

Actual Evaluation of Agricultural Aspect of Paris Agreement through Regenerative and Organic Practices in Türkiye

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Abstract

Recently, climate change effects become more apparent and hazardous in world scale. Some measures are taken to offer new possibilities in European Green Deal and Paris Agreement to enable climate mitigation. As a candidate country and a key partner for the EU Türkiye signed Paris Agreement. Apart from its pledges in various topics this signature can be translated as a commitment for a transformative movement in agricultural practices. It is widely known that agricultural practices which are direct consequences of climatic conditions are one of the negative impact sources for climate change and cause considerable amount of GHGs. Therefore, Türkiye focuses on reducing GHG emissions and enhancing its capacity of adaptability to climate change within the context of agreement targets as other country parties. According to EU 2021 Report within the framework of EU alignment Türkiye has made some solid progress in Organic farming. In this respect, in addition to organic farming practices a more comprehensive ecosystem-based regenerative farming which is predicted to contribute in an integrative way to correspond an urgency in reduction of GHG emissions. Regenerative practices improve natural sources of a farm that include cover crops, rotation no till, etc. This approach can enhance nutrient levels of soil and also help sequester carbon. Thus, regenerative practices can be considered as a way to boost achieving net zero carbon emission target of Türkiye. In this regard, up-scaling trainings of farmers and young professionals also dissemination activities, the stuff to be harmonized with the regenerative practices may facilitate a smooth green transition.

Introduction

Recently climate change impacts has accelerated and its consequences become visible and tangible in every climate zone in the world. It is vital to have an urgency agenda in struggling with threats of climate change to ensure ecological sustainability on which human being heavily depends to survive. To handle the indispensable climate uncertainty some measures are taken to offer new possibilities such as European Green Deal under Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of EU, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2030 and Paris Agreement. Türkiye readily planning to cooperate with the EU on the European Green Deal objectives. As a candidate country and a key partner of EU ratified the Paris Agreement on October 06, 2021.

This review reveals the urgency of green transition, possibility to enrich our local experiences and sources by Regenerative Practices, the chance offered by Paris Agreement to adapt to climate change impacts.

Discussion

“A Green Transition” is foreseen within the scope of CAP by EU, aiming to extend sustainable agricultural systems to sustain Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC). European Green Deal is developed under the CAP by EU targeting to be climate neutral by 2050. Greener, Newer and Higher ambitions are on the way within the context of the new CAP (2023-2027) to support European Green Deal.

The Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. It aims to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In world scale % 13,5 of total GHGS emissions originates from agricultural practices and in Türkiye this rate is % 14. Considering the fact that about half of Türkiye's total land area is devoted to agriculture, which is slightly above the EU average. This can be translated as an opportunity for Türkiye to achieve carbon sequestration with the potential of its agricultural soils. In this regards, further intentions on agricultural practices in compliance with agreement targets can be prioritized. According to Country

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Report of EU 2021 Türkiye, Türkiye is well advanced regarding the requirements of EU acquis in organic Agriculture (Anonymous Turkey Report 2021 https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/turkey-report-2021_en (date accessed 3.04.2022)). This progress can be addressed to provide necessary infrastructure, background, and experience in elaborating enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Paris Agreement which works on 5 years of cycle applies each party to elaborate their (NDCs). It requires each party to present their pledges for reducing national GHGs emissions and intentions to accelerate its adaptability to the impacts of climate change. Thus, accomplishments in organic farming may facilitate an immediate transition to a more comprehensive Regenerative Agricultural System. It may be an advantage for Türkiye to adopt an ecosystem-based approach as Regenerative Agriculture which elicits carbon sequestration, biodiversity increase, no-till. Regenerative practices allow improving natural sources of a farm applying cover crops, rotation etc. This will enable Türkiye to have healthier soils. Naturally, healthier soils provide an increase in carbon sequestration.

Agreement embodies the adaptability to climate change scenarios by owning authentic values, traditional and local knowledge. It offers the possibility to build a more equitable and prosperous agricultural system upon experiences and achievements. Encouraging to design its intended contributions domestically. Türkiye is in an advantageous position with its considerable amount of farmer population familiar with organic farming practices. In Organic and Regenerative Practices farmers' behaviour may have a key role. Therefore, during a period of transition to a more ecosystem-based agricultural design skill-gaps may remain as a challenge. In addition to the contribution of actions on voluntary basis more solid actions would be required to be taken to scale-up the impact area of green transition agenda. Thus it is crucial to identify needs and urgencies then elaborate education programs oriented to farmers. According to Country Report 2021 of Türkiye by EC Türkiye needs to define its cross-compliance standards and align its agricultural support policy with CAP EU (Anonymous Turkey Report 2021 https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/turkey-report-2021_en (date accessed 3.04.2022)). Launching locally adapted Farming Advisory Systems (FAS) like every country in Europe also organizing up to date training programs for farmers to integrate them to the new approaches on agricultural practices may be facilitating. In this sense, it would enable farmers to be aligned with Regenerative practices in a more efficient way. Dissemination and extension activities may contribute for a swift adoption of regenerative practices and finally infuse the young farmers with this innovative and comprehensive perspective and transfer to next generations which may contribute at transnational level.

According to many authorities from science and business world Türkiye is in a road of no return, upon its ratification the Paris Agreement. Therefore, it immediately needs to focus on the requirements of the agreement such as self-sufficiency, adaptability to climate-induced events, new technology adoption in order to reduce its GHG emissions and finally attain net zero carbon emission by 2050. In this regard, Türkiye in its new ecological agenda may adopt more holistic agricultural practices such as organic and regenerative practices which empower self-sufficiency, resilience and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC),

To conclude, from many perspectives Paris Agreement, embraces 'firsts' besides a milestone for a path towards a healthier soil and environment. It is a real unifying agreement that gather all the nations around the same concern: climate change and unite them for the same goal: get equipped with various tools for threats of climate change.

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