

Inception Seminar and follow up activities

Date of the Seminar: 1 November; 14:00 – 17:00

Location of the Seminar: Dedeman Bostancı İstanbul Hotel & Convention Center, İstanbul/Turkey

Number of Participants: 39 (Annex)

Aim of the Seminar

The inception seminar was organised to bring all stakeholders of the sector together, in order to give information about the aim and activities of the project and to discuss the consortium model that will provide management of the Turkish pine honey GI.

General Flow of the Seminar

- Introductions by:
 - Emmanuel Hidier, Senior Economist, FAO/EBRD cooperation manager, FAO
 - Maria Ricci, Project Manager, FAO
 - Nemanja Grgic, Technical Cooperation Manager, Agribusiness, EBRD
 - Tan Celasun, Assistant Analyst, SME Finance and Development, EBRD Turkey
- Presentation of Sertaç Dokuzlu, Project Local Coordinator, Bursa Uludag University, on “Geographical Indications, Project Objectives, Activities and Proposed consortium”
- Perspective from Raffaele Dall’Olio, FAO consultant, about TPH key factors, leading to a successful GI
- Q&A and discussion among participants about the consortium model presented
- Conclusion and next steps

Proposed Structure for Consortium

- Establishment of National Honey Council (NHC) has been proposed.
- Product councils has a legal basis (2006 dated Nr. 5488 Law of Agriculture) in Turkey and there is also some different product councils exist.
- Founders of a product council consist from 4 group: producer, industry, public and research and NGOs
- A product council is working in all activity areas of a sector and it is a non-profit organisation
- Due to wide-range membership profile, product councils is a good option to manage a GI

Topic discussed

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- Members and membership conditions of the HPC
- Management of the HPC
- Activities of the HPC
- Income and expenses of the HPC

Questions raised

- Is there any other national product councils in Turkey and are they work efficiently?
- What is the voting system and share of each member?
- What is the membership fee?
- Is there any other consortium alternative?
- If this HPC cannot establish what is the B plan?

Conclusions/outcomes

- A draft HPC regulation has been distributed to the participants
- Participants asked for time to think about HPC
- The deadline for submitting comments on the HPC and other consortium options was determined as December 1, 2019.
- After the meeting, the president and some members of the Turkish Association of Beekeepers (TAB) expressed their doubts about being involved in a consortium, and their desire to be the single applicant for Turkish pine honey GI.
- Other actors of pine honey value chain denoted that they do not agree with TAB being the single applicant as that could create a monopoly for the new GI.

Follow up activities to the Inception seminar:

A meeting was organized with TAB members in Ankara on 22 November 2019, attended by Prof. Sertaç Dokuzlu, local coordinator of the Project. Maria Ricci, Project manager, FAO and Raffaele Dall’Olio, international beekeeping and honey expert, also attended the meeting by video conference. TAB raised the following questions and concerns about the Project:

- Is it possible to apply a GI at national level?
- Did all pine honey samples analysed? If yes where?
- Why TAB could not be the single applicant for GI?
- Why all the actors of the value chain should be in the GI system?

The team reiterated on the potential benefits of GI for TAB members. The team has also explained how applying for a GI at a national level has no legal restrictions either at national neither international level. It has been explained that honey samples have not been analysed yet, and that the plan is to do carry out the analysis with impartial laboratories. The team explained that the GI is a collective right that everyone in the value chain can use in case they follow the code of practice and comply with the quality, certification and control criteria. TAB should not be the single applicant for GI unless, all the actors of the value chain agree on it.

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At the end of the meeting, all TAB members agreed to build a consortium with other Turkish pine honey actors, and to continue to support the project activities.

Suggestions on how to build a consortium

Two suggestions were received within the set deadline of 1 December 2019: one from TAB, and one from Balparmak, packer and exporter of pine honey in Turkey.

TAB

Suggestion of TAB was to establish an association, which includes following actors of the sector:

- TAB
- Kozan Honey Agricultural Sales Cooperative
- Mugla Honey Exporter’s Union
- BALDER
- KOY KOOP

Details to be determined

Balparmak

Suggestion of Balparmak was to establish an association, which includes following actors of the sector:

- Industrial associations
- Producer Associations
- Universities
- Municipalities (located in the geography of pine honey)
- Exporters' associations
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

It was proposed that the association should be composed of 6 categories and 5 representatives from each category. It was proposed that the board of directors would be established with one representative (6 persons) from each category and that each stakeholder is represented equally. The name of the Association, operation rules and the legal status should be decided in a workshop with the participation of all stakeholders.

Annexes: Seminar participants List

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“Support to Sustainable Honey Value Chain in Turkey through Geographical Indications”

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