation of rough forest and meadow areas
- Assessment of natural disaster such as flood, river sedimentation, avalanche and landslide
- Encouragement social forestry, management of participatory forestry based on ecosystem for Çoruh river watershed, sustainable usage of non-wood forestry products and making a planning model which is applicable thanks to protected areas management
- Making local people understand activities for rehabilitation of natural resources, accept and participate in these activities
- Reduction the pressure on natural resources by providing alternative income recourses to the peasants such as application reducing wood consumption to protect current forests, production enough feedstuff to protect grazing early and wrongly, development and enhancing irrigation facilities, husbandry and rural development, apiculture, marketing assistance
- Capacity building by means of study tours, technical trainings, workshops and so encouragement and introduction of “integrated and participant approach”
- Adaptation community-oriented participant approach to determine project activities in planning and projection micro-watersheds
- Rehabilitation by improving forest nurseries for the purpose of arboriculture indigenous sapling
- Set up a monitoring and assessment system by the help of experts to asset results and test project applications.²²

20 Karadeniz, Turan, Doğu Karadeniz Bölgesindeki Küçük Ölçekli Çiftçilerin Yaşam Seviyesinin iyileştirilmesi Projesi (DOKAP-TARIM)'nin Genel Bir Değerlendirilmesi, accessed on 10.02.2011 http://www.zmo.org.tr/resimler/ekler/bbac19a6a88726f_ek.pdf, 2.

21 EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watershed, 27th Session, Strbske Pleso, Slovak Republic, 7-10 April 2010, 8.

22 Çoruh Nehri Havzası Katılımcı Havza Rehabilitasyon Projesi, Erişim: 10.02.2011 http://www.agm.gov.tr/AGM/Files/faaliyetler/dis_iliskiler/Coruh_nehri_havzasi_katilimci_prj.pdf, 3-4.

CONCLUSIONS

Development policies will remain in the agenda in the developing countries as well as developed countries in the world. Because the source of the world is limited and the need of people is unlimited, we have been forced to take precautions against nonrenewable natural resources. Developed countries tend to arrange their policies for rural areas within the concept of sustainable development.

When we look at the development projects of Turkey we will see the same aspect. To provide rural development various rural development projects were applied, but these were not satisfactory. As these were prepared by those who don't know the conditions of rural areas they couldn't meet requirement of the people. So, we should know the conditions of rural areas and people's requirement very well while we are determining a policy for rural areas. Because rural development projects are integrated ones they should be discussed multi-directionally, so prepared by various institutions in coordination.

Moreover, there are two important aspects of rural development. One of two is economical and the other one is socio-cultural. Economic aspects are related to development of peasants economically, increasing productivity in agriculture and regulation of the land. Socio-cultural aspects are related to all things except economic aspects, including social insurance of peasants, income distribution fairly, activities in educational and cultural fields.

The main target of rural development strategy has been identified as: the improvement of rural community welfare by increasing the employment opportunities, development of human resources and organization, improvement of infrastructure and physical services and protection of rural environment and natural and cultural heritage. We also should take into consideration some significant points during determining rural development policies in Turkey, which are the development of human resources, the level of organization and local development capacity, the development of rural infrastructure and physical services and the promotion of a higher standard and quality of life, the development of the economy and employment opportunities, protection and improvement of the rural environment.

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