

The significance of fishery production for economic development: Example of Ecemiş Trout Farm of Niğde province

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Abstract

With the concerns about healthy and balanced diet in our country and in the world, the interest in fishery products is constantly increasing. Fishery products are the sources of good quality protein, vitamins and minerals. They are also rich in calcium and phosphorus. All the nutritional properties of fishery products are the real reason why they are more preferred. One of these fishery products is trout. Trout is a delicious, healthy and cheap fish that it is alternative to red meat as it is basic protein source. It is also an important instrument for creating job and income in the rural areas. Poverty and unemployment is a major problem in today's world and trout farms provide many people with employment. Ecemiş Trout Farm is an important example in this respect. The farm makes contribution to the well-being of the community, economic growth and the economic vitality of this rural area. The aim of this study is to examine the Ecemiş Trout Farm for regional development.

Keywords: Fishery products, Rural area, Development, Unemployment, Poverty

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Introduction

One of the main problems suffered by underdeveloped countries is unemployment (Ramos, 2010). Unemployment affects the level of national output, but the level of productivity also needs to be taken into account (ILO, 2001). Unemployment is the root of greater problems like an economic downturn characterized by low productions of goods and services and extreme inflation. Hence, the prevalence of inflation is measured through a country's unemployment rate - a ratio showing the relation between the labor force and the number of jobs that are readily available. High unemployment rate means that the jobs that are readily available are not sufficient enough to accommodate the entire labor force and unemployment is a necessary evil that plays an important role in decreasing the effects of inflation. The best way to remedy short-term unemployment is being self-employed. People must learn to be independent and must know how to carve out opportunities for themselves. Entrepreneurs play a huge role in a country's economy, it is not just advantageous to the entrepreneur but as well as to the government's economy. Instead of being a burden, entrepreneurs take charge and create jobs for the community. They also produce goods and services that fuels economic growth. Once, an entrepreneurial nation is established more jobs and opportunities are created and the unemployment rate will decrease (Ramos, 2010). Trout farms can be used

for this purpose. Many trout farms can give many job opportunities for young people living in rural areas. They serve the community providing quality, cheap food and employment. In order to decrease the migration level, trout farms should be improved and promoted. Ecemiş Trout Farm in Niğde, Turkey is a good sample for this kind of enterprise.

Geographical features of Niğde province

Mountains of the world cover about one-fifth of the land surface, are home to one-tenth of the world's population, and provide livelihood to some of the poorest communities in the world. Mountain lakes and streams are a source of freshwater for countless riparian human communities, support industries, provide water for storages for irrigation and hydropower electricity production and for fish. Some countries situated in mountain areas are landlocked, with no access to marine fishery resources, hence the fish of lakes, streams, rivers and reservoirs are an important source of animal protein, always in short supply in mountain countries. Mountain countries and regions are characterized by the presence of cold waters, many of which harbour fish and support largely subsistence fisheries. Rivers, together with their tributaries, support and at the same time threaten the livelihoods of people in the region, before they flow to the sea. Countries situated in these mountains are characterized by poverty and very low level of development. While these mountains

represent a unique and globally important ecosystem, they also contribute to the economic hardship of the people (Petr, 2003). This is also true for Niğde province in Turkey.

Niğde province is situated in the south-east of Turkey's Central Anatolian Region. Situated at an altitude of 1.229 m the population of Niğde Province, according to the general 2000 census, is 348.081. Niğde has Aksaray, Nevşehir, Kayseri and Konya as neighbours with the Bolkar Mountains to the south, the province of İçel to the southeast and the Aladağlar Mountains to the east forming natural borders that separate it from the province of Adana. As for the districts of Çamardı and Ulukışla, they are counted as being in the Mediterranean region. The fundamental source of the locals' income is agriculture and animal husbandry. Its being located in Cappadocia, its wealth of history and its natural beauty all go towards making this pretty Anatolian town something special. Ecemiş Waters and the Ulu river are important rivers. Niğde consists of 6 districts: Central, Altunhisar, Bor, Çamardı, Çiftlik and Ulukışla. The Aladağlar Mountains, which form the highest section of the Middle Taurus, are located between the provincial borders of Kayseri, Niğde and Adana. Moreover a large section of these mountains rise up within the borders Çamardı district of Niğde Province with the Ecemiş river to the west and the Zamantı river to the east. Above the Ecemiş river which

describes the western border of the Aladağlar, are found the villages of Çukurbağ and Demirkazık. The Taurus-Aladağlar end in the east at the Barazama valley. The most important village settlements of this highly mountainous region are the villages of Çukurbağ and Demirkazık to the west and to the east Ulupınar "Barazama" (Niğde University Website). In the light of these explanations, it can be said that Niğde as a rural province, depending on its geographical characteristics, needs new business opportunities for the community members.

Effects of Trout farms on economic development of rural areas and Ecemiş trout farm

Poverty in rural areas is the real cause of migration. People migrating from their villages for better living conditions and job opportunities cause the loss of man power. This negatively affects the farm production. Eventually people have become less and less active and become locked in the vicious cycle. In order to solve this problem, poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment in these areas should be reduced at once. Providing job opportunities and new employment areas especially for young people can stop migration and help develop these areas socially and economically. Trout farming is one of profitable opportunities for inhabitants. It plays an important role in the livelihood of

them. Ecemiş Trout Farm can be given as an example in this respect.

Family-owned Ecemiş Trout Farm was opened with 50 tons / year capacity in 1987. For over 25 years Ecemiş Trout Farm has been producing trout using water resources in a respectful manner with its 100 tons annual production capacity in the location of Demirkazık/Çamardı/Niğde. Adhering to the international food and

hygiene rules, all the products are distributed to official institutions and all over Turkey. Target annual production is 250 tons. Giving priority to the human health with research and development works, the farm continues to develop its service quality day by day. The figures of Ecemiş Trout Farm and its products are below (Ecemiş Trout Farm Website):



Figure 1: Ecemiş Trout Farm
(Source:<http://www.fotokritik.com/arama/%20alabal%C4%B1k/2>)



Figure 2: Products (Source: Ecemiş Trout Farm Website)

As it can be seen from the figure 1, Ecemiş Trout Farm is a wonder of nature with its icy cold waters, different kinds of trees and clean air. People visited there have chance to eat fresh and healthy diet in a very good natural environment. A wide variety of Farm's products (Figure 2) like trout egg and offspring, fillet trout, broodstock trout and baked trout are available for consumers. The farm attracts the attention of both domestic and foreign tourists with its services. Many people works in the farm and products are marketed all over Turkey. These are the reasons of investments in rural areas. According to Sylvester (2013) benefits of investing in rural markets are as follows:

Familiarity with the area: Someone wants to invest in the area where he/she was born and raised. He/she understands the economics, trends and where the jobs are. He/she knows the market where he/she grew up.

Less competition: There are only a few serious investors in the areas that invest in. This means that an investor doesn't have to work as hard to find a deal. In some cases, deals find him/her because he/she is one of the few investors in the area.

Properties are less expensive: There are a lot of properties that are less expensive than the average property value in the market.

Good cashflow: Investors are able to find properties that cashflow well. This can be attributed to the two previous points (less competition and cheaper properties).

Less urban issues:

Regulations – All places have regulations regarding building/changing property, but rural areas typically have less.

Taxes–Taxes are typically less in rural areas.

Crime–Although crime exists everywhere, it is less prevalent in rural areas and crimes that are committed are often not as serious.

Easier to build a Brand: Because the market is small and there is less competition, it is much easier to build a brand.

Bigger impact: Because the population is smaller, investors can have a larger impact on the community with their investments.

Because of these benefits, investment in rural areas should be more supported by government. Poverty can not be reduced if economic growth does not occur (Khan, 2001). If the conditions could be created for the small producers to become more effective in production and trade, poor groups could contribute significantly to achieving a higher and more sustainable pace of development, promoting not only economic growth but social cohesion (IFAD, 2001).

Result

Ecemiş Trout Farm is a good sample for every entrepreneurs who want to invest in rural areas. Investing in these areas is crucial for rural development. By means of this kind of investment, lives of many people living here improve rapidly and social life changes in positive way. Rural areas can become more attractive for people with the reduction in

unemployment. Economic development in rural areas can be achieved with such investments and migration from rural areas to the cities can be stopped by such effective measures.

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