The Importance of Producer Organizations in Organic Farming

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Author's Background

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Summary

Cooperatives, associations and trade body shall be supposed as producer organizations types in our country. Producer organizations in our country operate under the framework of regulations that they are subject to. Producer organizations have economic, cultural and social benefits.

Background

Organization is a formation that leads to develop an understanding of co-deciding in line with a common purpose, to deploy resources and enables to develop common action. Cooperatives, associations and trade body are producer organization types in our country. Agricultural Cooperatives, Agricultural Credit Cooperatives, Chambers of Agriculture, Producer Associations, Breeding Purpose Grower Associations, Agriculture Sales Cooperatives, Irrigation Associations, Farmer Association and Agricultural Foundations are considered as producer organizations in our country. These organizations operate within the body of different Ministries according to regulations that they are subject to. There are 21 Organic Products Producer Organizations and they have 2.264 members in our country.

Cooperatives that operate in organic agriculture are Kibele Ecological Cooperative, S.S. İkizce Merkez-Kale-Ağcaalan-Gaziler-Beylerce-Düzpelit- Yukarı Karlıtepe Neighborhood Kiraztepe-Düzmeşe-Dumantepe Derebaşı Villages Agricultural Development Cooperatives, Tosunsaray Village Kaynar Organic Agriculture Cooperative, Ulupınar Environmental Protection, Development and Business Cooperative, Sermayecik Village Cooperative, Tire Milk Cooperative, Bademli Arboriculture Agricultural Development Cooperative.

Main chapter

Benefits of Producer Organizations

Producer organizations have economic, cultural and social benefits. Assessment of agricultural potential, enabling development of agricultural industry, providing production inputs at low cost, benefiting from government assistance and subsidies and increasing agricultural products' competitive capacity in markets show its economic side. In Turkey gagricultural enterprises have 1-50 decare size of enterprises. Producer, who has insufficient fund, can supply input by being in the organization. In organic agriculture, there are control and certification service procurement. Producer can benefit from control and certification bodies individually and also benefit with producer group as legal entity. The cost of services received by the producer group is low because of that it is shared. In the marketing of organic products lie in the marketing of conventional agricultural products there are some problems. By acting with organization in marketing, products' being marketed and branded that it deserves is enabled. Organic producer organizations especially in some products are staying branding course. Also establishing supply-demand balance, production planning is in question. Agriculture and industry sectors are the sectors that completes each other and in mutual interaction. (Aydemir and Bıçak, 2008,130). Production planning enables organic agricultural industry. If producer having small scale enterprise produce high value-added product under producer organization and market, income level increases and so rural-urban migration can be prevented. Producer who does not benefit from agricultural technology individually, with organization can supply technology. In our country producer organizations store, process and pack most of products. Therefore the value added of product increases.

How person is socialized in the community they live, members are socialized in producer organizations they register. Producer organizations have social benefits like gathering producers, developing democratic decision making awareness, ensuring mutual communication and developing knowledge network. Member of organization has an identity card and has opportunity to express himself in many fields.

Producer organizations are organizations formed by farmers generally in the same environment. There is common culture between producers that share the same environment, worry, religion, language and nationality etc. If there is not

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common culture, with organization they will meet a common point and have a mutual cultural exchange. Also, producer organizations act together to solve the problems and they reach to public enterprises and institutions. They are effective in leading legal regulations and forming socio-economic policies.

The producer that is the member of producer organization has continuous access to information about farming and all kind of changes. Training services is given by the government in our country. The education demand of organized producer is met more effectively.

Core messages and conclusions

While choosing producer organization model, agricultural potential and problems should be taken into consideration. By acting in planned and organized way with organization, problems that cannot be solved individualistically can be overcome easily. Even if the model is different, all producer organizations are established to attend producers' interest. Although there are so many producer organizations in our country, organization is not in sufficient level. Low level of education and insufficient organization awareness prevent the development of organizations.

The indicator of development of a country is income level increases in rural and the rise of welfare level. The only way is with organization of producers.

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