

Landing new opportunities for growth: fish farms win support

Turkey is revitalising its fisheries' industry with new investments in aquaculture. The EU is helping modernisation and diversification, and promoting rural businesses, to improve overall competitiveness and raise standards of living.

TROUT RISING

The EU provided a grant of nearly €70 000 to the "Ali Dayı Trout" project. The money made it possible for a fish-processing plant to expand its own fish-farm, with new equipment for cooling, processing, and packaging, and with ponds for hatching eggs and rearing young fish. This doubled capacity to 25 tons a year. "The most important impact of the support is that I am able to raise my own fish, which brings down my production costs", says Burhan Çiçek, the company manager.

The funding came from the EU's programme fund to promote agricultural and rural development in countries in the enlargement process.

BOOSTING THE RURAL ECONOMY

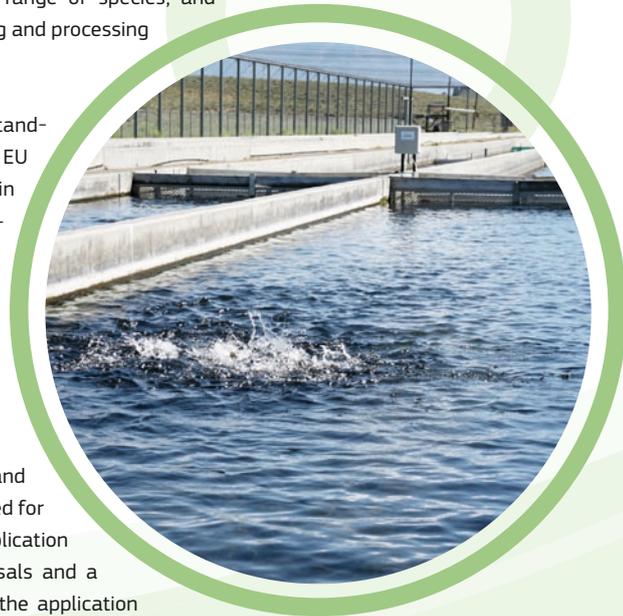
Turkey's rural economy has many small farming and agri-food operations, but investment levels and professionalism are often low, so produce falls short of international standards. The fishery sector is one of the chosen priorities for assistance. While marine fishing is decreasing, because of increasing pollution and depletion of stocks, aquaculture has high potential, both as a source of food and for the export market. There are some 2,300 fish-farms in Turkey, more than three-quarters of them freshwater inland farms. These

are often small family businesses, and they suffer from breeding only a limited range of species, and from the lack of local marketing and processing facilities.

Hygiene and management standards need to be raised. The EU scheme supports operations in improving their performance – in terms of product quality and safety, but also in terms of environmentally-friendly use of resources.

RAISING STANDARDS

Ali Dayı Aquaculture Industry and Trade Limited Company qualified for the grant after a successful application that contained detailed proposals and a full business plan. Çiçek says the application process was very demanding, with strict procedures and requiring evidence of compliance with legislation. "But", he adds, "meeting these demands obliges you to be very professional about the project". It has proved so successful that Çiçek is now planning to make a further application, to finance modernisation of his plant and enhance its capacity.



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Turkey

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

He advises any potential applicant to make sure they prepare their project fully, checking in advance with the grant authorities on all aspects of architecture, energy supply, and construction. But this should not discourage applicants, he underlines. Getting it right at this early stage improves the chances of the project being successful in the long run, he says.

PROJECT DETAILS – Ali Dayı Aquaculture

Total cost in €:
81,845

EU Contribution in €:
61,384 (75%)

Start date:
November 2011

End date:
December 2011

Results:
Upgraded production and quality, diversification of rural economy, contribution to variety of domestic food production

