

BEBKANews

Bursa Eskişehir Bilecik Development Agency

www.bebka.org.tr

Published quarterly

• Year: 1 • Issue: 4 • December 2012



Turkey will develop as rural develops

➤ Transition to drip irrigation systems in rural areas has accelerated

➤ Intensive rural-urban migration in Eskişehir

➤ Target is to develop agro-based industries in Bilecik

Bursa Provincial General Council President and BEBKA Executive Board Member Nedim Akdemir:

Transition to drip irrigation systems in rural areas has accelerated

Bursa Provincial General Council President Nedim Akdemir stated that works in rural areas continue at full speed in 2012 and emphasized that the most important among them are the drip irrigation systems.

Bursa Provincial General Council President Nedim Akdemir said “Among the investments in rural areas, too much importance is given to the transition to drip irrigation systems. Akdemir expressed that they are trying to promote organic agriculture with closed system irrigation; on the other hand the biggest change in Bursa is rural women beginning to work on tourism. Despite the fact that the provincial administrations and provincial councils will be closed after the local elections in March 2014, Akdemir indicated that their services for rural areas continue steadily and further stated 30 million 800 thousand lira of 108 million liras in 2013 budget, has been allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, this share to be increased if necessary.

IRRIGATED FARMING EVERYWHERE

Indicated that transition to closed-loop irrigation systems is never compromised and it is aimed to remove open irrigation entirely, Akdemir said “Our priority is having irrigated agriculture everywhere. Because there is water conservation at the rate of 1/3 – ¼ in closed-loop irrigation as opposed to open systems. Even though Bursa is known as a city of water, our resources are not infinite and we have to do this job with limited resources. Unfortunately we are unable to build irrigation ponds due to the soil. Therefore, we have decided to invest membrane-type ponds, in the past years, in 2012 or even in 2013 and to reinforce this with drip irrigation. Also, we encourage stockfarming where the lands are infertile.”

Pointed out one of the biggest problems in rural areas of Bursa and Turkey is “patrimonial farming”, “Again, fragmentation of land is a problem in our country. Due to the heritage of cultivated lands, the lands are fragmented down to 5-10 acres. However, 100-200 acres of land for the agricultural is needed for profitable agriculture.”

RURAL WOMEN BEGAN TO WORK IN TOURISM

Stated that they also concentrate on organic agriculture besides the irrigation projects, Akdemir said one of the biggest changes in rural areas in Bursa is the rural women beginning to work on tourism. Courses have been organized for women on cooking, weaving, and handicrafts. Akdemir also stated that they have given out plants and animals under the coordination of Bursa Governorship as a support to rural areas.

NOW VILLAGES NEED PLAYGROUNDS

Recently announced 2013 budget of 108 million liras and 30 million 800 thousand lira of the budget has been allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Akdemir continued “one-third of our budget, roughly 10 million lira was allocated to village roads and landscaping of village squares. Villagers request squares and playgrounds. That means a lot of things accomplished. This year again roughly 5,5 million is allocated for reconstruction of village roads, asphaltting, sewer construction, laying of paving stones into the village, children’s playground”



Eskişehir Provincial General Council President and BEBKA Executive Board Member Ahmet Yapıcı:

Intensive rural-urban migration in Eskişehir

Eskişehir Provincial General Council President and BEBKA Executive Board Member, Ahmet Yapıcı said that they eliminated most of the problems by investments in towns and villages in Eskişehir, but nevertheless, a significant reduction is observed in the population of the villages.

We have chosen 'rural development' as the main topic of this issue and have talked to Presidents of the Provincial Administration to learn about their activities in rural areas. We have consulted Eskişehir Provincial General Council President and BEBKA Executive Board Member, Ahmet Yapıcı, on this issue. Underlined that there is no major problem left behind after the works done in villages in recent years particularly problems of roads and water, Yapıcı stated that the real problem is people choosing to live in the city instead of villages. Noted that there is no registered agricultural worker in Eskişehir and the work is done by the workers coming from Eastern Turkey, Yapıcı said that the perception of urbanization should be changed to avoid this situation. Yapıcı also assessed pros and cons of the new Metropolitan Law on the Provincial Administrations.

Yapıcı said "Eskişehir has 370 villages and these villages have a population of about 80 thousand. There is a significant reduction in the population in the rural areas. There is an intensive exodus from villages. Due to the development of technology and the changes in people's concept of life, I guess. People want to be close to shopping centres, hospitals etc. Want to give their children a good education at good schools. For this reason, there is an excessive growth in the cities. For towns and villages, we want to get everything that is in the city. For example, we provide supports on certain issues. We have given micro-loans so that the people could do their jobs in the villages and pensioners can go back. We have given out plants and animals. However, we can be successful only in villages close to the city. This is a matter of perception. A perception of living in cities, being a city-dweller. It is very difficult to change"



DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ARE IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY

Described a number of services carried out to keep people in villages, Yapıcı said following on relevant supporta of BEBKA "We have received support from BEBKA for training through technical assistance program. When BEBKA was founded we were very excited. Before then supports were given from State Planning Organization. It was very difficult to follow-up, there was an excessive bureaucratic structure. Thus BEBKA is very important to end these problems. To a large extent it took place.

Development agencies are very important structures for the development of the country. That is already being done in the world. There is no centralized development system. There is no point of people making plans on Eskişehir who have never seen here. We had experienced this so many times. Many incentives or grants wasted like this. People had put three bricks together in here, and then had gone to İstanbul for investment with the money they have taken. But right now, this is prevented. Each agency is encouraging and supporting their region and its featured sectors."

Provincial General Council President of Bilecik and Executive Board Member of BEBKA, H. Hüseyin Çelik:

Target is to develop agro-based industries in Bilecik

Provincial General Council President of Bilecik H. Hüseyin Çelik indicated that irrigable agricultural lands have doubled between the years of 2005-2012 and the most important objective is to increase the number of agro-based industrial enterprises in Bilecik.

Provincial General Council President of Bilecik and Executive Board Member of BEBKA, H. Hüseyin Çelik stated that especially supports for forage crops in rural areas have developed stockfarming, thus accordingly, the number of integrated red meat and poultry facilities have increased in the province. This situation is followed by the positive developments in the field of arboriculture and seed production, he said. He described the first steps to be taken for the future, as Provincial General Council, is to strive increasing the number of small agro-based industrial enterprises especially in rural areas.

Çelik expressed that their primary goal is to have people living in rural areas not to abandon villages and their lands, and to continue agricultural activities as well. "For this reason, the Village Infrastructure Support Project has been implemented since 2005 and has been continuing without a break since then. With this project, all of the villages in our province have an access to safe drinking water. Village connection routes to districts had been asphalted. With the same project, agricultural irrigation, closed network drip irrigation and pond constructions works are still on-going."

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES IN RURAL AREAS

Çelik explained that the people who live in rural areas not only want to agriculture, but also want industrial enterprises to be established in their areas. Çelik said, "The Council supports and encourages the establishment of the organized industrial zones in the districts besides the city centre. This is the most important part of our plans. Even if they are not at the level of large organized industrial zones, the establishment of small industrial enterprises in rural areas should be encouraged".

"Another problem of the people in rural areas is not being able to sell their products. The difficulty underlying this problem is not being able to act together. We are trying to end this problem and to create a more efficient atmosphere to collaborate" he said.

Çelik indicated that in the last 10 years, more and fertile products have been harvested in general by increasing arable and irrigable lands and thanks to greenhouse production ac-



tivities Bilecik became a province of the product grown in the four seasons along the Sakarya Basin.

Çelik "After the completion of the irrigation ponds in rural areas, lack of water is not a problem anymore. With the supports given to our farmers in the scope of Forage Crops Breeding Project, cattle and ovine animal husbandry reaches the desired level. This is a small part of supports given in the last 10 years," he said.

Karagöz-Hacivat open up the World from Orhaneli

Orhaneli District Governorship launched project titled "Tourism move in Orhaneli" with the support of BEBKA aiming to raise the share of the town in tourism pie. District Governor of Orhaneli, M. Serdar Bakır said he believes even though it is a low budget project, the effects will be greater than expected.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL LIFE ENABLED

Mr. Bakır emphasized that women and young people were included in the scope of the project activities, intending to support their participation in the social life, "40 women between the ages



of 15-40, registered to Turkish Employment Agency were taught first making of the folkloric dolls. Three thousand miniature lavender Karagöz toys and 100 Karagöz shadow plays were produced during 20-week long training". 10 university students were also trained in the field of e-commerce for marketing of products made. Mr Bakır indicated that the project is instrumental for the growth of tourism in the district.

Initially, 40 women were working at workshop. Now, 150 women are working and receiving training in making of the toys. Karagoz-Hacivat shadow play is sold at 60 TL where lavender dolls are sold between 2,5 and 4 liras.

The more the women are trained, the safer the milk is!

The Project titled "The more the women are trained, the safer the milk is" supported by BEBKA's Social Development Financial Assistance Programme of 2011, was implemented in Yeniyurt Village, Beylikova District of Eskişehir. The project was closed by a certificate ceremony on November 19, 2012.

Beylikova District Governorship and Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock have launched the project in Yeniyurt Village due the high number of women farmers. 20 women ob-



tained their certificates who received theoretical and practical training in the barn hygiene, milking hygiene and animal health for production of hygienic milk.

On the other hand Beylikova District Governor Fatih Dülgeroglu said, "BEBKA's support for this project was very important for us. Being a rural development project for disadvantaged groups put forth our project. This hygienic milk production project aims to create awareness in this area."

Renewable energy move of İnhisar Municipality

Due to the climate and microclimate in the valley of the Middle Sakarya, İnhisar has the potential for solar and wind energy. Therefore, the municipality has launched up project titled 'Pump Efficiency Enhancement and 90 kWp Photovoltaic Solar Power Plant Installation'. The project objective is to start electricity production within 3 months. Mayor of İnhisar, İsmail Cambaz, indicated that electricity used for irrigation of agricultural land will be provided by the solar power plant and pumps will be changed with energy efficient ones to reduce energy consumption.

İnhisar has an altitude of 170 m and gets sunshine like the Mediterranean

Region, thus, vegetables, fruit production and greenhouse cultivation has been improved in the area. Mr Cambaz



said "The monthly electricity bill can be over 20 thousand TL (8.500€) due to the energy used by the pumps during the season. So, we came up with this project when we were looking into a solution of reducing this amount and we also thought it would be a good contribution to the municipality. The budget of the project is 630 thousand TL and 75% of this amount is funded by BEBKA"

Upon the completion of the bid process and signing the contract with the firm that won the bid, the work has been started and the Mayor gave good news that the generation of electricity will start in 3 months.

Bursa also a leader in agriculture

Having suitable conditions of climate and fertile lands, geographical proximity to centers of consumption, with ease of transportation conditions and irrigated areas, Bursa is one of Turkey's leading cities having agricultural structure for organic production and the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and field crops. In addition, presence of a well-organized and dynamic foreign trade companies make the city an important center of export and external trading. Bursa has 1.088.638 hectares total area and of this land 336.405 hectares are being cultivated. Depending on the climatic conditions, almost all kinds of agricultural products are grown on the culture grounds. Brand name prod-

ucts, its ecological characteristics, product variety, fertile soil provided Bursa to be one of the major agricultural centers in Turkey. 3 out of 10 World's largest food companies operate in Bursa. Bursa meets 60 percent table olives production of Turkey and the world leader in the production of black figs. Bursa is second biggest cherry exporter in the World and meets 64 percent of tomato production and 26 percent fruit juice production of Turkey. Bursa is home to 62 percent frozen food production of Turkey. Bursa exports around 300 million agricultural products each year. Black figs, Deveci Pear, Peach, Olive, Chestnut and Cherry are the world-famous agricultural products of Bursa.

Eskişehir: The land of abundance

Obtaining a distinguished position in industry, tourism and agriculture, Eskişehir may also be marked as "city of culture" regarding its advanced education institutions and universities. Despite being small in terms of population, 12 (except for the central districts) towns of Eskişehir indicates a significant potential with their separate characteristics.

İnönü, Alpu, Çifteler and Beylikova towns are well developed industrial districts. Agriculture has an efficient position in almost every town. Especially Sarıcakaya and Mihalgazi towns have fertile lands thanks to their micro-climate features where a large variety

of products such as pistachio, olives, pomegranate and seasonal greens. Furthermore, some other agricultural products are grown in other towns such as sugar beet, onion, potato, tomato, barley, wheat, sunflower, sweet corn, walnut and so on.

Natural structure of Eskişehir is suitable for fruit growing and soil and climatic diversity enable to produce various crops. Vegetable production in Eskişehir is done intensively in the Sakarya basin. In recent years, the growing interest in organic agricultural products in Turkey also encourages many farmers in Eskişehir to make significant amounts of organic agriculture.

Bilecik's fertile lands enrich our tables

Bilecik has an advantageous position in terms of rural development. Its geographical structure and climate is suitable both for rural tourism and cultivation of various types of fresh fruits and vegetables. Especially, micro-climatic zone of Middle Sakarya Valley, including Söğüt, İnhisar, Yenipazar, Gölpazarı, Osmaneli districts, is very suitable for the cultivation of some agricultural products such as watermelon, peach, pomegranate, cherry, bean, to-

mato and hops. Bilecik has also a beautiful nature with a diverse flora and rich forest areas covering half of its lands. Bilecik is also famous with its wonderful ponds and surrounding promenade areas. These natural beauties offer unique holiday facilities for its guests. Pelitözü Pond and surrounding promenade area, 7 km. away from the city center, was landscaped with financial support of BEBKA in 2011 and is becoming an attraction center for its guests.

BEBKA to give 20 million TL financial support in 2013

Bursa Eskisehir Bilecik Development Agency (BEBKA), announced the Year 2012 Financial Support Programs. Due date was announced as March 20, 2013 at 17:00 for call for project proposals which will be accepted from the areas of Sustainable Industry, Tourism Small Scale Infrastructure and Tourism Promotion.

BEBKA which has been working under the coordination of the Ministry of Development in order to implement the concept of sustainable development will support projects of non-profit organizations (government agencies, chambers of commerce and industry, associations, foundations, etc.) with the Programs in the above mentioned three areas.

Total budget of 20 million TL was allocated as 8 million TL to the Sustainable Industry Program, 10 million TL to the Tourism Small Scale Infrastructure Program, 2 million to the Tourism Promotion Program.

IGAPE Representative Visited Our Agency

During the meeting, Mr. Castro gave information about the activities IGAPE which works under the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the regional government. "Similar to the Galician region, BEBKA region stands out in the automotive and textile industry. Two Agencies may work together and collaborate" Castro said. He added IGAPE can sign a protocol with BEBKA for cooperation and joint work. BEBKA Program Management Department Manager, Tamer Değirmenci, and Bursa Investment Support Coordinator Turgut Akşehir miller who attended the meeting provided information about the region and investment opportunities. They stated that the Agency can provide support for Galician companies considering investment in the region.

Automotive Industry in Germany and Turkey is Ready for Cooperation

A seminar titled “The New Era in Energy in Germany - Renewable Energies and Elektromobilite - Turkish Firms in North Rhine-Westphalia to catch Opportunities “ which is organized in cooperation with, Bursa Eskisehir Bilecik Development Agency (BEBKA), North-Rhine-Westphalia Investment Agency (NRW Invest), Uludag Automotive Exporters’ Association (OİB), the Dünya Newspaper and the Automotive Parts & Components Manufacturers’ Association (TAYSAD) “ was held in Hilton Hotel-Bursa. The Secretary General of BEBKA Dr. Mehmet Sait Cülfik; Member of the Board of Directors of OİB, Baran Çelik; Dünya Newspaper Editor in Chief Hakan Güldağ; Turkey Representative of

NRW Invest, Dr. Adam Akkaya, as well as many industry representatives attended the meeting. BEBKA Secretary General Dr. Mehmet Sait Cülfik, in his opening speech of the seminar, noted that the city of Bursa is a world renowned with its automotive sector and has a significant share of exports in Turkey. He shared the information that 37% of Turkey’s exports is done from Bursa and 50% of this figure belongs to the automotive sector.

GERMANY THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTNER

Uludag Automotive Exporters’ Association (OİB) Board Member Baran Celik, who shared the latest developments in

the automotive industry, pointed out that Turkey’s automotive industry had experienced a major breakthrough in the beginning of the 2000s. Çelik said “According to our records, total exports in the sector reached \$ 20 billion. In 2011, a \$ 2.8 billion export was made to Germany. These figures show that Germany is an important partner of Turkey’s automotive industry”.

NRW Invest Representative Dr. Adem Akkaya made a detailed presentation about North Rhine-Westphalia region and stated that they are ready for any cooperation in automotive sector. The seminar continued with presentations on the developments in the automotive industry in Germany.

BEBKA Delegation in Spain

BEBKA (Bursa, Eskisehir Bilecik Development Agency) Region, is prominent in industry, agriculture and tourism sectors which has similar characteristics in many aspects with Barcelona and Andalusia regions. The delegation met with development agencies and other organizations in order to establish cooperation networks.

Delegation first met with Xavier Mayo, economic advisor of Barcelona Activa Development Agency (ACTIVA). During the meeting with Activa, parties agreed on mutual cooperation business development centres and incubators in the implementation in Turkey.

One of Europe’s largest convention and exhibition centres with 405 000 m2 of exhibition space, Fira Barcelona was also

visited. Business development director of Fira Barcelona Richard Zapatero gave information about the economic benefits provided in the region by congresses and fairs organized. Threads were made for co-operation and exchange of experience with Fira Barcelona to stimulate the potential to become an international convention and exhibition centre in our region.

Andalusian Innovation and Development Agency (IDEA) was established in order to encourage innovation and economic development in the region. The director of the institution Alvaro Francisco Julio gave information about the support they offer to companies for the development of innovation capacities of SMEs. Co-operation and collaboration between

BEBKA and IDEA was agreed upon especially in innovation. The State Government of Andalusia Tourism and Trade Undersecretary Antonio Munoz Jesus Roldan was also visited. The delegation received information on tourism activities in Andalusian region. The Undersecretary was informed about the tourism potential of Bursa, Eskisehir and Bilecik provinces and possible cooperation in tourism between the two regions.

The delegation also met with Vice President of the Municipality of Sevilla Sevilla Gregorio Serrano Lopez and director of the Sevilla Global Development Agency Maestre Pedro Sanchez. The development of economic activities and the mutual promotion between the region was agreed on.

Protocols were signed with 6 universities of the region

Bursa, Eskisehir Bilecik Development Agency (BEBKA) signed a protocol with six universities to support university-industry and university-public co-operation. The meeting was held at the central office of BEBKA. Bursa Governor and Chairman of the BEBKA Executive Board, Sahabettin Harput, Uludag University Rector Dr. Kamil Dilek, Bursa Technical University Rector Dr. Ali Sürmen, Orhangazi University Rector Dr. Recep İleri, Deputy Rector of Anadolu

University Prof. Dr. Ziya Aydin Ozgur, Eskisehir Osmangazi University Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Gönen ve Bilecik Seyh Edebali University Rector Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan signed the protocols.

During the opening remarks, Governor and Chairman of the BEBKA Executive Board, Sahabettin Harput said “Our universities performed highly in the project preparation process to this date. Universities not only institutions that educates students but

also they shed light to the basic problems, needs and the potential of the city and the region with the very important work they do.” Harput reminded that, 158 of 368 project applications and 32 of 64 supported projects, under the call for proposals in 2011, included cooperation with universities. “Today we have registered our institutional cooperation with the protocols signed. After that, I think this cooperation should continue without interruption,” he said.