



T.C.
MERSİN VALİLİĞİ
İL TARIM VE ORMAN MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ

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A. PARTNER ORGANISATION

Full legal name (National Language)	Mersin İl Tarım ve Orman Müdürlüğü
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Mersin Directorate of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry
Acronym	N/A
National ID (if applicable) organization ID	E10149940
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B. PROFILE

Type of Organization	Local Organization
Is the partner organization a public body?	Public Institutions
Is the partner organization a non-profit?	Yes
Date of foundation	01/01/1960

C. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Please briefly present the partner organization.

The Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry is a public institution responsible for overseeing and facilitating various aspects of agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, and rural development. The Directorate operates through 14 service buildings, including 13 district offices and a provincial office. It employs 1,148 personnel with diverse

expertise, including agricultural engineers, food engineers, veterinarians, industrial engineers, civil engineers, architects, landscape architects, surveyors, and statisticians.

1) Duties of Departments

I. Coordination and Agricultural Data Department

- Identifies challenges faced by farmers and coordinates solutions with research institutions.
- Prepares agricultural extension programs tailored to address local agricultural needs.
- Organizes and supervises vocational and non-vocational training programs, including formal, non-formal, and informal education outside the standard education system (primary, secondary, high school, and university levels). These programs also include internships to equip participants with practical skills.
- Collects, analyzes, and maintains agricultural statistics and inventory data.
- Provides training and awareness programs on agricultural insurance and risk management.
- Coordinates inter-departmental activities within the Directorate and supports field operations.
- Houses a dedicated 9-person project unit responsible for managing and coordinating Erasmus+ projects and other national and international initiatives.

II. Fisheries Department

- Ensures the sustainable management of fisheries resources and aquaculture development projects.
- Regulates and monitors fishing activities, including the prevention of illegal and unregulated fishing.
- Conducts educational programs for fishermen and maintains data collection systems related to fisheries.
- Oversees fishing permits, aquaculture area management, and the enforcement of environmental regulations.

III. Animal Health and Breeding Department

- Protects animal health and welfare, combating diseases and implementing preventive measures.
- Supervises animal identification and movement within the province and ensures compliance with national health standards for imports and exports.
- Supports breeding programs, artificial insemination, and veterinary services to improve livestock production.

IV. Crop Production and Plant Health Department

- Develops crop patterns suitable for the region and implements sustainable agricultural practices.
- Manages plant diseases and pests using modern, eco-friendly methods.
- Oversees the production, certification, and distribution of seeds, seedlings, and saplings.

V. Rural Development and Organization Department

- Encourages the formation of farmer cooperatives and associations.
- Implements projects to improve rural employment and promote agricultural entrepreneurship.
- Facilitates the processing and marketing of agricultural products to boost local economies.

VI. Land Consolidation and Agricultural Infrastructure Department

- Coordinates land use and soil protection projects to optimize agricultural productivity.
- Develops irrigation systems and modernizes drainage infrastructures.
- Manages land consolidation projects to ensure efficient land use and sustainability.

VII. Meadow and Pasture Department

- Protects and improves meadows, pastures, and rangelands through conservation and rehabilitation projects.
- Supports the production of quality forage crops and develops artificial pasture areas to enhance livestock feed availability.
- Promotes the adoption of silage-making and sustainable livestock feed practices.

VIII. Administrative and Financial Affairs Department

- Manages the Directorate's assets, facilities, and personnel operations.
- Oversees budgeting, procurement, and logistics processes.
- Organizes in-service training programs for staff and ensures the functionality of IT infrastructure.

IX. Food and Feed Department

- Ensures food and feed safety to protect consumer and public health in accordance with ministry regulations.
- Manages permits, registrations, inspections, and controls for the production, processing, sale, and marketing of food, food additives, and materials in contact with food.
- Oversees food safety during import and export operations and monitors organic and good agricultural practices.
- Handles consumer complaints and conducts residue monitoring and inspections through projects and hotlines.
- Certifies, monitors, and inspects laboratories and facilities involved in food and feed production and sales.
- Conducts public education programs for farmers, children, women, and youth regarding food safety and related technologies.

The Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, with its extensive expertise and structured departments, plays a vital role in supporting agricultural production, promoting rural development, and ensuring sustainability in the region. Its programs and projects are strategically designed to enhance local agricultural productivity, address rural challenges, and foster economic growth.

2) Social Duties

Supporting Young Farmers; The Directorate offers comprehensive support to young farmers, including financial assistance, vocational training, and entrepreneurship development opportunities. It organizes tailored training programs to enhance agricultural skills and provides project-based support to help young farmers establish and grow their businesses. Additionally, internship programs for individuals aged 15-29 equip participants with essential vocational skills, preparing them for successful careers in agriculture and related fields. The Directorate also facilitates access to modern agricultural technologies and practices, empowering young farmers to adopt innovative and sustainable farming methods.

Providing Support to Rural Families; To enhance the quality of life in rural areas, the Directorate addresses the fundamental needs of rural families, including health, education, housing, and social security. Its programs aim to reduce rural disparities by fostering economic stability and improving access to essential services. Through rural development initiatives, the Directorate ensures that families in remote areas receive adequate support to sustain their livelihoods.

Promoting Agricultural Development; The Directorate plays a critical role in agricultural development by providing extensive training, consultancy, and technical support to farmers. It promotes sustainable and innovative agricultural practices, helping farmers increase productivity while preserving environmental resources. Departments such as Crop Production and Plant Health and Land Consolidation collaborate to implement projects that optimize agricultural production, protect soil and water resources, and enhance farm management techniques.

Supporting Agricultural Tourism Activities; By integrating tourism into the agricultural sector, the Directorate supports activities such as farm tourism, organic agriculture, and the development of local products. These initiatives not only preserve cultural heritage but also provide alternative income sources for rural families, contributing to local economic development. The Directorate encourages farmers to adopt eco-tourism and agri-tourism practices, aligning with environmental sustainability goals.

Protection of Agricultural Culture and Heritage; The Directorate actively works to preserve and promote local agricultural traditions, products, and cuisine. It supports the conservation of cultural assets, such as traditional farming techniques and regional crops, ensuring they are passed down to future generations. This effort fosters a sense of identity and pride among rural communities while contributing to the diversification of agricultural activities.

Addressing Rural Unemployment; Rural unemployment is tackled through comprehensive training programs designed to equip local residents with job-ready skills. These programs include technical training in modern farming methods, animal husbandry, and food processing, as well as vocational education for non-agricultural professions. By supporting cooperative farming models and encouraging entrepreneurial ventures, the Directorate helps boost employment opportunities and stimulates economic growth in rural areas.

What are the activities and experience of the organization in the areas relevant for this application?

As the Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, we are dedicated to advancing agricultural production, supporting rural development, and fostering innovation in alignment with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's strategic priorities. With a highly skilled workforce, a robust operational infrastructure, and deep expertise in agriculture and rural development, our directorate offers comprehensive support and solutions to address local, regional, and international challenges. Below is a professional overview of our activities and areas of expertise:

Institutional Capacity and Resources

Our directorate employs **1,148 personnel**, including **559 agricultural engineers**, **178 veterinarians**, and specialized technical staff. We operate across **13 district directorates**, equipped with **132 vehicles** to ensure effective delivery of services and field operations. These resources enable us to implement large-scale projects, deliver training programs, and provide technical support efficiently.

1. Youth and Farmer Training Programs

We organize extensive training programs to develop professional competencies in agriculture, livestock, and sustainable farming practices. In **2023**, we conducted **536 training activities**, engaging **9,954 participants** through farmer meetings, workshops, and demonstrations. Key initiatives include:

- **Certified Education Programs:** Offering specialized courses to enhance skills and integrate new technologies.
- **Youth-Specific Training Modules:** Tailored programs focusing on innovative agricultural techniques and entrepreneurship.

2. Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship and Rural Development

Our directorate plays a crucial role in empowering young farmers and entrepreneurs by providing:

- **Financial Support and Grants:** Through programs like the **Young Entrepreneurs Initiative**, offering up to **70% grant subsidies** for projects such as beekeeping and strawberry cultivation.
- **Business Development Support:** Guidance on planning, marketing, and securing funding to establish sustainable agricultural enterprises.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Initiatives such as the **Rural Disadvantaged Areas Development Project (KDAKP)** have supported **286 rural communities**, benefiting hundreds of young and disadvantaged individuals with solar systems, mechanized tools, and irrigation infrastructure.

3. Environmental and Sustainable Agriculture Projects

We are committed to environmental conservation and sustainable practices, as demonstrated by:

- **Organic and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP):** Implemented across **76,091 decares** of land in 2023, ensuring eco-friendly production.
- **Water Resource Management:** Infrastructure projects like **geomembrane irrigation pools** and **subsurface irrigation systems** to combat water scarcity and improve efficiency.
- **Climate Adaptation Initiatives:** Programs promoting practices to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as biological pest control in citrus production.

4. Enhancing Food Safety and Animal Health

Ensuring compliance with international standards, our directorate conducted **27,878 inspections** in 2024 to guarantee food safety and improve public health. We also:

- Delivered training on animal welfare, disease prevention, and proper feeding practices.
- Promoted sustainable livestock farming, making Mersin the **leader in goat production in Turkey** with **777,803 head of goats** and **1.5 million small ruminants**.

5. Empowering Women in Agriculture

As the Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, we are committed to enhancing the integration of women into agricultural production processes and strengthening their contributions to rural development. We provide targeted training programs and grant support to women producers, enabling them to improve their agricultural skills, actively participate in economic activities, and achieve sustainable income.

Our initiatives focus on equipping women with knowledge and skills in modern agricultural techniques, crop diversification, organic farming, marketing strategies, and the use of agricultural technologies. In addition, we offer grant support to provide women farmers with essential resources such as agricultural equipment, seedlings, and other inputs, helping them establish new businesses or expand existing ones.

By empowering women in agriculture, we contribute to both rural development and gender equality. Our directorate is dedicated to scaling up and expanding these activities to ensure that women play an increasingly active role in the agricultural sector and beyond.

6. Supporting Agricultural Innovation and Research

As the Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, we prioritize innovation and research and development (R&D) to enhance efficiency and sustainability in agricultural production. Our activities focus on agricultural mechanization, biotechnology, crop diversification, efficient use of natural resources, and eco-friendly production techniques.

Our R&D efforts include developing crop varieties tailored to local conditions, promoting biological control methods to reduce chemical use, introducing modern irrigation systems,

and optimizing the use of agricultural inputs. We also provide training to farmers on the integration of new technologies into agricultural practices and implement pilot projects to ensure the practical application of these innovations.

These activities not only increase the competitiveness of our farmers but also contribute to the conservation of natural resources. With a strong emphasis on innovation and R&D, our directorate continues to lead efforts in modernizing agricultural production and driving sustainable development in the sector.

Strategic Objectives and Alignment with International Policies

As the Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, our activities are designed not only to align with national strategic priorities but also to reflect the goals outlined in European Union policy frameworks and global commitments. Our work spans agriculture, food security, livestock management, and production, adopting a holistic approach that integrates environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and economic resilience.

European Green Deal

In alignment with the European Green Deal, our institution prioritizes sustainable agricultural practices, the reduction of carbon emissions, and the integration of circular economy principles into production processes. We actively support initiatives such as modern irrigation technologies, biological pest control methods, and the adoption of renewable energy systems to minimize environmental impact and enhance resource efficiency.

Paris Agreement

We uphold the objectives of the Paris Agreement by fostering low-carbon production models and implementing practices aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change. Our efforts include strengthening local resilience to climate challenges, promoting sustainable production techniques, and safeguarding food security, all in line with the principles of this landmark agreement.

Erasmus+ Inclusion Strategy and Quality Standards

Fully adhering to the principles of inclusion, diversity, and sustainability outlined in the Erasmus+ program, we develop inclusive projects targeting disadvantaged groups, youth, and women. Through capacity-building initiatives such as entrepreneurship training for young farmers and support programs for women producers, we promote social equity and economic participation while equipping individuals with the skills needed to adapt to modern production methods.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Our activities directly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly **Zero Hunger** (SDG 2), **Responsible Consumption and Production** (SDG 12), and **Climate Action** (SDG 13). By advancing sustainable production techniques, protecting natural resources, and raising environmental awareness, we ensure measurable contributions to these global objectives.

Comprehensive and Integrated Approach

Our work goes beyond agriculture, addressing critical areas such as food safety, animal health, energy efficiency, and rural development through an interdisciplinary perspective. By fostering national and international partnerships, we implement innovative and effective solutions aligned with both local needs and global sustainability targets.

As the Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, we are committed to supporting not only regional development but also the shared goals of the European Union and the global community. This vision positions our institution as a reliable partner and leader in sustainable development on both national and international platforms.

Conclusion

As the Mersin Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, we leverage our expertise, institutional capacity, and strategic initiatives to contribute significantly to agricultural sustainability, rural development, and youth empowerment. With a proven track record in implementing impactful projects and fostering innovation, our directorate is well-positioned to play a vital role in this application, ensuring long-term benefits for all stakeholders involved.

D. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

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Mr. Yunus Tan, graduated from the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering at Van Yüzüncü Yıl University in 2011, earning the title of Agricultural Engineer. He began his professional career at the Gülnar District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, where he worked from 2011 to 2016. During this period, he successfully coordinated and completed numerous government, social, and private projects, showcasing his strong project management skills. His exceptional performance led to his appointment as a Project Specialist at the Governorship of Mersin in 2016, where he expanded his contributions to rural development and social initiatives.

In 2017, Yunus Tan was appointed as the Director of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry in Mersin, a role in which he continues to excel. Throughout his career, he has prepared, coordinated, supervised, and completed 15 government projects, 50 social projects, and 60 private projects, demonstrating his ability to deliver impactful results across various sectors.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Yunus Tan actively supports entrepreneurship projects aimed at empowering the workforce in rural areas. He provides guidance to young entrepreneurs in developing business ideas, creating business plans, and conducting cost analyses. These initiatives focus on facilitating access to financial resources and creating employment opportunities, ultimately revitalizing local economies and fostering sustainable development.

As the leader of a 10-member Research and Development (R&D) unit, Yunus Tan plays a pivotal role in managing innovative projects and exploring new technologies. Under his leadership, the R&D team has successfully developed and implemented forward-thinking strategies to address challenges in agriculture and rural development. His commitment to innovation and strategic project management has significantly contributed to the advancement of rural economies and the empowerment of local communities.