

Co-ordination of policy on organic farming

The principles and framework for the formation of the Organic Farming Committee, its duties, and its operational guidelines are described below:

a) Committee constitution; The committee is constituted by the persons to be appointed by The Ministry, General Directorate for Agricultural Production and Development, General Directorate for Protection and Control, General Directorate for Agricultural Researches, General Directorate for Organization and Support, Presidency of Research Planning and Coordination Board, Department of Foreign Affairs and the European Union Coordination subject to the approval of the minister or the authorized undersecretary or the deputy undersecretary. The number of the members is determined by the General Directorate for Agricultural Production and Development provided at least 1 member from above mentioned authorities is to be included in the Committee. If it deems necessary, one each member from Inspection Board Presidency and Law Consultancy can be included in the committee. The presidency and secretarial works of the committee are carried out by the Department of Alternative Agricultural Production Techniques in The General Directorate for Agricultural Production and Development.

b) The duties of the committee;

1) Evaluating authorized institution applications and granting, extending, or revoking the work permits,

2) Encoding authorized institutions, encoding and supplying identification cards for the controllers and certifiers,

3) Granting and revoking auditor and certifier authorizations,

4) Performing inspection of authorized institution offices,

5) Proposing appropriate penalties to the Ministry, for authorized institutions, controllers, and entrepreneurs violating organic farming legislation,

6) Perform actions to develop, familiarize and extend organic farming in Turkey, to encourage preparation of trainings, seminars, symposiums, meetings, conventions, and fairs, on the subject of organic farming, to participate and provide support for these activities,

7) Tracing International Organic Farming legislation and perform modification activities in order to obtain harmony on this issue.

c) Committee is invited to the meetings by the secretariat. Committee meets with the absolute majority of the membership. Decisions are taken with the absolute majority of the membership.

d) Reporting is performed by the secretary member chosen by the Committee from the representatives of the DGAPD.

e) Decisions are undersigned by all members participating in that meeting, within one month following the meeting date. After the signatures, decisions are presented to the Minister or the office designated by the Minister, and becomes effective at the date of approval.

OFC is constituted totally 23 members, under the chairmanship of the related department head, 1 of whom is ministerial inspector, 1 of whom is ministerial law adviser, 15 of whom are agricultural engineers, 2 of whom are veterinarians, 2 of whom are food engineers and 1 of whom is aquaculture engineer.

In addition to OFC, for the purpose to determine strategy and policy on organic farming, there is the Organic Farming National Guidance Committee (OFNGC).

The principles and framework for the formation of the OFNGC, its duties, and its operational guidelines are described below:

a) OFNGC is constituted by at least ten persons from the authorized persons from the DGAPD under the presidency of the DGAPD, Undersecretariat for State Planning Organization, Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade, Undersecretariat for Customs, Ministry of

Industry and Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Export Development Research Center, representative of the General Directorate for Agricultural Researches, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, occupation organizations, civil public organizations, representatives of authorized institutions, universities and representatives of private sector and the persons who are recommended to participate to the committee from institution and organizations.

b) OFNGC performs activities for the application and development of organic farming, supports and incentives, raising consumer awareness, domestic and foreign marketing for organic products, identifying defective applications and determining the strategies for these issues, evaluating the project proposals in the field of organic farming, and determining their priorities.

c) Workgroups are formed if deemed necessary by the OFNGC.

d) Regular meetings are held at least once annually. Extraordinary meetings are announced by the secretariat.

e) Decisions are reached with the absolute majority of the participants in the meeting, and they are treated as recommendations to the Committee.

f) Reporting and secretariat is provided by the DGAPD.

g) Decisions are undersigned by all members within 20 days following the meeting date. After the signatures, decisions are forwarded within 30 days to the Committee. Committee evaluates the decisions in its first coming meeting.