

Women Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Young Farmer Project: Turkish Case¹

Mucahit PAKSOY, Nida CELİK

*University of KSU, Faculty of Agriculture, Dept. of Agricultural Economics,
Kahramanmaras/TURKEY*

mpaksoy@ksu.edu.tr, nidacelik142@gmail.com

Abstract: Women entrepreneurship, is seen as one of the important tools to solve women unemployment problem. Women entrepreneurs who have innovative, self-confident, creative, talented and productive characteristics succeed in social and economic life. However, women's entrepreneurship in rural areas differ in terms of structures and type of occupation from urban areas. Rural women on the one hand do housework on the other hand deals with crop and animal production. To support women entrepreneurs and young farmers in Turkey projects, programs and studies are being carried on. In 2016, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock put into practice projects supporting young farmers within the scope of employment of young population in rural areas. 14.970 young farmers between the ages 18-40 of which 74% women had the right to receive a grant in 2016. A young farmers grant program will be applied in a three year period. In this context, we conduct face to face survey with 115 women entrepreneurs (72% total supported) who received the young farmer grant and set up their own enterprises in Kahramanmaras province of Turkey. The aim of this research is to determine the current situation of farming activities, social and cultural factors which created entrepreneurs and the reasons of success or failure of enterprises. It is hoped that the research results will be beneficial to local extension agents to obtain leaders, role models and successful women farmers, as well as foster awareness among young population in rural areas and contribute rural development.

Key words: Women farmer, rural entrepreneurship, grant support, Turkey

Introduction

In the business life of Turkey, one of the main subjects, which should be handled, is women working in agriculture sector. Women take part in agriculture on a large scale and make contribution to economy. For this reason, women entrepreneurs must be supported in rural areas. In recent years, rural development support plays an important role in Turkish agriculture in the context of developing disadvantaged regions in rural areas. Beside, in order to decrease unemployment and prevent rural depopulation, especially young farmers should be supported with projects. For this purpose, the Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock put into practice supporting young farmers projects which, support limited to 30.000 TL in homelands during 2016-2018, in crop production, animal husbandry and local agricultural production. 450 million TL grant was distributed to 14.970 young farmers between the ages 18-40 in 2016.

In this research, we aimed to investigate socio economic characteristics, farming activities, views and opinions of women farmers that receive young farmer grant in the Kahramanmaras province of Turkey supporting entrepreneurship.

Material and Method

The primary data of the study was obtained from face to face surveys conducted with 115 women entrepreneurs (72% total supported women farmers) during April and May 2017 in the Kahramanmaras province of Turkey. Also secondary data were compiled from Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Directorate of Kahramanmaras Food,

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Agriculture and Livestock, Official Gazette. Data analyzed in statistical programs and descriptive statistics (frequency, percent, mean and standard deviation) were given.

Results and Discussion

Results on socio-economic characteristics of women farmers were given in Table 1. According to results, the average age was 27,24. The information obtained is that 47,8% of respondents graduated from secondary school and average monthly household income was 1490 TL. Agricultural experience of women farmers was determined as 7 years.

Table 1. Socio-economic characteristics of women farmers

	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age (year)	18	40	27,24	5,88
Household size (person)	2	11	4,90	1,65
Number of children (person)	1	5	2,20	0,95
Agricultural experience (year)	1	25	6,98	6,30
Household income (TL /month)	200	12000	1490,20	1463,58
Individual income (TL /month)	30	12000	1271,67	3406,72

It can be seen that 40% of women farmer's husbands work together in the farm and 95,7 % of women farmers have no additional income except agriculture (Table 2).

Table 2. Other characteristics of women farmers

		Frequency	%
Education level	Illiterate	1	0,9
	Literate	1	0,9
	Primary school	43	37,4
	Secondary school	55	47,8
	High school	12	10,4
	College	2	1,7
	Undergraduate	1	0,9
Marital status	Married	113	98,3
	Bachelor	2	1,7
Husbands occupation	Artisan	5	4,3
	Employee	2	1,7
	Worker	22	19,1
	Self-employment	25	21,7
	Unemployed	5	4,3
	Farmer	46	40,0
	Other	7	6,1
Housing status	Rent	10	8,7
	Own property	37	32,2
	Relatives	68	59,1
Other income source	Yes	5	4,3
	No	110	95,7

When we looked at the farming activities of women farmers' animal husbandry appeared to be the main farming activity. Hence, 80% of women entrepreneurs deal with cattle, sheep and goat breeding (Table 3).

Table 3. Main farming activities of women farmers

Farming activity	Frequency	%
Cattle Breeding	67	58,3
Goat and sheep breeding	25	21,7
Poultry breeding (laying hen)	7	6,1
Apiculture	4	3,5
Horticulture	5	4,3
Greenhousing	2	1,7
Medicinal and aromatic plants	5	4,3
Total	115	100,0

It was determined that average field size was 35,6 decare, orchard size 12,75 decare and vineyard size 8,83 decare (Table 4).

Table 4. Land size of women farmers

Land type	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. Deviation
Field (decare)	2	200	35,66	47,65
Orchard (decare)	2	50	12,75	15,02
Vineyard (decare)	1	30	8,83	11,07

Average heifer per farm owned 5,62 head, cow 4 head, goat 25 head, sheep 37,64 head and hen 453,5 respectively (Table 5).

Table 5. Animal existence of women farmers

Type of animal	Frequency	%	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. Deviation
Calf	18	15,7	1	8	2,11	1,77
Steer	10	8,7	1	20	5,30	6,70
Heifer	68	59,1	2	8	5,62	0,73
Bullock	15	13,0	1	20	2,27	4,90
Cow	31	27,0	1	60	4,00	10,49
Goat	3	2,6	20	35	25,00	8,66
Sheep	22	19,1	34	44	37,64	1,96
Hen	8	7,0	8	750	453,50	207,07
Beehives	4	3,5	40	110	57,50	35,00

It was found that %80 of women farmers' image changed positively after entrepreneurship support. Also it was evident that 87% of women farmers recommend entrepreneurship to other women (Table 6).

Table 6. Features of Entrepreneurship

		Frequency	%
Whether there are any other entrepreneurs in the family	Yes	9	7,8
	No	106	92,2
Whether or not another occupation is carried out	Yes	6	5,2
	No	109	94,8
Would do other activities if not this business	Yes	39	33,9
	No	76	66,1
Change in the image after entrepreneurship	Yes, positively	92	80,0
	No any change	23	20,0
Status of recommending entrepreneurship to other women	Yes	100	87,0
	No	15	13,0

Generally women farmers agree that entrepreneurship provide them self-confidence, success and life satisfaction (Table 7).

Table 7. Advantages of Entrepreneurship

Awareness Level	Mean
No any advantages	2,4
Being busy with a job	3,6
Contribution to the house budget	3,4
Material freedom	3,4
Self-confidence	3,9
Sensation of success	3,9
Life satisfaction	3,9
Being able to provide employment opportunities to others	3,7
Social status in society	3,8

1) I never agree 2) I do not agree 3) I agree partially 4) I agree 5) I totally agree

Women farmers totally agree that female entrepreneurs in Turkey should be supported more. They don't agree that it's difficult for women to be an entrepreneur. And they never agree being an entrepreneur constitutes an obstacle to their other responsibilities (Table 8).

Table 8. Women's Entrepreneurs Relevant Expressions

Awareness Level	Mean
Female entrepreneurs in Turkey should be supported more	4,8
Internet affects women entrepreneurs positively	3,1
Communication capabilities provide women advantage on entrepreneurship	4,2
It's difficult for women to be an entrepreneur	2,5
Being an entrepreneur constitutes an obstacle to my other responsibilities	1,3

1) I never agree 2) I do not agree 3) I agree partially 4) I agree 5) I totally agree

Conclusion

In Turkey, young farmers grant program has positive effects on women entrepreneurship in rural areas. Animal husbandry appears as the dominant activity because of short time profit and low risk it entails when compared with crop production. It is foreseen that this program will continue with high interest from women farmers in next years. As a matter of fact, applications of program attracted intensive attention by women farmers in 2017. With the aim of increase women farmers professional knowledge and skills, courses could be organized like herd management, milk hygiene, animal welfare, plant health etc. Extension agents should give priority to farmer meetings devoted to agricultural innovations. Giving entrepreneurship educations will be beneficial before applying young farmers grant program.

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