

# Virus

or

# poverty?



**Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and their Children and on Crop Farming**



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# Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and their Children and on Crop Farming

## A Rapid Assessment

### Prepared by

Dr. Besim Can Zırh

Dr. İlhan Zeynep Karakılıç

Özgür Çetinkaya

Selin Ayaeş

Ayşe Özsoy

Ertan Karabıyık

### Data entry and analysis

Özgür Çetinkaya

### Maps and photographs

Kalkınma Atölyesi

### Contributed by

Nejat Kocabay

Ceren Ababay Tosyalı

### Designed by

Kurtuluş Karaşın Chart Tasarım

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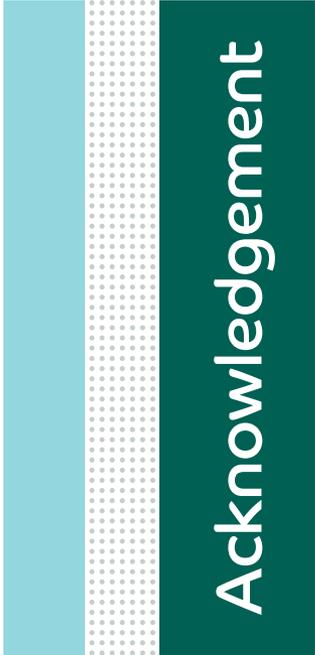


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Çankaya Mah. Üsküp Cad. 16/14 Çankaya - Ankara / (541) 457 31 90



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## Foreword

The novel coronavirus pandemic, known as Covid-19 affected all countries globally after which countries immediately started to take various precautions including introduction of quarantines, restrictions on movement and keeping international visitors out in order to prevent the further spread of the virus and eventually to keep it under control. People are called to stay at their homes voluntarily or through curfews, and social distance is practiced to avoid infection and protect others.

One of the measures taken in this respect is the “Stay at Home” approach adopted worldwide. However, it is not possible for a significant part of the population to follow this approach since their mobility is very important to sustain global and national supply chains, given some fundamental needs, services and economic activities. Farmers who are engaged in agricultural activities, local agricultural workers and seasonal migrant agricultural workers constitute a part of this population.

Like many other places in the world, seasonal migrant agricultural workers also play an important role in Turkey in maintaining crop farming activities. In the months of March and April of 2020, some seasonal migrant agricultural workers were already working in crop fields and orchards while others were preparing to move to other places to take part in farming activities.

Measures taken at both national and local levels deeply affected their preparations as well as travel, accommodation and working conditions. The case was quite different this time including getting official permission to move from one province to another, organizing their accommodation /camping sites in compliance with measures in effect, reaching their places of work and abiding by rules applicable to their working environments.

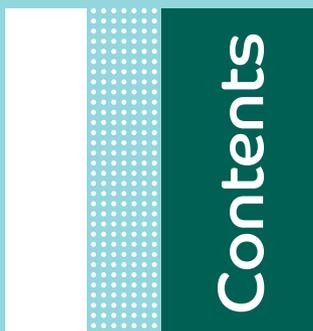
This rapid assessment focuses on the situation of those engaged in seasonal agricultural work and others in the process of migration in March-April 2020, what course the process may take and how existing bottlenecks can be overcome.

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children have already been facing difficult conditions even before the Covid-19 outbreak; now some have yet not started working, some are preparing for travel and others are currently working in crop fields under this unexpected condition. These workers and their families keep staying in tent camps where risks are even greater with the recent outbreak while continuing their work in crop fields and orchards.

As the Development Workshop we hope to contribute to measures for protecting all vulnerable actors engaging in agricultural production including seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children in the first place. We also aim to increase public awareness about how important roles seasonal agricultural workers play in sustaining global and national food supply chains and agricultural production should be understood as a whole system. With our wish to see the end of the outbreak in the shortest time possible along with the realization of decent working conditions in agricultural production.

**Development Workshop**

1 May 2020, Ankara



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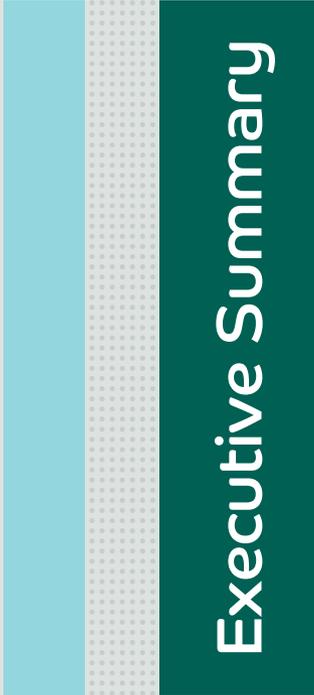
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\* Tables and maps indicated in the report were prepared as part of another work and are attached to the Turkish version of the report; were preserved in Turkish and as photograph in English version of the study since they contain elements that support this study.

## ACRONYMS

<b>AFAD</b>	Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency
<b>ASTAC</b>	The Agricultural Workers and Peasants' Trade Union Association (Ecuador)
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>İPK</b>	Provincial Pandemic Commission
<b>İŞKUR</b>	Turkish Employment Agency
<b>İUHK</b>	Provincial Public Health Board
<b>METİP</b>	Project for Improving Working and Social Life of Seasonal Agricultural Workers
<b>MoNE</b>	Ministry of National Education
<b>MTİK</b>	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Boards
<b>TBMM</b>	Grand National Assembly of Turkey
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>YKS</b>	Higher Education Institutions Admittance Test
<b>YÖK</b>	Council of Higher Education



## Executive Summary

The Covid-19 outbreak which first started in China and then spread throughout the world had its effects on Turkey from early March and led to the cessation or slowing down of production in many sectors. Agriculture is among these sectors. Hundreds of thousands of workers move from one place to another within the country every year for a period that may extend over ten months following the seasons of various crops. Measures adopted to combat the outbreak have already started to affect seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children in the context of various crops and farming locations.

Taking a look at present year work plans of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed, we see that 10,000 agricultural workers they represent will be on the move, starting from April 2020, for a period of 5 months covering 20 provinces. Considering hundreds of thousands of workers engaged in agricultural production in Turkey, this mobility entails significant risks for these workers, their children and local population in provinces/districts they will be moving to.

Meanwhile, during interviews conducted with farmers and agricultural chambers in sample provinces of Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Düzce, Eskişehir, Hatay, İzmir, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Mersin, Ordu, Giresun, İstan-

bul and Şanlıurfa, it was stated that production would be affected with decreased yield and output in some crops compared to earlier years, if seasonal migrant labour force that is needed cannot come. Consequently, interruptions in food supply chains may emerge in case of specific needs arising from the mobility of seasonal agricultural labour are not taken into account while designing measures to combat and control the outbreak.

Given this, the major objective of the assessment is to expose the risks that confront, in the context of the global Covid-19 pandemic, seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children as one of the most vulnerable and invisible groups in society and to contribute to the development of policies to minimize these risks. The study will also analyse possible effects of the losses of workforce and work which are the results of the measures taken against the outbreak on agricultural production and daily life in general.

In this context the rapid assessment report first presents a framework related to what is happening in the world in relation to the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on agricultural production. This is followed by an analysis on how counter-outbreak measures adopted in Turkey in the period 25 March – 15 April 2020 affected the employment of migrant agricultural workers in the sample provinces of Adana, Ankara, Bolu, Çorum, Giresun, Isparta, Konya and Sakarya.

The assessment was designed to reach four fundamental data sets by using three different methods. The first is the desk study carried out by the research team. Developments taking place in the world and in Turkey in the period 15 March 2020 – 20 April 2020 were followed on the press and statements made by relevant agencies and the survey design was completed on the basis of findings obtained from this assessment.

Secondly, the Development Workshop created a Whatsapp (now including more than 80 members) group through contacts established during various past activities which is composed of actors and institutional representatives from a variety of areas. This ensured continuously updated information flow from different localities and actors and made it possible to confirm information obtained when necessary. In the context of counter-outbreak activities, an institutional capacity assessment was made with this communication platform comprising the United Nations (UN) agencies, agricultural intermediaries, private firms, professional organizations and participants from civil society to disseminate, update and discuss the outcomes of the assessment.

Thirdly, telephone interviews conducted in the period 6-12 April 2020 with two major clusters on the current situation, possible developments and sug-

gestions for solutions. The first cluster consists of 70 agricultural intermediaries out of a universe of 298 as distributed by regions/crops. 70 intermediaries selected for interviewing to over at least 12 provinces receiving seasonal workers (Primarily Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Düzce, Eskişehir, Hatay, İzmir, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Mersin and Ordu). The second cluster is composed of 34 interviewees. They are representatives of public agencies, farmers' unions, civil society organizations, private sector firms, agricultural chambers and professional organizations from at least 10 provinces (Primarily Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Düzce, Eskişehir, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Ordu and Şanlıurfa) in addition to the staff from international organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization and United Nations Population Fund).

It is observed that among measures adopted to combat the disease, curfew, travel restrictions and other measures related to accommodation and hygiene conditions will have significant effects on agricultural production and some uncertainties related to enforcement will further aggravate these effects.

Presently, as documented long ago, inadequate and unfavourable living and sheltering conditions prevailing in temporary tent camps rooming in many seasonal migrant workers affect the health status of workers and their families and now they further aggravate health risks in the face of the outbreak. Thus, necessary measures must be introduced in these areas and regular health examinations must be conducted while informing workers about the outbreak and symptoms of the disease. Further, necessary support in necessary materials (i.e. soap, water, antibacterial jells, etc.) to ensure that recommendations related to personal hygiene are actually implemented.

Interviews with agricultural intermediaries suggest that measures related to travel in particular will increase the cost of travel for agricultural workers. The government must adopt necessary measures to cover this unexpected increase in cost and introduce solutions to provide adequate means of transportation to workers.

In order to keep possible effects of the Covid-19 on crop farming seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children under control, there is need for a body to coordinate and conciliate central decision making in agricultural production and specific needs arising from production processes in different provinces. This body or institution must remain in fruitful consultation and communication with important actors in agricultural production including agricultural intermediaries, local headmen, relevant professional organizations, civil society organizations and private sector firms. This suggestion is further detailed in the conclusion part of the report.

Part I

Introduction





As it is known, the Covid-19 outbreak which first started in China and then spread throughout the world had its effects on Turkey from the first week of March, 2020 and led to the cessation or slowing down of production in many sectors. Crop farming is one of these sectors and the outbreak manifested its effects in various ways in locations and crops in which seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children take part in agricultural production.

It is known that migrant workers<sup>1</sup> and seasonal migrant agricultural workers including their children are employed in agricultural production in Turkey in almost all regions and crops. The Development Workshop has, since 2002, conducted and released many studies on these processes.<sup>2</sup>

The previous field surveys that the Development Workshop conducted, with the support of UNICEF-Turkey, in 2019 in provinces where seasonal migrant agricultural workers are employed (Adana, Bursa, Eskişehir, Manisa, Ankara and Konya) show that these workers take part in almost all phases in crop farming throughout the year in Adana and in April-November in other provinces. Starting with spring every year, hundreds of thousands of seasonal migrant agricultural workers start moving from southern provinces of the country to northern and western parts together with their children as a part of their subsistence strategy. This mobility may give rise to two negative consequences with respect to the protection of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children from the virus and sound application of measures in localities they are moving together.

## Objective of the Rapid Assessment

The major objective of the rapid assessment work<sup>3</sup> is to expose the risks that confront, in the context of the global Covid-19 pandemic, seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children as one of the most vulnerable and invisible groups in society and to contribute to the development of policies to minimize these risks. Also assessed in the same context are work/labour losses that may be incurred in agricultural production and the effects of the emergency on daily life and crop farming. Given these, the objectives of the rapid assessment can be summarized as follows:

- Exposing the current state of affairs through interviews with agricultural intermediaries by focusing on how seasonal migrant agricultural workers are affected by the outbreak, measures adopted and level of awareness,
- Discerning the impact of the outbreak on child labour<sup>4</sup> in particular as a part of migrant agricultural works,
- Assessing the outbreak from the work safety and health status of seasonal migrant agricultural workers,
- Exposing possible inter-regional and inter-provincial mobility and migration routes of seasonal migrant agricultural workers,
- Identifying fundamental needs in spaces where seasonal workers gather with specific reference to the outbreak,
- Exhibiting measures adopted/planned by employers (landowners, firms, tradesmen), professional organizations and relevant government agencies,
- Assessing possible job losses and their effect on the subsistence of seasonal migrant agricultural workers,
- Identifying areas of communication and action (i.e. in health, food, cleaning materials, transportation, etc.) among employers, agricultural intermediaries, workers and relevant authorities in emergencies,
- Assessing how crop farming will be affected by labour mobility and developing suggestions.

## Methodology of Rapid Assessment

The preparation and planning phase of rapid assessment started in mid-March 2020 following the emergence of the first Covid-19 case in Turkey. Getting together, the research team quickly created a database of agricultural intermediaries identified as the group from which necessary data could be obtained by collecting their contact information from various institutions and organizations. Meanwhile, institutions and actors in various provinces with roles and responsibilities related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers and who will be counselled to in various issues related to the theme. Then, rapid assessment tools for both agricultural intermediaries and institutional interviews were developed and implementation took place in the between 6-12 April 2020.

In rapid assessment, three different methods were used together with four different data sets in a way to support each other:



**Desk Review:** Rapid assessment team followed and kept an archive of national and worldwide debates and discussions concerning the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on agricultural production and developed a current state analysis. This work served as an important point of reference in developing the overall framework and keeping track of the process.

**Platform of key actors/institutions:** A WhatsApp group was created for purposes of sharing information and experience comprising staff and representatives from organizations who had a past record of engagement in program, projects and activities related to seasonal agricultural workers on the basis of relations and contacts that the Development Workshop established. This communication platform whose participants exceeded 80 persons in the process ensured significant information flow on rele-

vant developments taking place and how decisions were implemented in different provinces. Furthermore, an institutional capacity assessment was made with the participation of United Nations (BM) agencies, firms and civil society participants to disseminate update and discuss the outcomes of the current rapid assessment.

**Questionnaire for agricultural intermediaries:** As a part of rapid assessment, data from agricultural intermediaries as one of the two major target groups were collected through telephone interviews. Data is collected from interviews with 70 out of 107 agricultural intermediaries who were selected among 298 according to the basis of regions/crops. Questionnaires were administered through phone between 6-12 April 2020. Following these interviews with 70 intermediaries, 7 intermediaries were interviewed again between 8-20 April 2020 in order to update some earlier information in the light of more recent developments.

**Interviews with institutions:** There were phone interviews with 34 key actors from public bodies (municipality, governorate), farmers' unions, civil society organizations, private sector firms, academics, international organizations and professional organizations in the second target group provinces which were Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Düzce, Eskişehir, Hatay, İzmir, Konya, Malatya, Mersin, Ordu/Giresun, İstanbul and Şanlıurfa (Table1).

**Map 1.** Provinces covered by the service network of institutions

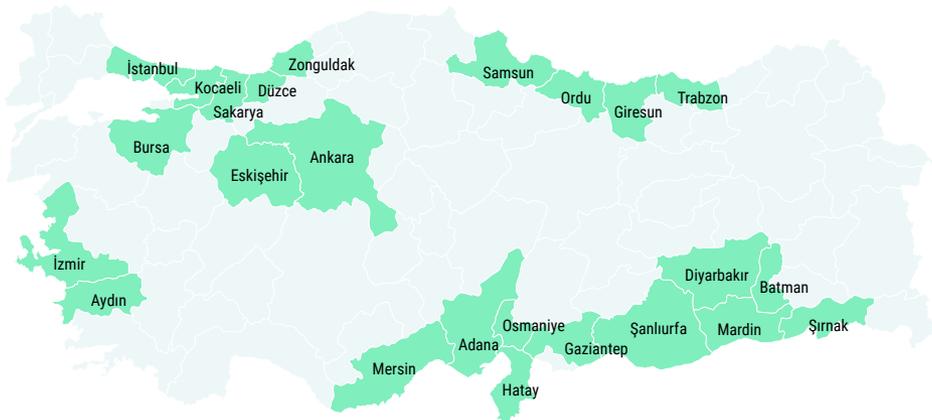


Table 1. Distribution of persons interviewed by institutions and provinces

Provinces	Governorate/Government Agencies	Agricul-tural Cham-ber	Firm/Far-mer/Farm-ers'Organi-zations	Civil Society/professional organizations	Internat. Organi-zations / UN Agencies	Munici-pality	Academic/Expert	Total
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Adana	1	2		2	1	1		7
Ankara	3	1			2		1	7
Bursa		1		1				2
Düzce		1						1
Eskişehir	1			1				2
Hatay			1					1
İzmir				1				1
Konya		1						1
Malatya		1						1
Mersin		1		1		1	1	4
Ordu/Giresun		1	1	2				4
İstanbul			1		2			3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>

Developments related to the issue were followed in three different ways with four basic data sets based on these three methods in order to understand the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak on crop farming, seasonal migrant agricultural workers engaged in it and their children and to formulate suggestions on these effects:

**(a)** Desk review was used on the effects of counter Covid-19 measures adopted at national and province level on crop farming and the lives of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children.

**(b)** In the light of experiences and opinions of various actors of crop farming in different provinces concerning how measures can be implemented an assessment is made about how seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families may be affected from the process.

**(c)** Interviews were conducted also with agricultural intermediaries to see how these measures and practices have already started to affect seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families.

## Agricultural Intermediaries Survey Universe and Sample

During the preparation stage of rapid assessment, the Development Workshop developed an agricultural intermediary database consisting of 298 persons on the basis of previous research and intermediary-related information from national and local level partnerships. Database contains simple information including the name of the intermediary, communication information, home province and provinces of work. Given the limited period of time available it was decided to conduct interviews with 70 intermediaries. Interviews given in Table 2 below were realized by allocating the number of envisaged interviews proportionally to provinces according to the number of intermediaries in respective provinces.

The plan was to interview 73 intermediaries by also including provinces that are represented by two or one intermediary in the database (i.e. Hatay, Bitlis, Batman, etc.). Randomly selected 107 agricultural intermediaries were called by phone between 6-12 April 2020 and 70 of them were interviewed (Table 2, Map 2). 37 intermediaries could not be interviewed because their phones were turned off, they refused to be interviewed or they changed their phone numbers. (Table 3).

**Table 2.** Province-based distribution of interviews with agricultural intermediaries that were planned at the preparation stage and then realized

Province	Distribution/ No.	No. of planned interviews	No. of actually realized interviews
↓	↓	↓	↓
Adana	48	11	10
Adıyaman	1	1	1
Batman	2	2	
Bitlis	1	1	1
Bursa	1	1	1
Diyarbakır	37	8	12
Hatay	1	1	1
Konya	45	10	6
Mardin	7	2	1
Mersin	1	1	1
Şanlıurfa	118	27	28
Unknown	36	8	8
<b>Sum Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>

**Map 2.** Province-based distribution of interviews with agricultural intermediaries that were planned at the preparation stage and then realized



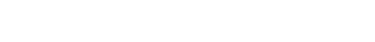
**Table 3.** Reasons why interviews could not be conducted with 37 agricultural intermediaries

State of interviews	No.
↓	↓
Could not be reached (phone is on-hook)	16
Wrong phone number	5
Not practicing mediation	5
Seasonal migrant agricultural worker	4
Intermediary does not want to speak	5
No. of incomplete cancelled interviews	2
Total	37

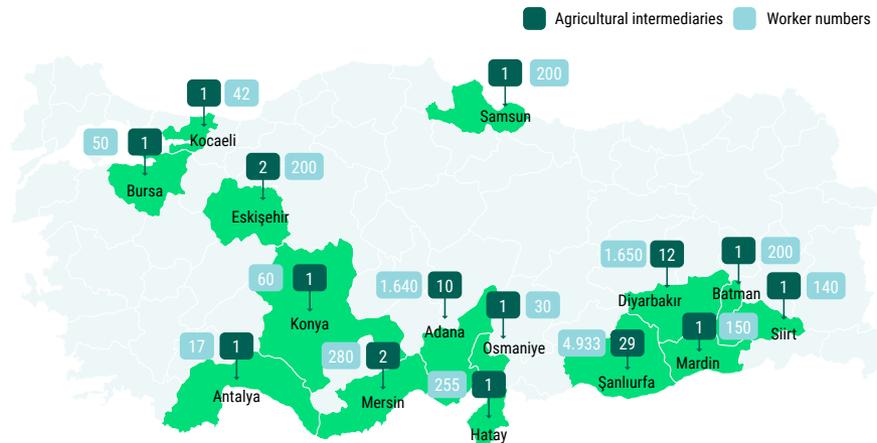
Table 4 gives the distribution of provinces where agricultural intermediaries were registered to the database at the time of interviews. At the top of this list we find Şanlıurfa with 29 intermediaries (41.4 per cent), Adana with 13 (18.6 per cent) and Diyarbakır with 12 (17.1 per cent). Interviews were with intermediaries from 16 provinces in total.

Province wise differences between interviews planned in line with the intermediary database and actually realized interviews that are observed in the first instance can be explained by two factors. First, agricultural intermediaries appear in the database with their original province, where they reside or where they work. For example, intermediaries entered into database from Konya mostly reside in Şanlıurfa province and during interviews these intermediaries said they were still in Şanlıurfa and they did not move yet. Second, agricultural intermediaries are mostly registered with Şanlıurfa, Adana, Konya and Diyarbakır. According to the database there are intermediaries mediating employment in Konya province and specify this province as their working place while they actually reside in Şanlıurfa as it became clear during interviews. Thus, the difference observed in province wise distribution of intermediaries derives from the different working in practice of the province category specified in the database. Nevertheless, the research team managed to conduct interviews

**Table 4.** Provinces where agricultural intermediaries were present during interview

Province you are presently in	No.	Percentage	
↓	↓	↓	
Şanlıurfa	29	41.4	
Adana	13	18.6	
Diyarbakır	12	17.1	
Konya	1	1.4	
Mersin	2	2.9	
Kocaeli	1	1.4	
Bursa	1	1.4	
Batman	1	1.4	
Osmaniye	1	1.4	
Eskişehir	2	2.9	
Antalya	1	1.4	
Hatay	2	2.9	
Mardin	1	1.4	
Samsun	1	1.4	
Manisa	1	1.4	
Siirt	1	1.4	
Total	70	100.0	

**Map 3.** Provinces where agricultural intermediaries were present during interview



with 70 intermediaries from 16 different provinces which made it possible to gather opinions about the state of intermediaries and seasonal migrant agricultural workers and the potential impact of outbreak measures on agricultural production in a fairly large geographical area.

21 agricultural intermediaries interviewed for the assessment had just arrived in their regions when interviews were conducted. 9 of the intermediaries stated that workers they related with were those not coming from elsewhere but living in the same place. Remaining 12 intermediaries, 10 were from Şanlıurfa, one from Şırnak and one from Mardin presently in their working provinces (Eskişehir, Bursa, Manisa, Konya, Antalya, Mersin and Adana). The rest (49 intermediaries) had not started to work yet.

### Limitations of the Rapid Assessment

The assessment seeking to find out the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children had to deal with two important limitations from the start. The first one is that phone interviews were different from our earlier experiences. The second was the weight of the uncertainty deriving from impossibility of predicting the course of the outbreak and absence of any experience related to the actual enforcement of decisions and measures taken since it was very early in the working season. This uncertainty embracing all actors concerned had its effects on responses given to the questions.



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Migration is a population movement from one region to another that people participate to work, live or settle regardless of its duration, composition or main reason. This movement covers refugees, displaced persons, people who have been forced out and economic migrants. The term migrant is used to describe a person who changes place within the country or beyond borders. The United Nations defines migrant as a person who stays in a foreign country longer than a year regardless of motives, whether it is voluntary or not, migration routes and whether the movement is regulated or not (IOM 2009:22).
- <sup>2</sup> [www.ka.org.tr/TumYayinlar](http://www.ka.org.tr/TumYayinlar)
- <sup>3</sup> Rapid Assessment is an important opportunity to gather information before designing any intervention; it is used to support or refine available data. Rapid assessment takes place in a relatively short period of time seeking answers to predetermined issues by using limited number of questions. It is carried out by using one or more participatory techniques including focus groups, participatory observation, basic information building, in-depth interviews or mapping, community mapping and seasonal calendars (<http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1541-rapid-assessments.html>).
- <sup>4</sup> According to the ILO child labour refers to work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. United Nations (UN) and UNICEF defines child labour as work that is “beyond minimum working hours and harmful to the child depending on the age of the child and nature of the work performed.” In national legislation child labour is defined in Article 4 of the Regulation on Rules and Procedures relating to the Employment of Child and Young Workers which is based on Article 71 of the Labour Code no. 4857. In this article child worker is the person who has completed age 14 but not 15 and yet without primary education diploma whereas young worker is over age 15 but under age 18. The same article also defines “light works” and provides that children and young people attending school may be employed in light works given that their employment does not interfere with their school attendance and performance and does not prevent their participation to vocational training (National Programme on Combating Child Labour, 2017-2023).

Part II

Seasonal Agricultural Labour in Turkey:  
A General Outlook





In the report released in 2015 by the parliamentary commission on seasonal agricultural workers of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM)<sup>1</sup> seasonal agricultural worker is defined as follows: “a person who is a citizen of the country or a migrant working permanently or seasonally in any phase of agricultural production including sowing, cultivation, pest control, harvesting, etc. on his own or another person’s plot in return for wage or payment in kind, with or without contract.” There are three types of labour in agricultural production: (i) unpaid family workers in their family enterprises, (ii) local agricultural workers, and (iii) seasonal migrant agricultural workers. *Unpaid family worker* is a family member taking part in farming activities in a family plot without being paid. *Local agricultural worker* is a term used to describe persons who temporarily, even for only one day, take part in nearby activities of crop farming, animal husbandry, beekeeping, forestry, fishing, etc. to earn income but is not permanently engaged in such activities. Local agricultural worker leaves home for work in the morning and returns in the evening. *Seasonal agricultural worker*, on the other hand, leaves his habitual residence and moves to another place to do these works.

There is no regular and reliable statistics in Turkey on the number of persons working in this area. There isn’t any quantitative information about seasonal migrant agricultural workers since they work in intervals, high volume of annual circulation and informal nature of their employment. Nevertheless, there are some estimations based on various research related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers and economic analysis

on labour-intensive agricultural production. In the case report released in May 2012 by the Seasonal Labour Migration Network<sup>2</sup> the number of seasonal migrant agricultural workers is given as 1 million together with their families based on data by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. It is stated that under the “Project for Improving Working and Social Life of Seasonal Agricultural Workers” (METİP) which was started in 2010 and still continuing 328,000 agricultural workers were delivered services in 38 different provinces between 2010-2014.<sup>3</sup> Given these and other similar services it can be said that each year about half million persons are engaged in seasonal migrant agricultural works in the context of labour-intensive farming.

In Turkey, seasonal migrant agricultural workers mostly from Eastern and South-eastern provinces take part in migration process and work in about 50 provinces of Turkey in specific periods of the year in soil preparation, sowing, planting, weeding, pest control, irrigation and harvesting. Their average period of work is 6-7 months. It is possible to work longer in southern provinces since there is farming throughout the year due to favourable climatic conditions. Geographical regions and major crops that are significant for seasonal labour are as follows: Black Sea Region (hazelnut, tea and vegetables); Aegean Region (fresh vegetables, tomato and grapes); Central Anatolia (legumes, sugar beet, vegetables, cumin, poppy, onion, seed production, fruit production); Mediterranean Region (citrus fruit, cotton and vegetables); South-eastern Anatolia (cotton, vegetables, pulses and pistachio).<sup>4</sup> While remaining long as a rural issue mainly deriving from rural inequalities, seasonal migrant agricultural labour today has a modified character also comprising rural poor and Syrians who fled their country because of civil war and presently under temporary protection in Turkey. In addition, Georgians engaged in tea and hazelnut harvesting in Eastern Black Sea Region, Azeri migrants in hay production in Kars and Ardahan provinces and Afghanis in animal stock management<sup>5</sup> are among other migrant workers.<sup>6</sup>

The actors in the first step of production with seasonal migrant labour consist of landowners, tradesmen, firms (employers), agricultural intermediaries and agricultural workers. Employers may be the owners of farming land including orchards as well as medium and large-scale food and seed companies, traders or commercial firms engaged in marketing. Agricultural intermediaries are persons who are known as *elçi* or *dayıbaşı* in Turkey who organize agricultural workforce and help supply

and demand meet. The job of agricultural intermediaries is regulated by the “Regulation on Job Mediation in Agriculture” issued in 2010 and they have to have an official certificate to do their job. However at present there are many intermediaries working without any certificate. Under the Labour code no. 4857 seasonal migrant agricultural workers have no social security coverage when the number of workers in a given enterprise is under 50 (Article 4). Though there is no exact figure, it can be said that the number of agricultural enterprises in Turkey employing over 50 workers is very few. Hence, seasonal agricultural workers work informally and without any social security.

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers work in districts/provinces that are different from their habitual residence. In their movements that take place mostly as households<sup>7</sup>, workers usually travel on minibuses with passengers exceeding their capacity. There are other cases where workers reach their working areas with their own vehicles. How and by whom transportation costs will be covered varies by destination provinces, regions, crops and oral agreements acted by intermediaries and employers. In general, however, workers themselves cover these costs

themselves. According to a study conducted by the Development Workshop Cooperative in 2018,<sup>8</sup> workers reach their working areas by minibuses, tractors or by walking. There is almost no working environment where one can find resting areas with decent conditions, eating places, toilets, hand washing facilities, and safe drinking and/or service water. It is commonly stated that necessary measures for work safety and health are mostly absent. As long as there is work to do and weather conditions allow workers to work 10-11 hours a day 7 days of the week.<sup>9</sup>

The provinces they travel to work, workers usually stay in temporary tent settlements they establish mostly near crop fields and orchards they work<sup>10</sup> or in shelters provided by public agencies though it is quite limited. These accommodation areas are far from offering decent conditions and cause many social and health-related problems. Tent camps near main roads and irrigation canals in particular pose significant risks to children. Electricity use is limited. Access to safe water is problematic, and outdoor lighting is almost totally absent posing more safety problems. There are makeshift facilities made by workers and used as toilet and bathing place. In short, there are many studies on this issue all pointing out to a variety of problems including irregular collection of wastes; absence of proper and sufficient sanitation; difficulty in access to safe drinking and service



water; limited availability of electricity; high risk of contagious diseases and outbreaks. It is a public health problem besides being a threat to individual workers.<sup>11</sup>

Considering these conditions, seasonal migrant agricultural labour in Turkey is a phenomenon characterized by poor standards of fundamental human rights and dignity, absence of many rights from social protection to wage levels and working hours because of poor legislation, informal conditions of supply and demand and high incidence of child labour.<sup>12</sup>



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> TBMM (2015) Report by the Parliamentary Investigation Commission set up to investigate the problems of seasonal agricultural workers
- <sup>2</sup> Kalkınma Atölyesi (2014) Fındık Hasadının Oyuncuları: Batı Karadeniz İllerinde Fındık Hasadında Yer Alan Mevsimlik Gezici Tarım İşçileri, Çocuklar, Tarım Araçları ve Bahçe Sahipleri Temel Araştırması.
- <sup>3</sup> Seasonal Labour Migration Communication Network (MIGA) (2012) Seasonal Labour Migration in Agriculture: A Summary of Situation in Turkey, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Istanbul. [www.fes-tuerkei.org/media/pdf/D%C3%BCnyadan/d%C3%BCnyadan\\_12%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.fes-tuerkei.org/media/pdf/D%C3%BCnyadan/d%C3%BCnyadan_12%20(1).pdf), first accessed: 21 April 2020

<sup>4</sup> [www.turktarim.gov.tr/Haber/267/mevsimlik-tarim-iscilerinin-hayat-sartlarinin-iyilestirilmesi-onceligimiz](http://www.turktarim.gov.tr/Haber/267/mevsimlik-tarim-iscilerinin-hayat-sartlarinin-iyilestirilmesi-onceligimiz), first accessed: 21 April 2020

<sup>5</sup> Çetinkaya, Ö. and Büke, A. (2009). “Army of The Bound Ones in Labour-intensive Agricultural Production: Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers in Turkey”, *Doğudan*, No: 12.

<sup>6</sup> Migration is a population movement from one region to another that people participate to work, live or settle regardless of its duration, composition or main reason. This movement covers refugees, displaced persons, people who have been forced out and economic migrants. The term migrant is used to describe a person who changes place within the country or beyond borders. The United Nations defines migrant as a person who stays in a foreign country longer than a year regardless of motives, whether it is voluntary or not, migration routes and whether the movement is regulated or not (IOM 2009:22). The official status of the majority of Syrians who had to take refuge in Turkey due to civil war in their country is “persons under temporary protection”. Instead of this official status, however, the present study will use the term migrant by recognizing the act of these people who had to move from one country to another to save their lives. The authors of the present report are aware that the term “migrant” has no legal meaning when Syrians are concerned.

<sup>7</sup> Development Workshop (2016), *From Shifts in Poverty to the Competition of the Poor: Current State Report on Foreign Migrant Workers in Seasonal Agricultural Production in Turkey*, Ankara. [www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/03/YOKSULLUK%20NÖBETİNDEN%20YOKSULLARIN%20REKABETİNE.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/03/YOKSULLUK%20NÖBETİNDEN%20YOKSULLARIN%20REKABETİNE.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> The Turkish Statistical Institution (TÜİK) defines household a community comprising more than one person who live in the same dwelling or then same part of a dwelling, cover their basic needs together and participating to household services and management regardless of any kinship tie. In this survey too, “household” is considered as group of persons acting together, living under the same roof, sharing their incomes and expenses ‘eating from the same kitchen’ regardless of kinship ties.

<sup>9</sup> Development Workshop (2018) *Child as a hope for the poor! Socioeconomic Profile of Agricultural Workers Families and Child Labour*, Ankara [www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/SOSYO-EKONOM%C4%B0K%20TR.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/SOSYO-EKONOM%C4%B0K%20TR.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Development Workshop, (2018) *Agricultural Intermediaries and Child Labour in Agricultural Production in Turkey*, Ankara, [www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/TARIM%20ARACILARI%20RAPOR%20\\_TR.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/TARIM%20ARACILARI%20RAPOR%20_TR.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Tent settlement (or tent camp area, staying place or living environment) are shelters along main or side roads, irrigation or drainage canals where nomadic communities or seasonal agricultural workers live in cloth or plastic material tents; these camps may be either compact or dispersed on various parts of a plain (Development Workshop, 2018).

<sup>12</sup> Development Workshop (2018) *Child as a hope for the poor! Seasonal Agricultural Worker Families and Child Labour*, Ankara [www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/SOSYO-EKONOM%C4%B0K%20TR.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/SOSYO-EKONOM%C4%B0K%20TR.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Development Workshop, (2018) *Agricultural Intermediaries and Child Labour in Agricultural Production in Turkey*, Ankara, [www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/TARIM%20ARACILARI%20RAPOR%20\\_TR.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/TARIM%20ARACILARI%20RAPOR%20_TR.pdf)

Part III

Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers  
in the World And Covid-19 Outbreak





The Covid-19 outbreak started in China in December 2019 first reached the borders of the European Union (EU) towards the end of February, then spread to the US and Canada which, among many others, brought the issue of international migrant agricultural workers to the agenda. Closing of borders was among the first measures adopted by developed countries of the global north. Consequently, temporary migrant workers who seasonally move to the countries of the EU and North America for employment in agriculture and in other sectors<sup>1</sup> started to make itself to the front pages of the leading international media after a long time. While the outbreak locked people in with curfews and quarantines people tended to stock food items which, in turn, raised the issues of agricultural production and food distribution, mobility of agricultural workers, and working and living conditions of these workers at both national and international levels. So citizens of European countries such as Germany, Spain, Poland, France, Italy, Norway and Finland as well as the US and Canada came to realize once more under what circumstances migrant or guest migrant workers are engaged in labour-intensive agriculture.

The Economist questions, “Who’ll collect crops when borders are closed?” in its April 2020 European Edition.<sup>2</sup> The question itself is indicative of the importance seasonal migrant agricultural workers in food supply chains. Meanwhile, the public opinion and “real citizens” of the European and North American countries now meet and face unfavourable working and living conditions of migrant workers who have long been omitted and now considered as “critical”.

The *Farm Worker Justice* is a US based non-profit organization working to improve working and living conditions, migration status, work safety and access to the judiciary of migrant /seasonal agricultural workers. This organization declared, in 2014, that there are 2.2 million migrant agricultural workers in the US based on 2011-2012 US agricultural labour force data. It is estimated that at least half of these workers are undocumented/irregular migrants.<sup>3</sup> The report “*Agricultural Employment in EU: Existing Challenges and Future Expectations*” released in October 2019 by the European Parliament Agriculture and Rural Development Commission indicates that more than 1.3 million people withdrew from agricultural works in the period 2011-2017 and the emerging gap was filled migrant workers coming from the EU or non-EU countries.<sup>4</sup> This data shows that manual labour based agricultural works in developed EU and North America countries are mostly organized with the availability of migrant workers, those who come from abroad seasonally. Given this, border closure and travel restriction measures in the context of the Covid-19 outbreak are of close and direct relevance to both agricultural enterprises in these countries and seasonal agricultural workers who cover these countries’ labour force gaps. Different from than the situation in Turkey, the issue of covering labour supply gap was of more concern in these countries which led governments to take some urgent measures. Meanwhile, as stated earlier, working and living conditions of migrant workers in their “host” countries led to the emergence of a public opinion covering wider sections of population.

In EU countries as well as in the US and Canada, either local or migrant seasonal agricultural workers employed in agriculture are considered as essential workforce and for the time being exempted from all transportation restrictions within countries. This is because the continuance of food supply is possible only with their employment in crop fields and orchards as well as in processing, packing and transportation works. Meanwhile, it is also necessary to ensure that these workers reach countries where pro-

duction goes on as soon as possible. In this context, the European Commission recommended EU countries, during the first phase of the crisis, to keep their borders open to migrant workers. In Poland that recently started to employ migrant agricultural workers from Ukraine, farmers' unions called upon the government to keep the border with Ukraine open. The governments in Germany, England and Norway undertook even further responsibility to organize charter flights to ensure the arrival of workers from Romania in particular. In the case of Germany, about 80,000 Romanian seasonal migrants flew to Germany in groups with cooperation of German and Romanian governments.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, the Canadian government agreed with the Mexican government on an agricultural employment programme as a result over 20,000 Mexican seasonal agricultural workers went to Canada to work.<sup>6</sup> Canada made a similar agreement also with the Central American country Guatemala.<sup>7</sup>

In countries dependent upon abroad in the organization of labour force, another way used during Covid-19 outbreak is to mobilize local labour force particularly in England, France, Germany and Spain. This mobilization to cover the gap in seasonal migrant agricultural workers coming from abroad included those who are temporarily or permanently unemployed, students who are legally staying in these countries without work permit, asylum seekers and refugees.

In this context, the French Agriculture Minister made a call at the end of March 2020 to the unemployed and those who locked themselves in their houses and invited them to join the "Great Agricultural Army of France."<sup>8</sup> Through a similar campaign called "feed the nation" England tried to encourage the unemployed and temporarily laid-off for employment in agriculture. The campaign is carried out by three employment agencies (Concordia, HOPs and Fruitful) affiliated with the leading British agency UK's Alliance of Ethical Labour Providers). The Concordia announced that sufficient applications to cover the need were received for April 2020.<sup>9</sup>

In Spain where there is state of emergency the Spanish government announced with a circular<sup>10</sup> that labour supply needed for the continuation of agricultural activities will be ensured by introducing flexibilities to various segments of labour market. It is targeted to employ in agriculture those who lost their jobs as a result of closures or suspension of activities due to the outbreak, people without any social assistance and others who were already unemployed. It was also decided by the government to



## Bu Map Nasıl Hazırlandı?

Bu Map; Corona-19 pandemisinin mevsimlik gezici tarım işçileri ve onların çocukları üzerindeki etkisine yönelik Türkiye'de yapılan çalışmalar ve alınan önlemlerin hızlı değerlendirilmesi kapsamında yapılan araştırma sırasında çeşitli sivil toplum örgütleri, kamu kurumları ve tarım aracıları ile yapılan görüşmelerden basında çıkan haberlere kadar geniş kapsamda bir yeri bir araya toplanması ve sınıflandırılması ile oluşturulmuştur.

PRO-GE sendikası, üretimi mümkün olmayan, temel ihtiyaçları karşılamak için çalışanların sağlığını korumak ve enfeksiyon riskini en aza indirmek için çalışmaktadır.

Cevre ülkelerden (Macaristan, Slovakya, Çek Cumhuriyeti, Romanya vb.) gelen hasat işçilerinin sağlığı ve güvenliği için verilmesi gereken izin ve koruyucu önlemler belirlenmiştir.

Mevcut durumda, sebze ve meyve yetiştirme sektörünün gelecek haftalarda gerçekleşecek hasat döneminde sorun yaşayacakları öngörülmektedir.

Ülke içinde salgından dolayı işsiz kalanların tarım sektöründe çalışması için hazırlıklar yapılıyor.

9 Mart 2020'de Avusturya Federal Hükümeti'lik tedbirleri kabul etti. Sisteme ilgili tüm çiftlikler, tarım arazileri normal işletiminde kalmaya devam edecektir.

Ukrayna'nın çalışanların eksikliğinin, gıda tedarik zincirinin güvenliğini tehdit edeceğine değinilmiştir.

Çiftçi örgütleri Ukrayna'nın işçilerin serbest dolaşımı ve vize konularında kolaylık sağlanmasını taleplerini hükumete ilettiler.

Tarım Örgütü Kuruluşları, Başbakan Mateusz Morawiecki'ye, tarımsal gıda üretiminin felcinden kaçınmak için Polonya'daki Ukrayna çalışanları ülke içine kalmalarını sağlama çağrısında bulundu. Son yıllarda Polonya, gıda sektöründeki lider konumunda, Ukrayna'dan gelen çalışan sayısında korumayı başarmıştır.

Covid-19 salgını sebebiyle diğer sektörlerden ayrılan, işini kaybeden işçilerin kendilerini tarıma ve gıda ile ilgili sektörlerle, faaliyetlere yönlendirebileceklerdir. (Diğer sektörlerden, tarım ve gıda alanlarında eksikliği kapamak adına çalışmaya hazır birçok işçi olduğu belirtilmiştir.)

İşçi sendikaları, hükümet ve sorumlu sektörel işveren örgütlerini, işçilerin sağlığı ve güvenliğini sağlamak ve her işyerinde çalışma haklarına saygı gösterilmesini sağlamak için ortak önlemler almaya çağırıyor.

Tarımsal işlerin çekiciliğini artırmak için, sendikalar ve işveren örgütleri, çalışma koşullarını iyileştirmek ve maaş miktarını artırmak için bir arada çalışmalıdır.

İşçi sendikaları, aktivistlerin/üyelerinin sağlığı ve güvenliğini önlemlerini uygulama konusunda işbirliği yapmaya ve talimatlar oluşturarak farkındalığı arttırmaya, eksikliği tespit edilen alanlara ilgili (temel hijyen ve koruyucu ekipman eksiklikleri dahil olmak üzere) rapor tutmaya davet etti.

Bulgaristan göç şeması göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, genel anlamda göç veren ülke kategorisinde yer almaktadır. Geleneksel olarak diğer AB ülkelerine göç eden mevsimlik işçilerin mevcut salgın koşullarında, yerel işgücü piyasasında yer alıktan belirtilmiştir.

Büyük mevsimlik işçi grupları da salgından büyük ölçüde etkilenen ülkelerden (İtalya, Fransa, İspanya) Bulgaristan'a dönüş yapmakta ve önlem olarak 14 günlük karantina süresine bağlı kalmaktadırlar. Bu anlamda, "Sağlık Arabulucuları" bu topluluklar arasında farkındalık yaratma konusunda büyük önem taşımaktadır.

Tarım işçiliği ve istihdamı korona krizi tarafından tehdit altında değildir, zira tarım işçileri İsveç'te üretimini sürdürmek için büyük talep görmektedir.

Korona virüsü sebebiyle birçok Avrupa ülkesinin sınırlarını kapaması, uzun vadede İsveç'i de olumsuz etkileyecektir. İsveç'te tarımda özellikle, ahududu, böğürtlen ve sebze hasadını da çok sayıda göçmen işçi çalışmaktadır. (Belarus, Ukrayna, Tayland)

Çiftlik ve tahıl üreten şirketler krizi yoğun bir şekilde hissetmemektedirler, çalışanların yerel işçilerden oluşması bu durumun nedeni olarak gösterilmektedir.

İsveç'teki birçok çiftlik, Balık devletlerinden salgını yönetmek için üç aylık dönemler halinde gelen geçici taşeron işçilere ihtiyaç duymaktadır. Birçok AB ülkesinin sınırlarını kapaması bu sınırların kapanması için büyük sorunlara neden olmaktadır.

Al gıda sektöründeki işçileri de bu krizden etkilenenler arasında sayılabilir. Bu sektörün, ekonomik olarak güçlü bir şekilde ayakta kalmasını sağlamak için, hükümetin destek vermesi ve işverenlerin işçilerin güvenliğini sağlamak için önlemler alması beklenmektedir.

Tarım Bakanlığı yaptığı açıklamalarda şu an işçileri kaybeden veya çalışmadığı için kendisini eve kapatan kişilere seslenerek dayanışma çağrısında yaptı ve bu kişileri "Fransız büyük tarım ordusu"na katılmaya davet etti.

Fransa'nın ana tarım sendikası olan FNSEA, mevsimlik meyve ve sebze hasadını sağlamak için ülkenin mevcut insan gücü eksikliğine dair uyarı yaptı.

Başvurulan teşvik etmek için, gönüllü olanlar kısmi işsizliğini, kabaca asgari ücretle eşit olan bir mevsimlik ücretle birleştirilecektir.

Fransa'da yaşanan ve genellikle tarım sektöründe belgesiz veya kaçak çalışan işçiler genel karantina ve sokağa çıkma yasakları ayrıca kolluk kuvvetlerinin almış olduğu önlemler nedeniyle ülke çapında seyahat etmekte tereddüt ediyorlar.

Tarım işçilerinin destek vermek amacıyla FNSEA (Fédération nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles/ Çiftçi Sendikaları Ulusal Federasyonu), Fransa vatandaşlarının ihtiyaç duyulan alanlarda kendilerini tanıtmak ve yardım etmek amacıyla kaydedilecekleri "Des bras pour ton assiette" (tabağınız için "kollar") web sitesini oluşturmuştur. Katılım için belirtilen gereklilikler sağlıklı olmak, risk altındaki bir grubun parçası olmamak ve yayılımı engelleyebilecek eylemlere saygı duymak olarak sıralanmıştır.

Avusturya İş Güvenliği Kurumu yakın zamanda tarım sektöründe korona salgınına yönelik risklerin en aza indirgenmesi için alınabilecek önlemleri açıklamıştır. Öne çıkan konular; işçiler arası sosyal mesafenin korunması (1,5 metre), ortak kullanım alanlarının sürekli temiz tutulması, çalışanların kişisel hijyenlerine dikkat edilmesi ve gerekli önlemlerin alınması, kullanılan araç-gereci ve ekipmanların düzenli bir şekilde dezenfekte edilmesi vb. bunlara birlikte tarım alanında işverenler için güvenlik önlemlerini içeren bir kontrol listesi yayınlanmıştır.

Avusturya tasarlama göre çalışanların iş sırasında güvenliklerinden ve salgın karşısında alınacak her türlü önlemlerden işveren sorumlu tutulmaktadır.

Çeşitli eyaletlerin çiftçi birlikleri salgından etkilenen hizmet sektörü çalışanlarını tarıma yönlendirmeye başladığını vurgulamıştır. Diğer taraftan, sınırların kapanmasından önce gelen yabancı geçici işçilerin vize ve çalışma sürelerinin uzatılması da gündemde yer almaktadır.

Hükümet ve Tarım Bakanlığı sebze ve meyve üreticilerinin yaşayabileceği olası işgücü problemini aşmanın yollarını arıyor. Avusturyalı işçilerin sektörün ihtiyaçlarını nasıl karşılayabileceği ve ülkedeki mevcut denizgiz işçilerin tarım sektörünü nasıl destekleyebileceğine dair henüz somut bir öneri bulunmamaktadır.



prolong the work permits of migrant temporary workers in the country. According to the new decision foreigners from the age group 18-21 who are legally in Spain but without work permit are entitled to work permit to work in agriculture.

The US is long in the agenda of the world with its seasonal agricultural labour issues and associated regular/irregular migration.<sup>12</sup> Migrant agricultural labour force in the country is an issue involving Mexicans mostly and is arranged by H-2A visa. Despite the closure of many consulates, active consulates continue to receive H-2A visa applications which are considered as critical. Agricultural workers who have worked in the US and then returned home within the last year are now entitled to work in the US without another visa interview.<sup>13</sup> In Australia agricultural labour need is met by migrant workers who are admitted to the country for a short period. The Australian government updated its visa procedures related to the admission of workers coming in from Pacific countries to avoid any workforce loss due to travel restrictions and made it possible for workers to stay in the country up to a year.<sup>14</sup>

These and other similar examples brought along questions, before the origin countries of workers, citizens of which countries are more “valuable” than citizens of other countries did.<sup>15</sup> Together with criticisms of this type there were concerns about personal and public health because of Covid-19 involving both local and migrant/foreign agricultural workers. These concerns are essentially about the question how work safety and health measures are to be applied during an outbreak about which there are many unknowns. In fact, the working and living conditions of this population in employment worldwide are marked with many concerns and problems.

Migrant agricultural workers presently employed in the US or Germany face similar problems which include precarity, rates lower than minimum wage, indecent working and living conditions, access to health and having to work with informal job brokers.<sup>16</sup> The state of being migrant which is the result of external dependency in labour force already makes this population vulnerable and the present outbreak bring the risk of making their situation even worse. Indeed, the March 2020 report “*COVID-19 and World of Work*” by the International Labour Organization stresses that migrant workers in particular are more defenceless against the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak and this will restrict their means of reaching their workplaces and returning to their families.<sup>17</sup> In April 2020 the same report

was updated by a second version which states that workers in agricultural sector constitute the highest risk group.<sup>18</sup>

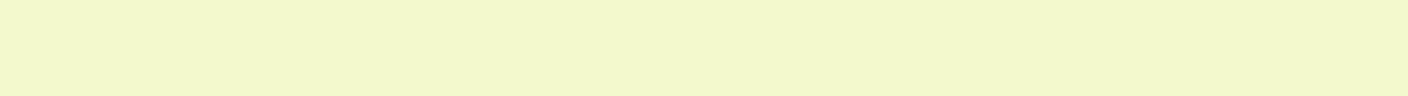
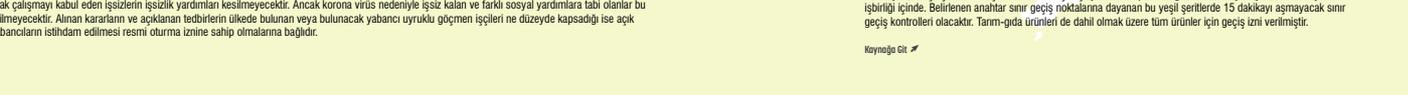
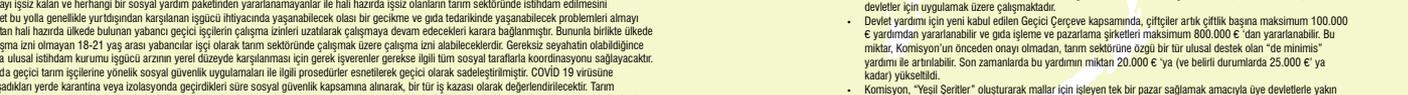
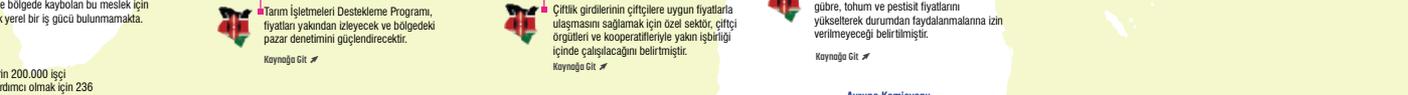
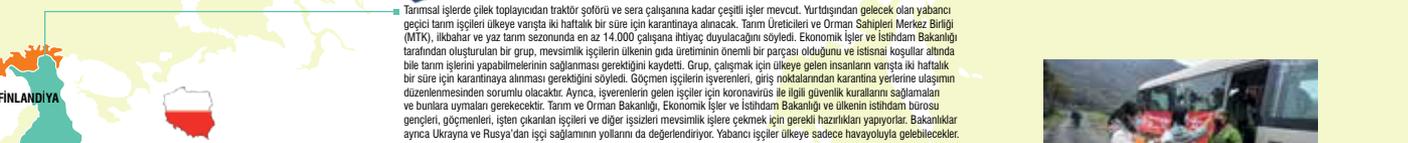
Given these concerns, it is one of the major measures or protocols used by some countries in relation with the agricultural activities is the application of 14 days compulsory quarantine to migrant workers starting from the moment they arrive to the country. In many countries employers manage this process. In Canada, workers are entitled to 30 hours of weekly pay during this quarantine period. Workers arriving Germany too are subject to 14 days of quarantine. Personal distance is the measure that has been repeated and stressed since the start of the outbreak.

The same measure is also effective for seasonal agricultural workers in various countries. Workers are supposed to observe this distance in both their accommodation and working areas (particularly when employers providing accommodation facilities as camping sites or containers). It is highly questionable how this distance can be kept in accommodation spaces shared by too many workers. Recommendations include use of vehicles with fewer people in reaching working areas and frequent shifts with less people in these areas. Questions regarding their applicability and supervision, however, largely remained without response. Employers are supposed to supply necessary information to their workers and to place information leaflets prepared by relevant health authorities or safety and health units in commonly used spaces.

It is compulsory for employers to supply adequate amounts of soap, disinfectant and water for personal hygiene. It is also found necessary to rearrange eating and resting spaces to ensure necessary physical distance. Both commonly used spaces and accommodation areas must be regularly disinfected. It is also necessary to provide for each worker a separate glass for water, flask, fork, spoon, and knife, etc. Measures also include the routine daily disinfection of all tools and equipment used in agricultural activities.

Migrant workers legally employed are entitled to rights that are provided by the legislation of the country they are working like sick leave. Under Canada's seasonal agricultural employment program incoming workers are entitled to equal rights with Canadian citizens in access to health services. In many countries, however, migrant seasonal agricultural workers remain out of the coverage of social assistance and incentive schemes given their status. This status problem becomes more serious in the US. The





situation of seasonal agricultural workers without documents the majority of whom are Mexicans is quite uncertain. Presently there are various campaigns demanding the protection of agricultural workers and their inclusion in various social and economic support packages.<sup>19</sup> The US-based organizations carrying out advocacy work for the rights of migrant agricultural workers stress the need for risk benefits, protective equipment and paid sick leave for all migrant workers regardless of their status.<sup>20</sup> California is the US state with the highest number of migrant workers. The state recently took a decision declaring a package of assistance to extend necessary economic and social support to all migrant workers regardless of their status.<sup>21</sup>

A comprehensive programme of protection came to life in Latin America upon an agreement between the Sintrainagro Union for Agriculture Workers representing workers in banana culture in Colombia and the Colombian Union of Banana Growers.<sup>22</sup> The agreement includes a commitment that each worker is supplied with necessary protective equipment (mask, gloves, etc.) and personal hygiene items. Besides, all transportation vehicles used by workers are to be disinfected in regular intervals, there will be regular health and temperature examinations and workers will go out for lunch break in specific numbers and time intervals. Showers, toilets and cafeteria as spaces of common use are also to be regularly cleaned and disinfected. Of workers, those over age 65 and with chronic diseases who are defined as risk group and pregnant women will not go to work and get income support for the period of emergency that is set by the government.

In Ecuador there is no protection scheme for workers in banana production similar to the one in Colombia. The union, Trade Union Association of Agricultural Workers and Campesinos/ ASTAC has stated that protective measures against the outbreak are inadequate. It was considered as a significant risk factor that many workers in banana culture are out of social security coverage and access to health services is quite limited. According to the ASTAC, workers already have their respiratory problems due to intensive use of insecticides and are extremely worried about what could happen in case they get infected.

Workers generally live in crowded families with young and older people living together which further increase the risk of transmission.<sup>23</sup> The situation is no different for agricultural workers in Peru. A Peru-based human rights organization, La Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Ica-CODEHI-

CA) stresses that the fear of losing their jobs makes workers keep working without any protective measure. It is reported, particularly for workers in fruit and vegetable farming in Ica Valley, that they are transported in overcrowded service busses and companies have introduced no measures to ensure physical distance. Protection is so weak that workers drink water from the same glass in many cases. Meanwhile, it is also reported that excessive water use by agricultural companies active in the valley compromises workers' and their families' access to safe water which in turn increases the risk of disease transmission.<sup>24</sup>

In Mexico, researchers from the la Frontera Norte (Colef) University conducted their first study on vulnerable groups in the face of Covid-19 outbreak focusing on the current state of about 2 million temporary agricultural workers in the country. The report states that workers migrating from the south of the country to the north for agricultural jobs are quite unprotected in terms of their working and living conditions which makes them a high-risk group. The report also states that as an essential part of food production chain it is quite difficult to think of seasonal agricultural workers as quitting work and there is urgent need to take necessary measures in both working and accommodation areas to enable them to continue work in safety. The major problems of Mexican workers include travel in congested vehicles, too many people in small places or single rooms and difficulties in access to health care services.<sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network announced in March 2020 that there is need for urgent measures to cover workers' families as well in attraction centres, reception and accommodation areas.<sup>26</sup>

The Australian Work Safety Institution recently announced measures that can be taken to minimize Covid-19 risks in the sector of agriculture. The issues in this context include observance of physical distance between workers (1.5 meters), keeping common use places continuously clean, attention to personal hygiene, and regular disinfection of frequently used materials. There is also a checklist for employers in agriculture. The Australian legislation keeps employers responsible for adoption of work safety measures and all others that are needed during an outbreak.<sup>27</sup>



### Some Practices from other Countries Suggested for Turkey

In cases of labour shortage during the pandemic, United Kingdom and France presently have schemes to refer the unemployed and those temporarily unemployed without any social assistance to agriculture and enable them to benefit from various social protection benefits. This model may also be considered for Turkey. In this context, İŞKUR Directorates at province and district level can assume a coordinating role in meeting supply with demand.

Following the arrival of seasonal agricultural workers to their provinces of employment, it is also important to organize their transportation to crop fields and orchards with appropriate measures as well. As in the case of Spain for example<sup>28</sup> means of public transportation including municipal and school busses may be used to save both employers and agricultural workers from higher costs and observe physical distance at the same time.

In some US states there are concerns that suspension of school activities and transition to distance teaching may cause children to get involved in agricultural activities.<sup>29</sup> In particular, suspension of child care and nursery services may lead families to take their small children along while going to agricultural works. In Turkey, for example, it is known that the formal education of the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers is interrupted by the schedule of seasonal labour. The accessibility of the present distant education system and usability of these services by the

children of seasonal migrant agricultural worker families must be considered in more detail and necessary support services must be available in this respect particularly in temporary tent camps. It must also be taken into account that most of the agricultural intermediaries interviewed have no information about this issue.

Keeping “physical distance” with other people is one of the practices adopted together with the outbreak. This requires a behavioural change and abandonment of some habits for a period. However, this practice should not be expected to be immediately adopted in accommodation or working areas of workers. In the meantime, employers, agricultural intermediaries and workers must be kept regularly informed. In particular, assistants to intermediaries, çavuş or team heads in the field or orchard may oversee whether this measure is actually implemented. In different parts of the world there is effective use of posters and brochures promoting distance, personal hygiene and frequent hand washing. There may be similar initiatives in appropriate spaces (i.e. METİP camping sites).

In Canada, migrant workers have to stay in paid quarantine for 14 days following their arrival to the country. For the time being, this practice in the context of travel measures does not have any practical implication for Turkey. Nevertheless, both agricultural intermediaries and Vefa Social Support teams can be mobilized to provide for workers’ urgent needs (i.e. food) to minimize workers’ contact with areas other than where they stay.

## Map 6. Problems experienced world wide by seasonal migrant workers in the process of Covid-19 outbreak and relevant measures taken - 3



Avrupa'daki çiftçiler büyük bir işgücü sıkıntısıyla karşı karşıya. Karantina önlemleri, Batı Avrupa ülkelerine mevsimlik işçi olarak gelmesini imkânsız hale getirdi.

Kaynağa Git

AB maliye bakanları, ekonomik ve sosyal krize karşı 500 milyar avruluk yardım paketi üzerinde anlaşma yapıldığını duyurdu. 23 Nisan'daki zirvede paketin onaylanması bekleniyor.

Kaynağa Git

AB, koronavirüs krizini dayanışma içinde atılabilecek mi? 23 Nisan zirvesinde ortak bir çıkış yolu aranacak.

Kaynağa Git



Slow Food'un liderliğinde ortak bir bildiğe yayımlandı. Bildirgede göçmen ve mülteci işçiler için istihdamda tam erişimin sağlanması, haklarına saygı gösterilmesi, tarım işçilerinin iş sağlığı ve güvenliğinin sağlanması, barınma koşullarının iyileştirilmesi, hızlı test imkânının sağlanması, işini ve geliri kaybetme korkusu yaşamadan tam ücret verilmesi talep edildi. Ayrıca AB fonlarının doğrudan tarım işçileri arasında sosyal yardım çalışması yürüten sivil toplum kuruluşlarına yönlendirilmesi çağrısı yapıldı.

Kaynağa Git

Hükümet, Covid-19 salgınıyla mücadele kapsamında ülkeye girişleri büyük oranda kısıtlamıştı. Ancak tarım alanında ortaya çıkan mevsimlik işçi sıkıntısını aşmak için istisnai uygulamalara başladı.

Kaynağa Git

Ekonomik İşler ve İstihdam Bakanlığı, daha fazla insanın mevsimlik tarım işlerini üstlenmesi ve mevsimlik yabancı işçilerin eksikliğinin telafi edilmesi için sosyal medyada reklam yapıyor. Program, işten çıkartılan, öğrencileri, emekçileri, göçmenleri ve işsizleri hedefliyor.

Kaynağa Git

Rusya'da uygulanan uluslararası uçuş ve demiryolu seyahati yasakları, işçilerin geldikleri ülkelerdeki yasaklarla birleşince, yüz binlerce göçmen işçi Rusya'da mahsur kaldı.

Kaynağa Git

Romen işçiler tarım sektöründe çalışmak üzere İngiltere'ye geliyor. Uçuşlar sırasında işçiler ateş kontrolünden geçecek ve sağlık beyannamesi dolduracak.

Kaynağa Git

Hükümet, birçoğu yoksul, kırsal alanlardan gelen 80 bin ila 90 bin Romen'in bu yıl mevsimlik işler için Batı Avrupa'ya yolculuk yapacağını açıkladı.

Kaynağa Git

Yunanistan'da pandemi sürecinde kapanan şirketlerin imdadına Avrupa Komisyonu yetişti. Açıklanan yardım programı tarım sektöründeki şirketlere 100 bin avroya kadar sübvansiyon sağlayacak.

Kaynağa Git

İtalya Hasatçıları Konfederasyonu Coldiretti, 15 bin Romen işçinin, baharda Veneto bölgesine geleceğini ifade etti.

Kaynağa Git

İtalya'nın güneyinde çoğunlukla Afrika'dan gelen binlerce göçmen işçi için salgın riski belirdi. Kuzeyde ise Doğu Avrupa'dan gelen yabancı tarım işçileri hastalık yüzünden yoksullaşma riskini göze alarak ülkelerine döndüler. Ülkeye artık yeni işçi gelmiyor.

Kaynağa Git

Pandemiyi birlikte işçi dövizlerindeki düşüşü Mısır, Ürdün ve Lübnan da dahil olmak üzere bölgenin savunmasız ekonomilerini etkileyecek.

Kaynağa Git

Afrika'nın 54 ülkesinin en az 33'ünde geçerli olan kısıtlamalar kırsal nüfusa gıda dağılımını tehdit ediyor. Afrika'daki her 5 kişiden 1'i, toplamda da yaklaşık 250 milyon insan, pandemi öncesinde de yeterli gıdaya erişemiyordu.

Kaynağa Git

Batı Afrika'da 17 ile 50 milyon arasında insan yetersiz beslenme tehlikesi ile karşı karşıya. Çocukları Kurtarın Vakfı ile 8 uluslararası sivil toplum örgütü tarımsal üretimin ve bu alanda çalışanların desteklenmesi için çağrıda bulundu.

Kaynağa Git

Calcutta Research Group Salgın Sınırın Covid-19 ve Göçmen İşçiler Raporunu yayımladı.

Kaynağa Git

Hindistan'da tarım ve balıkçılık sektörleri karantınadan muaf olacak.

Kaynağa Git

Hükümet, özellikle tarım işçilerine yönelik olarak yasal önlemleri yürütürken koyacak çiftçiler, tüccarlar, süpermarketler arasındaki bağlantıyı teşvik etmek üzere düzenlemeler yapacak.

Kaynağa Git

Kuzeyden güneye çalışmak için giden binlerce mevsimlik geçici tarım işçisi evlerine dönemeyişi için mağdur durumda.

Kaynağa Git



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> It refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Article 2 (1), 1990). ILO Convention no. 97 on Migration for Employment (1949) and Convention no. 143 on Migrant Workers (1975, Article 11) defines migrant worker as a person who moves to another country to be employed by others or accepted to a different country for the purpose of employment (Development Workshop, 2017).
- <sup>2</sup> [www.economist.com/europe/2020/04/04/when-borders-close-who-will-pick-the-crops](http://www.economist.com/europe/2020/04/04/when-borders-close-who-will-pick-the-crops), first accessed: 4 April 2020.
- <sup>3</sup> [www.farmworkerjustice.org/sites/default/files/NAWS%20data%20factsht%201-13-15FINAL.pdf?\\_\\_cf\\_chl\\_captcha\\_tk\\_\\_=e6fa9dd828621f9fc6c87f6e7509663a0852c929-1587282461-0-Ad0No58Wzt0S88LkW2QR65NSiMGQBAXw1cWo6A5MDoygH4DF6qeZ98G-Zpd1oHDQ-nODTlqKxIDeuJV6Td6XQxwC2\\_FSflqZg8QtQ\\_Ad66kzLqj9fl9V5md9JocEh1VUxIQ63ddOet5lTPBLEHdBWD2cf1BHt1SDdcpdhGPg6fpiBu-D8wD\\_i6jTLwu4xE-aD-HDKauW5pE\\_pVRu0XJCBCfXBY3dkcf1Zp6u4JWb\\_4nIFxNL377skpdO0\\_3El6ySqliyPLKmqOQZjaRj1aqr3y15\\_gYtFPGZP-DbRGI\\_9BeoY0yHB6KkxblIS0W4HaSpXpE1j-Ra16Smub9XzJaqGeaswGNWJHE51QyUNxdcnrfEjBWwOjIFAcLXV-Ob3oz9FWWQko-iDbSYTk148EmQYio5bPBjLs9leXCHGE2bj5YNzpb1sBmQjMvRpgDir0qU7ldTX\\_EiI5B-yEdm1b7\\_HdYVkr1KPjcXxD9uvWjr4bWlWaW44n5m2sTewQztmDnklMqHcQ4GA-oxxBCCltWNC8HNRkdM60-Nh-07xA\\_kCK\\_2myX0PN6uPO4Vaukgs12FJ0eCdggUA](http://www.farmworkerjustice.org/sites/default/files/NAWS%20data%20factsht%201-13-15FINAL.pdf?__cf_chl_captcha_tk__=e6fa9dd828621f9fc6c87f6e7509663a0852c929-1587282461-0-Ad0No58Wzt0S88LkW2QR65NSiMGQBAXw1cWo6A5MDoygH4DF6qeZ98G-Zpd1oHDQ-nODTlqKxIDeuJV6Td6XQxwC2_FSflqZg8QtQ_Ad66kzLqj9fl9V5md9JocEh1VUxIQ63ddOet5lTPBLEHdBWD2cf1BHt1SDdcpdhGPg6fpiBu-D8wD_i6jTLwu4xE-aD-HDKauW5pE_pVRu0XJCBCfXBY3dkcf1Zp6u4JWb_4nIFxNL377skpdO0_3El6ySqliyPLKmqOQZjaRj1aqr3y15_gYtFPGZP-DbRGI_9BeoY0yHB6KkxblIS0W4HaSpXpE1j-Ra16Smub9XzJaqGeaswGNWJHE51QyUNxdcnrfEjBWwOjIFAcLXV-Ob3oz9FWWQko-iDbSYTk148EmQYio5bPBjLs9leXCHGE2bj5YNzpb1sBmQjMvRpgDir0qU7ldTX_EiI5B-yEdm1b7_HdYVkr1KPjcXxD9uvWjr4bWlWaW44n5m2sTewQztmDnklMqHcQ4GA-oxxBCCltWNC8HNRkdM60-Nh-07xA_kCK_2myX0PN6uPO4Vaukgs12FJ0eCdggUA), first accessed: 12 April 2020.
- <sup>4</sup> [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629209/IPOL\\_STU\(2019\)629209\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629209/IPOL_STU(2019)629209_EN.pdf), first accessed 18 April 2020.
- <sup>5</sup> [www.romania-insider.com/coronavirus-romanian-seasonal-workers-fly-germany](http://www.romania-insider.com/coronavirus-romanian-seasonal-workers-fly-germany), first accessed 9 April 2020.
- <sup>6</sup> [www.milenio.com/politica/coronavirus-mexico-canada-reactivan-programa-agricola](http://www.milenio.com/politica/coronavirus-mexico-canada-reactivan-programa-agricola), first accessed 17 April 2020
- <sup>7</sup> [radiotgw.gob.gt/guatemaltecos-viajan-a-canada-con-oportunidad-de-trabajo/?utm\\_campaign=shareaholic&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_source=socialnetwork](http://radiotgw.gob.gt/guatemaltecos-viajan-a-canada-con-oportunidad-de-trabajo/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=socialnetwork), first accessed 17 April 2020.
- <sup>8</sup> [www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200325-coronavirus-covid19-food-agriculture-france](http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200325-coronavirus-covid19-food-agriculture-france), first accessed 27 March 2020.
- <sup>9</sup> [www.concordiavolunteers.org.uk/feed-the-nation](http://www.concordiavolunteers.org.uk/feed-the-nation), first accessed 19 April 2020.
- <sup>10</sup> [www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/el-gobierno-aprueba-medidas-urgentes-para-favorecer-la-contrataci%C3%B3n-temporal-de-trabajadores-en-el-sector-agrario-tcm:30-537025](http://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/el-gobierno-aprueba-medidas-urgentes-para-favorecer-la-contrataci%C3%B3n-temporal-de-trabajadores-en-el-sector-agrario-tcm:30-537025), first accessed 10 April 2020
- <sup>11</sup> This map was prepared by Development Workshop staff under the “We’re active” programme. Our thanks are due to those who contributed to the preparation of this map.
- <sup>12</sup> Person who has no legal status in transit or host country because of illegal entry or visa



## Part IV

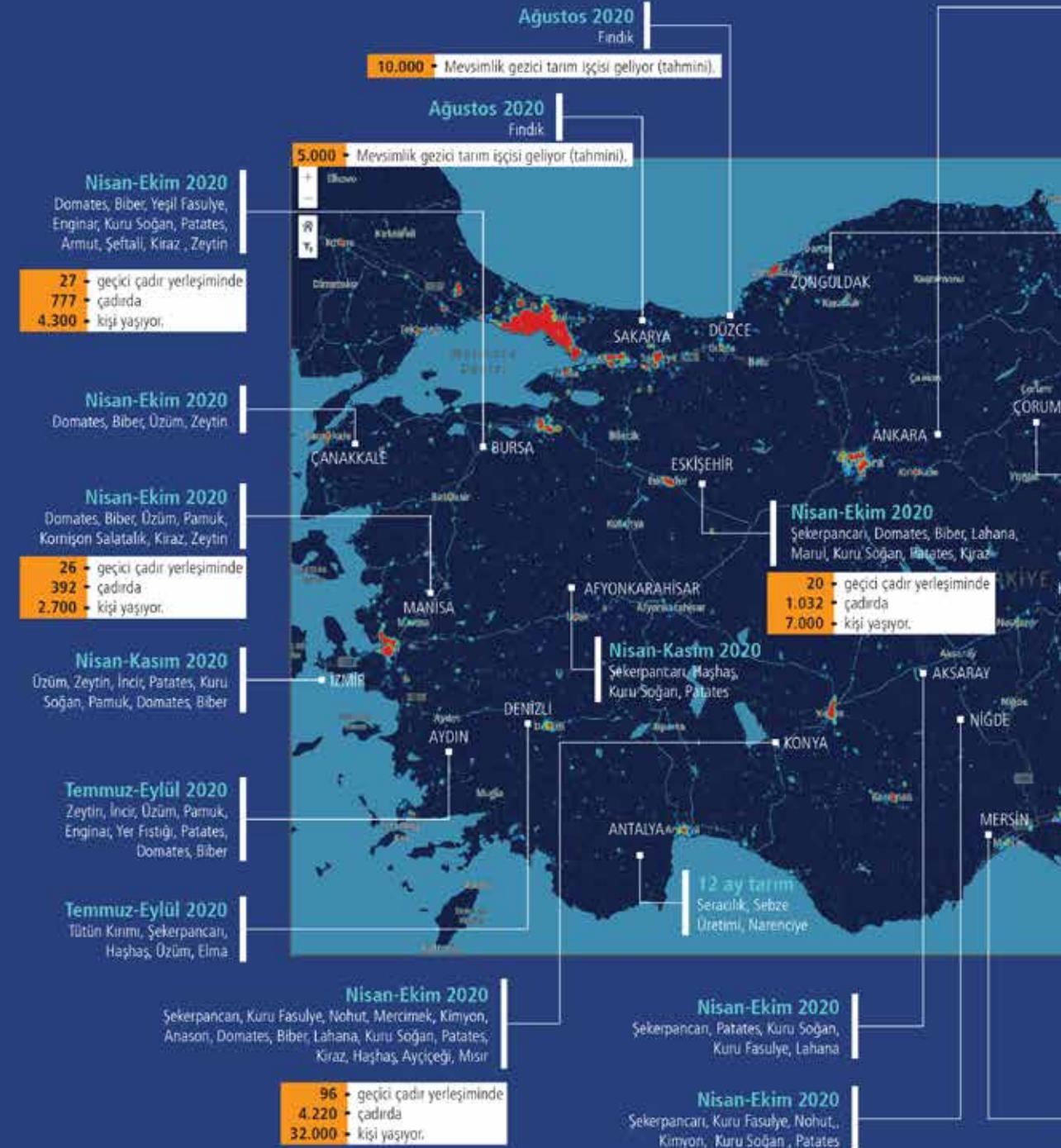
### Present State In Turkey: Covid-19 Outbreak Related Decisions and Support Schemes Concerning Migrant Agricultural Workers





The Covid-19 outbreak starting in China in December 2019 first reached the borders of the European Union (EU) towards the end of February 2020, then spread to other parts of the world including the US and Canada and turning into a global crisis. During this time, countries adopted different strategies in combating the disease and debates about these strategies are still ongoing. Like many other countries, Turkey is trying to develop a strategy of its own which is neither full quarantine (New Zealand) nor full herd immunity (Sweden). Significant steps in this regard started to be taken in mid-March. The Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) announced on 12 March 2020 that formal education and higher education were suspended for three weeks to starting from 16 March 2020. As outbreak was continuing new decisions were taken to keep up with distance education until the end of April 2020.<sup>1</sup> Besides, the YÖK decided to continue with distance education for the spring term and postponed higher education admittance tests (YKS) to 25-26 July 2020.<sup>2</sup> The countrywide “Stay Home” campaign was started on 18 March 2020 to curb the spread of the disease. Upon a presidential order inter-city bus traffic became subject to the special permission of governorates starting from 17:00 hours on 28 March 2020. The relevant arrangements were delegated to Travel Permission Boards formed under province and district governorates.

Map 7. Principal provinces, crops and months that seasonal migrant agricultural worker in Turkey and the current state of Covid-19 as of April 2020



● Durumu kritik olan vakalar ● Durumu orta olan vakalar ● Evde izlenen vakalar ● Taşıyıcı ama semptomu olmayan vakalar

46 - geçici çadır yerleşiminde  
2.638 - çadırdaki  
20.000 - kişi yaşıyor.

### Nisan-Ekim 2020

Şekerpancarı, Kuru Soğan, Patates, Havuç, Marul,  
Kuru Fasulye, Nohut, Kimyon, Kiraz

### Nisan-Ekim 2020

Şekerpancarı, Patates, Çerezlik Kabak,  
Kuru Fasulye, Nohut, Elma

15.000 - Mevsimlik gezici tarım işçisi geliyor (tahmini).



### Ağustos 2020

Fındık

### Mayıs, Temmuz, Eylül 2020

Çay

### Mayıs-Ekim 2020

Pirinç, Nohut, Kuru Fasulye,  
Kuru Soğan, Patates

### Nisan-Kasım 2020

Şekerpancarı, Kuru  
Fasulye, Kuru Soğan,  
Patates, Nohut, Kimyon

### Temmuz 2020

Kayısı

### Nisan-Kasım 2020

Antep Fıstığı, Sebze,  
Pamuk, Mercimek

### Mart-Kasım 2020

Antep Fıstığı, Sebze,  
Sarımsak, Zeytin

### Nisan- Kasım 2020

Taze ve Kuru Soğan,  
Pamuk, Havuç, Maydanoz

47 - geçici çadır yerleşiminde  
2.200 - çadırdaki  
15.000 - kişi yaşıyor.

### 12 ay tarım

Narenciye, Yazlık, Kışlık Sebze, Kavuz,  
Karpuz, Fıstık, Patates, Taze ve Kuru Soğan

### 12 ay tarım

Narenciye, Yazlık, Kışlık Sebze, Kavuz,  
Karpuz, Fıstık, Patates, Muz

### Kaynaklar-Açıklamalar

- COVID 19 Pandemisi mevcut durum Mapsı 7 April 2020 itibarıyla Sağlık Bakanlığı'na yapılan resmi basın açıklamasından alınmıştır.
- Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Eskişehir, Konya, Manisa illerine ait mevsimlik gezici tarım işçileri ve onların çocuklarına ait sayılar Kalkınma Atölyesi tarafından Temmuz-Kasım 2019 ayları itibarıyla alan çalışmasından elde edilen verilerdir.
- Sakarya, Düzce ve Ordu illerine fındık hasadına giden mevsimlik gezici tarım işçileri ve onların çocuklarının toplam verileri ise Ağustos 2019 ayına ait tahmini verileridir.

With these measures in place, significant uncertainties emerged about how population groups working in some sectors are supposed to act. Seasonal migrant agricultural workers are among these groups and it is now under discussion how they can travel at the beginning of crop farming season and sustainability of farming in their absence. At the beginning, their inter-provincial travel was subject to permission to be granted by the Travel Permission Board which was then transferred to provincial/district agriculture and forestry directorates. There was, at the beginning, quite a chaos concerning the issuance of this permission. The chart below shows the working of the mechanism concerning measures and practices covering seasonal migrant workers families and their children in the process of Covid-19 control process.

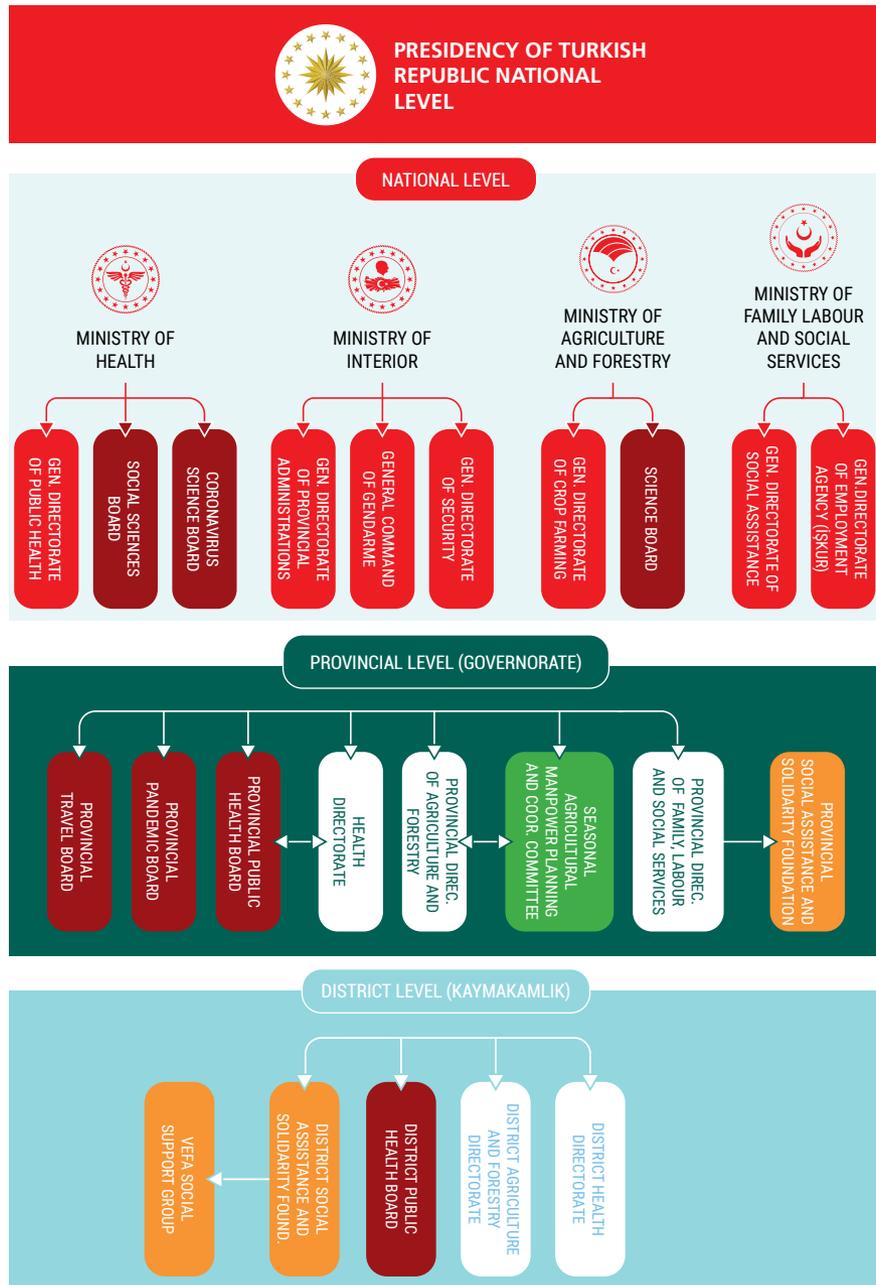
In line with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Coronavirus Science Board and in order to enhance the effectiveness of decisions taken to combat the Covid-19 outbreak, and under the instructions of the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Provincial Administrations No.89780865-153-E.6202 dated 03 April 2020 on coronavirus measures and seasonal agricultural workers, it was decided to set up “Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Boards” under province governorates. The membership in these boards encompasses provincial directorates of agriculture and forestry, health, AFAD and migration, representatives of security, local governments and chambers of agriculture.

As presented in Chart 1, three levels of working of institutions and commissions adopt measures for and extend support to seasonal migrant agricultural workers during the covid-19 outbreak:

**(1)** At national level decisions are taken by four ministries in coordination under the Presidency with the advice of the Coronavirus Science Board.

**(2)** These decisions are announced, at province level, by provincial travel, pandemic and public health boards under governorates and seasonal agricultural labour force planning and coordination commission intervenes when the implementation of these decisions have their implications in agricultural production. Provincial directorates of health, agriculture and forestry and family, labour and social services support the implementation of these decisions at province level in their respective fields of mandate.

**Chart 1.** Institutions and commissions which adopt measures and extend support to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in the course of Covid-19 outbreak



(3) At district level, district health directorate, district directorate of agriculture and forestry and district public health board are in charge of implementing at district level decisions taken at province level and make their district-level decisions.

Measures adopted at national and local levels were followed on daily basis from 25 March to 20 April 2020 and in the light of the measures opinions about measures and practices were collected on provincial basis. Before starting evaluation, decisions taken by the Provincial Pandemic Board (İPK), Provincial Public Health Board (İUHK) and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board (MTİK) related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in the period 25 March-15 April 2020 were examined for sample provinces Adana, Ankara, Bolu, Çorum, Giresun, Konya, Sakarya and Şanlıurfa.

Examining 43 local decisions on various issues adopted by the Provincial Public Health Board (İUHK), Provincial Pandemic Board (İPK) and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board (MTİK) between 25 March 2020 and 15 April 2020 and in provinces of Adana, Ankara, Bolu, Çorum, Giresun, Isparta, Konya, Sakarya and Şanlıurfa we find that these decisions pertaining to seasonal migrant agricultural workers are about such interrelated issues as registration, transportation and accommodation. Issues in these decisions are as follows:

- Making necessary adaptations in temporary tent settlements as required by the current outbreak,
- Ensuring necessary physical distance between individual tents in temporary tent camps,
- Correspondence between origin and destination provinces and information about how to plan labour supply and demand and by which institution,
- Setting rules for curfew for people under 20 and over 65 for agricultural production,
- Submission of farmer document to be exempt from bans,
- Compiling information from families of seasonal migrant agricultural workers,

- Informing employers and workers in issues related to agricultural activities,
- Details about getting travel permits and how to follow it,
- Details about relevant institutions in origin/destination would be indicated in document , permissions to be taken and forms to be filled out,
- Including, specific information about crops and farming mechanisms in the province concerned,
- Rules that must be followed during inter-provincial transportation and in reaching workplaces.

Examining these measures and restrictions introduced at national and local levels the Development Workshop prepared a guide titled “*Roadmap Agricultural Intermediaries can Follow for Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Questions to be Responded*” which was widely shared (Chart 2). Meanwhile, in the section where field findings are discussed, it is not yet possible to say much about actual working of things since many decisions were later revised and measures are yet to be implemented in many provinces.

To give a general idea about 43 provincial decisions-measures declared in the period 25 March 2020 and 15 April 2020, it may be useful to make a brief evaluation of such measures as curfew, travel restrictions, and conditions of accommodation , working environments and hygiene.

For example, exemptions were introduced to the curfew decided by the Ministry of Interior on 3 April 2020 to cover citizens under age 20 and over 65 with an additional circular issued on 5 April 2020:

*“Seasonal agricultural workers with their significant function in maintaining crop farming ... and whose inter-provincial travel and accommodation conditions have been provided for will be exempt from the curfew.”*

However, this exemption is not valid for those who were born later than 01 January 2002 (under age 18). On 8 April 2020 the Isparta Governorate MTİK announced:

*“Keeping children of seasonal agricultural workers under age 20 exempt from curfew when they travel with their families from place of their stay and where they work.”*

**Chart 2.** Roadmap which agricultural intermediaries can follow for seasonal migrant agricultural workers and questions to be responded



Çorum Governorate İUHK adopted the same decision on 11 April 2020. The Şanlıurfa Governorate İUHK decided on 14 April 2020:

*“On the condition that enterprise owners engaged in food production, agriculture and stock breeding activities in our province (including those over age 65) produce documents confirming their registration with the Farmer Information System and that they duly adopt necessary precautions and measures related to Covid-19, they are allowed, along with workers engaged in agricultural production, to continue their activities.”*

In travel restrictions that formed a part of *Coronavirus Measures* adopted by the Ministry of Interior on 3 April 2020 seasonal migrant agricultural workers were exempted from the restrictions with the governor permission in order to keep agricultural production to continue. This permission also entails registration which foresees the departure province of workers as “origin” and the province here they will be working as “destination”. On 11 April 2020, the Çorum İUHK made reference to the provisions of the “Agricultural Job Mediation Regulations” and stated:



*“(entry into our province) is allowed for seasonal agricultural workers who travel with licensed intermediaries or worker representatives.”*

Şanlıurfa İUHM adopted the following decision on 14 April 2020:

*“Farmers engaged in agricultural production in surrounding provinces are allowed to transfer agricultural workers daily to where their agricultural activity takes place on the condition that they submit farmer certificate, rental, share-cropping, etc. contracts and fulfil travel requirements; to travel to neighbouring provinces and return back; for intra and inter-provincial procurement and transport of all agricultural inputs necessary for agricultural production (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, seed, sapling, seedling, decorative plants, etc.) farmers are expected to furnish any of such documents as invoice, delivery note, farmer document, farmer registration document, etc.”*

Upon incoming requests, sparta MTİK introduced on 15 April 2020 the condition for those who want to come to the province as seasonal agricul-



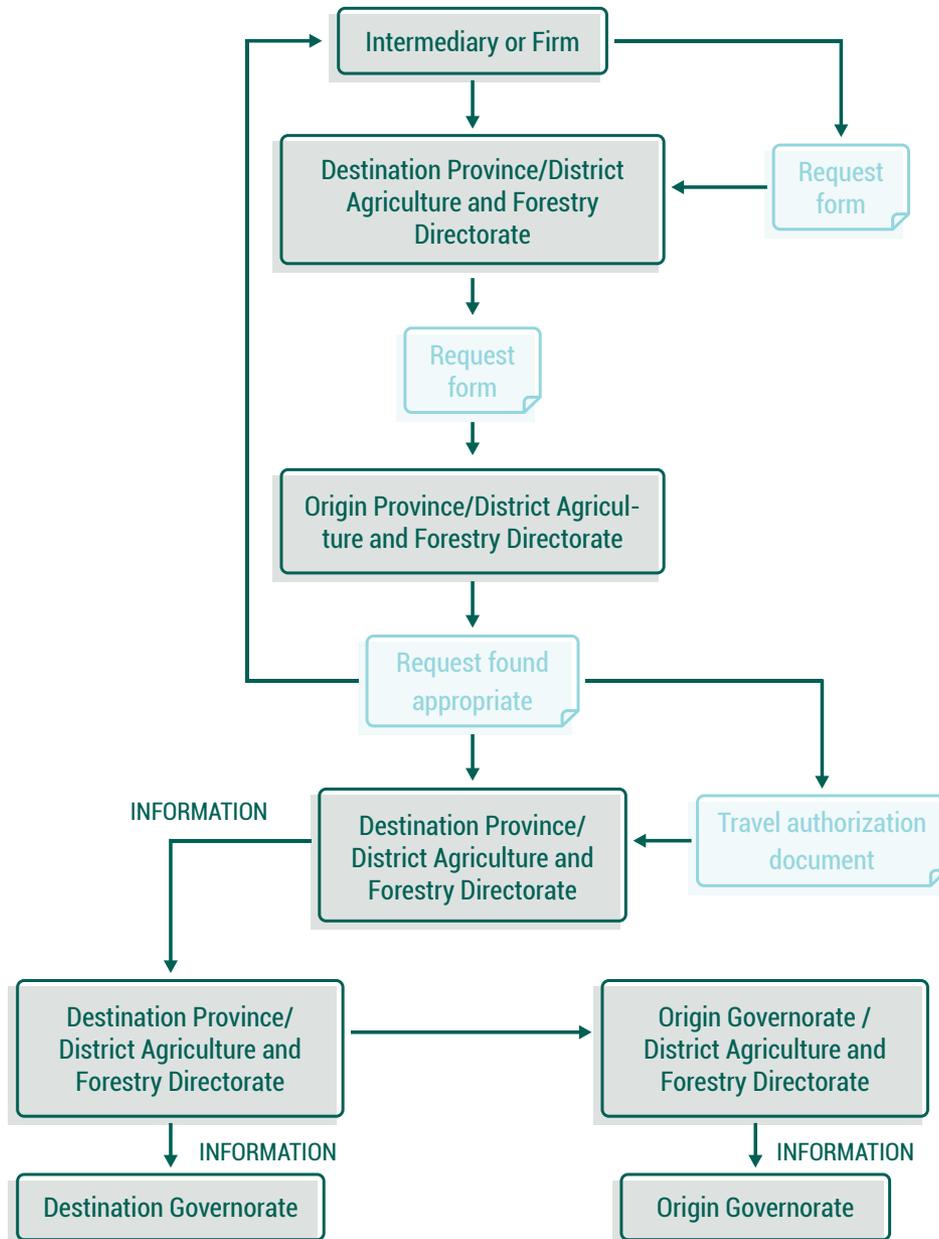
tural worker to submit, through their intermediaries, to province/district agriculture and forestry directorates a form of request that gives identity and residence information of themselves and their employers. The Isparta Governorate developed a “flow chart” based on this decision taken by the MTİK (Chart 3)

Another important issue related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers is the conditions of accommodation and hygiene. At first, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry announced the following on 29 March 2020:

*“Given the present covid-19 outbreak, improving the access to hygiene and protective equipment by seasonal agricultural workers and their conditions of transportation and accommodation considering their important role in ensuring food supply security and maintaining agricultural production without interruption”*

Instructions were sent to 81 Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry. Following this measure Adana-Karataş Governorate announced on 1 April 2020 that Karataş Public Health Teams started to inform seasonal migrant workers, both Turkish and Syrian, about protection from Covid-19, general hygiene and health issues and to disseminate leaflets in Arabic. There is media coverage of similar activities carried out in various other provinces and districts (Map 8).

**Chart 3.** Seasonal migrant agricultural workers' destination province work flow chart



## Map 8. Map of Turkey illustrating work conducted on the impact of Covid-19 outbreak on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children and measures taken -1

### Covid-19 pandemisi kapsamında ulusa ölçekteki genelge ve uygulamalar

**Çiftçilere ilave destek kapsamında toplam 1 milyar 881 milyon 426 bin liralık destek ödemelerinin, Covid-14 pandemisinden dolayı destek amaçlı hemen başlanacağına dair karar alındı.**



**Covid-19 Pandemisinin tarım sektörünü tehlikeye soktuğunu ve sektörün derhal desteklenmesi gerektiğini bildirerek çeşitli kararlar alınmıştır.**

**Covid-19'la Mücadele Kapsamında Alınan Önlemler**

- 1- Mevsimlik işçiler başta olmak üzere tarımsal üretimde çalışan vatandaşlarımızın barınma, çalışma alanlarının il/ilçe tarım müdürlükleri tarafından sürekli kontrol edilmesi, virüsün bulaşma riski yüksek olduğu değerlendirilen alanlarda sağlık il müdürlükleri ile koordineli olarak gerekli tedbirlerin alınması sağlanmalıdır.
- 2- Tarım işçilerinin ulaşım koşullarının, hem virüsün yayılımını kontrol edilmesi hem de trafik kazaları ve mevzuatı yönünden yakinen takip edilerek gerekli tedbirlerin trafik zabıtası ve il sağlık müdürlüğü ekipleri tarafından alınması sağlanmalıdır. 3- Tüm bu hususlarla birlikte çiftçilerin üretim alanına erişimini kısıtlamayacak ve hasat edilen ürünler ile tarımsal girdilerin pazara ulaşımını engellemeyecek şekilde tarımsal üretimin aksatılmadan yürütülmesi sağlanmalıdır



**Tarım ve Orman Bakanlığı, tarımsal üretimden aksatılmadan yürütülmesi ve gıda arz güvenliğinin sağlanmasında önemli bir görev üstlenen mevsimlik tarım işçilerinin, koronavirus (Covid-19) nedeniyle hijyen ve koruyucu maddelere erişimi ile nakil ve barınma koşullarının iyileştirilmesi için bazı kararlar ve tedbirler almıştır.**

**Koronavirüs Tedbirleri/Mevsimlik Gezici Tarım İşçileri:** Bakanlık talimatında yer alan tedbirlere ilave olarak bazı tedbirlerin alınmıştır. Tarımsal üretimin kesintiye uğramaması için gerek duyulan insan gücünün her ilin kendi imkanları ile karşılanması esastır. İnsan gücü ihtiyacının il içerisinde karşılanamaması halinde öncelikli civar iller olmak üzere diğer illerden de mevsimlik tarım işçileri ile tarımsal üretimin sürekliliği sağlanacaktır. Ancak bu durum il/ilçe Valiliklerin izin verme şartına bağlı olarak gerçekleştirilebilir.

**Cevre ve Şehircilik Bakanı Murat Kurum, tarımsal amaçlı kiralanacak arazilerinin 6 ay süreyle ertelendiğini açıkladı.**

**Tüm Vali**

**Adana Valiliği**  
Mevsimlik gezici tarım işçilerine 2000 adet hijyen kolisi dağıtıldı. Kolinin içeriği dezenfektan, eldiven, maskeler, sabun, ıslak mendil ve ateş ölçerden oluşmaktadır.

**Adana Yüreğir Belediyesi**  
Yüreğir Belediyesi ekipleri, narenciye ve bahçe ürünlerinde hasada devam eden tarım işçilerinin çadırlarını dezenfekte ederek işçileri bilgilendiriyor. Virüsün yayılabileceği alanları temizleyen ekipler, tarım işçilerine maske ve dezenfektan malzemesi dağıtıyor.

**Mersin Büyükşehir Belediyesi**  
Tarımsal üretime destek vermek amacıyla, çadırlarda yaşayan tarım işçilerine temiz su, temizlik malzemesi, yemek ve gıda yardımlarının ve sağlık kontrollerinin yapılması.

**Mersin Büyükşehir Belediyesi**  
Corona Virüsüne Karşı Kriz Merkezi, diğer ilçe belediyeleriyle koordineli bir şekilde çalışmalarını yürütecek. Bu kapsamda ilçe belediyelerinin yetkili kişilerine de zamanlar tarafından eğitim verilecek.

**Mersin Büyükşehir Belediyesi**  
İşçileri Bakanlık'nın mevsimlik tarım işçilerinin bulunduktan illerden başka illere gidilerinde yaşanabilecek aksamaların oluşmaması amacıyla yayımladığı, "mevsimlik tarım işçileri ve hayvancılık faaliyeti genelgesi" doğrultusunda düzenlenen Mevsimlik Tarım İşçileri Komisyon Toplantısı gerçekleştirildi.

**Adana Seyhan Belediyesi**  
Seyhan'da mevsimlik gezici tarım işçilerinin çadırları dezenfekte edildi. Seyhan Belediyesi tarafından Karagöçer bölgesinde, tarım işçilerinin çadırları dezenfekte edildi ve bölgedeki mevsimlik gezici tarım işçileri Covid-19 pandemisi hakkında bilgilendirildi.

**Aydın Tarım ve Orman İl Müdürlüğü**  
Tarım ve Orman Bakanlığı Covid-19 salgınına yönelik kararların uygulanması

**Burdur Göllühisar Belediyesi**  
Göllühisar İlçesi'nin Soğut Beldesi'ne belediye, koruma başkanlığı ve muhtarlarca alınan kararlar gereğince 30 Nisan'a kadar tarım işçisi alınmayacağı açıklanmıştır.



liklerde İl İdare Kurul-  
rından Pandemi  
Toplanacak



Şehir Giriş/Çıkış Tedbirleri ve Yaş Sınırlaması:  
İl İdaresi Kanununun 11/C maddesi ile Umumi  
Hıfzıshıha Kanununun 27  
nci ve 72 nci maddesi kapsamında il valileri tarafından  
aşağıdaki ek tedbirlerin alınması  
gerekmektedir:

- 1- Büyükşehir statüsündeki Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Aydın, Balıkesir, Bursa, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Mardin, Mersin, Muğla, Ordu, Sakarya, Samsun, Şanlıurfa, Tekirdağ, Trabzon, Van ile Zonguldak illerine giriş çıkış durdurulmuştur.
- 2- Tüm il ve ilçelerde 20 yaşın altındakiler için sokağa çıkma yasağı uygulanacaktır.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Adana Metip Ofisi

Adana METIP ofisi, mevsimlik gezici tarım işçilerine sağlık kontrolü, ulaşım için kullanılacak araçların dezenfekte edilmesi ve yolculuk kuralının uygulanması gibi konularda önleme ve destek için çalışmalarına başladı.

Kaynağı Göt.

#### Chp Adana Milletvekili Burhanettin BULUT

CHP Adana Milletvekili Burhanettin Bulut, Sağlık Bakanı Fahrettin Koca'ya verdiği soru önergesinde, tamsal üretimin devam ettiği Çukurova'da onlarca tarım işçisinin minibüs ve traktörlerde yan yana yolculuk yaptığını, birlikte yemek yediklerini ve gün boyu tarlada veya serada çalıştığını belirterek tedbir alınmasını istedi.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Gaziantep İslahiye

Gaziantep'in İslahiye ilçesinde, koronavirüs salgını nedeni ile mevsimlik tarım işçilerine yönelik hijyen ve genel sağlıkla ilgili bilgilendirme çalışmaları yapıldı. İşçilerin ateşleri ölçülerek kayıt altına alındı.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Adana Büyükşehir Belediyesi • IOM

Adana Valiliği Adana Ovası'nda geçici çadır yerleşimlerinde yaşayan 2000 mevsimlik gezici tarım işçisi aileye hijyen kiti dağıtımını planlamıştır.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Rize Umumi Hıfzıshıha Kurulu

Şehir giriş çıkışlarında kısıtlamalar.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Rize Valiliği

Rize'de koronavirüs önlemleri kapsamında başlatılan "varış kontrol belgesi" uygulaması ile il dışından gelenler, oluşturulan arama noktalarında sağlık kontrolünden geçiriliyor. Ardından ise 14 gün evlerinde karantina altında tutuluyor. Bu durum mevsimlik gezici tarım işçileri için nasıl uygulanacağı henüz bilinmemektedir.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Rize İl İdare Kurulu

İle giriş çıkışları Seyahat belgesi aracılığı ile yapılması.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Rize Umumi Hıfzıshıha Kurulu

Çay Gübrelmek için Rize'ye Gelecek İşçiler Bahsi geçen kuruluşlarca yapılan açıklamalarda yaş çay gübreleme işinin birinci sürgün sonunda yapılması söylenerek Rize'ye gelişlerini ertelemeleri istendi.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Rize Umumi Hıfzıshıha Kurulu

Rize'ye gelecek her türlü seyahat araçları için "varış kontrol belgesi" uygulaması başlatıldı. Belgede yolcunun adı, soyadı, iletişim telefonu, ve Rize ilinde geldiği açık adres bulunacaktır. Muavin tarafından bizzat ve tek elden doldurulacak belge, İl Emniyet Müdürlüğü ile İl Jandarma Komutanlığına iletilecektir.

Kaynağı Göt.



#### Şanlıurfa Mevsimlik Tarım İşçileri Derneği

Şanlıurfa Mevsimlik Tarım İşçileri Derneği Başkanı Suphi Hatipoğlu: "Tarım işçileri olarak Covid-19 şartlarına uygun seyahat ve taşınma imkanı talep ediyoruz." "Tarlaya gittiğimizde de oradaki temizlik imkanı, maske, eldiven ve dezenfektan gibi hijyen koşullarının sağlanmasını istediklerini açıkladı.

Kaynağı Göt.



On the same day with the statement of the Ministry of Interior Adana and Ankara governorates announced the following 10 article measures on 3 April 2020:

- (1) Managing the process in line with decisions adopted by Provincial/District Public Health Boards,
- (2) Keeping at least 1.5 meters distance between the beds of agricultural workers in relevant facilities/containers/tents, keeping again 1.5 meters distance in commonly used spaces, frequent ventilation of indoor spaces and if this is not possible increasing distances (at least 3 meters),
- (3) Extending the distance between tents and creating environments where dampness and moisture are kept at minimum level,
- (4) Uninterrupted delivery of health services by Province/District Health Directorates and public health centres,
- (5) Regular disinfection by local governments of areas where seasonal agricultural workers stay,
- (6) Providing workers safe drinking/service water in their working and accommodation areas, regular collection solid and domestic waste and supervision of environmental conditions,
- (7) Making sure that there is sufficient amount of soap near water sources for incoming persons in camping sites,
- (8) Providing fixed or mobile spaces for WC and bathing in areas where seasonal agricultural workers stay along with conditions of hygiene by using the means of AFAD provincial directorates,
- (9) Paying special attention to the cleanliness of spaces allocated to children,
- (10) Ensuring relevant public health measures are adopted particularly for pregnant and puerperant women, infants, persons with disabilities and people over age 65.

Other boards declaring the adoption of similar measures are as follows: Isparta Public Health Board on 7 April 2020, Isparta Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Boards (MTİK) on 8 April 2020, Bolu MTİK on 9 April 2020, Çorum UHK on 11 April 2020 and Sakarya MTİK on 15 April 2020.

There were 43 decisions taken in nine sample provinces between 5 March 2020 and 16 April 2020. It is understood that same decisions are taken by different bodies in different provinces and their dates of announcements were also different (Table 5). These variations can be explained by the fact that different crops have different times and the need for seasonal workers emerges at different times according to crops and provinces.

**Table 5.** Measures at national and local level adopted between 25 March 2020 and 16 April 2020 that are of relevance to seasonal migrant agricultural workers

Document No.	Board, Council, Commission	Decision Making Institution	Date of Decision	Title
<b>NATIONAL DECISIONS</b>				
89780865-153-E.5863		Ministry of Interior	25.03 2020	Measures adopted in the context of COVID-19 Combat
		Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	26.03 2020	Instructions to provincial directors in the context of Covid-19
		Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	26.03 2020	Establishment of Covid-19 commission
92061122-105.99-E.1030042	Covid-19 decisions pertaining to seasonal migrant agricultural workers adopted by ministries in the period 25 March 2020-15 April 2020 and applicable nationwide	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	27.03 2020	Improvements in crop farming
		Ministry of Interior	28.03 2020	Decision envisaging the establishment of Pandemic Boards in all provinces
		Ministry of Interior	03.04 2020	City entry/exit measures and limit decisions
89780865-153		Ministry of Interior	03.04 2020	Coronavirus measures / Seasonal Agricultural Workers
		Ministry of Interior	05.04 2020	Exceptions to the curfew for young people aged 18-20
		Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	15.04 2020	People engaged in crop farming and animal husbandry activities will be exempt from curfew
<b>ADANA</b>				
Adana_Valilik_3	Adana Governorate	Adana Governorate	03.04 2020	Coronavirus measures / Seasonal Agricultural Workers
Adana_UHM_2020/27	Provincial Public Health Council	Adana Governorate	04.04 2020	Provincial Health Directorate Provincial Public Health Council Decisions

Document No.	Board, Council, Commission	Decision Making Institution	Date of Decision	Title
<b>ADANA</b>				
Adana_PK_2020/02	Provincial Pandemic Board	Adana Governorate	04.04.2020	Provincial Pandemic Board decision no. 02 dated 04.04.2020
Adana_UHM_2020/27	Provincial Public Health Council	Adana Governorate	10.04.2020	Provincial Health Directorate Provincial Public Health council decision no. 2020/27 dated 10.04.2020
<b>ANKARA</b>				
Ankara_UHK_2020/12	Provincial Public Health Board	Ankara Provincial Health Directorate	28.03.2020	
Ankara_PK_1	Provincial Pandemic Board	Ankara Governorate	28.03.2020	Press release on work related to "Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic Preparation and Activity Plan
Ankara_UHK_2020/16	Provincial Public Health Board	Ankara Provincial Health Directorate	03.04.2020	Decisions taken by Ankara Provincial Public Health Board related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers during the pandemic
Ankara_UHK_2020/18	Provincial Public Health Board	Ankara Provincial Health Directorate	04.04.2020	
<b>ÇORUM</b>				
Çorum_UHK_2020/11	Provincial Public Health Council	Çorum Governorate	27.03.2020	Provincial Public Health Council Decisions,
Çorum_UHK_2020/13	Provincial Public Health Council	Çorum Governorate	30.03.2020	Provincial Public Health Council Decisions, Travel Bans
Çorum_UHK_2020/20	Provincial Public Health Council	Çorum Governorate	11.04.2020	Provincial Public Health Council Decisions
Çorum_Valilik_2		Çorum Governorate	15.04.2020	Provincial Pandemic Board Coordination and Provincial Public Health Council meetings
<b>GİRESUN</b>				
Giresun_PK_1	Provincial Pandemic Board	Giresun Governorate	03.04.2020	Meeting on Covid-19 measures and crop farming and animal husbandry
Giresun_UHK_2020/17	Provincial Pandemic Board	Giresun Governorate	05.04.2020	Giresun Provincial Public Health Council decision

Document No.	Board, Council, Commission	Decision Making Institution	Date of Decision	Title
<b>ISPARTA</b>				
Isparta_UHK_2020/7	Isparta Provincial Public Health Board	Isparta Governorate	26.03 2020	Decisions by Isparta Provincial Public Health Board
Isparta_UHK_2020/9	Isparta Provincial Public Health Board	Isparta Governorate	28.03 2020	Decisions by Isparta Provincial Public Health Board
Isparta_UHK_2020/15	Isparta Provincial Public Health Board	Isparta Governorate	05.04 2020	Decisions by Isparta Provincial Public Health Board
Isparta_UHK_2020/17	Isparta Provincial Public Health Board	Isparta Governorate	07.04 2020	Decisions by Isparta Provincial Public Health Board
Isparta_UHK_2020/16	Isparta Provincial Public Health Board	Isparta Governorate	07.04 2020	Decisions by Isparta Provincial Public Health Board
Isparta_MTiK_1	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board	Isparta Governorate	08.04 2020	Announcement by Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board
Isparta_MTiK_2	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board	İl Tarım ve Orman Müd.	15.04 2020	Seasonal Agricultural Workers
<b>SAKARYA</b>				
Sakarya_UHK_2020/20	Provincial Public Health Board	Sakarya Governorate	26.03 2020	Provincial Public Health Board Decisions
Sakarya_MTiK_1	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board	Sakarya Governorate	28.03 2020	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board meeting was held
<b>BOLU</b>				
BOLU_UHK_2020/13	Provincial Public Health Board	Bolu Governorate	26.03 2020	Decisions by Bolu Provincial Public Health Board
BOLU_UHK_2020/15	Provincial Public Health Board	Bolu Governorate	28.03 2020	Decisions by Bolu Provincial Public Health Board
BOLU_UHK_2020/19	Provincial Public Health Board	Bolu Governorate	03.04 2020	Decisions by Bolu Provincial Public Health Board
BOLU_UHK_2020/21	Provincial Public Health Board	Bolu Governorate	05.04 2020	Decisions by Bolu Provincial Public Health Board
Bolu_MTiK_2020/01	Seasonal Agricultural Workers Commission	Bolu Governorate	09.04 2020	Decision by Bolu Seasonal Agricultural Workers Commission
<b>ŞANLIURFA</b>				
Urfa_UHK_2020/13	Provincial Public Health Board	Şanlıurfa Governorate	05.04 2020	Decision by Şanlıurfa Provincial Public Health Board

Document No.	Board, Council, Commission	Decision Making Institution	Date of Decision	Title
<b>ŞANLIURFA</b>				
Urfa_UHK_2020/14	Provincial Public Health Board	Şanlıurfa Governorate	08.04 2020	Decision by Şanlıurfa Provincial Public Health Board
Urfa_UHK_2020/17	Provincial Public Health Board	Şanlıurfa Governorate	11.04 2020	Decision by Şanlıurfa Provincial Public Health Board
Urfa_UHK_2020/20	Provincial Public Health Board	Şanlıurfa Governorate	14.04 2020	Decision by Şanlıurfa Provincial Public Health Board
<b>KONYA</b>				
Konya_UHK_2020/15	Provincial Public Health Board	Konya Governorate	04.04 2020	Decision by Konya Provincial Public Health Board
Konya_UHK_2020/22	Provincial Public Health Board	Konya Governorate	10.04 2020	Decision by Konya Provincial Public Health Board
Konya_UHK_2020/24	Provincial Public Health Board	Konya Governorate	16.04 2020	Decision by Konya Provincial Public Health Board

#### The scope of nationwide decisions applicable to each province

- It must be ensured that the accommodation and working areas of persons working in agricultural production, especially seasonal workers, are constantly controlled by province/district agricultural directorates, and necessary measures are taken in coordination with the provincial directorates of health in areas where the risk of transmission of the virus is high.
- It must be ensured that travel/transportation conditions of agricultural workers are closely followed with respect to both the risk of virus transmission and traffic accidents and relevant measures are taken by traffic and provincial health directorate teams.
- Along with all these, it must be ensured that agricultural production continues smoothly without restricting farmers' access to places of production and without blocking the market reach of harvested crops and agricultural inputs.
- It is essential to meet the workforce required by each province with its own means, so that agricultural production is not interrupted. If the need for workforce cannot be met within the province, continuity of agricultural production will be ensured with seasonal agricultural workers from other provinces, primarily from the surrounding provinces. However, this situation will be subject to the permission of the relevant Governorships. But such a step requires the permission of the Governorates concerned. In case of such agricultural labour mobility between different provinces, provinces that workers depart will be defined as "origin" and provinces where they will contribute to production as "destination."
- In the arrival of seasonal agricultural workers and, if requested, in their exit from the province, the governorates of two provinces concerned will fix a time for their necessary health controls after which their transportation will take place by means of public transportation (in compliance with the rules of thinning).
- Those who will be working in harvest of agricultural crops and animal products with the risk of going bad are among citizens exempt from curfew.

Meanwhile, as to the overall framework of decision making and implementation processes the following points must be stressed:

- The procedures for seasonal migrant agricultural workers to get exit permission in their origin provinces are slow. This completely new procedure creates a significant work burden for relevant units who are in charge of evaluating applications. Meanwhile, the curfew for ages -20 and 65+ is enforced differently from province to province when it comes to seasonal migrant agricultural workers. There are also different practices in the issuance of travel permits to these age groups.
- According to the existing procedure, the demand for seasonal migrant agricultural workers in destination provinces is to be reported to province or district agriculture and forestry directorates by farmers and/or agricultural chambers which are then to be reported to province or district agriculture and forestry directorates in provinces of origin. There are presently organizational problems in handling these requests and entering into database. These problems cause serious delays where families preparing for migration are uncertain about how things will go. Indeed, during the research there were some intermediaries and families (though not much in number) who decided not to move because of these uncertainties.
- Congestion created by applicants particularly in provinces of origin may also risk measures adopted against the disease as can be seen in Şanlıurfa province centre and districts. After a quick decision the number of application centres was increased to eliminate this problem. Given that this mobility will continue throughout the summer and considering the level of education of people concerned some other solutions too may be considered to expedite the process.
- In case agricultural intermediaries permanently live or are present in provinces of destination, they have to make a request for workers in their provinces of origin where workers in these provinces are expected to complete the process with their own means. This leads to delays and uncertainties in the application process.
- There are some families who do not work with any agricultural intermediary and have no job connection but still work in seasonal works every year; now, it does not seem possible for these families to do the same again this year because of measures taken. Their requests for travel are turned down when they apply. There is need to introduce additional arrangements for these persons/families.

Haberler > Gündem Haberleri > Son dakika: 'Corona yüzünden 40 gündür evdeyim, emeğim boşa gitti!' Akılalmaz...

## Son dakika: 'Corona yüzünden 40 gündür evdeyim, emeğim boşa gitti!' Akılalmaz...

Son dakika haberlere göre, Şanlıurfa'da mevsimlik tarım işçileri, corona virüs tedbirleri kapsamında şart koşulan seyahat izin belgesini almak için İlçe Tarım Müdürlükleri önünde kuyruklar oluşturdu. Polis ekipleri, sosyal mesafeye aldırış etmeden yoğunluk oluşturanları uyardı.



Şanlıurfa'da mevsimlik tarım işçisi olarak diğer şehirlere gitmek isteyenler Eyyübiye ve Halliye İlçe Tarım Müdürlüklerine gelerek seyahat izin belgesi için başvuruda bulundu.



- It is still uncertain whether persons under age 20 and over age 65 travelling with their families will take part in farming activities or not. No arrangement or intervention was observed as to what these persons will do in their accommodation areas if they do not take part in agricultural activities. In case they will be allowed to work, it is also unclear where the relevant document is to be sought.
- Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Boards are established in provinces upon a central decision. It is yet uncertain which institutions are responsible for the enforcement of measures adopted by these boards and with which capacity. For example, it is clear that suggestions related to accommodation will create need for additional tents, but it is not clear who will provide these tents and how.
- Another uncertainty is related to transportation. Seasonal migrant agricultural workers travel from their provinces of origin to their destination on minibuses provided by agricultural intermediaries, of their own or on rent. These travels are often organized on family basis and require the inclusion of -20 and 65+ family members who are otherwise subject to curfew. To keep the cost of transportation as low as possible, 20-25 persons from different families may travel in the same minibus with normal capacity of 14-16. It is announced as a part of Covid-19 measures that vehicles should carry half the number of persons given in their license as vehicle capacity. This means two or threefold increase in the cost of transportation that workers are expected to cover with their own means. Decisions include no solution as to how this extra cost is to be financed. Even assuming that this extra cost is covered, there is still no clarity as to how additional transportation vehicles needed are to be supplied. Given present measures, a family with more than 7-8 members has to find a second minibus and another family with more than 3 members has to find another car, which poses problems both in terms of cost and finding vehicles.
- Another point related to transportation which is not clear is how agricultural workers will travel from their camps to fields/orchards they work. In lump sum paid works like in Konya this transportation cost is borne by workers while all ambiguities related to inter-provincial travel also exist in district/province level travels.
- It is known that the transportation of workers from their accommodation to working areas is by tractors or other vehicles known as "pat pat". Measures, however, do not give any explanation for the use of these vehicles.

**'Virus or Poverty? Costs squeeze us badly ...'**

For the last 10 years Mustafa travels from Şanlıurfa to Ereğli, Konya to work together with his wife, children, mother and father. The family has 8 members. They usually move out in early April and return in October. Cuma has four children and all are under age 18. Earlier three families used to travel to Ereğli by paying 1,800 TL to a minibus, where Mustafa has his share as 600 TL. Since there was return too, it added up to 1,200 TL. Last year they earned 70TL person/day, which meant that wage returns for 17 days of work covered their transportation cost.

All had to change this year upon the Covid-19 outbreak. Outbreak coincided with the time when most seasonal migrant agricultural workers were about to move. Central and local authorities started to take measures to prevent and halt the spread of the disease and agricultural workers had their share. At first they ensured that a writing confirming that they are wanted as workers in destination places reach their own district/province. Then they applied to relevant authorities for travel permit. All these took quite a time. There was overcrowding in offices at sometimes and they had to wait in lines facing the risk of transmission. So that is poverty... So they call on people to stay home and call on us to produce to feed those who stay home... There must be some others to feed them...

After long and troublesome efforts Mustafa finally got his travel permit to go to and work in Ereğli. Authorities first did not grant permit to -20 and 65 + who are subject to curfew; but how could they leave them behind alone? He convinced the authority and got the permission for them too. One measure to be observed during the travel was to have at most 8 passengers in the minibus. Mustafa had 8 in his family and could go to Ereğli with that minibus. But this year minibus driver asked 2,250 TL for single direction. Adding the return it would total to 4,500 TL. Mustafa has to pay it by himself. This is almost four times what he paid last year. Daily wage rate in the place he is going to work is not fixed yet. Mustafa expects 90 TL of daily wage this year. This means he will have to pay 50 times his daily wage this year for transportation which was 17 times his daily wage last year.

Source: Derived from the notes of the interview with an agricultural intermediary conducted on 14 April 2020. The name of the intermediary was changed for anonymity. The same interview was used by Melis Alphan in her article published on 27 April 2020. [artigercek.com/yazarlar/melis-alphan/virus-mu-beter-yoksulluk-mu](http://artigercek.com/yazarlar/melis-alphan/virus-mu-beter-yoksulluk-mu). first accessed 27 April 2020.

- It is known that children participate to employment together with their families starting from age 12 in daily paid works and from 6-7 in lump sum paid works. Measures introduced at central and local levels there is no provision on how children's participation to employment is to be prevented and how school-going children continue their education. Even in cases where safe spaces are envisaged for children there is no clarity as to how these spaces are to be organized and used.
- District directorates of agriculture are in charge of monitoring how measures envisaged for temporary tent camps are implemented. However, the number of personnel in these institutions was reduced as their work burden increased as a result of Covid-19 measures. It is therefore not clear yet how envisaged monitoring activities are to be performed.
- Finally, it is still unclear who will respond to the needs of workers and how in the context of Covid-19 related work safety and health measures including use of gloves and masks, organization of eating and resting areas, access to toilet and safe water, supply of soap and disinfectants, etc.



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> [www.meb.gov.tr/uzaktan-egitim-30-Aprila-kadar-devam-edecek/haber/20585/tr](http://www.meb.gov.tr/uzaktan-egitim-30-Aprila-kadar-devam-edecek/haber/20585/tr), first accessed 26 April 2020
- <sup>2</sup> [www.yok.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Haberler/2020/YKS%20Ertelenmesi%20Bas%C4%B1n%20A%C3%A7%C4%B1klamas%C4%B1.aspx](http://www.yok.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Haberler/2020/YKS%20Ertelenmesi%20Bas%C4%B1n%20A%C3%A7%C4%B1klamas%C4%B1.aspx), first accessed 26 April 2020
- <sup>3</sup> Kalkınma Atölyesi, 2018, Yevmiyeci, Yarıcı veya Kürekçi; Hepsi Çocuk Tarımsal Üretimde Ücret Tipleri ve Çocuk İşçiliğinin Görünümleri Araştırması [www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/%C3%BCret%20raporu%20TR.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/%C3%BCret%20raporu%20TR.pdf)

**Additional measures taken on 25 April 2020 by the Science Board of the Ministry of Health concerning seasonal agricultural workers, related explanations and questions:**

**1)** Before workers start their travel there will be Covid-19 compatible symptom and temperature examination, those who have relevant symptoms and high temperature will not be allowed to travel and others will have to wear mask throughout their journey.

All experts state on TV every night one can be infected without signs of high temperature. Can't there be any other alternative to measuring body temperature? For example, PCR test to reduce the risk for these workers? Other assessments?

**2)** Province/district directorate of security will be informed when workers arrive at their accommodation areas. There will be no social communication between seasonal workers and local people living around. Wearing mask will be compulsory in outdoor and indoor spaces where social distance cannot be observed.

The large majority of seasonal migrant agricultural workers stay and camp in spaces that are out of the domain of provincial /district security directorate and thus under the supervision of the gendarme. The term "gendarme" must therefore be used in relevant measures.

There must be clarity as to who will be in charge of providing masks in cases where social distance cannot be observed.

**3)** A representative is to be elected to cover daily needs. This elected representative will be in charge of procuring for all needs of workers staying together on daily basis. There will be no individual shopping apart from this representative. When necessary, this representative will be provided a vehicle by the employer. The representative has to be in full health without any symptom of any disease.

Seasonal agricultural workers mostly live as large families in large-scale tent camps. It does not seem possible for only one person to meet all needs in these camps. In any case, their families meet their need not on daily basis but at specific times when they buy all they can.

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers usually do not have ready cash; they either borrow from agricultural intermediaries or shop on credit to pay later. Given existing measures, it is not easy for them to shop.

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers work for more than one employer. It is not clear which employer is to organize shopping which leads to uncertainty.

How is it to be made clear whether the person in charge of shopping has indications of disease before or after this shopping?

**4)** Taking forehead temperatures (through laser thermometer) of workers in periods of 7 to 14 days to detect cases early.

Where and by whom this work is to be done?

**5)** If workers are to stay in tents there must be a distance of at least 2 meters between two tents and inside the tent the space per staying person must be at least 3 square meters.

The following questions have to be answered for this measure:

- Will distances be re-arranged in tents that were already set up before the outbreak?
- If yes, will there be space allocation for this?
- If there is no appropriate space in the tent camp area which of these tents will be moved and to where?
- If seasonal migrant agricultural workers have paid rental for tent camp space who will cover the additional rental for the new place?
- The size of tents used by seasonal migrant agricultural workers is generally 15-20 square meters and on average 7 persons stay in a tent. Furniture, kitchen materials, utensils, etc. are all there. It is impossible in these tents for each dweller to have at least 3 square meters of space. This means there is need for additional tents. Who will provide this and how?

**6)** The number of toilet cabins is to be planned so as to have one toilet per 10 persons. Toilets will be at a distance of at least 30-50 meters to the location of the settlement and there will be one bathing facility per 30 persons.

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers may have their family toilets and do not let others use it. And they don't use toilets used by others. The following questions must be answered for this measure:

Who will construct these toilets and who will cover the cost?

If toilets are located at some distance they are not used and families build their toilets closer to their tents. If there is no lighting at night it does not seem possible for children and young girls to use these toilets.

There is no provision concerning measures related to baths in tent camps and how these measures are to be implemented.

**7)** Regular collection of wastes.

The critical issue besides the collection of wastes is the availability of bins to store wastes. Municipalities must address this in their programmes.

**8)** Workers from groups whose Covid-19 test turned as positive will not be allowed to move any other place and kept in quarantine for at least 10 days following the emergence of the last case.

If quarantined, who will pay for the days that these workers did not work?

Source: These notes and questions were developed by taking due account of measures designed by the Science Board of the Ministry of Health: [www.hurriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/bilim-kurulu-mevsimsel-tarim-iscileri-icin-karar-aldi-iscicadirlari-arasina-virus-mesafesi-41502947](http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/bilim-kurulu-mevsimsel-tarim-iscileri-icin-karar-aldi-iscicadirlari-arasina-virus-mesafesi-41502947).

Part V

Findings





This part analyses data collected from the phone interviews with agricultural intermediaries, other institutions and from the online survey with the WhatsApp group participants. Information and data are collected about as the employment status and work calendar of seasonal migrant agricultural workers mobilized by agricultural intermediaries, their present state vis-à-vis the outbreak and to what extent they are informed about, the measures taken; their needs in transportation, accommodation and working areas, to what extent measures are enforced, etc. Also presented is the capacity evaluation questionnaire realized with 17 of institutions that supplied information throughout the survey to the WhatsApp group created by information and experience sharing by the Development Workshop.

## Agricultural Intermediaries and Labour Force They Organize

All agricultural intermediaries interviewed on the phone are males and their average age is 43. 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed were asked how *many workers they are working with* (Table 6). As experienced previous research with seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children, data related to the number of workers involved can only be approximate. This seems legitimate and tolerable given that the majority of agricultural intermediaries interviewed in this study had yet not started their work and that each year they can work with different group of workers and for different crops. It is for this reason that agricultural intermediaries expressed approximate number of workers in certain cases and in some other cases mentioned families participated/to participate to seasonal migration as “households” rather than individual workers in different crops throughout the year. Their approximation to the number of workers usually goes like “*at least two workers from each house.*” Consequently, distribution over five intervals given in the table is quite close to each other with the exception of the extreme groups of “less than 50 workers” and “more than 300 workers”. An approximation from here suggests that intermediaries interviewed stand for about 10,000 workers (9,947 workers, 147 workers per intermediary).

**Table 6.** Labour force that interviewed agricultural intermediaries will be working with from March to September

Number of workers	Frequency	Percentage	
↓	↓	↓	
1-49	12	17.1	
50-99	20	28.6	
100-199	17	24.3	
200-299	14	20	
300 and over	7	10	
Total	70	100.0	

BQuestions were asked about age and gender distribution. Though not giving any definite number it seems that agricultural intermediaries think the number of women is high. 35.7 per cent of intermediaries could not make any clear statement about the gender composition of their workers skipping it with statements like “*I don’t know*” or “*I am not sure*”. Those who state opinion on this mostly say “fifty-fifty.” According to intermediaries who can give figures, they found jobs for 2,713 men and 2,427 women. Many intermediaries say the number of female workers is higher than males.

Data was sought for population under age 18 in working households acting under the responsibility of intermediaries. 18.6% of intermediaries (13 persons) responded “I don’t know.” Some other intermediaries gave definite numbers while others made approximations based on the overall number of workers or the average number of children in a given household. Examining carefully responses like this it can be said that population under age 18 corresponds to one-third of total worker population (3,037 children). Unfortunately, agricultural intermediaries could not give details about this population with respect to gender and age groups. Almost all agricultural intermediaries state they are either uninformed or uncertain about this. Meanwhile, during interviews some agricultural intermediaries clearly stated that population under age 18 start working at age 14-15 and occasionally referred to this age group as “workers.” There were some others who thought that the interview was related to “*child labour*” adding they never take children under age out 14-16 to fields and even if they are present they only do such simple things as serving water without being paid. Still others said children definitely take part in production out of their school time. All these suggest that agricultural intermediaries have some idea about the issue of child labour and employment ages.

Answers were more definite to the question of the number of people at age 65 + in the context of curfew. According to this information 57 agricultural intermediaries have no person at age 65 and over in their teams. The remaining 13 agricultural workers have 54 persons in this age group in their teams.

50 out of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed said there is no migrant<sup>1</sup> worker in their teams. 7 out of other 20 agricultural intermediaries working with migrant workers say they do not know the number of migrant workers in their teams whereas other 13 work with about 720

migrant workers in total. Some agricultural intermediaries who have no migrant worker in their team explain it by saying “*it is forbidden anyway*” while others state they prefer not to work with migrant workers after their earlier experience with.

38 agricultural intermediaries say there is nobody with any chronic illness in their worker group while 20 say they have no idea about it. The remaining 12 agricultural intermediaries say 57 workers have their chronic illnesses. 30 agricultural intermediaries do not know if there is any pregnant woman in their teams while 12 say there is none. 28 agricultural intermediaries give 61 as the number of pregnant women in their teams.

Relevant question was about the situation of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers’ children since all stages of formal education were transferred to distance education during the outbreak. Of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed, 36 say children do not take part in distance education while 14 say they have no information about this. Only 16 agricultural intermediaries responded “*Yes*” to this question while 4 said children’s participation to distance education is only “*partial*”. These 20 agricultural intermediaries say children firstly use TV and then mobile phone to take part in distance education. It is a question mark to what extent intermediaries take care of this too among many other issues. Since the majority of intermediaries interviewed are yet not out in the field, it is too difficult to reach definite conclusions about how the process will work in children’s participation to distance education.

According to the previous research conducted by the Development Workshop on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families, agriculture is the leading sector where children are employed both for wage and as unpaid family labourers. Further, according to the 2012 Child Labour Survey by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) 44.7% of working children (399,000)<sup>2</sup> are employed in agriculture whereas the 2019 Child Labour Survey gives the figure as 221,000 children (30.8 per cent)<sup>3</sup>.

Seasonal migrant agricultural work is a form of wage labour in agricultural production which requires families concerned to move out of their permanent residences to other places depending on various stages of crop farming. Since all family members participate to this movement, children too mostly take part in farming activities as wage workers. The household income rises as families can mobilize as much of their members as possi-

ble as workers. Hence child labour is still an important element in family subsistence strategies.

It is observed that in Turkey children are commonly employed in citrus fruit, sugar beet, vegetable, cotton, tobacco, legume, cumin and hazelnut production in Turkey. The number of children is high particularly among seasonal migrant agricultural workers and when some specific works are concerned the share of children may be as high as 1/3 of total labour force. The employment of children in agricultural wage work means their confrontation with rather heavy working conditions. Long working hours, hot and humid environments in summer are some of the difficulties involved

Children from the age group 14-17 in particular are engaged in seasonal agricultural works and move together with their families for wage work in agriculture. According to a survey by Hayata Destek Association (2014) with 168 seasonal agricultural worker households containing data for 1,353 persons most of children from these households work in crop fields and orchards. 35 per cent of children from the age group 5-11 work in crop fields and this ratio increases to 78 per cent in the age group 12-15 and to 85 per cent in the age group 16-18. Education of most of the children participating to seasonal migration is interrupted whether they work or not. The survey mentioned above shows that incidences of non-attendance and drop out are high among these children. 50 per cent of children working (age 18 and under) have left their schools and this rate is 21 per cent even among children who do not work. 57 per cent of working children cannot regularly attend their school although enrolled and this rate is 43 per cent for children who do not work. Participation to seasonal agricultural production affects the education of children negatively with high possibility of dropping out in near future.

Besides their work in crop fields and orchards children are also engaged in many other works including fetching water, washing laundry, washing dishes, cooking and preparing meals and childcare. It appears that families migrating for agricultural work take their children who can work with them.

The study identified exploring the impact of Covid-19 measures on families, particularly children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers as one of its specific objectives. However, due to not being able to be out in the field and absence of any agricultural worker in two groups, responses to

questions on this issue were not to the extent expected. To give an example it is a significant limitation to the interviews that agricultural intermediaries are aware of negative attributions to child labour that they respond to the question “*how many children are there in your group*” without including working (paid) children and that avoid talking about this issue particularly in phone interviews.

Nevertheless, it is still possible to make an approximation on the basis of past studies on child labour in crop farming. Especially in cases of lump sum remuneration families taking part in migration let their children work no matter how young they are.<sup>4</sup> In daily wage employment, on the other hand, families tend to let their children work above the age limit that landowners agree. As spotted in the analysis of the interviews, measures adopted against the outbreak will significantly increase transportation costs borne by workers and there is yet no clarity how this increased cost will be covered. Given all these, the possibility of making children work is higher now. Further, since it was found during the interviews that there would be some workers deciding not to move or cannot this year, it can be said that children travelling with their families are more likely to join their working family members this year.

The second group of interviewees representing governmental agencies, farmers unions, civil society organizations, private sector firms, agricultural chambers and professional organizations from 10 sample provinces are in the opinion that the incidence of child labour will persist as it is and may even increase in some provinces.

In an interview with an academic studying child labour it was stated that there are hundreds of thousands of children related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers and these children usually have to work when moving somewhere else with their families. Representatives from chambers of agriculture state that it is impossible for families to leave their children behind when migrating and since they are family members it is extremely difficult to implement preventive measures in this regard. A CSO representative from Eskişehir says there is need for facilities to take care of children when their family elder out in fields and it is just impossible to prevent their employment without such facilities. Since education institutions are temporarily closed as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, the EBA TV<sup>5</sup> for distance education could be an “*opportunity*” to keep children away from work, but children of migrant workers are deprived of means and spaces to benefit from this opportunity.

## Activity Status of Agricultural Intermediaries and of Seasonal Agricultural Workers And Seasonal Agricultural Work Calendar

Of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed, 49 have yet not moved to their provinces of working; 21 are already in their provinces, but only 12 out of these 21 have actually started working (Table 7). This is an important finding with respect to the schedule of the interview. Data compiled cover three major worker clusters:

- (a) Those who are presently out in the field and working,
- (b) Those who are presently out in the field but not working yet,
- (c) Those who have yet not reached their fields.

Consequently, there is compilation of experiences and expectations from agricultural intermediaries at different states concerning decisions, measures and practices against the outbreak that will have their effect on agricultural production. This state of affairs had its implications on interviews made with institutions in provinces/districts where agricultural production has started or yet to start.

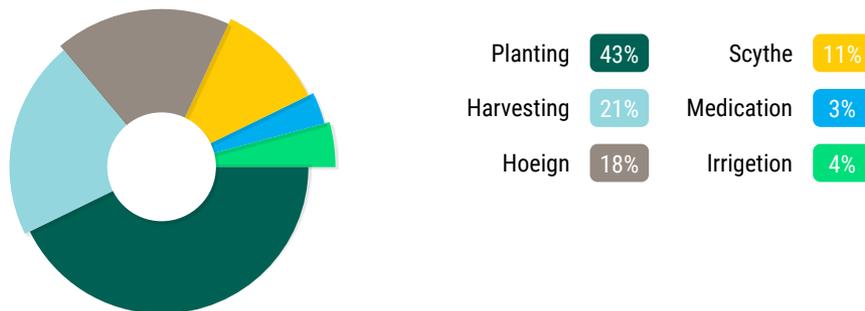
**Table 7.** Province-level work status of agricultural intermediaries who were interviewed (Number)

Province you are presently in	Are you out in the field to work now?			Total
	Yes we are and we are working	Yes, we are out in the field but not working	No, we are not out in the field	
Şanlıurfa			1	29
Adana	4	8	1	13
Diyarbakır			12	12
Konya	1			1
Mersin	1	1		2
Kocaeli			1	1
Bursa	1			1
Batman			1	1
Osmaniye			1	1
Eskişehir	1		1	2
Antalya	1			1
Hatay	1		1	2
Mardin			1	1
Samsun	1			1
Manisa	1			1
Siirt			1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>70</b>

For example, agricultural intermediaries preparing to move in July 2020 and agricultural chambers in Ordu-Altınordu and Düzce that expect seasonal workers for hazelnut harvest and Malatya-Akçadağ that has the same expectation for apricot harvest say there is no problem for the time being and expect that the effects of the disease will reduce until the time that workers are about to arrive. Meanwhile problems were observed in places like Bursa-Mustafakemalpaşa, Ankara-Polatlı and Mersin-Tarsus where the need for labour force is already pressing as a result of uncertainties related to travel permits. Meanwhile a representative of an institution interviewed in Adana-Seyhan pointed out that uncertainties have already started to pose problems for crop farming by saying: *“Presently there is need for labour force. They have not fully arrived yet. There must be incoming workers from some regions, but we can’t see it as there is onion harvest now.”*

21 agricultural intermediaries (30 per cent of total interviewees) who have moved to work (but either working or not working at present) were asked what they do or will do if it is clear. 16 intermediaries responded to this question. 28 responses were compiled since respondents could mark more than one option. According to this information works most frequently performed by workers overseen by agricultural intermediaries are planting (42.9 per cent), harvesting (21.4 per cent) and hoeing (17.9 per cent) (Chart 4).

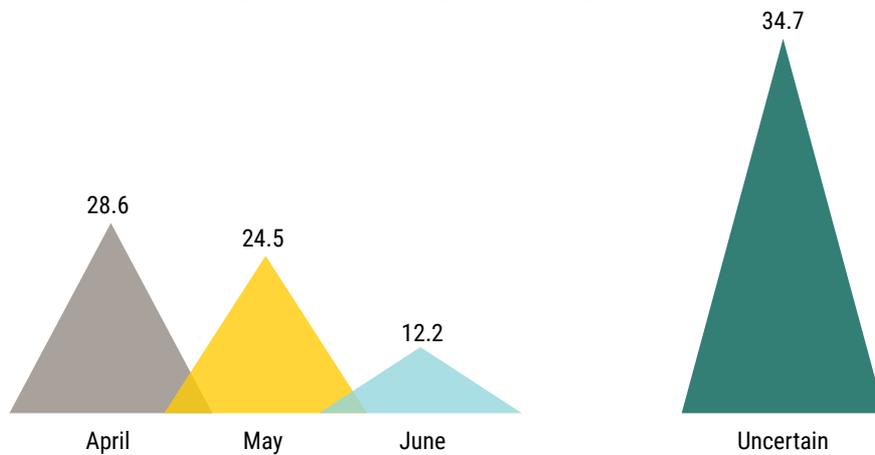
**Chart 4.** Works that are presently performed or will be performed by seasonal migrant agricultural workers who are presently out in fields



Of 21 agricultural intermediaries who are presently in their working provinces 9 are from Şanlıurfa, one from Şırnak and one from Mardin. The remaining 10 have not come from anywhere, being in these provinces for some time.

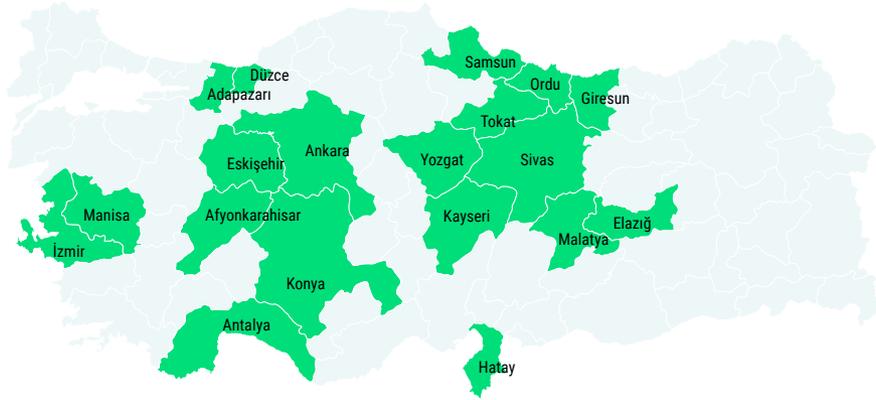
There are 49 intermediaries who have yet not moved to their working provinces and 17 of these intermediaries have no idea when they will go. Of these intermediaries 14 think they will start working in April 12 in May and 6 in June (Chart 5). These dates are determined with respect to seasons of different agricultural crops. The majority of intermediaries responding “*I don’t know, it is not certain yet*” are in hazelnut culture and plan to move toward the end of July and early August.

**Chart 5.** When will you start working? (Percentage)



When asked about their date to start work, it turned out that all 49 intermediaries were already engaged in a job agreement. Questions about provinces to be moved to and crops gives us the following with 20 provinces: Adapazarı (hazelnut), Afyon (sugar beet), Ankara (onion), Antalya, Düzce (hazelnut), Elazığ (sugar beet), Eskişehir (tomato, pepper, cumin, onion), Giresun (hazelnut), Hatay (potato, onion), İzmir (tomato), Kayseri (sugar beet), Konya (sugar beet, cumin, sunflower, tomato, pepper, eggplant, water melon, bean, sunflower), Malatya (apricot, melon), Manisa (tomato, eggplant, pepper), Ordu (hazelnut), Sakarya (hazelnut), Samsun (hazelnut), Sivas (sugar beet), Tokat (tomato, pepper) and Yozgat (sugar beet). Konya (24.5 per cent) and Malatya (20.4 per cent) are the leading ones among these provinces. Intermediaries interviewed plan to move Konya and Malatya in April and May, to İzmir in May and June, and to Ordu and Düzce starting from late July. The determining crops are apricot in Malatya, sugar beet in Konya, hazelnut in Ordu and Düzce and vegetables including tomato in the first place in İzmir. It is clear that there will be seasonal agricultural worker mobility in most parts of Turkey from April to September.

**Map 9.** Provinces that will be the first destination of agricultural intermediaries after the period of leave



Konya	24.5%	<div style="width: 24.5%;"></div>	Kayseri	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Malatya	20.4%	<div style="width: 20.4%;"></div>	İzmir	6.1%	<div style="width: 6.1%;"></div>
Ordu	6.1%	<div style="width: 6.1%;"></div>	Hatay	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Sivas	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>	Elâzığ	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Düzce	6.1%	<div style="width: 6.1%;"></div>	Giresun	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Adapazarı	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>	Afyonkarahisar	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Ankara	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>	Sakarya	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Antalya	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>	Tokat	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Manisa	4.1%	<div style="width: 4.1%;"></div>	Samsun	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>
Yozgat	6.1%	<div style="width: 6.1%;"></div>	Eskişehir	2.0%	<div style="width: 2.0%;"></div>

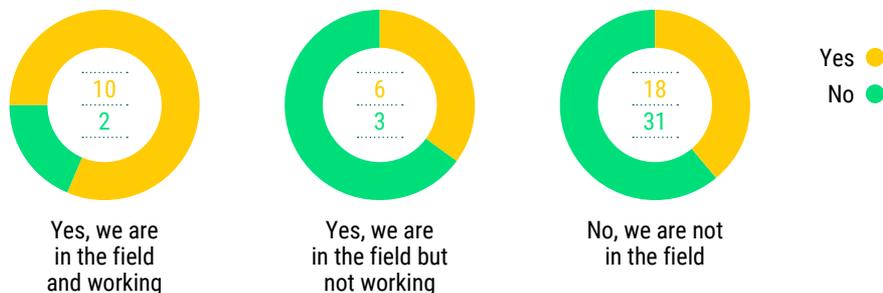
## Present State of and Information about the Covid-19 Outbreak

15 out of 21 agricultural intermediaries who are presently working or managed to reach their working areas say they received no assistance from any institution after the outbreak. 6 intermediaries who state to have received assistance explain that municipalities (Adana-Seyhan) supplied gloves and masks and hygiene kits were distributed in different districts and provinces.<sup>6</sup> 17 agricultural intermediaries say they have not undergone any health screening while there were only intermediaries saying their temperatures were taken, their temporary accommodation areas were disinfected and they were informed about the disease by such institutions as gendarme and provincial directorates of health and agriculture and forestry. One agricultural intermediary interviewed said he had ar-

rived Samsun when the travel ban was announced, he was referred to a health facility by authorities and told not to contact anybody for 14 days.

Of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed, 39 say they have not been informed about the outbreak and 31 say they have. 31 out of 39 who have not been informed are those who have yet not moved to their working provinces. As to 21 agricultural intermediaries who could reach their provinces 13 say they have been informed about the issue (Chart 6). It was found that relevant information was supplied by district and province governorates, gendarme, province or district directorates of agriculture and forestry. It appears that information about the disease becomes available as travels start and people move out to fields.

**Chart 6.** Direct information supply to agricultural intermediaries by their state of work (Number)

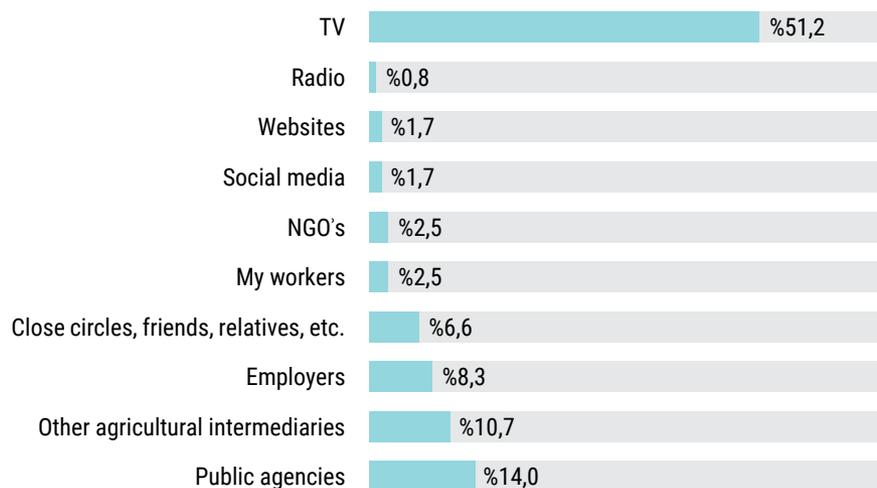


Indeed, while the number of intermediaries saying to have been informed by some official institutions was few in initial interviews, responses “Yes, we were informed” increased in the course of time as information flow started from governorates and provincial/district directorates of agriculture and forestry. Had interviews been conducted in more recent times a large majority of registered agricultural intermediaries would have been called by various institutions. Statements such as “We had a meeting at the governorate today” were frequently heard during interviews with different institutions at district/province level (agriculture directorates, agricultural chambers, municipalities, district governorates, etc.).

The majority of agricultural intermediaries say they follow developments related to the outbreak even if they are not informed by official institutions 67 agricultural intermediaries who follow developments were asked

about means and channels they use in doing this by providing options like TV, radio, social media, websites, workers, relatives/friends, other agricultural intermediaries, employers, government agencies, and CSOs. Agricultural intermediaries opted for more than one and in total gave 121 responses. The ranking goes as TV (51.2 per cent), government agencies (14 per cent), other agricultural intermediaries (10.7 per cent) and employers (8.3 per cent) (Chart 7). Of agricultural intermediaries interviewed, only three mentioned CSOs as a source of information about the outbreak. Institutions mentioned as CSO are the Pikolo Association<sup>7</sup> and Adana and Tarsus Associations of Agricultural Intermediaries.

**Chart 7.** Sources of news/information about the course of the Covid-19 outbreak that agricultural intermediaries follow



The fact that agricultural intermediaries mention “other agricultural intermediaries” as their source of information about the outbreak is also important with respect to their response to another question. 32 out of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed say they are in contact with other agricultural intermediaries in provinces they move to. These facts point out to the importance of existing networks in informing agricultural intermediaries.

It appears that most of agricultural intermediaries did not inform workers about they are dealing with outbreak-related measures and practices. They gave loose answers such as “*We talk about it*” or said “*It is too early*”

now” if there is still time to go out for work. Some agricultural intermediaries say workers are as informed as they are (“*They all follow it on TV*”). Workers actually get information about outbreak-related developments as they meet each other in villages or neighbourhoods, in their network of relatives or friends and neighbourhood relations. There were only 2 agricultural intermediaries who said they were regularly informing “*family heads*.”

Agricultural intermediaries were asked whether there are workers coming to them to ask about recent developments in general and the disease outbreak in particular. 7 intermediaries did not respond to this question while 16 said nobody came up and asked any question. There are 23 agricultural intermediaries having no communication with their workers and 17 of these are intermediaries who have yet not started their work. Their general response on this is “*it is early yet*”. Below is what an intermediary said:

“

*They don't ask anything for the time being. But of course they are disturbed by this disease problem. But we still have some time.*

”

Another intermediary:

“

*They don't ask anything. Everybody is waiting and we are waiting too.*

”

It is understood from answers given by the remaining 47 agricultural intermediaries that the most important issue for seasonal migrant agricultural workers who start the season as in debt is “*What will happen this year*” which means whether they will be working. Restrictions on travel and curfew for people under age 20 mean higher costs for workers and raise concerns about their subsistence. In relation to the outbreak there were fewer concerns about camping sites and hygiene.

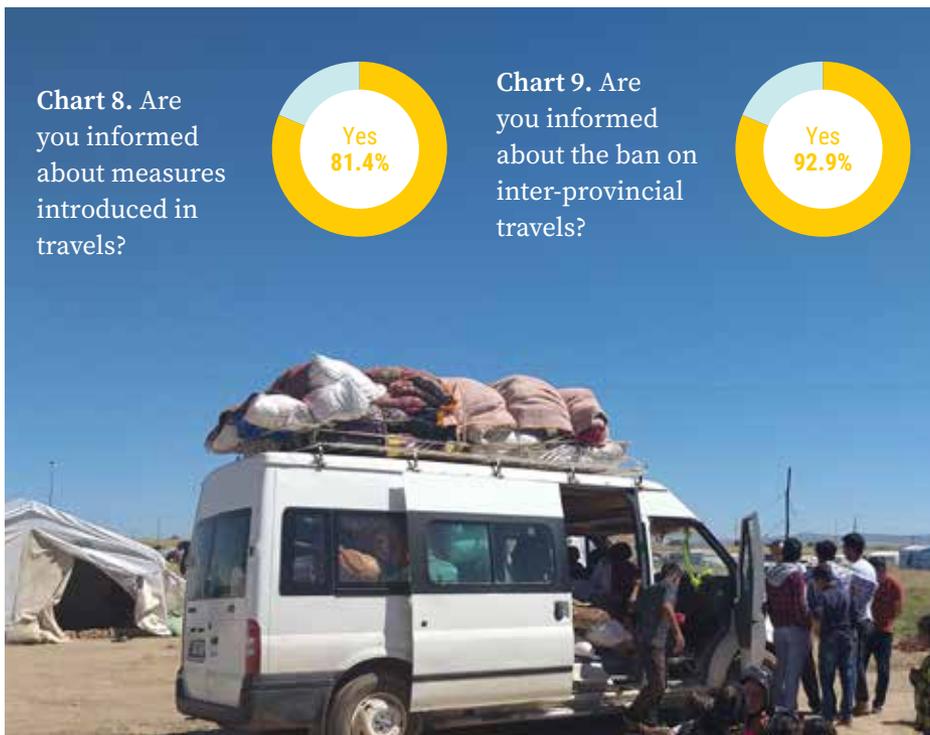
In interviews with institutions in provinces/districts included in the sample they were asked about what they were doing in the face of the outbreak. During interviews it was observed that measures announced by the Ministry of Interior on 3 April 2020 were being discussed in meetings or-

ganized by province and district governorates. These meetings also cover such issues as transportation, information building, health examinations, arrangement of accommodation areas and hygiene measures. Since the arrival of seasonal migrant agricultural workers has yet not started in some of these provinces and districts initiatives are at preparatory stage and proceeds on information building particularly by agricultural intermediaries. There is, for example, discussions about producing masks and boiler suits for workers in Malatya-Akçadağ district upon the initiative of the Fırat Development Agency. 800 families in total staying in four different locations in Adana-Seyhan, two in Adana-Yüreğir and one in Adana-Karataş as well as in Akdeniz and Tarsus districts were distributed hygiene kits upon the joint initiative of governorates and International Organization for Migration (IOM).<sup>8</sup> Civil society organizations interviewed state tent camps were disinfected by the metropolitan municipality.<sup>9</sup> It is stated that in some provinces and districts information is given in Arabic for Syrian agricultural workers. Some professional chambers and civil society organizations working in the field say they have no information as to what extent measures can be enforced since they cannot take part in outbreak commissions established in provinces and districts.

### Measures, Inter-Provincial Travel and Access to Working Areas

Questions were posed to agricultural intermediaries in relevant themes in order to confirm the general evaluation made above in relation to decisions taken and practices adopted in the process of outbreak. These were of course questions about farming. Since 49 of agricultural intermediaries interviewed have yet not reached their working provinces and are now planning to travel within the coming 5 months it can be expected that transportation will be one of the most important issues.

57 of agricultural intermediaries we interviewed are informed about transportation measures applied as a result of outbreak while 13 are not (Chart 8). Only five agricultural intermediaries are uninformed about the ban on inter-provincial travel (Chart 9). 21 agricultural intermediaries who are presently in their working provinces say workers travel from their accommodation --areas to fields/orchards by their minibuses or vehicles. 11 of these agricultural intermediaries say they had to introduce new arrangements relating to transportation to crop fields and orchards in line with decisions taken after the outbreak while others say they have made no change.



Measures and practices related to transportation pose difficulties in terms of both travel from one province to another and transportation from accommodation place to the place of work (mobility within a given district/province). Agricultural intermediaries are aware about the restrictions on maximum number of passengers in various transportation vehicles but not so clear about how to implement it. They say if the measures are fully implemented, the number of vehicles needed will at least double and they don't know how these vehicles will be supplied and what to do about increased transportation costs. There is also uncertainty about how these restrictions will be implemented on the workers who travel as a family with their own cars.

“

*They have to move out as family, how could they leave under 20 family members behind? There will be some travelling with their cars and others trying some other ways. I am not taking workers to their working areas there, but there are many others to do this. Without moving out to work they will starve or change their place and seek some other forms of employment.*

— Agricultural Intermediary (Şanlıurfa) —

”

In the first interview made with an intermediary who was about to move to Konya-Kulu for sugar beet and cumin culture he said he was waiting for the decision of the employer about increased transportation costs. In the follow up interview held a week after with the same intermediary he complained about the issuance of travel documents and coverage of transportation costs. An agricultural intermediary originally from Şanlıurfa who has been residing in Eskişehir for the last 3 or 4 years says he is not affected by inter-province travel authorization procedures; however, he has been fined several times for transporting more than specified number of workers in local travel (i.e. travel from the temporary tent camp to the place of work), but employer did not increase the number of vehicles. Another agricultural intermediary again from Şanlıurfa who organizes some 3,000 workers says the transportation cost of a family of seven which was 350-400 TL last year is now 1.500 TL. Some agricultural intermediaries state they will demand small pay increase from employers for rising transportation costs.

“

*There is nothing certain yet. We'll wait and see. But we should have gone much earlier. Some crop fields have run to weeds. If there is too much weed worker thinks there will be not much to earn and does not want to work or asks for higher pay. We'll see it in the field.*

Agricultural Intermediary (Eskişehir)

”

“

*We could not go out to work. Normally we should have been in Bursa for tomato. We are worried because of this uncertainty. This will affect us heavily in economic terms.*

Agricultural Intermediary (Diyarbakır)

”

“

*I don't know how these people will go as 5 in a vehicle for 10 passengers. Each family has to use more than one vehicle and this means a lot of cost. We cannot afford it. I asked about these when I was in provincial directorate, but nobody knows anything. They tell us to go and talk the issue with the traffic authority.*

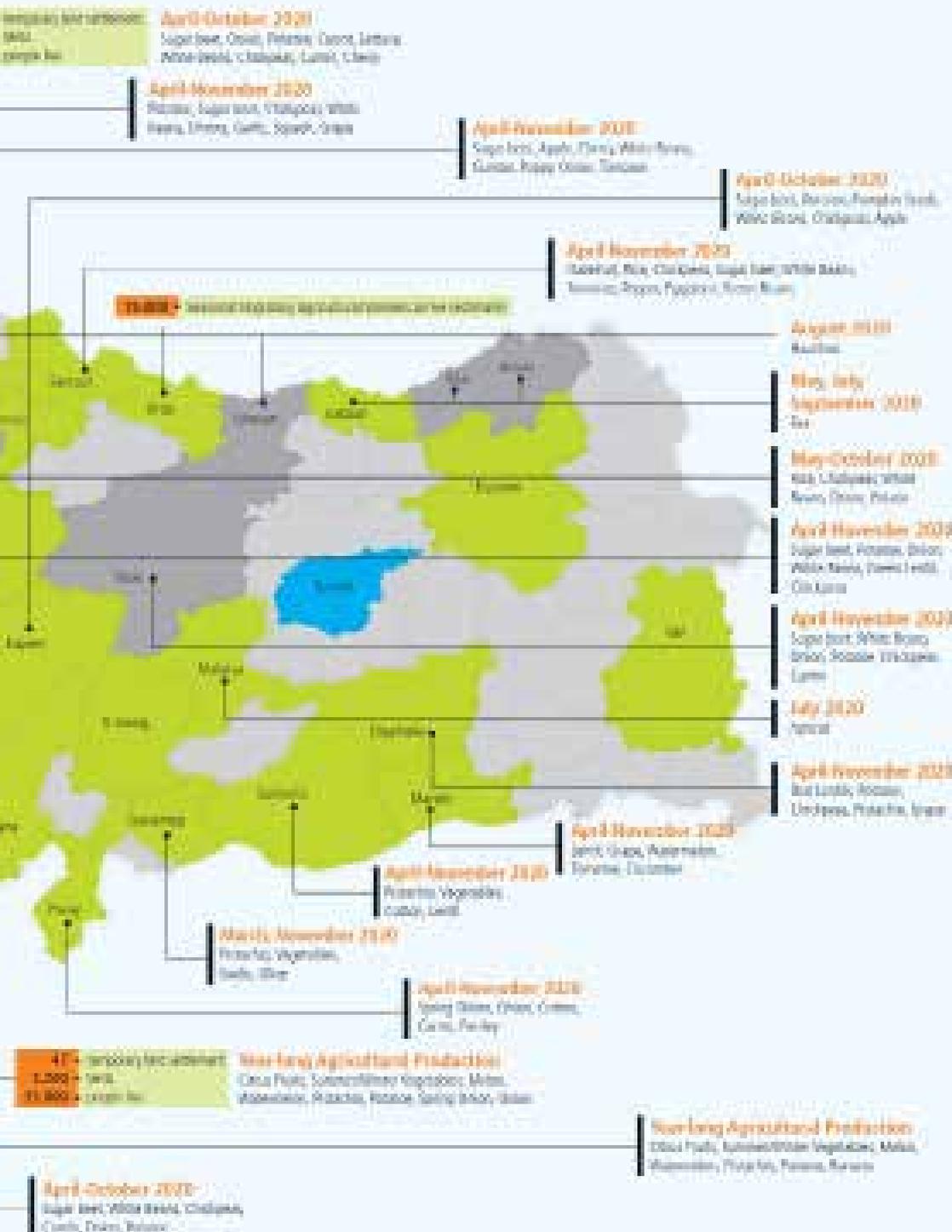
Agricultural Intermediary (Şanlıurfa)

”



# Impact of COVID-19 on U.S. Agriculture with Travel Restrictions and Quarantine Measures

Version 2.4 (July 2020)



In the first interview with an agricultural intermediary in Şanlıurfa organizing 300 workers 200 of whom are under 20, the intermediary said they were supposed to travel to Konya in March 2020 for tomato culture but could not for not being able to get permission from the governorate. In the follow up interview a week after the intermediary said they were still waiting for response to their application while some of his workers started to seek local jobs in lentil, pepper and tomato culture and those who could find jobs may altogether give up the idea of going out. There are also some agricultural intermediaries who abandoned their April and May schedules because of uncertainties and review their plans for the end of the Ramadan month.

It was witnessed during the assessment that the transfer of authority related to travel permits from district governorates to provincial/district agricultural directorates brought along a chaotic environment. In this environment, intermediaries tried to solve problems confronted in permissions individually through their acquaintances in relevant institutions. These could be parties from the governorate, İŞKUR, agriculture directorates or employers and local headmen.

Initial interviews were conducted from 6 to 12 April 2020 followed by follow-up interviews from 18 to 20 April 2020. These interviews suggest that complexities and uncertainties related to travel permission documents have already led to significant delays in workers' presence in fields and also significant job losses.

“

*The line was so long that I could not apply. They showed in on TV and I was there. They'll make us sick this way, we'll get corona... There are crowds waiting and cost of travel is too high. I was supposed to go to Ankara-Şereflikoçhisar, but I called the employer yesterday and told him to find himself workers. Otherwise I could have taken 100 workers there on April 30th. Now all these workers remain home, we don't know what to do so we'll wait Malatya.*

Agricultural Intermediary (Şanlıurfa)

”

These delays and transportation-related uncertainties were frequently expressed also in interviews with institutions from selected provinces/districts. For example, it was stated for Eskişehir that arrivals expected to start from March 2020 did not take place and labour force needs were met

Hürriyet  
GÜNDEM DÜNYA EKONOMİ SPOR ARENA VIDEO SEYAHAT KELEBEK BİR DAKİKA YAZARLAR LEZZET MAMKURİ DİZİLE FİLM İZLE

Haberler > Güncel Haberler > Seyahat izin belgesi almak için bir haftada 17 bin kişi...

500000 DHA | Haber (Görüş: 18.04.2020) - 18.04.2020 Son Güncelleme: 18.04.2020 - 10:37

## Seyahat izni almak için akın ettiler! Bir haftada 17 bin kişi...



Şanlıurfa'da mevsimlik tarım işçileri, Corona Virüsü tedbirleri kapsamında şart koşulan seyahat izin belgesini almak için İlçe Tarım Müdürlükleri önünde kuyruklar oluşturdu. Polis ekipleri, sosyal mesafeye aldırış etmeden yoğunluk oluşturanları uyardı. Bir hafta içerisinde 17 bin kişinin seyahat izin belgesi başvurusunda bulunduğu ve sayısının 50 bine kadar çıkması öngörülüyor.

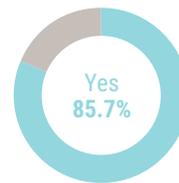
by Syrians residing in Eskişehir. A farmer interviewed in Hatay said they were waiting workers for the last 10 days. In Mersin, they say farming activities have already started and since worker transportation is from tent camps to crop fields there is no problem. But still, there is uncertainty what will happen if these workers are to travel to another province. It is said there is no problem in Şanlıurfa since travel is between local districts, but there is no clarity as to what will happen in case there is quarantine in districts or villages. Institutions say it is clear that measures related

to travel will increase costs, but it is not known who will undertake this cost increase. Close down of factories in some localities were reminded to point out to the possibility of using worker bus services that are now idle.

Of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed 12 say they are informed about outbreak-related measures in effect in provinces they will be going to while the remaining 58 say they have no information. Some of those who are informed cite governorates, employers, TV or local headmen as their sources of information. More than half of agricultural intermediaries interviewed learn about situations in their destination provinces from other intermediaries who are already in those provinces and local headmen there. Others who have no information think there is still time to learn and they can do this when the time to travel comes.

10 of agricultural intermediaries interviewed say some of their workers are afraid of travelling and working as a result of the outbreak (Chart 10). Another 10 say there are work arrangements cancelled again because of outbreak. However, it was frequently expressed during interviews that seasonal migrant agricultural workers have no other option but to work whatever may circumstances be.

**Chart 10.** Workers who abstain from or abandon work



An agricultural intermediary from Adana said they switched to local seasonal workers as a result of travel restrictions.

An agricultural intermediary working with 600 workers from Şanlıurfa expresses his concerns saying:

“

*We have our fears and concerns. For example, if one worker turns out to be positive, are they going to quarantine all of them? We don't know. Are all these measures sufficient? We don't know.*

”

While follow up interviews were going on, Kurat Yağız, President of Konya-Merem Chamber of Agriculture stated that there is fear and panic among workers and there will be a decrease in the number of workers this year.<sup>10</sup>

“

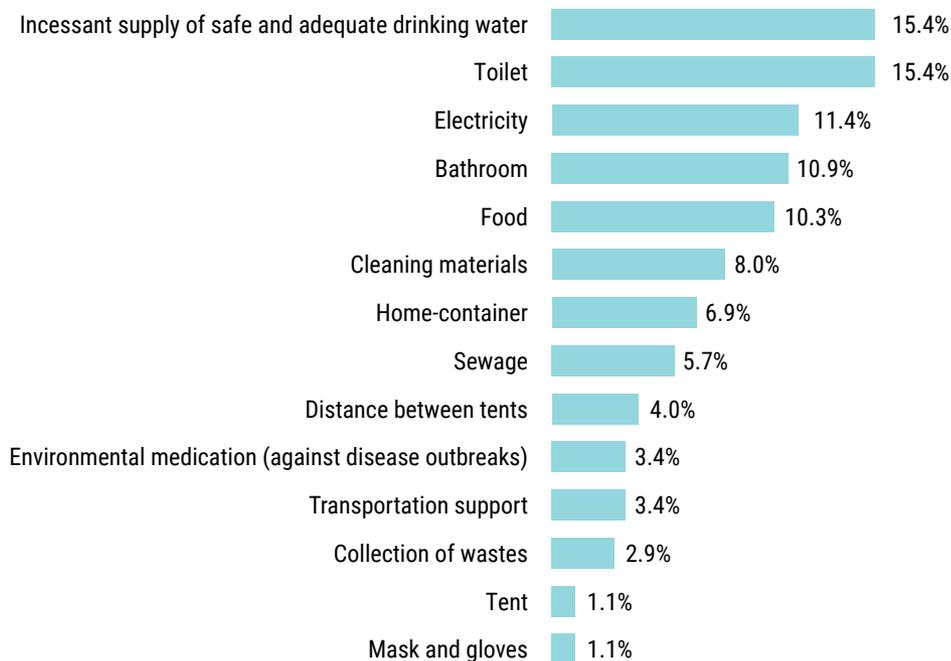
*Workers did not want to go because of the virus and we got the arrangement cancelled. I mean workers were scared. There were 380-400 of them in total of whom 200 would move to Yozgat. Of these 200 workers 150 did not want to work. Some workers have their plots and orchards here and it would be Ramadan days anyway. But the real reason that kept them is the disease. They are worried what if they got sick there. They remind their stay in tents and lack of hygiene, adding they would still go if conditions were improved and employers provided accommodation facilities. But still there are others who accept to work and they are mostly those from Syria.*

Agricultural Intermediary (Şanlıurfa)

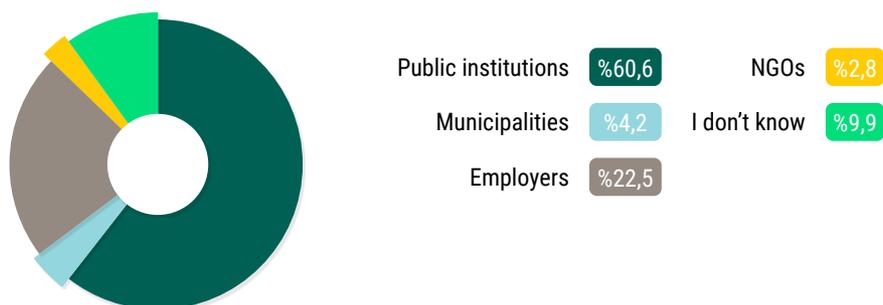
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## Needs in Camping and Working Areas

Only 16 of agricultural intermediaries interviewed said neither themselves nor workers they are dealing with have any need to be met in their camping sites. The remaining 54 intermediaries made 175 markings on options they were presented whose percentage distribution is shown in Chart 11. It is interesting, in this distribution, that as some basic needs such as safe and adequate drinking water, toilet, electricity, bath, food, cleaning materials, shelter/container and sewage that are pressing in all circumstances find places at the top of the list, less importance is attached to outbreak-related needs and measures like distance between tents, disinfection, masks and gloves. Intermediaries mentioned these needs on the basis of their latest observations on working and living conditions and this list of needs in fact shows us what was needed prior to the outbreak. As the number of workers going out for work and their experience increase in this process there may be higher demand for personal protective equipment (mask, gloves, etc.). However, while some essential needs like safe and adequate water in both working spaces and camping sites are not met, it will be more difficult to address other demands.

**Chart 11.** Fundamental needs in camping areas (Percentage)

Agricultural intermediaries mostly responded to the question “Who should provide for these needs” by pointing out to governmental agencies which means, in this context, district and province governorates as well as local headmen. When we include municipalities as well “*governmental agencies*” becomes the most frequently stated response (65%) (Chart12). The second was “employers” but is lags far behind the first one.

**Chart 12.** Who should respond to fundamental needs in camping areas?

**Chart 13.** Needs in crop fields and orchards as working areas

When asked about needs in working areas that are crop fields and/or orchards, 34 intermediaries said “No pressing need” while 3 said they had no idea. These agricultural intermediaries (53 per cent of total) were excluded from multiple-response analysis. From the remaining agricultural intermediaries who could mark more than one option, 71 responses were obtained whose distribution is given in Chart 13. The high frequency of responses saying “no need in working spaces” must be attributed to the fact that the interviewees were agricultural intermediaries, not workers. These responses suggest that circumstances in environments of work have been accustomed to and it is mostly camping areas that are regarded as problematic. Meanwhile, basic infrastructural needs are ranked high here too as is the case with needs in camping sites. When it comes to who must provide for needs in working areas a large majority of agricultur-

al intermediaries pointed out to “employers” thus pushing governmental agencies down to the second place.

Another important point is the length of time that workers spend in their working areas. Indeed, some agricultural intermediaries say: “*In crop fields and orchards there is work for only one day or a week, it is not rational to talk about any infrastructural change in a space we spend so limited time.*” The same argument is used also for needs in camping sites by some agricultural intermediaries. Accordingly, the period of time that workers will spend in places where they move to for work is important in prioritizing and classifying their needs there.

Interviews with institutions in selected provinces/districts suggest that practices differ according to ways of production and consequently responses to the question who is to provide for needs vary too. In Malatya-Akçadağ, for example, there used to be efforts to gather workers at specific locations, but after the outbreak, it was decided to “*host each worker in his apricot orchard*” which used to be common in the past. It is not yet clear, however, whether this is applicable in each district and for each landowner. Institutions interviewed in Konya-Cihanbeyli say there is an established order in relation to the camping sites of workers, workers commute between their staying and working areas with their own vehicles, but there is yet no solution about this local transportation after the outbreak. It is stated for Bursa-Mustafakemalpaşa district that migrant workers stay in the district for three months in temporary tent camps closely located to fields and problems related to hygiene can be solved without much difficulty. A farmer in Hatay says he has a well-founded relationship with workers and workers are responsible for all matters related to accommodation. The real issue here depends on whether there is a distance that workers have to travel from their staying to working areas.

“

*Yes, they may be doing such things with people's health in their mind, but still these are decisions taken without thinking in broader context. They cannot be implemented in practice. Vehicles may be frequently disinfected by municipalities. Health controls can be made. How can it be done by banning and imposing penalty?*

Agricultural Intermediary (Adana)

”

## Measures and Restrictions Applied and Thoughts about the Future

According to interviews with institutions in selected provinces/districts conducted in the period 6-12 April 2020, there is uncertainty about how seasonal migrant agricultural workers will be affected by measures taken including the curfew for persons under age 20. Institutions interviewed in Konya-Cihanbeyli and Ankara-Polatlı say workers arrive to their districts with their families, they can figure out what they will do if there is any restriction on bringing their children along to their working areas, but they think exceptions will be accorded to agricultural workers. It is also stated that a similar problem may arise in Adana-Seyhan districts since there are 65+ people there working for daily wage. In all interviews with institutions there was the expectation that things will be more flexible when it comes to seasonal migrant agricultural workers. During interviews with institutions in Malatya-Akçadağ and Ankara-Polatlı it is stated there are 65+ farmer who need workers in their farming activities and they have to go out to make necessary arrangements. During interviews, it was learned that convenience was provided in this regard to farmers who have their registry with the farmer registration system.

“

*Yes, measures are taken, but they cannot be implemented. I frequently go out to the plain and take a look. There is no worker practising measures, 120 people are out working on a field. Workers here frequently visit the district centre for their needs. If one gets infection this means the whole plain will be infected. Imposing monetary penalties in transportation and so on is not a solution. Team leaders (çavuş) must be trained in this. For example, if a çavuş says he will let nobody work unless safe conditions are ensured there will be improvement. If nobody says that the process will go on as it does now.*

Agricultural Intermediary (Adana)

”

34 out of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed directly responded “We don’t know” to the question “What do you suggest in case you cannot find sufficient jobs?” 21 agricultural intermediaries say workers are presently in difficulty and they are in need of assistance in such items as basic income and food. There were 7 intermediaries saying there is presently no problem while 3 think no problem will be in case workers can get permission to travel.

When the question was “Given the virus/outbreak crisis this year what do you think wages will be this year and what are your future expectations?” of 70

intermediaries interviewed, 46 said *“nothing can be said at this moment”* or *“no future expectation”* while 15 agricultural intermediaries said there is need to improve wage rates.

Agricultural intermediaries describe the already gloomy situation by discourses like,

*“Wages are low, transportation cost rests with the worker, no social security and nobody defending the rights of workers” or “working hours is random, workers toil for 12 hours, conditions are unfavourable and food is bad.*

adding that the recent outbreak has made it even worse. It is clear that in years preceding the outbreak there was no actor (chamber, union, etc.) defending their rights, they did not know how to do it and before whom when they wanted to stand for their rights and employers avoided undertaking any responsibility. It can be inferred from interviews that needs vary with respect to various factors including the region to be travelled to, crop to work for, and mostly the economic power of the employer. When asked about their needs agricultural intermediaries say some employers cannot afford responding to these needs. Another important point is that agricultural intermediaries are convinced that nothing will happen or change unless conditions that employers are supposed to provide are not standardized by governmental agencies. The same is also true for the question as to who will provide for needs in relation to working and living conditions. Indeed, agricultural intermediaries make the following statements about this situation:

*“Employers must provide for these needs, but the state must give clear instructions to this effect, when there is no instruction, they just skip it.*

or

*“Employers won’t meet our needs, there will be no solution unless state intervenes.*

For example, an agricultural intermediary said the following about transportation and working conditions during the outbreak:

“

*We talked the issue with the provincial agriculture directorate. The number of workers will be a problem, but we still have to go, there is no other way and nobody is going to help. It will be fine if the state provides tents, lavatories, baths, etc., we starve if we stay home; if we say something about what is missing or wrong they say 'Are you standing against the state? It is the preference of the state...*

”

During interviews with institutions in selected provinces/districts one question was what they could do in case labour force needed for production cannot be supplied for any reason. Different opinions were raised concerning this issue. For example, it is stated that production would be significantly disturbed in such a case (no worker coming in from out of province) in places like Malatya-Akçadağ, Konya-Cihanbeyli, Ordu and Adana-Seyhan, respondents from the districts of Bursa, Düzce, Eskişehir and Ankara-Polatlı there was mention of an idle population resulting from temporarily closed factories who once used to be farmers, while others in Mersin-Tarsus say unemployed persons in mountain villages can be mobilized. Still, all respondents agree that there will be bottlenecks even when local labour force is mobilized.

### **Outcomes of Capacity Assessment Questionnaire for Key Actors/Institutions in the Communication Platform**

A WhatsApp group was created on 21 March 2020 for purposes of sharing information and experience comprising staff and representatives from organizations who had a past record of engagement in programs, projects and activities related to seasonal agricultural workers on the basis of relations and contacts that the Development Workshop established. This communication platform whose participants exceeded 80 persons in the process ensured significant information flow on relevant developments taking place and how decisions were implemented in different provinces. The platform was used to gather information and experience on the effects of the outbreak on agricultural production and seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Further, an institutional capacity assessment was made for participating actors to check if it can be functional in dissemi-

nating, updating and discussing the outcomes of the assessment. 17 institutions (of which 2 were UN agencies 3 were agriculture and food supplier firms) participating to the relevant questionnaire (Annex 3) made their statements about their institutional capacity and means to respond to the needs of seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

Below is the distribution of responses given to the question “*Areas in which your organization is active*” where respondents could mark more than one choice:

Education activities (Support in the form of scholarship, Language Training, Vocational Training, Formal Education, Adult Education, etc.)	20
Humanitarian aid (Food, Clothing, Hygiene, Cash)	14
Research, planning	9
Legal support	8
Psychosocial support	7
Registration (for migrants)	4
Crop processing/trade	4
Health services	3
Certification	2

Organization for workers’ rights, rural development, accommodation support, protection-case management, multi-stakeholder initiative, water supply, sustainable agriculture, community forming, provision of transportation and product documentation **were each marked once**.

Four organizations including UN agencies stated Turkey as their area of activity and one organization gave it as Black Sea and Marmara regions. The remaining 13 organizations stated 24 different provinces as their area of activity (Adana, Ankara, Aydın, Batman, Bursa, Diyarbakır, Düzce, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Giresun, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kocaeli, Manisa, Mardin, Mersin, Ordu, Osmaniye, Sakarya, Samsun, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak and Trabzon) (Map1).

Organizations were asked about *“in-kind or monetary resources that they can mobilize in relation to the participation of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to crop farming processes.”* Options or areas marked more than one responding organizations are as follows:

Informative materials	9
Training, counselling, etc.	7
Hygiene, cleaning materials support	7
Human resources / Volunteers	6
Medicine, medical equipment support	3
Cash support	3
Psychosocial support	3
Food support	2
Transportation support	2

When asked about *“services they can offer to seasonal agricultural workers and their children”* options marked by more than one organization are as follows:

Coordination and communication with public agencies	15
Information building/referrals in issues like health	13
Donations, direct assistance (in kind/in cash), fund raising	12
Advocacy/lobbying/awareness building	9
International relations (advocacy, funding support, non-food assistance, etc.)	4
Human resources support	4
Legal support	3
Vehicles/equipment, etc. support	2
Mapping the route of agricultural intermediaries for 2020	1

The question “Which communication channels do you use to promote your activities and reach your target people” was for getting an idea about the communication strategies of organizations. Under the option “Other” responding organizations cited information support line, e-mail, HERA (a phone application), LinkedIn, phone, YouTube and Zoom.

**Table 8.** Means of social media that institutions use in publicising their activities and reaching their target groups (Number)

	Available and we use regularly	Available, but we do not use it regularly	Available but we do not use it	Not available
 Facebook	6	6	2	8
 Twitter	8	3	1	10
 Instagram	8	5	1	8
 Internet Site	8	6	2	5
 SMS/WhatsApp	4	8	1	7
Other	7	1		12

To the question whether they can support the Development Workshop in disseminating and/or updating outcomes of current study 12 organizations directly said “Yes” while 10 organizations stated “It is an issue to be discussed within the organization.”

The institutions participating to the online questionnaire were also posed the open-ended question “Is there a work or project that your organization is engaged in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic? Could you give brief information if there is.” In response nine organizations said they were presently conducting work in this field under various headings. These are:

- Under a project presently going on, conducting a survey to inform, in particular, “nomadic/semi-nomadic refugees working in seasonal agriculture” about the Covid-19 and to make a needs assessment, and starting contacts to extend as a first step in kind support to 600 persons (Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa).
- Under a presently on-going project and through suppliers in contact, informing farmers, agricultural intermediaries and workers; provision of water and hygiene items (Eskişehir).
- Starting work to insert a Covid-19 part in presently on-going farmer trainings.
- Under a presently on-going project information building (in Turkish and Arabic), planning, screening and soap distribution and initiative to distribute hygiene kits.
- Acting as “catalyst” in responding to the needs of seasonal migrant worker families and families under temporary protection status.
- Starting information building case follow-up among refugees.
- Developing an interactive needs map on the provision of materials and equipment needed by health workers, organizing a communication campaign to make these needs visible and informing relevant persons and institutions.
- Starting information building through SMS.
- Activities to improve the infrastructure, content and coverage of distance education and advocacy for the continuance of conditional education assistance.

Another open-ended question posed institutions participating to online questionnaire was, in the context of MGTĪ, suggestions on work safety and health in the process of Covid-19 outbreak. Statements made in this context include the following:

- “Not only for seasonal migrant agricultural workers but for all (permanent, temporary, seasonal) reorganizing the working styles of workers in the field in a way to prevent virus infection.”
- “Facilitating access to health examinations for both farmers and workers.”
- “Improving the accommodation and hygiene conditions of irrigation workers who stay in the field for periods from 3 to 6 months.”
- “Introducing hygiene and shady areas nearby crop fields which all workers including daily paid ones can use.”
- “Field-level supervision to ensure that all relevant processes are followed and abided by.”
- “Providing a hotline that farmers and workers can easily reach to report suspicious cases.”
- “Urgent start of inspections and provision of health equipment.”
- “Creating an online platform as a multi-stakeholder civil society gathering to guide the public... Joint statement/expectations/suggestions as the outcome of this gathering... Stressing that there is need to protect the health and safety of seasonal migrant agricultural workers as an issue as important as keeping the agricultural production going... Monitoring and referral support can be extended by setting up regular volunteer teams following the MGTĪ movement. At present there is need for more volunteers. I suggest monitoring activities by volunteer teams to work across institutions/sectors.”
- “Equipment can be supplied and trainings organized to enable related public health units to regularly (daily) follow symptoms.”
- “The need to keep the immune system strong is expressed by many experts. In this context, particularly needed food items can be supplied and their accessibility can be improved.”

- “To ensure hygiene in working spaces there may be wider access to safe water and portable toilet systems can be introduced to working spaces.”
- “The relevant circular specifies measures needed for hygiene and supervision services in camping sites. But controls and supervision will be more difficult if each worker group stays in a space provided by the farmer. Facilities that are used for quarantine purposes for persons coming from abroad and associated services may be provided to seasonal agricultural workers. The transportation dimension must also be considered given that student dormitories are mostly located at city centres and places close to universities.”
- “In the harvesting period there must be risk analysis and mapping and both farmers and workers must be trained. The Ministry of Interior Circular to governorates ‘Coronavirus Measures/Seasonal Agricultural Workers’ specifies some measures and for these measures to take effect governmental agencies must engage in advocacy activities for needy families and take initiatives to mobilize different sources of funding... Bringing seasonal workers to harvesting sites 14 days in advance, their placement to allocated facilities, conducting their tests and application of age 0-20 rule without exception.”
- “Firstly, we think it is important to prepare demographic and location-based maps. It is essential to identify by mapping who needs what, where and to what extent. Along this line, it is necessary in terms of health to ensure materials to reach those who need in sufficient amounts and without any problem. Also, data collection and correct mapping of data will be functional in mobilizing local government agencies/private sector and individuals...In particular, corresponding means and spaces must be created for hygiene related information and measures.”
- “Development and urgent implementation of a national action plan with the participation of all important stakeholders including CSOs.”

All institutions taking part in online questionnaire responded “Yes” to the question “*Can you spare time if we want to have a more detailed interview on this issue?*”

As a general evaluation it can be said that representatives of different parties in the WhatsApp group created as a communication platform for sharing information and experience and getting confirmation in some issues in the design and implementation of the rapid assessment:

(i) Are concerned that both Covid-19 outbreak and measures adopted against it will further aggravate problems and vulnerabilities for seasonal migrant agricultural workers,

(ii) Many have already started work to produce appropriate solutions in their respective fields of activity, and

(iii) Ready to engage in multi-stakeholder cooperation with others waging similar efforts. Capacity evaluation conducted suggests that this communication platform established to support the assessment will be functional in disseminating, updating and discussing the outcomes of the rapid assessment.



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> What are referred to as migrant worker in these interviews are mostly Syrians, Georgians and Azeri living in Turkey either with or without formal registration and working. While Syrian migrant who are under temporary protection in Turkey work in the culture of various crops in almost all parts of Turkey Georgians mostly work in tea and hazelnut harvesting along Black Sea coast and Azeri work as shepherds around Kars and Ardahan (Development Workshop, 2016). .
- <sup>2</sup> [www.uis.gov.tr/media/1071/tuik\\_cocuk\\_isgucu\\_haber\\_bulteni\\_2012.pdf](http://www.uis.gov.tr/media/1071/tuik_cocuk_isgucu_haber_bulteni_2012.pdf)
- <sup>3</sup> [www.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=33807](http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=33807)
- <sup>4</sup> *Kabala/flat rate* wage is determined by multiplying the output harvested by wage set for a unit of the crop concerned. For example, total remuneration for a worker or family in cotton harvest in a given season is determined by multiplying the amount of cotton collected in a day or season by the wage applicable to the collection of 1 kg of cotton. Kabala type remuneration requires working as family. In some cases, in vegetable culture, for example in pepper and onion harvesting too payment is made on the basis of the amount of crop collected. In dry onion payment is per sack of crop collected. Per unit remuneration of crop harvested is based on the size of the plot worked on. It is per unit remuneration for hoeing, weeding and harvesting multiplied by the size of the area where these Works have been performed. This type of remuneration is used for hoeing and weeding in crops like sugar beet, opium, pulses (lentil, chickpea, bean), sunflower and cumin and in harvesting of dry onion, pulses, opium and sesame. In this type of remuneration families try to maximize their earnings both by working longer hours and increasing the number of family member participating to work. The primary motive of workers is to maximize their earning by collecting as much crop as

possible in a day. Hence, the age of children working may be lower when this type of remuneration is applied ([www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/ücret%20raporu%20TR.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/07/ücret%20raporu%20TR.pdf)).

<sup>5</sup> It is the distance education channel organized by the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation and the Ministry of National Education when primary and secondary schools were closed upon the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic in Turkey in 9-20 March.

<sup>6</sup> [www.cnnturk.com/yerel-haberler/adana/merkez/seyhandan-hem-hijyen-hem-de-dene-tim-calismasi-1502735](http://www.cnnturk.com/yerel-haberler/adana/merkez/seyhandan-hem-hijyen-hem-de-dene-tim-calismasi-1502735), first accessed: 23 April 2020.

<sup>7</sup> It is an Ordu-based association established by 12 teachers who voluntarily participated to the IBO-MoLSS project on the Elimination of Child Labour in Hazelnut Culture at the end of 2014 with their target group as seasonal migrant worker women and their children. [www.pikolo.org/anasayfa](http://www.pikolo.org/anasayfa)

<sup>8</sup> [www.timeturk.com/mersin-de-mevsimlik-tarim-iscilerine-gida-ve-saglik-paketi-yardi-mi/haber-1429111](http://www.timeturk.com/mersin-de-mevsimlik-tarim-iscilerine-gida-ve-saglik-paketi-yardi-mi/haber-1429111), first accessed: 23 April 2020.

<sup>9</sup> [www.mersin.bel.tr/haber/mersin-buyuksehir-koronavirus-surecinde-mevsimlik-tarim-iscilerininin-de-yaninda](http://www.mersin.bel.tr/haber/mersin-buyuksehir-koronavirus-surecinde-mevsimlik-tarim-iscilerininin-de-yaninda), first accessed: 23 April 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Virus fear in seasonal workers: “40 per cent of workers have come”, Yeni Meram Gazetesi, first accessed: 20 April 2020, [www.yenimeram.com.tr/mevsimlik-iscilerde-virus-korku-su-iscilerin-yuzde-40i-geldi-407254.htm](http://www.yenimeram.com.tr/mevsimlik-iscilerde-virus-korku-su-iscilerin-yuzde-40i-geldi-407254.htm)

Part VI

General Evaluation



“ They are  
afraid of both  
falling ill and  
unemployed..  
”

In an article dated 22 April 2020 for the *New York Times*, Abdi Latif Dahir challenged the common idea that the Covid-19 pandemic transcending geographical and class boundaries also makes inequalities between societies and different layers in a given society less pronounced and stressed that this opinion is not valid in access to food, for example. According to United Nations World Food Programme economist Arif Husain 265 million people will be facing the threat of starvation at the end of the year.<sup>1</sup> *The Global Report on Food Crisis* noted that the fragility of countries that are already troubled in access to food will further deepen in 2020 while global stagnation that is expected will create problems in food supply chains in all countries. The report listed agricultural workers among particularly vulnerable groups. These discussions made it more visible along with the pandemic that global agricultural production, including by advanced countries, is largely dependent to seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Germany applied quite systematic and disciplined measures to curb the spread of the disease from the very beginning. Germany's attempt to bring in Romanian agricultural workers by special flights in mid-April was reacted upon by the Romanian government and now it is being discussed to mobilize Syrian migrants under temporary protection in the country to take part in agricultural production.<sup>2</sup>



The present rapid assessment report is based on surveys conducted from 15 March to 20 April 2020 to expose risks that seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children as one of the most vulnerable and invisible groups may face as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic and to contribute to the development of various interventions to minimize these risks. It is also an effort to evaluate the impact of counter-outbreak measures adopted in Turkey on agricultural production that is dependent on seasonal migrant labour force.

The desktop study on seasonal migrant agricultural workers in the world and Covid-19 pandemic shows how important seasonal migrant agricultural workers are in maintaining food supply chain in many countries despite their fragile and vulnerable situation. This important point and problems that seasonal migrant agricultural workers face at local and global levels have become the second most important agenda after counter-outbreak measures in all countries that are dependent to this labour force.

Going over the agenda of debates we can discern three major headings that also run parallel to discussions going on in Turkey:

- (i) The effects of measures and practices related to Covid-19 outbreak on the supply of seasonal migrant labour force needed in agricultural production,
- (ii) Ways to protect migrant workers and their families from the outbreak while ensuring the participation of this labour force to production, and
- (iii) Who will be in charge of measures that need to be adopted in this respect?

Firstly, taking a look at routes like US – Canada and Mexico, Germany – Romania, Poland – Ukraine, Australia and Pacific countries and countries like England, France and Spain, quarantine and travel restrictions as the leading measures against the Covid-19 pose a big problem in terms of labour force needed in agricultural production. Countries resort to different ways in surmounting this problem. While some countries plan to keep seasonal migrant workers exempt from travel restrictions (Germany, Poland, Canada), some others (England, France and Spain) have the idea of employing in agriculture those population sections that are already unemployed, recently lost their jobs as a result of the outbreak or others who are with migrant/refugee status but without work permit.

Secondly, measures designed to protect seasonal agricultural workers and their families who are to be employed in agricultural production without being subject to international travel restrictions or country level quarantine practices are to a large extent similar. The measures concerned include the following: 14 days long quarantine after travels; observance of hygiene rules in travels; observance of physical distance in both working and living spaces; supply of necessary hygiene materials; regular disinfection of working equipment and accommodation areas; special care of and non-employment of 65+ persons and pregnant women. As stated above, instructions dated 3 April 2020 by the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Provincial Administrations related to coronavirus measures and seasonal agricultural workers overlap with other measures adopted throughout the world.

However, in spite of this agreement emerging in relation to measures, there is still no clarity as to how increased costs of production, particularly as a result of travel restrictions, will be covered and by whom. Before the outbreak, seasonal migrant agricultural workers mostly did not have access to many basic services if they are not citizens of the country they are working (and/or unregistered). In the face of the outbreak, however, while some countries provide temporary access to the social security system as a result of extraordinary circumstances (Portugal) others transfer the responsibility of covering additional costs in seasonal agricultural production to farmers and employers (Australia and Canada). However, then continuity in agricultural production is addressed as a part of economic measures against the pandemic independently of the issue of the employment of migrant workers.

Taking this broad world picture one can develop specific suggestions for Turkey one of which is: While planning for measures and practices against the Covid-19, it is important to consider the need for migrant agricultural labour force which would differ in terms of size and time with respect to crops and regions. In order to include these variations in planning, it is suggested to launch an institutionalization to be in charge of coordinating information flow:

- According to this year's work plans of 70 agricultural intermediaries interviewed, some 10,000 agricultural workers they represent will be mobile for a period of five months starting from April 2020 and covering 20 provinces. This mass mobility that is essential to maintain agricultural production poses a potential health threat to both themselves and their children and local population in provinces/districts they will be moving to.
- Given that the costs of transportation will rise since physical distance is to be observed also in transportation and it is not clear who will cover this extra cost there will be an additional pressure on families to take their children to work.
- Some exemptions are introduced for seasonal migrant agricultural workers in relation to travel restrictions for those under 20 and over 65, but there is uncertainty as to how these measures will actually be implemented during travel and at accommodation areas.



- Indeed, there is serious overcrowding in application for travel permit during the weeks following the adoption of measures. Plans must be developed by considering local needs on how these procedures will be followed in the next 6 months starting from April this year.
- There is clarity as to measures to be taken to combat the Covid-19 outbreak in areas where seasonal migrant agricultural workers are, but there is still some uncertainty who will provide essential services and respond to needs and how.
- When the interviews were being carried out, such practices as taking temperature of passengers at entry points, distribution of masks and hygiene kits had already started. However, since these measures were not so intensive at that time, overall evaluation is made by focusing on measures that existed.
- As to possible job losses, different regions expressed different concerns depending on given crop patterns. Nevertheless, it is a common opinion that unless required labour force is supplied there will absolutely be a fall in crop yield and output and in some crops there may be no output at all.

Measures adopted against the outbreak, those related to **curfew, travel restrictions, and accommodation and hygiene conditions** will have significant repercussions on agricultural production and uncertainties related to implementation will further strengthen these repercussions.

To keep this under control, there is need for an institutional structure to reconcile in coordination central decision-making mechanisms and specific needs in different provinces in the context of agricultural production. This institutional structure should also be in a fruitful communication with different actors with important roles in agricultural production including agricultural intermediaries as well as çavuş and local headmen as assistants of the former, relevant professional organizations and civil society organizations.

Conditions that seasonal migrant agricultural workers presently have to deal with will be further aggravated together with measures taken against the disease and in a way to be of concern for the rest of the society.

Starting from April 2020 seasonal migrant agricultural workers will be mobile within the coming 6 months to respond to demand for labour in various crops. Considering the health status of these workers, their families including children in the first place, success of counter-disease measures in Turkey and continuance of agricultural production without any interruption, seasonal migrant agricultural workers can be considered as the most vulnerable social group in the country.

Discussions about how measures against the outbreak will affect agricultural production made this vulnerability more visible and inevitability of introducing structural remedies more evident. However, it must be noted that the present Covid-19 pandemic is not the only factor behind this need for structural change; also in agenda are such global problems as air pollution, climate change, and various ecosystem function losses. The World Health Organization estimates that global death toll of air pollution is 4.2 million annually.<sup>3</sup> In the face of these possibilities of crisis, 170 scientists from different disciplines made a brief declaration on 22 April 2020 explaining the new development model to be pursued after the pandemic on the basis of five major policies. The third major policy in this new development model suggested is described as:

*“Agricultural transformation towards renovation based on the protection of biological diversity, sustainable and mostly local and vegetarian food production, fair agricultural employment conditions and wages.”<sup>4</sup>*

It is possible to observe in Turkey as well some ideas drawing attention to this process.<sup>5</sup> In this context, the findings of assessment will contribute the shaping of post-pandemic policies in relation to the re-thinking of agricultural production in Turkey. Considering that these findings are from a rapid assessment conducted early in the season, the enhancement of this prospective contribution requires updates on how measures against the disease will find reflection in agricultural production.



## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> [www.nytimes.com/2020/04/22/world/africa/coronavirus-hunger-crisis.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/22/world/africa/coronavirus-hunger-crisis.html), first accessed 22 April 2020.
- <sup>2</sup> [www.infomigrants.net/en/post/23690/germany-migrants-and-refugees-may-fill-labor-gaps](http://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/23690/germany-migrants-and-refugees-may-fill-labor-gaps), first accessed 12 April 2020.
- <sup>3</sup> [www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution#tab=tab\\_1](http://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution#tab=tab_1), son erişim 26 April 2020
- <sup>4</sup> [sosyalekonomi.org/hollanda-merkezli-akademisyenlerden-5-maddelik-bildiri/](http://sosyalekonomi.org/hollanda-merkezli-akademisyenlerden-5-maddelik-bildiri/), first accessed 22 April 2020
- <sup>5</sup> [www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/tarim-politikalari-icin-bilim-kurulu-olusturulma-li-1735169](http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/haber/tarim-politikalari-icin-bilim-kurulu-olusturulma-li-1735169), first accessed 26 April 2020

Part VII

Suggestions For Mitigating The Impact of the Outbreak and  
Protecting Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers





## Clarification and Simplification Information Building Processes and Procedures

■ Interviews conducted for the assessment suggest that there is need for an institutional body to manage the process of enforcing measures step by step in districts and provinces. This body should be equipped with supervisory authority, be able to apply sanctions and to act with due account of regional differences.

■ As stated in the relevant section, “Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Boards” were established under governorates in specific provinces in line with the instructions of the General Directorate of Provincial Administrations, Ministry of Interior dated 3 April 2020. However, it was yet unclear when the assessment was conducted how these bodies will operate in cooperation and coordination with some other public boards, for example Provincial Public Health Boards under Provincial Health Directorates and Provincial Pandemic Boards under governorates that are also authorized to take decisions relating to seasonal migrant agricultural workers. The chaos which occurred when the seasonal agricultural workers started making their application for travel permit in mid-April was a clear example to this uncertainty.

■ It is therefore important to functionalize a coordination board in provinces marked by intensity of agricultural works and workers with authority to supervise and impose sanctions, which is open to the participation of different actors, capable of identifying local needs and act accordingly for a period of at least six months starting from April 2020.

[■] Ambiguities in the enforcement of measures adopted against the disease can be eliminated by institutionalizing the coordination decision-makings and their implementations. To enhance its representative capacity and effectiveness, it must represent a range of actors including agricultural chambers and professional organizations, CSOs, agricultural intermediaries and village/neighbourhood headmen. The presence of this mechanism will facilitate the implementation of decisions adopted.

[■] Since the reorganization of inter and intra provincial travel, ensuring necessary hygiene in accommodation and working areas, etc. will slow down production, the attitude adopted by agricultural intermediaries must be constantly observed. The coordination function of a body will be important in supervising the enforcement of decisions and measures.

[■] The most important uncertainty that may affect agricultural production is about how decisions taken about inter and intra-province travels will affect transportation costs and how increased cost is to be covered. Indeed, the current study found that because of increased costs and uncertainty about who will cover this worker families tend to move to local jobs and try to avoid going to distant places. Under the coordination of the proposed mechanism cost increases that may vary from region to region can be calculated in advance along with ways of covering it.

[■] Interviews conducted suggest that agricultural intermediaries are informed about the existing state of affairs in their destination provinces/districts by local headmen, agricultural chambers or landowners. Given existing uncertainties in various issues, another important function of the institution suggested may be the coordination of communication between different actors in agricultural production such as CSOs, agricultural intermediaries and local headmen.

[■] It is suggested in this context to start WhatsApp communication groups at local level to inform these actors. These local communication groups will be directed by a nationally authorized body such as the Ministry of Agriculture in a way to be associated with social media accounts. A communication line that will inform employers and agricultural intermediaries directly from a national centre may also be launched to support this kind of information flow.

[■] Under this coordination, agriculture and forestry province/district directorates, İŞKUR provincial directorates, provincial/district health di-

rectorates, METIP province offices, agricultural chambers in provinces where there is intensive inflow of agricultural workers may supply information needed while security forces may join to conduct inspections.

[■] A reliable information channel can be created in order to avoid confusions about health controls to be applied at entry points, decisions taken by provincial pandemic and public health boards concerning seasonal migrant agricultural workers and how health measures are to be applied.

[■] This coordination will have its importance also in ensuring sound information flow related to urgencies and needs that may emerge in working and living areas at province and district levels.

[■] The coordination board suggested must consider that there are migrants as well in seasonal agricultural labour and language differences must be taken into account while informing workers. Separate WhatsApp communication groups may be considered for migrant workers.

### **Supervision and Improvement of Conditions of And Measures Related to Inter-Provincial Travel and Access to Crop Fields/ Orchards**

[■] In travels of seasonal migrant agricultural workers persons under age 20 and over 65 who are otherwise subject to curfew must be accorded exemption and this point must be made clear by official instructions so as not to lead to any different interpretation and practices differing by provinces must be eliminated. In particular, the situation of seasonal migrant agricultural worker travelling as household/family must be considered in the context of this measure.

[■] Procedures of asking permission for inter-provincial travels must be planned over agricultural intermediaries or worker team leaders and intermediaries must be informed about these procedures.

[■] The necessity for Syrian migrant workers to get permission from Provincial Migration Management in inter-provincial travels must be temporarily suspended.

[■] Limitations existing in health services must be temporarily lifted for all workers engaged in agricultural production including foreign migrant and their families.



[■] On-going uncertainty about how increased transportation costs are to be covered leaves workers in hesitation about going out to fields. Thus, agricultural intermediaries and workers must be extended cash support to cover the increased cost of travel when physical distance is to be observed during travel as well. Some CSOs interviewed say some school and factory vehicles can be used since schools are closed, municipalities phased-out some of their public transportation services and/or factories scaled down their production. It is clear that this organization too requires coordination by an institution as mentioned above.

[■] Suggestions given above can be evaluated at province/district level in relation to issues such as physical distance in transportation from tent camps to crop fields/orchards, ensuring hygiene and how costs arising from these are to be covered.

### **Improvement of Conditions in Working Environments**

[■] Agricultural intermediaries must be informed about necessary physical distance between workers in fields and orchards and it must be made sure that all relevant measures are taken to ensure this.

[■] Under the coordination of an institution at province/district level as suggested above health teams must regularly visit working areas and delivery of services needed must be ensured.

[■] Firms employing seasonal migrant agricultural workers must be informed and their active participation to work safety and health arrangements must be ensured. This participation by firms is important particularly in providing support in terms of transportation, safe water, nutrition and hygiene materials.

[■] Allocating spaces for eating and resting to workers in crop fields and orchards and ensuring that these spaces are large enough to observe necessary distance.

[■] Seasonal migrant agricultural workers must be given priority in the provision personal protective equipment and such equipment must be distributed free by landowners, agricultural chambers, private firms, tradesmen and public agencies.

## Improvements in Living Environments

[■] Improvements in living and working spaces are of great importance in terms of decisions and measures adopted. While some CSOs interviewed suggest the utilization of dormitories that are presently vacant, some agricultural intermediaries say it is better to have each family stay in its tent, if sufficient number of tents are supplied, instead of having 3 families (each with 5-7 members) staying in a single house. It is not possible to rank house and tent in terms hygiene requirements without knowing how they are used locally. This again points of to the need for a coordination board capable of considering local circumstances and past practices in the context of measures to be introduced.

[■] Landowners employing agricultural workers and firms must develop solutions for accommodation facilities that are fit for measures to be taken after needs analysis.

[■] Agricultural intermediaries must be informed about distance requirements in temporary tent settlements and assigned to take relevant measures to ensure this. Distance between two tents in these settlements must be at least 5 meters.

[■] For seasonal migrant agricultural worker families with more than 6 members there must be additional free tent support by the Red Crescent, AFAD, private firms and civil society organizations.

[■] The number of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in tent camps, their age intervals, those over age 65 and others with chronic diseases must be identified and recorded. This data must be mapped and submitted to local authorities for appropriate urgent planning.

[■] Supply of safe and adequate water must be from streams or large water supply centres; municipalities must be assigned urgent duties in this regard.

[■] Families must be supported with hygiene materials (soap, cologne, paper tissue, hygienic pad, diaper, etc.).

[■] In the context of access to food, dry food support must be extended to seasonal migrant agricultural workers who need to commute between camping sites and province/district centres.

[■] Electricity and water must be free in tent settlements.

- [■] Solar energy panel support must be extended to tent settlements where there is no or very limited access to electricity.
- [■] Families must be supplied firewood and coal for cooking and heating purposes.
- [■] No rental must be collected from and where workers set up their tents.
- [■] Presently, safe water is the most pressing need of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and also hygiene in toilets gains further urgency in outbreak environments. Municipalities must develop quick solutions to these problems.
- [■] Surroundings of temporary tent camps must be kept clean and municipalities must ensure regular waste collection and medication in these areas.
- [■] Tent dwellers must be informed about what they are supposed to do in cases of emergency.
- [■] Efforts must be made to prevent contact by outsiders with tent settlements and controls must be more frequent.
- [■] There must be regular healthcare services in tent camps including pregnancy monitoring, child immunization and regular public health check-ups.
- [■] The settlements must be immediately quarantined in case any case of Covid-19 is diagnosed along with necessary support in terms of health and food.
- [■] For emergencies, information building is necessary to direct workers to designated health facilities to avoid density and overcrowding in places where seasonal migrant agricultural workers are.
- [■] Problems in children's participation to distant learning must be identified and internet and electronic equipment must be supplied free.

### **Development of A Support Package for Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Families Who Cannot Take Part in Crop Farming Process**

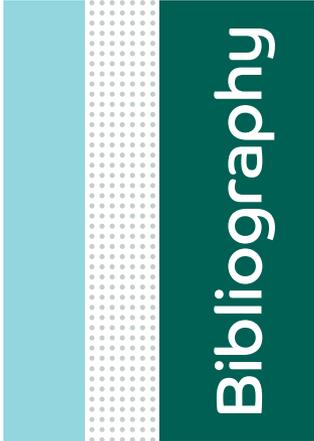
[■] The assessment found many of measures adopted to counter the Covid-19 outbreak will have their adverse implications on incomes of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and production costs of farmers. To make sure that seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families are affected at minimum level by cost increases a series of in kind and financial support schemes must be urgently considered. A support scheme must also be developed for farmers.

[■] The coordination board suggested above for following production processes in provinces may gain an additional function by liaising with relevant agencies in needs assessment and resource utilization.

[■] It is known that Syrians under temporary protection are also employed in crop farming. Their applications for Red Crescent card must be facilitated and monthly payments must be doubled throughout the period of the outbreak.

[■] Families of seasonal migrant agricultural workers who are citizens of Turkey may benefit from Red Crescent Card throughout the outbreak.

[■] As to who will have access to this support, it may be determined and recorded at local level by the suggested body in coordination with employers, agricultural intermediaries and agricultural chambers.

A graphic for the Bibliography section. It consists of three vertical bars: a light blue bar on the left, a white bar with a grid of small dots in the middle, and a dark green bar on the right containing the word "Bibliography" in white, oriented vertically.

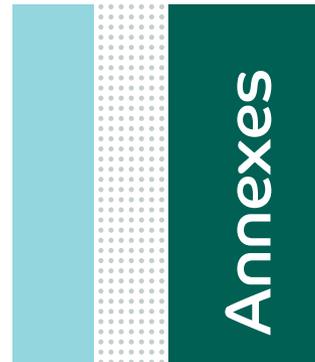
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## ANNEX 1. AGRICULTURAL INTERMEDIARY QUESTIONNAIRE

### Survey on Institutional Expectations of and Support to Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers for Safety and Health in the Context of Covid-19 Measures

The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to extend support to the process of social and economic development in Turkey. Adults engaged in seasonal agricultural works and child labour is among the areas in which the Cooperative is active. We are presently engaged in a rapid assessment work on the impact of recent coronavirus outbreak on workers employed as a part of your activities and their families.

All your responses will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone else directly. There will be no correlation between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to this survey is fully on voluntary basis. Your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to efforts waged to protect agricultural workers from the coronavirus and keep them in good health.

Development Workshop Cooperative Project Team

*We expect you to respond to the following questions to help us to know about your organization, its field of work, sources, methods and activities.*

- 1 Your name : .....
- 2 Name of your organization : .....
- 3 Phone : .....
- 4 E-mail : .....
- 5 Province where your central Office is located : .....
- 6 Provinces where your organization is active : .....

- 7 Areas in which your organization is active? *Mark all pertinent ones.*
- Agricultural crop processing/trade Seed production
  - Humanitarian aid – Food
  - Humanitarian aid – Assistance in cash – Dressing
  - Humanitarian aid – Hygiene
  - Worker organization
  - Research, Planning
  - Education/Training Activities – Vocational Training
  - Education/Training Activities – Language Teaching
  - Education/Training Activities – Formal Education
  - Education/Training Activities – Scholarship, etc. support (including conditional assistance in education)
  - Education/Training Activities – Adult training (information-awareness building, etc.) Advocacy activities
  - Waste collection
  - Health services
  - Water supply
  - Transportation facilities
  - Accommodation support
  - Education to children
  - Psychosocial support Legal support Formalization (for migrants)
  - Other: .....
- 8 In kind or financial resources that your organization can mobilize in relation to the participation of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to crop farming processes (*You can mark more than one*)
- None
  - Human resources/Volunteers
  - Cash Support
  - Transportation support
  - Food support
  - Medicine, medical supplies support

- Hygiene, cleaning materials support
- Information building materials
- Training consultancy, etc.
- Psychosocial support
- Other: .....

**9** Services that your organization can provide to seasonal agricultural workers and their children: *(You can mark more than one)*

- Direct assistance (in kind/in cash)
- information/referral in issues of health, etc.
- Legal support
- Advocacy/lobbying/awareness building
- Human resources support
- Vehicle/equipment support
- Fund raising
- Collecting donations
- Coordination and communication with public agencies
- International relations (advocacy, funding, non-food assistance, etc.).
- Other: .....

**10** Is there any work or project that your organization is conducting in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. If yes, can you give some brief information?

.....  
 .....

**11** Which communication channels do you use to publicize your activities and reach your target group?

	None	Yes, but we can't use.	Yes, but we can use only irregularly	Yes and we use it regularly
Facebook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Twitter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instagram	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMS/Whatsapp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12 Can you write down other channels if any?

.....

13 Supposing there is an awareness building campaign about seasonal agricultural workers and their children, would you support it by promoting the activity through your social media accounts.

- Yes
- The issue must be discussed within the organization.
- No

14 Do you have suggestions in the context of occupational safety and health of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and COVID-19 measures?

.....

15 Do you have suggestions in the context of occupational safety and health of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and COVID-19 measures? Can you spare time for a more detailed interview on this issue?

- Yes
- No

*Thank you...*

*Development Workshop*

## ANNEX 2. INSTITUTIONAL INTERVIEW FORM

### Institutional Interview Form Related to the Protection of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers From Coronavirus

Hello, my name is..... and I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative establish to extend support to the process of social and economic development in Turkey. Adults engaged in seasonal agricultural works and child labour is among the areas in which the Cooperative is active. We are presently engaged in a rapid assessment work on the impact of recent coronavirus outbreak on workers employed as a part of your activities and their families.

All your responses will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone else directly. There will be no correlation between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to this survey is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to terminate the interview any time you wish Participation will bring no monetary or in kind remuneration. Still, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to efforts waged to protect agricultural workers from the coronavirus and keep them in good health. Interview will take about 30 minutes.

#### Interview questions

Interviewee : ..... Date: ..... / 04 / 2020

Interviewer : .....

Name of the organization : .....

Organization's contact information

Phone : .....

E-mail : .....

Correspondence : .....

- 1 What is the present situation of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in your province/district? (What is the current state of affairs plus what can be envisaged for the future?)
  
- 2 At present what is being done against the pandemic and by which agencies? What are these agencies planning to do in near future?

- 3 In your opinion, what are the most important things that must be done in your province/district against the pandemic in the short-term?
- 4 As an organization what are you doing/can do in this issue?
- 5 In case seasonal migrant agricultural workers come to your province/district in fewer numbers or do not come at all how do you think this gap can be closed? Are there any initiatives to take measures against such possibility?
- 6 Is there any planning or any other work related to the arrival of workers to your province/district and their transportation from where they live and where they work?
- 7 If yes, what? If not, how is it going to/should be provided for?
- 8 What measures have you taken/going to take in relation to the working conditions of workers? (i.e. Toilet, Water Supply, Hygiene, Resting and Eating Places)
- 9 You know there is curfew for children under age 18. Do you think this will affect the children of seasonal agricultural worker families?
- 10 Have workers been informed/being informed/will be informed about the outbreak or is there any plan in this regard/
- 11 What do you think about the accommodation of workers? Are there outbreak-triggered initiatives in this regard? Do you think there is need to try different ways?

### ANNEX 3. ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE ON INSTITUTIONAL EXPECTATIONS OF AND SUPPORT TO SEASONAL MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 MEASURES

#### Questionnaire for Agricultural Intermediaries on the Protection of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Against Coronavirus

Hello, my name is..... and I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative establish to extend support to the process of social and economic development in Turkey. Adults engaged in seasonal agricultural works and child labour is among the areas in which the Cooperative is active. We are presently engaged in a rapid assessment work on the impact of recent coronavirus outbreak on workers employed as a part of your activities and their families.

All your responses will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone else directly. There will be no correlation between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to this survey is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to terminate the interview any time you wish. Participation will bring no monetary or in kind remuneration. Still, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to efforts waged to protect agricultural workers from the coronavirus and keep them in good health. Interview will take about 30 minutes.

Do you accept to take part in the interview?

- 1 Participant accepts to take part.
- 2 Participant does not accept to take part.
- 3 Participant does not present work due to the corona outbreak (*Finish the interview by asking question in the last part of the form*)

If you have any question or problem during or after the interview you can call the Development Workshop on 541-457 31 90.

QUESTIONNAIRE NO : .....

**A General Information**

- 1 Name and Last Name : .....
- Phone : .....
- 2 Age : .....
- 3 Sex 1 M  2 F
- 4 Present province : .....
- 5 Are you out in the field to work at this moment?
- 1 Yes, we are out in the field working
- 2 Yes, we are out in the field but not working
- 3 No, we are not in the field

**If yes;**

- 6 What are you doing?
- 1 Hoeing 2 Weeding
- 3 Disinfection 4 Irrigation
- 5 Planting
- 98 Other (please specify) .....
- 6.1 Where did you come from?
- 1 From ..... province
- 2 Nowhere, we have been living here
- 7 Was there any service offered to you in your area after the start of the outbreak/virus?
- 1 Yes 2 No
- 7.1 If yes, what kind of service and by which agencies?
- 8 Has your group of workers undergone health examination in relation to the current virus/outbreak?
- 1 Yes 2 No
- 99 I don't know/I am not sure

**If no**

- 9 When do you think about going out to the field? (When will you be going to work?)
- 1 April 2 May
- 3 June 98 Don't know/Uncertain





- 2.1** If yes, what do you know about it?
- 3** (To be asked to intermediaries working at inter-provincial level) How would you ensure transportation?
- 1 By private cars                      2 Minibus (service)  
3 Tractor                                      4 Walking  
5 Van    6 Tractor  
98 Other .....
- 3** (To be asked to those working in the field) is there any change/something new in means of getting to the field/place of work?
- 1 Yes    2 No
- 4.1** If yes, what kind of changes\*/new arrangements?
- 5** What do you think about transportation-related measures that are adopted? Are there any institutions or persons you discuss about this?
- 6** Are you informed about measures and decisions taken by provincial/district governorates of provinces you will be going to and that are of relevance to your work?
- 1 Yes    2 No
- 6.1** If yes, how did you learn about these?
- 7** During this process where there some workers who did not want to go out to work/not coming to work with you because of coronavirus outbreak?
- 1 Yes    2 No
- 7.1** If yes, how many?
- 8** Is there any work of yours that has been cancelled due to the virus outbreak in this process?
- 1 Yes    2 No
- 9** Finally, what do you think about measures pertaining to seasonal agricultural workers and how do you think these measures will affect you?

**D Needs and Problem Areas**

- 1 What are the needs of workers related to the current outbreak at places where they stay (tent cam/house)?
  - 1 Food
  - 2 Incessant supply of safe and adequate drinking water
  - 3 Cleaning materials
  - 4 Sewage
  - 5 Electricity
  - 6 Environmental medication (against disease outbreaks)
  - 7 Collection of wastes
  - 8 Distance between tents
  - 9 Toilet
  - 10 Bathroom
  - 98 Other .....
- 2 In your opinion who should be in charge of responding to these needs?
- 3 What are your current outbreak-related needs in crop fields and orchards where your workers work?
  - 1 Continuous supply of safe and adequate drinking water
  - 2 Cleaning/hygiene materials
  - 3 Toilet
  - 4 Appropriate means of transportation
  - 5 Being kept informed
  - 6 Appropriate environments for breaks and lunches
  - 98 Other
- 4 In your opinion who should be in charge of responding to these needs?
- 5 What would you suggest if not enough jobs are provided? In your opinion, what must be done?
- 6 What do you think about this year's wage rates considering the outbreak and what are your expectations for the future?



7.1 7.1 Number of persons.....

8 Can children of worker families you are responsible for benefit from distant learning opportunities? (To be asked if employment is on household/family basis)

***Questions to intermediaries who suspended their work temporarily because of outbreak***

- 1 Number of worker families you are responsible for (worker families)
- 2 What do your workers do or will be doing in this process? (new jobs, new intermediaries, etc.)
- 3 What kind of work did you cancel and in which provinces?
- 4 What was their reaction when you informed employers?
- 5 What do you plan to do and to make your living in this period (while not working)?





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