

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 11/27/2015

GAIN Report Number: TR5061

Turkey

Post: Ankara

Structure of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture Food and Livestock

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

This report describes Turkey's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock and related institutions. The Ministries duties are to improve plant and animal, and aquaculture production; to conduct research to develop the agriculture sector and form agricultural policies; regarding food production, and to ensure security and safety; to coordinate and improve rural development; to protect soil, water resources, and bio-diversity, and to ensure that they are used efficiently; to organize and raise awareness of farmers; to manage agricultural support efficiently; and to regulate agriculture markets; furthermore to define general policies of food, agriculture, and livestock; to monitor and inspect.

STRUCTURE OF MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

General Information

The former Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs was reorganized into the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) according to “Statutory Decree No. 639 on Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock,” based on the power granted by Law No. 6223, dated 6/4/2011. <http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/4.5.639.pdf>

This Decree came into effect on July 6, 2012 following its publication on the Official Gazette number 27958 dated June 8, 2011. The General Directorate of Food and Control, General Directorate of Plant Production, General Directorate of Livestock, General Directorate of Fishery and Aquaculture, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies, General Directorate of EU and Foreign Relations, Directorate of Guidance and Inspection, Department of Training Publications and Broadcast, Department of Information Technologies, and the Department of Support Services were new units established in this period. Furthermore, the General Directorate of Agriculture Reform, one of the Affiliated Organizations, was turned into a service unit.

The duties of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock are regulated by Statutory Decree No. 639. In accordance with this decree, the duties of MinFAL are as follows:

To improve plant and animal production, and aquaculture production; to conduct research to develop the agriculture sector and form agricultural policies; regarding food production, and to ensure security and safety; to coordinate and improve rural development; to protect soil, water resources, and bio-diversity, and to ensure that they are used efficiently; to organize and raise awareness of farmers; to manage agricultural support efficiently; and to regulate agriculture markets; furthermore to define general policies of food, agriculture, and livestock; to monitor and inspect.

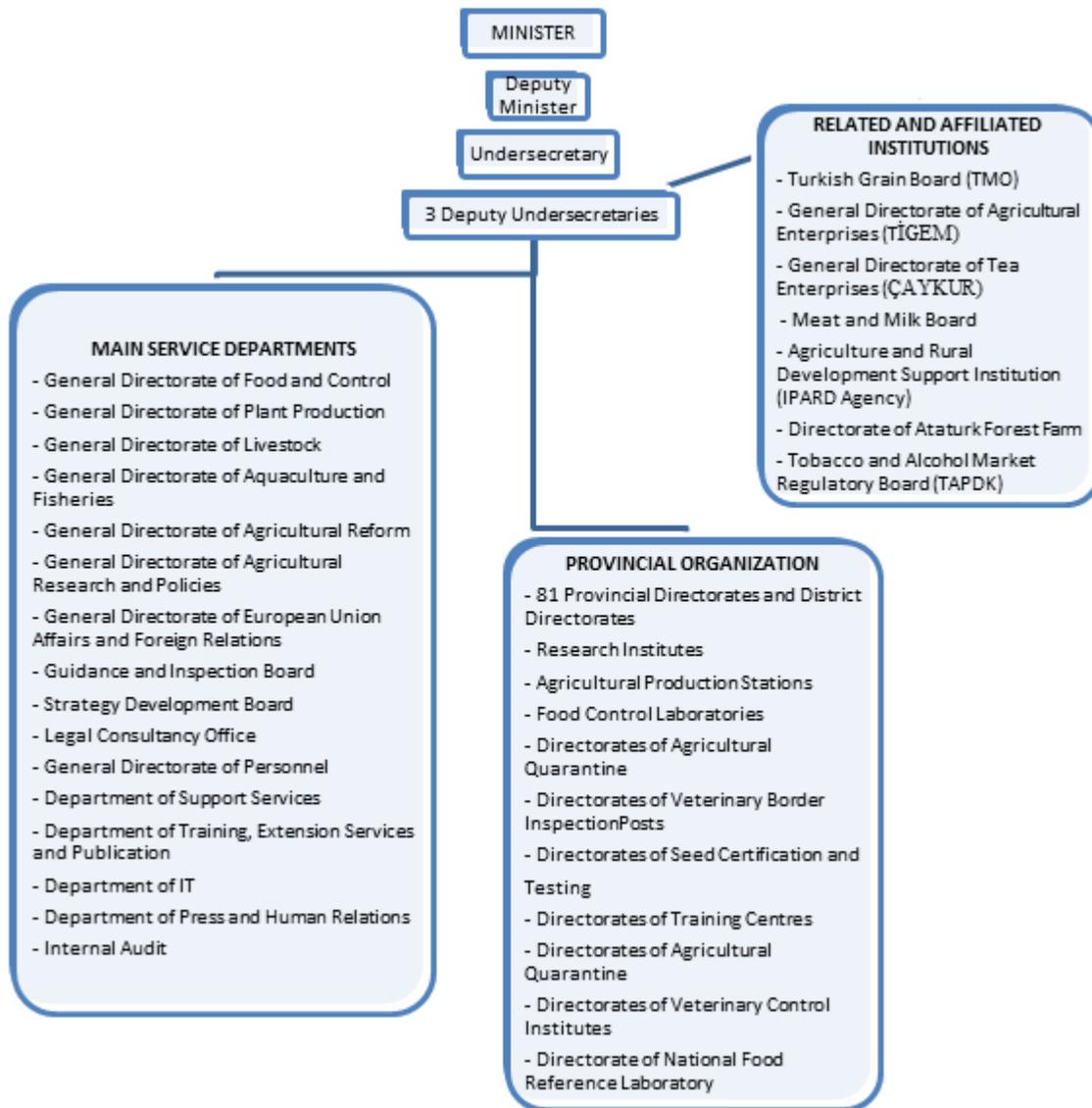
The Ministry is composed of central organizations, provincial organizations and foreign services. Central organizations and provincial organizations are illustrated in the table below. MinFAL is broken down hierarchically by Minister, Deputy Minister, Undersecretary, and three Deputy Undersecretaries. MinFAL is also composed of sixteen main departments, seven relevant and affiliated organizations, and numerous provincial organizations.

The main departments are located in Ankara, the capital city of Turkey. They run their programs with the help of provincial organizations located throughout Turkey. Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorates are the relevant and affiliated institutions which are responsible for regulating markets.

The main Ankara-based departments and provincial organizations both fall under the Ministry budget. MinFAL carries out operations with more than 80,000 personnel throughout Turkey as of 2014. MinFAL’s annual budget is 15 billion TL in 2015, main expenditures are personnel expenses of 2.5 billion TL (\$865 million USD) and subsidies of 10.3 billion (\$3.5 billion USD). Relevant and affiliated institutions have their own budget because they are autonomous organizations/state enterprises.

Enforcement of Turkish food and agriculture legislation is performed by 81 Provincial Food, Agriculture and Livestock Directorates (PAD), 887 District Directorates (DD), and 139 Organizational Directorates. These Organizational Directorates consist of 16 Main departments in Ankara, 21 Research Institutes, three Agricultural Production Station, 39 Food Control Laboratories, 11 Directorates of Agricultural Quarantine, 23 Directorates of Veterinary Border Inspection Posts, eight Directorates of Seed Certification and Testing, eight Directorates of Training Centers, Directorates of Agricultural Quarantine, nine Directorates of Veterinary Control Institutes, and one Directorate of National Food Reference Laboratory.

Structure of the Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock



Source: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Detay.aspx?SayfaId=13>

MAIN DEPARTMENTS

The main service departments are all located in Ankara. They develop and implement policies with the help of the provincial organizations, and serve as the main regulators in the agricultural sector.

General Directorate of Food and Control

This directorate has three deputy directors and eleven departments.

GDFC's Website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/GKGM>

The General Directorate of Food and Control (GDFC) is the most significant ministerial structure for food and feed safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policies, adoption of legislation related to these policies, relevant official controls and inspections at all stages of processing, distribution and placement on the market as well as animal health and welfare.

The GDFC is the contact point for international organizations such as Codex Alimentarius Commission, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), International Plant Protection Organization (IPPC), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Trade Organization (WTO), etc.

A PowerPoint presentation (also in English) regarding the structure and duties of GDFC is available on MinFAL's website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/GKGM/Menu/67/Gkgm-Tanitim-Sunumlari>

The public laboratories of MinFAL, including 39 Provincial Food Control Laboratories, a National Food Reference Laboratory, the Bursa-Central Research Institute (Food) Laboratory, nine Veterinary Control Institute Laboratories including Etlik Central Veterinary Control Laboratory, 23 Directorates of Veterinary Border Inspection Posts, 12 Plant Quarantine Laboratories and Plant Protection Research Institute Laboratories and 98 private food control laboratories are authorized and audited by MinFAL, and are involved in the official control system. Auditing of directorates, districts and laboratories is performed by GDFC officials.

In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutory Decree No. 639, the duties of the GDFC are as follows:

- To ensure reliable food and feed supply, to develop policies in this line, and to carry out inspections.
- To determine traceability principles in every phase of the procedures on production, process, and marketing of food, food additives, and other materials and ingredients in contact with food.
- To determine the qualifications of the enterprises that produce foods, food additives, and other materials and ingredients in contact with food, and related permit and registration principles; to register these enterprises to food registry; to carry out control and inspection procedures in these production facilities and sales points, or to have them carried out.
- To determine and announce entrance and exit customs stations of the foods, food additives, feeds, and other materials and ingredients in contact with food, in accordance with the views of the concerned institutions; to determine veterinary border inspection posts, and their working principles.
- To determine the principles on registration, sales, and inspection of feed and feed additives, and

to carry out inspections on them.

- To determine the approval principles for the enterprises that produce and sale feed and feed additives; and to approve them.
- To establish animal identification system, and to check animal movements.
- To determine health-related requirements on foreign trade of livestock, plants, animal and plant products, food and feed; to determine border inspection posts, and maintain their working principles.
- To take measures in order to protect consumers and public health considering plant, animal, food, and feed reliability.
- To determine the principles for certification of the laboratories operating in animal and phytosanitary, and food and feed; and to inspect them.
- To carry out control and follow up procedures on processing and marketing of animal products; and to determine related principles.
- To fight against animal diseases, to carry out animal health services, and to determine related principles.
- To determine and announce manufacture, sales, transfer, and storage requirements of therapeutic and preservative substances used in animal health procedures, and their active ingredients and auxiliary ingredients.
- To determine principles for institutions and organizations offering animal health, diagnosis, and treatment services, and for animal sales points, slaughterhouses, training facilities, and shelters.
- To protect phytosanitary, fight against plant diseases, and control the pests;
- To establish plant passport system; to control plant and plant product movements; to determine the norms and features of the products used in plant protection, and to determine principles on approval; to carry out approval and control procedures.
- To determine qualifications, and working methods and principles of the personnel to be employed in animal and phytosanitary protection, and food and feed control.
- To determine risk management principles, to assess risk, and to ensure risk communication in order to ensure plant and animal health, and food and feed reliability.

General Directorate of Plant Production (BUGEM)

This directorate has two deputy directors and seven departments.

BUGEM's Website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/BUGEM>

BUGEM allocates most subsidies in the scope of plant production, around 6 billion TL (\$2.1 billion USD) annually. These include direct payments and area-based agricultural supports of 2.6 bn TL (\$900,000 USD) which are supporting hazelnut producers, as well as diesel and fertilizer. They also administer premium payment support (3 billion TL: \$1 billion USD), half of which goes to cotton and roughly half to grains and oilseeds, with the majority of that to wheat producers.

In accordance with article 8 of the Statutory Decree No. 639, the duties of the BUGEM are as follows:

- To increase production, productivity, and diversity in plant products.
- To determine whether the inputs and production technologies used in plant production are appropriate,
- To define the standards, and to inspect.

- To direct plant production ensuring integration with agriculture and industry sector. To determine new production methods considering human health and ecological balance, to support and spread them; and to ensure coordination with the institutions concerned in order to avoid pollution likely to surface as a result of the duties.
- To improve and protect meadows, pasture lands, summer and winter pastures; and to take required measures.
- To install information systems on plant production, and to ensure that they are used.
- To maintain services on operation and functioning of agricultural basins which are agro-ecological zones where common crops grown. Subsidy policies are different in each agricultural basin. A list of agricultural basins is available on MinFAL's website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/Konular/Plant-Production/Agricultural-Basins>

General Directorate of Livestock (HAYGEM)

This directorate has two deputy directors and five departments.

HAYGEM's Website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/HAYGEM>

The directorate is mainly responsible for developing subsidies and support principles for livestock producers to incentivize livestock production, overseeing artificial insemination and animal husbandry improvement studies, and creating technical criteria for the import and export of breeding animals. HAYGEM allocates subsidies for livestock which are about 2.5 billion TL (\$865 million USD). Also HAYGEM coordinates a program that delivery free milk for primary school with an annual cost of 182 million TL (\$62 million USD).

In accordance with article 9 of the Statutory Decree No. 639, the duties of the HAYGEM are as follows:

- To develop and encourage livestock farming, and to determine the principles of encouragement.
- To define the features of livestock enterprises using the animal production inputs, and to determine the principles for permit and approval thereof; to maintain permit and approval actions.
- To spread high quality animal species.
- To make activities in order to ensure that animal production adopts certain methods that protect human health and ecological balance; and to inspect them.
- To make certain activities that increase animal production.
- To make animal production and development projects.
- To enable animal breeding programs, and to ensure that they are implemented.
- To determine and maintain the technical criteria in import and export of breeding animal.
- To develop an information system on livestock.
- To carry out activities on marketing of animal products.

General Directorate of Aquaculture and Fisheries (BSGM)

This directorate has two deputy directors and five departments.

BSGM's Website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/BSGM>

In accordance with article 10 of the Statutory Decree No. 639, the duties of the BSGM are as follows:

- To determine the principles of sustainable fishery and aquaculture in seas and inland waters, together with the principles of hunting; and to encourage them to be applied.
- To protect fishery and aquaculture resources; to determine protection, production, and breeding areas; and to take measures to avoid any harm on these areas.
- To determine the principles on fishery and aquaculture products to be imported and exported.
- To make certain activities that develop fishery and aquaculture production sources, and increase productivity; to carry out controls and inspections, and to have them carried out.
- To take required measures on the input supply required for fishery, aquaculture production, and increased productivity.
- To determine the principles on production lands suitable for fishery and aquaculture; and to determine minimum quality and provisions, leasing and use principles of such lands.
- To make studies on fishery and aquaculture production and development, and research projects regarding the same.
- To develop an information system on fishery, aquaculture hunting and breeding.

General Directorate of Agricultural Reform (TRGM)

This directorate has five deputy directors and eighteen departments.

TRGM's Website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/TRGM>

The directorate is mainly responsible for creating progressive projects in order to solve infrastructural problems. In scope of this purpose, TRGH has already carried out projects such as the farm land consolidation project, Agricultural Monitoring and Information System (TARBIL) and farm-level accounting data network system. The annual budget of total projects are about 400,000 million TL (\$137,000 USD).

In accordance with article 11 of the Statutory Decree No. 639, the duties of the TRGM are as follows:

- To develop programs in order to create a competitive agriculture sector, improve physical potential, environment, and land, together with the life quality and economic diversity in rural areas, and form local rural development capacity; to avoid division of agricultural lands; and to carry out land arrangement and consolidation procedures.
- To carry out required actions in implementing agricultural and rural development, to control such actions, and to check the coherence among payments.
- To raise knowledge level of the producers; to let cooperatives, unions, and other producer organizations to be established; to inspect and support cooperatives, unions, chambers, producer organizations and their affiliates; to take required measures in order to ensure that the activities thereof are concluded in accordance with the law.
- To determine the principles of soil and irrigation water analysis laboratories; to analyze lands, soils, water resources; and to classify soils, lands, and water.
- To make acquisition processes for lands, to avoid division of agricultural lands, to carry out land arrangement and consolidation activities, and to have them carried out.
- To determine policies and strategies on agricultural mechanism; to prepare plans and projects and to ensure that they are implemented; to carry out required studies in order to improve

mechanism in agriculture.

- To install and operate the farm accounting data network system.
- To collect agricultural data, and to create statistics.
- To establish, operate, and update information systems regarding the field of work, including integrated administration and control system.
- To increase efficiency in agricultural irrigation, to ensure that appropriate irrigation techniques are used, to build appropriate irrigation facilities, to protect soil resources, and to carry out in-field development services.
- To carry out services on global climate change, agricultural environment, drought, desertification, other agricultural disasters and agricultural insurance; to offer help and monitor those farmers suffered from natural disasters, within the principles covered by the concerned legislation.
- To carry out activities on marketing the agricultural products.
- To ensure coordination on the rural development programs carried out with the European Union sources and other international sources.
- To carry out practices regarding the supports to be offered to the agriculture sector and rural areas, to put forward a proposal, to carry out secretariat activities of the Agricultural Support and Steering Committee established as per the Agriculture Law No. 5488.

General Directorate of Agricultural Researches and Policies (TAGEM)

This directorate has five deputy directors and eight departments.

TAGEM's Website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/TAGEM>

It serves as MinFAL's principal in-house research agency. It develops agricultural studies, for example regarding animal and plant health or pest control. The directorate publishes a list of its studies for the general public. TAGEM has also responsibilities on biotechnology stemming from Turkey's Biosafety Law. TAGEM conducts secretarial works of Biosafety Board and their committees. The Biosafety Board has responsibility for reviewing and making decisions for approval of genetically engineered crops in Turkey.

In accordance with article 12 of the Statutory Decree No. 639, the duties of the TAGEM are as follows:

- To determine agricultural research and development strategies and priorities in line with the national development plans; to prepare and implement projects, and to have them prepared, and implemented.
- To make studies in order to protect and rationally use soil and water resources,
- To develop and spread varieties and races resistant to negative environmental conditions.
- To carry out national and international research and development activities, and to support the projects within this scope.

General Directorate of EU and Foreign Relations (ABDGM)

This directorate has two deputy directors and five departments.

ABDGM's Website: <http://www.tarim.gov.tr/ABDGM>

ABDGM serves as a liaison between MinFAL and the European Union, international organizations, and foreign government missions in Turkey. In accordance with article 13 of the Statutory Decree No. 639, the duties of the ABDGM are as follows:

- To carry out the relationships of the Ministry with the European Union, and to ensure coordination in EU harmonization process.
- To carry out the Ministry's relationship with foreign countries and international organizations, and to ensure coordination in this sense. (including FAO and WTO)

RELATED AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS

Related and affiliated institutions are state economic enterprises which have budgets separate from the Ministry. In general, they implement Ministry policies and regulations in their respective markets. They all play a role in the production of most agricultural products.

These institutions are quasi-autonomous, in that they have their own budgets, separate from MinFAL, but work very closely with MinFAL officials.

In the early years of the Turkish Republic, the private sector was not large enough to sustainably produce all agricultural products. To incentivize farming, the Turkish government established the various institutions to aid in production. Now, the private sector has grown and these institutions are transitioning to become regulatory boards.

Turkish Grain Board (TMO)

TMO is the most important establishment regarding grain markets in Turkey.

TMO's Website: <http://www.tmo.gov.tr/Main.aspx?ID=162>

TMO is a quasi-autonomous state enterprise responsible for regulating Turkish grain markets (wheat, barley, corn, rice). With more than 100 branches across Turkey, TMO tries to keep the price at a level which allows production sustainability for farmers and supply security for consumers. For this purpose, TMO announces procurement price for grain after the harvest if they determine that local prices are too low for farmers. TMO also imports grain in case of shortages in order to decrease domestic prices. The Government of Turkey sometimes authorizes TMO to import grain with zero tariffs. TMO intervenes in the markets to stabilize grain prices, regulates the import and export of grain, and announces procurement prices. During peak procurement periods, TMO opens temporary receiving centers around the country to assist in agricultural activities. TMO has a storage capacity of over 4.5 MMT in its facilities.

A licensed warehouse has gone into operation with the collaboration of TMO. Licensed warehouse systems aim to facilitate the trade of agricultural products. They store grain for farmers in a controlled environment to keep the products in healthy condition, and to standardize the products.

TMO also runs facilities responsible for opium extraction. It is the only organization authorized to do so, and has a monopoly over the market.

General Directorate of Agricultural Enterprises (TİGEM)

TİGEM's Website: www.tigem.gov.tr

TİGEM is one of the oldest enterprises in Turkey and owns large farms across the country. In order to increase agricultural and livestock production, it regulates quality and diversity of products through the certification of seeds and livestock breeding. It produces nearly 25 percent of certified wheat and barley seeds in Turkey. It also owns horse breeding facilities.

General Directorate of Tea Enterprises (ÇAYKUR)

ÇAYKUR's Website: www.caykur.gov.tr

ÇAYKUR is a state economic enterprise coherent with Turkish agricultural policy. ÇAYKUR's operating base in Rize works to develop tea cultivation, increase tea quality, and provide for domestic and international tea demand.

ÇAYKUR owns 45 fresh tea processing factories and one tea packaging factory. It has two marketing and production provincial directories. It has 16,500 personnel, and their processing capacity is 6,600 ton per day, making it the largest company in the Turkish tea sector. It dominates the market, producing 60 percent of Turkey's domestic tea. In recent years, it has also entered the iced tea market.

Meat and Milk Board (ESK)

ESK's Website: www.esk.gov.tr

The Meat and Milk Board was originally called the Meat and Fish Institution and was founded as a State Economic Enterprise. It regulates the meat and milk markets. It has ten meat processing plants and one chicken processing plant. It also directly operates 16 retail stores which have 57 franchises. The Meat and Milk Board is developing its ability to intervene in the market and stabilize prices. Recent years ESK frequently has imported meat in order to pressure domestic meat price.

Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (IPARD Agency)

TKDK's Website: www.tkd.gov.tr

The EU has allocated pre-accession funds to support rural development programs through this institution. Established in 2011 and modeled after the EU-developed IPARD Agency, this institution carries out allocation of EU-based funds for research and development programs in Turkey. The "Rural Development Programme (IPARD Programme)" was prepared and approved by the EU in February 2008. 868 million euros has been allocated to Turkey to support rural development.

Directorate of Ataturk Forest Farm (AOÇ)

AOÇ's Website: www.aoc.gov.tr

The Directorate facilitates the production of milk and milk products, juice, honey, wine and vinegar. Production occurs in small-scale factories owned by the Directorate. Production is limited primarily to Ankara, though it has seventeen distributors in thirteen cities.

Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Board (TAPDK)

TAPDK's Website: www.tapdk.gov.tr

TAPDK is responsible for regulating the tobacco and alcohol markets. The Board was established following the privatization of the state monopoly over the products in order to prevent market failure. Regulation was also seen as necessary because the products have strategic importance in terms of public health. TAPDK is also responsible for regulating the cultivation, import, export, and sale of tobacco, as well as the manufacture of tobacco products. In brief, it works toward the sustainability of tobacco cultivation. Alcohol importers must apply to TABDK for an import certificate.

Note: Currency conversions are as of November 27, 2015: \$1USD = 2.89 Turkish Lira (TL).