IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN TÜRKİYE: MALATYA PROVINCIAL CASE

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The Rural Development Component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPARD) program, which was first implemented by the EU between 2007 and 2013, has been implemented in Turkiye since 2011. In the study, it is aimed to investigate whether the implementation of the EU Rural Development Policy in Turkiye is successful or not.

Methodology: The evaluation is made based on the data obtained from previous research, the data of the Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI) and Malatya Provincial Coordinatorship, and the data obtained from a survey conducted with beneficiaries in Malatya. Pearson Correlation analysis and One-Way ANOVA analysis were performed on the data obtained through the questionnaire. According to the results of the analysis, evaluations were made on the results of the IPARD program in Turkiye.

Findings: In the study, the Turkish implementation of the IPARD program was generally successful, a large number of enterprises producing in EU standards were brought to the province of Malatya, a culture of preparing investment projects was created, experience was gained in making feasibility studies and financial analysis on the sustainability of agricultural enterprises, and it contributed directly or indirectly to employment increase.

Originality: There are very few studies in the literature on the success of the IPARD program in Turkiye. In these studies, no data was collected directly from the beneficiaries by the questionnaire method and there is no previous study on the case of Malatya province.

Key Words: European Union, Rural Development Policy, IPARD, Turkiye, Malatya.

JEL Codes: O21, O22, O38, Q18, R51, R58.

AB KIRSAL KALKINMA PROGRAMININ TÜRKİYE UYGULAMASI: MALATYA İLİ ÖRNEĞİ

ÖZET

Amaç: AB tarafından ilk defa 2007-2013 yılları arasında uygulanmaya başlanan Katılım Öncesi Yardım Aracının Kırsal Kalkınma Bileşeni (IPARD) programı, Türkiye'de 2011 yılından itibaren fiili olarak uygulanmaya başlamıştır. Çalışmada, IPARD programı üzerinden AB Kırsal Kalkınma Politikasının Türkiye uygulamasının başarılı olup olmadığı araştırılması amaçlanmaktadır.

Yöntem: Çalışmada, Türkiye genelinde daha önce yapılan araştırmadan elde edilen veriler, Tarım ve Kırsal Kalkınmayı Destekleme Kurumu (TKDK) ve Malatya İl Koordinatörlüğü verileri ile Malatya ilinde destek alan faydalanıcılarla yapılan anket sonucunda elde edilen veriler esas alınmaktadır. Anket aracılığıyla elde edilen veriler, istatistiksel olarak analiz edilmekte ve analiz sonuçlarına göre IPARD programının Türkiye'deki sonuçları üzerinde değerlendirmelerde bulunulmaktadır.

Bulgular: Çalışmada, IPARD programının Türkiye uygulamasının genel olarak başarılı olduğu, IPARD programı aracılığıyla Malatya ilinde AB standartlarında üretim yapan çok sayıda işletme kazandırıldığı, yatırım projesi hazırlama kültürü oluşturulduğu, tarımsal işletmelerinin sürdürülebilirliğine ilişkin fizibilite çalışmaları ve mali analiz yapma konusunda tecrübeler edinildiği, doğrudan veya dolaylı olarak istihdam artışına önemli katkılar sunduğu tespit edilmiştir.

Özgünlük: IPARD programının Türkiye'deki başarısı ile ilgili literatürde çok az sayıda çalışma bulunmaktadır. Bu çalışmaların hiçbirinde anket yöntemiyle faydalanıcılardan veri toplanmamıştır ve Malatya ili örneğiyle ilgili daha önce yapılmış bir çalışma bulunmamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Avrupa Birliği, Kırsal Kalkınma Politikası, IPARD, Türkiye, Malatya.

JEL Kodları: O21, O22, O38, Q18, R51, R58.

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1. INTRODUCTION

After winning candidate country status in 2005, Turkiye began full membership negotiations with the EU. Through this process, the EU has made changes to the financial aid program it has prepared for the candidate and the potential candidate countries, and has gathered the financial assistance it has previously provided with different names under a single roof, called the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). IPA consist of five components (Dağlıoğlu, 2008: 7, 19-20). The subject of this article is Turkiye's application regarding the Rural Development component, the last of the IPA's components. Upon successful results from this model, which was implemented in 2007-2013, it was also decided to implement the program in 2014-2020. Since the IPARD-II program covering the 2014-2020 periods has not yet been concluded, the study was limited to the IPARD-I period, with the idea that a healthy assessment cannot be made.

By achieving success in the agriculture and rural development policies it has implemented, the EU has increased the amount of agricultural production throughout the EU, and has also caused serious increases in the quality of life of those living in rural areas. It is not possible to say that Türkiye has achieved the expected success from the policies it has implemented. This situation causes the policies implemented in Türkiye to be questioned and new policies are sought. For this reason, it is desired to investigate whether the policies implemented in EU member countries show the same success in Türkiye. As a result of the study, it is aimed to determine whether these policies are suitable for Türkiye by measuring the level of success of EU policies in Türkiye and to make rural development policy recommendations for Türkiye according to the results obtained. Another aim of the study is; To see the results of EU rural development policies in Türkiye, which has a different structure from many EU member countries, and thus to test the universality of EU rural development policies.

There are various studies in the literature regarding the implementation of the IPARD program in Türkiye. In none of these studies, data were collected from the beneficiaries with the survey method and statistical analysis of these data was not performed. With this feature, our study differs from other studies. In addition, in the study, the success level of the IPARD program in Türkiye is evaluated on the basis of the sustainability, employment and capacity utilization criteria, based on the Malatya example. Due to this nature, there is no example of the study in Türkiye. Public resources are used in all policies implemented by states. In order for limited public resources to meet unlimited needs, it is imperative that resources be used efficiently. In the study, the success of the projects supported by IPARD grants, 75% of which is covered by EU funds and 25% from the budget of the Republic of Türkiye (MFAL, 2014: 94). Therefore, the success of these projects is also mean the efficient use of public resources.

The hypothesis of this study is as follows: 'Successful results were obtained from Turkiye's implementation of the EU Rural Development Policy'. To verify this hypothesis, the results obtained in Turkiye and Malatya province are provided. Within this framework, evaluations are made based on three criteria: (a) continued operations of supported businesses (sustainability), (b) capacity utilization rates, and (c) employment quantities. Also, in the framework of the results obtained, the EU Rural Development Policy Compliance to Turkiye is discussed, while suggestions are also made on the subject. The reason for choosing these three criteria is that support has been given in 9 different areas (Table 2) within the scope of IPARD-I and the need to determine the criteria that can measure the level of success in terms of all these sub-measures. The article does not include data on the development of enterprises that did not benefit from IPARD supports in the 2007-2013 period. This may cause bias in sampling. In order to minimize the bias, the situation of the enterprises using loans throughout Turkiye, the data on the members of the Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen and the data on the enterprises receiving IPARD support were compared.

In the study, firstly the implementation of the IPARD program in Türkiye and the effect of this application on the economy and employment are examined, then the implementation of the IPARD program in Malatya is took up. The application example in Malatya is evaluated according to the capacity utilization rates of the supported enterprises, the employment they create and their sustainability. This evaluation is made by comparing with the data of the Chamber of Tradesmen and Craftsmen and the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency. Finally, the obtained results are discussed and various suggestions are made.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF IPARD IN TURKIYE

Turkiye has prepared an IPARD program to benefit from EU grants. The main objective of the IPARD program was to ensure harmonization between Turkiye's agriculture and rural development policies and EU policies, thus contributing to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector and rural areas. Thus, together with rural development, it is to increase agricultural production and raise the income level of farmers (Çütçü ve Telli, 2019: 102). Additionally, with these supports provided by the IPARD program, to increase the productivity of the enterprises that make primary agricultural production and process these

agricultural products, to reach EU's standards in hygiene and food safety, animal welfare, veterinary controls, and environmental protection are aimed (Bedel, 2019: 4). The IPARD program includes detailed information on the provinces where the program will be implemented, measures, and sectors to be supported, beneficiary criteria, and appropriate investment areas. Various criteria, such as gross domestic product (GDP), migration statistics, and agricultural and rural potentials, were taken into consideration in terms of selecting the provinces where the program would be implemented (Dağlıoğlu, 2008: 43). As a result of these evaluations, it was decided to implement the IPARD program in 42 provinces in Turkiye (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Provinces where the IPARD Programme was implemented

Both the IPARD agency in Turkiye (Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution-ARDS) and the provincial coordinator were established in 2007. However, due to the prolongation of the accreditation process, project acceptance only began in 2011. Although it is located in the IPARD-I program covering the 2007-2013 periods, the 102 (Support for the Setting up of Producer Groups) measures in Turkiye were excluded from the program because they were very difficult to implement. Also, because of the 201 (Preparation for Implementation of Actions Relating to Environment and the Countryside) and 202 (Preparation and Implementation of Local Rural Development Strategies) measures were not accredited, these measures could only be implemented as pilots. The only beneficiary of the 501 (Technical Assistance) measure was the General Directorate of Agricultural Reform, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Managing Authority of the IPARD program (Gürbüz and Bedel, 2014: 209-217). Therefore, in this study, three measures (9 sub-measures) within the IPARD I program in Türkiye are discussed (ARSDI, 2015: 15).

There are 5 articles (Aslan et al., 2016; Asoğluand Binici, 2015; Çütçü and Telli, 2019; Gülçubuk et al., 2017; Yontar and Söztutar, 2018), 3 master's thesis (Bedel, 2019; Çimen,2017; Kaplan, 2019; İnal, 2020), 1 PhD thesis (Koç,2016), 1 experted thesis (Dağlıoğlu, 2008) and 2 symposium papers (Gülçubuk et al., 2016; Gürbüz and Bedel, 2014) that we can identify regarding the implementation of an IPARD-I program in Türkiye. Two of these articles deal with IPARD-I applications in Mardin (Aslan et al., 2016) and Urfa and Diyarbakır (Asoğluand Binici,2015). One master's thesis dealt with the practice in Malatya (Kaplan, L., 2019). All of the other studies deal with the IPARD-I implementation throughout Türkiye. In none of the studies conducted, statistical analysis was not carried out by making a survey with the beneficiaries. Evaluations in other studies were made entirely on data obtained from public and private institutions. In this study, the data obtained from the surveys were also compared with the data of the Chamber of Commerce and Craftsmen and the Banking Supervision and Regulatory Authority. For this reason, there is no other example of the study and the results are considered to be reliable.

2.1. Results from the IPARD-I Program

When the distribution of IPARD supports by measure is analysed, the highest support is given within the scope of the 101-Investments in Agricultural Holdings to Restructure and to Upgrade to Community Standards. The unused budgets regarding other measures were transferred to this measure, since there were more applications than expected in the 101 measure. Due to these transfers, the share of 101

measures, which was 35% at the beginning, reached 70% by the end of the program. When the grants are assessed based on sub-measures, it may be said the IPARD program reached its objectives in the livestock sector (white meat, red meat, and dairy production) in Turkiye. When the processing sector (Measure 103) is considered, it is observed the amount of support provided is less than planned (Figure 2). This situation arises due to many reasons, such as high investment costs in the processing sector, the need for more qualified personnel due to the technical stage of the production phase, and because the marketing opportunities are more difficult than those of the production sector (Çimen, 2017: 79).

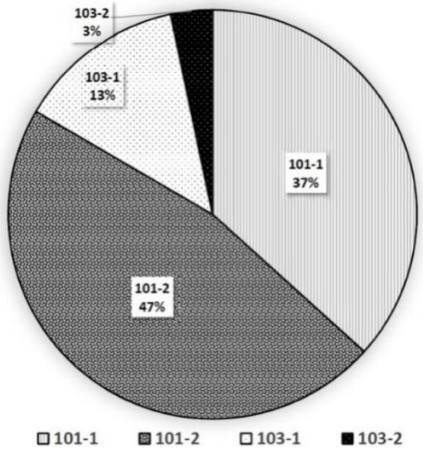

Figure 2. Distribution of IPARD-I investments by measure

2.1.1. Effects of the IPARD Program on the Economy

According to data from ARDSI, during IPARD-I, Turkiye was given 3.2 billion Euros in grants and invested 6.8 billion Euros (MAF, 2019). This amount of investment is very important for Turkiye, but it is also required to determine if the grants' objectives were reached. In the interviews, it was observed the owner of the holdings judged success based on achieving the break-even point in their investments. When an evaluation is made based on this criterion, livestock and dairy farms, which require high investment, cannot be expected to reach their targets in a short space of time. This is because these are project whose return is perennial. The level of achievement of the targets has been 51.9% in dairy farming and 40% in fattening stock farming, which is in line with our prediction. Factors that are effective in not reaching the targets during the implementation of the projects differ in terms of the milk and fattening sub-measures. While insufficient financial resources arise as a common problem regarding both measures, no finding experienced personnel and climate conditions in the dairy farming sub-measure has been determined as a factor in not reaching the targets. When an assessment was made based on all measures, 44.8% of the beneficiaries who received support from the ARDSI projects stated the project targets were achieved, 39.3% were partially achieved, and 15.9% were not yet reached (ARDSI, 2015: 72).

They were also indirectly supported in various subsidiary industries through IPARD supports. For example, 96.7% of the beneficiaries have supported both the construction sector and other sectors that are indirectly related to this sector by meeting the materials used in the construction works from their region. This result shows IPARD supports create multiplier effects and increases production in other sectors. Also, new job opportunities have been created by increasing the employment of technical personnel involved in engineering and consultancy services, as well as building inspection activities. In addition to the construction works, 73.4% of the beneficiaries contributed to the local economy by procuring some of the machinery and equipment, while 13.3% contributed by procuring all of the machinery and equipment they purchased through local investment. On the other hand, the positive impact of the IPARD program on these sectors will be long-term, since the need for machinery equipment and spare parts will continue after the holdings have started the production phase (Çimen, 2017: 84). As a result, it can be said the IPARD program not only increases quality and healthy production but also contributes significantly to the local economy during the establishment of holdings (Figure 3).

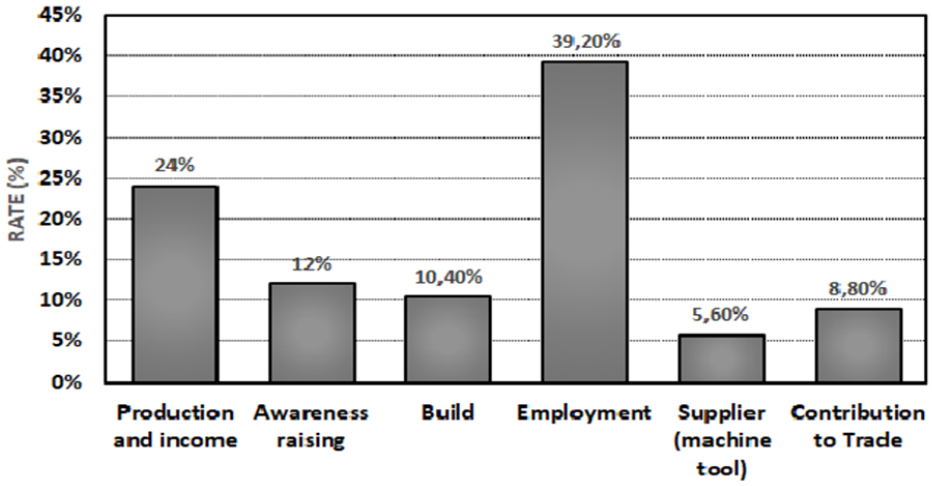

Figure 3. Effects of IPARD supports on local economy

2.1.2. Impact of IPARD Supports on Employment

According to ARDSI data, the IPARD-I program employed 57 thousand people across Turkiye (MAF, 2019). By looking at this amount of employment, it can be said the biggest contribution made of the IPARD program, which has been implemented since 2011, has been to create employment. It is thought this newly created employment will contribute significantly to both the reduction of rural-urban migration and the economic strengthening of rural areas.

In another study on the subject, it was observed the number of employees, which was 3.2 people in dairy farms and 4.7 people in fattening farms before IPARD projects, consequently increased to 8.5 people in dairy farming and 22.1 people in fattening. In other words, with the support of IPARD, it has achieved an employment increase of 1.8-fold in dairy farms and 4.7-fold in fattening farms. When an evaluation was made in terms of all measures, it was determined while the average number of employees in 87 holdings was 3.9 people before IPARD projects, an average of 8.4 people was employed per holding after IPARD supports. In other words, it was determined there was a 3.5-fold increase in employment with IPARD supports (Gülçubuk et al., 2017: 193-194).

In a study by Çimen (2017: 94), similar results were obtained regarding the effects of the IPARD program on employment. In this study, it was determined with the IPARD program, an average of 7 personnel was employed in the meat and dairy sector, while the number of employees was higher, especially in the dairy sector. These findings show the IPARD program has a positive effect on employment and will continue to do so in the future. Also, the establishment of modern and technology-based holdings through IPARD supports increases the employment of qualified personnel in rural areas.

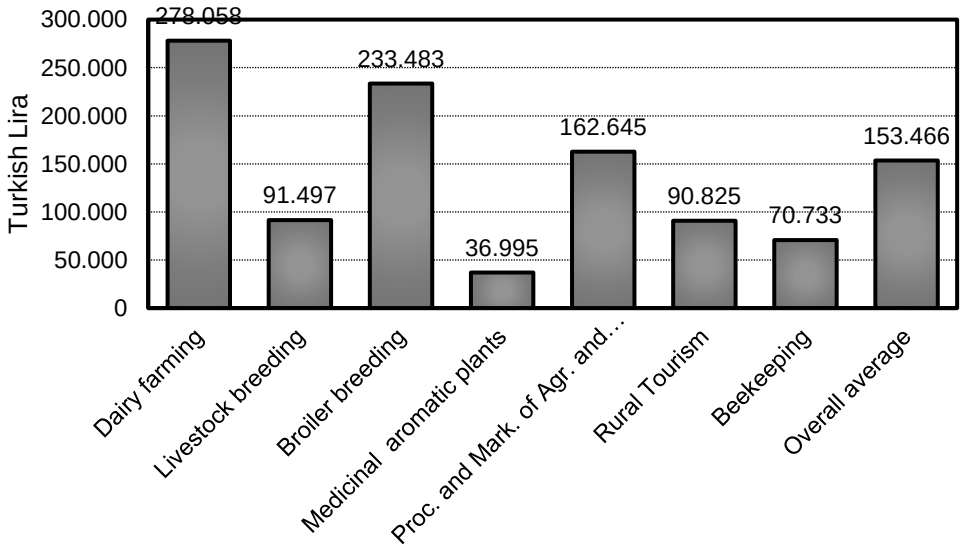

Figure 4. Cost of employment created with ARDSI projects

Another dimension of creating employment is the cost of employment. The cost of employment is very important in terms of the efficient use of resources and creating further employment. The effective use of resources is also important for corporate sustainability and both economic and financial sustainability. According to the calculations, the average cost of creating employment for a person in holdings receiving IPARD support is 153.466 TL (Figure 4). Considering the multiplier effect caused by the indirect employment created by the projects, this amount is expected to be much lower. Although the multiplier factor is not taken into account, the result represents an effective value of the source. For example, while the cost of creating employment in the agriculture sector is approximately 292 thousand TL, it is 365 thousand TL in the service sector and 4.564 thousand TL in the energy sector (Table 1). This indicates the employment cost provided by ARDSI supports is much lower than other sector investments, meaning IPARD-like supports can play an important role in increasing rural employment.

Table 1. Cost of creating employment for a sector-based person

Sectors	*Investment (Million TL)*	*Number of Employment*	*Employment Cost of a Person (Thousand TL)*
Energy	10.374	2.273	4.564
Services	25.677	70.410	365
Manufacturing	23.234	64.764	359
Mining	1.995	4.284	466
Agriculture	634	2.175	292

Source: ARDSI, 2015: 69

Another result obtained from the studies is the educated people have a high interest in IPARD grants. In a study conducted in this regard, Turkiye has a college graduation rate of 11%, while the proportion of graduates of universities in support of the project beneficiaries under IPARD was determined to be 35.9% (Gülçubuk et al., 2017: 193). This shows that educated people can be absorbed into rural development activities with the support provided and significant contributions can be made from this segment in rural development. Also, as educated people tend to live predominantly in cities, it can even be foreseen that reverse migration (i.e. migration from cities to rural areas) can be initiated. Considering the problems created by extreme migration to cities, it can be argued the IPARD program will play an important role in solving such problems. In fact, in the study conducted by Koç (2016), 85.71% of beneficiaries, it is determined that support such as the IPARD program will contribute to the development of rural areas and decreasing migration from villages to cities.

Applications for benefiting from IPARD support are required to prepare a business plan. In the business plan, the applicants show the activities to be done during and after the investment process, as well as the related sources of financing of these activities. Thus, after signing the contract, the beneficiaries are guaranteed to fulfill the requirements of the contract and the contract termination rates are reduced. As a matter of fact, according to the ARDSI data, the contract termination rate is 3%. Termination stems mainly from the lack of co-financing (ARDSI, 2015: 96). In addition to the pre-contract controls, the holding operations are checked for five years after the grant support is provided. In this period, it is requested from the holdings that are found to continue their activities to return the grant support provided by the contract (Çimen, 2017: 95). It is thought such practices are an important factor for supporting holdings to continue their activities.

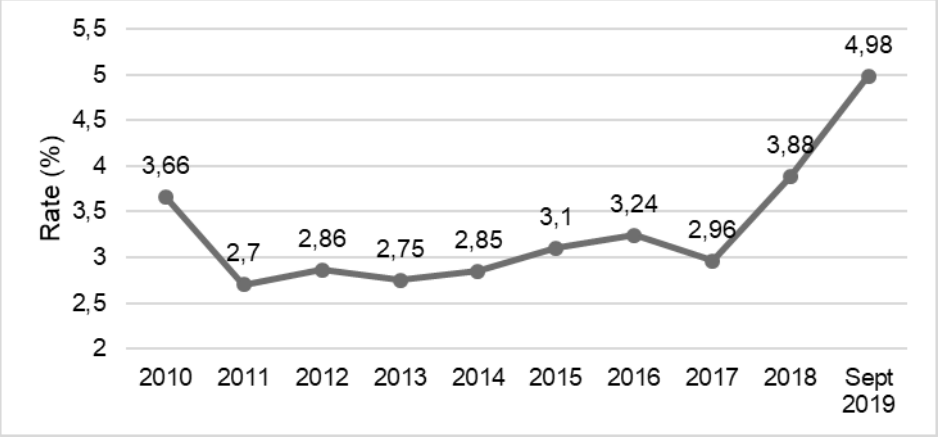

Figure 5. Bank loans (Consumer-SME-Commercial) follow-up rates

Another piece of data highlighting the success of the IPARD program is that while 10,694 projects in total were supported in the IPARD-I period (MAF, 2019), only 130 beneficiaries were faced on the court (TCA, 2018: 26). In other words, with 1.2% of beneficiaries over 10 thousand, there have been serious problems in the judiciary. This rate, which remains extremely low considering the rates of problems in financial relations or supports that are similar in various aspects, shows IPARD is very successful. For example, according to the data of the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency, the ratio of non-performing loans to bank loans in various sectors in September 2019 was 4.98%. While the lowest NPL (Non-Performing Loan) rate 2010-2019 between was 2.7%, the average NPL for the 2010-2019 periods was 3.3% (Figure 5). When the bank loans that follow up are analysed on a sectorial basis, the ratio of NPL in the agricultural sector was 4.53% for September-2019 (Figure 6). These values mean the IPARD program provides a good model in terms of ensuring both the sustainability of businesses and their efficient use of financial resources.

Another relevant comparison with established businesses with IPARD support can be performed on data from the Turkiye Tradesmen and Craftsmen Confederation (TTCC). This is because small and medium holdings supported by the IPARD program are also TTCC member holdings. Therefore, it is concluded that meaningful data can be obtained by comparing the rates of continuing with the activities of TTCC members and holdings supported by ARDSI. According to TTCC data, 45 businesses are closed for every 100 businesses opened in 2016-2019 period (TTCC, 2020). In other words, only 55% of the establishments could continue their activities. These values show the IPARD program, in which 99 of every 100 supported businesses continue to operate, is very successful.

Our final assessment to measure the success of the IPARD program is a comparison with businesses supported under the Rural Development Investments Support Program (RDISP). RDISP provides grant support to investments and pressurised irrigation systems to ensure economic and social development in rural areas (MFAL, 2010). In a study on SMEs benefiting from RDISP supports in Şanlıurfa and Diyarbakır provinces, it was determined that 120 of the 197 agricultural holdings receiving grants were active in this period (Asoğlu and Binici, 2015: 221). In other words, 61% of the supported businesses continued their activities. Considering that approximately 99% of the holdings receiving IPARD support continued their activities, it turns out IPARD is an extremely successful support model.

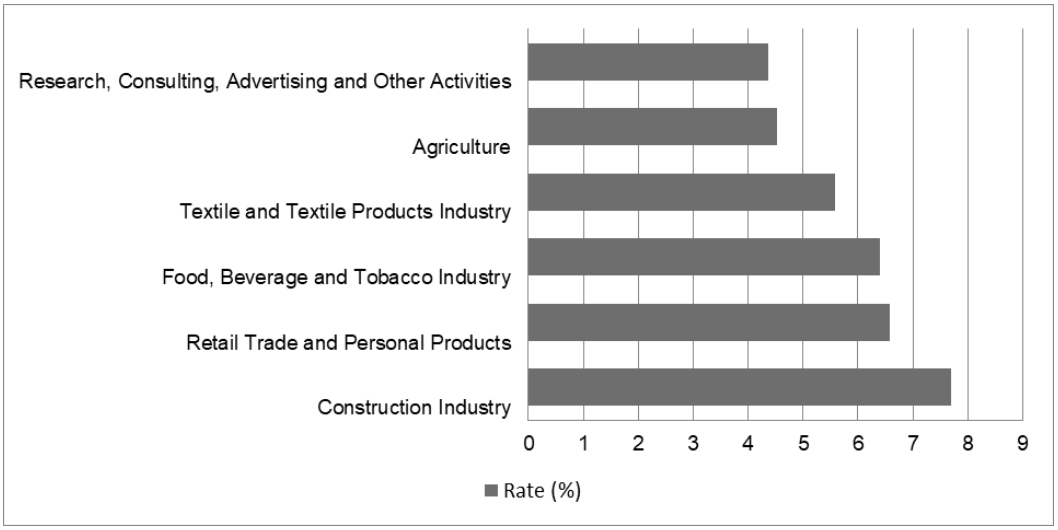

Figure 6. Bank loans rate to follow in selected sectors

The biggest problem encountered in investments made with grant supports similar to the IPARD program is poor working capital planning. This situation arises mostly in new investments. The investor can scale the investment scale with the motivation of grant support. In this case, the investor uses his or her financing resources to complete his or her fixed investment. At the end of the investment, the holding, which does not have enough working capital, either falls idle or operates with low capacity. Although there are no holdings that do not operate due to post-implementation follow-up in holdings receiving IPARD support, low capacity usage is encountered, especially in some measures. To prevent this, and to ensure the efficient use of public resources, the feasibility report requirement should be sought in the proposed investment projects, or a certain percentage of the total fixed investment amount should be set as compulsory working capital according to the sector of the investment (Özak, 2018: 108). These kinds of preventions are considered to be important in terms of ensuring the full capacity of holdings.

Another problem encountered in the IPARD program is small-scale family businesses encounter difficulties in terms of receiving grant support. During the field studies carried out by Gülçubuk et al., it was frequently stated by the producers of small producers or subsistence family businesses could not be injured from the IPARD supports, and this was observed by those who carried out the study. Undoubtedly, this is a scale problem formed within the framework of both the IPARD project components and the rules of the EU and is considered a process that works against small businesses (2016: 1048). It is thus necessary to carry out descriptions of activities for small producers in projects that will be carried out both nationally and internationally in the following processes.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPARD PROGRAMI IN MALATA PROVINCE

In this section, first of all, the method used in the study and its rationale are emphasized, and then the results are evaluated.

3.1. Method of Study

In the 10 years covering the IPARD-I, a total of 67.5 million Euros of investment was provided by granting 33.3 million Euros to 276 projects in Malatya. In other words, Malatya has used approximately 3.9% of the grants awarded during the IPARD-I period in Turkiye. The highest investment was made in the Poultry Producing Agricultural Holdings measure, which used 51% of the total grant amount. This was followed by Milk Producing Agricultural Holdings with 26.72%, Diversification and Development of Farm Activities with 5.29%, and Meat Producing Agricultural Holdings with 4.33%. The lowest investment was made in the Aquaculture Development measure, which used 0.25% of the total grant support. Within the scope of the 101 measure, the support given in three sub-measures in the Euro basis constitutes 82.23% of the total support. The obtained rate is consistent with rates in the general population of Turkiye (Table 2).

Table 2. Grant amounts provided in Malatya during IPARD-I period

Sub-Measure / Sector Name	*Numbers of Holdings*	*Investment Amount*		*Grant Amount*		*Rate (%)*
		TL	*EURO*	*TL*	*EURO*	
101.1.Milk Producing Agricultural Holdings	24	57.207.203	16.620.732	30.622.765	8.897.005	26,72
101.2.1.Meat Producing Agricultural Holdings (Red Meat)	5	8.874.981	2.964.740	4.312.855	1.440.735	4,33
101.2.2.Meat Producing Agricultural Holdings (Poultry Meat)	84	98.400.922	33.044.692	50.754.659	17.044.272	51,18
103.1.Processing and Marketing of Milk and Milk Products	1	8.217.691	2.702.086	3.424.253	1.125.940	3,38
103.2.Processing and Marketing of Meat and Meat Products	4	6.821.256	2.382.166	2.997.278	1.046.730	3,14
103.3.Processing and Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables	1	4.250.850	1.269.251	1.807.403	539.668	1,62
302.1.Diversification and Development of on-Farm Activities	146	12.602.688	4.328.919	5.131.681	1.762.690	5,29
302.2.Local Products and Micro Enperprise Development	3	3.691.826	1.339.716	1.116.893	405.306	1,22
302.3.Rural Tourism	7	8.510.806	2.640.675	3.081.166	956.003	2,87
302.4.Aquaculture Development	1	524.600	228.088	190.536	82.842	0,25
Total	276	209.102.823	67.521.065	103.439.488	33.301.191	100,0

In the study, simple random sampling method was used to determine the minimum sample number. Based on the determined population, it was calculated with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error using the simple random sample formula that the minimum sample size for 276 populations should be 161 (Baş, 2010: 40). Since almost all of the enterprises receiving grant support are in rural areas, it was preferred to conduct a telephone survey with these people. 37 people who were planned to be surveyed could not be reached. 31 people who could be reached by phone stated that they did not want to participate in the survey. 26 people who participated in the survey were excluded from the evaluation because they did not want to answer some critical questions in the survey form (such as income level, capacity use and employment) or because ıt was thought that the answers they gave were not correct. It is thought that these people do not provide financial information on the grounds of trade secrets, and do not share real employment data due to unregistered employment. As a result, 67 questionnaire forms that can be

evaluated statistically were obtained. It is seen that 67 enterprises participating in our research constitute 24.28% of the enterprises receiving grant support and they use 30.67% of the total grant support (Table 3). For this reason, although there are various limitations in terms of statistics, it has been decided to make an evaluation based on these data. Pearson correlation analysis and One-Way Analysis of Variance were performed on the data obtained from the survey and the data obtained from the ARDSI Provincial Coordinatorship.

Table 3. Surveyed holdings

Sub-Measure/ Sector Name	*Numbers of Holdings*	*Investment Amount*		*Grant Amount*		*Rate (%)*
		TL	*EURO*	*TL*	*EURO*	
101.1.Milk Producing Agricultural Holdings	8	13.936.190	4.208.039	7.704.072	2.326.248	19,45
101.2.1.Meat Producing Agricultural Holdings (Red Meat)	5	7.209.776	3.443.537	3.629.080	1.733.323	15,50
101.2.2.Meat Producing Agricultural Holdings (Poultry Meat)	17	18.586.529	7.163.038	10.398.628	4.007.514	33,51
103.1.Processing and Marketing of Milk and Milk Products	1	8.217.691	2.702.086	3.424.253	1.125.941	9,42
103.2.Processing and Marketing of Meat and Meat Products	2	5.894.672	1.046.731	2.626.355	1.046.731	8,75
103.3.Processing and Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables	1	4.250.850	1.325.349	1.807.403	539.668	4,51
302.1.Diversification and Development of on-Farm Activities	26	2.068.950	725.253	886.312	310.689	2,60
302.2.Local Products and Micro Enperprise Development	2	2.050.282	651.679	632.100	200.912	1,68
302.3.Rural Tourism	4	5.798.676	1.644.061	2.060.288	584.140	4,88
302.4.Aquaculture Development	1	524.599	228.088	190.535	82.842	0,69
Total	67	68.538.215	23.137.861	33.359.026	11.958.008	100,00

Since Pearson Correlation analysis is a method used to investigate the existence of a relationship between two or more qualitative or quantitative variables, this analysis method is used to determine the relationships between the answers given to various questions in our survey. Because it is planned to evaluate the success of the IPARD program according to the existence and direction of the relationship between these answers. For example, the effect of the grant amount on employment will be determined by the Pearson Correlation method. However, since this analysis method alone may not be sufficient, one-way analysis of variance is also used to verify and support the data obtained from this analysis method. With one-way analysis of variance, the differences between the group averages of various answers given to the survey questions are determined. It is claimed to be more reliable because of this feature. For this reason, it is aimed to compare the results obtained by using both analysis methods together and interpret them more accurately.

3.2. Resuts of the Study

The results were used in the evaluation of three criteria, namely the level of continuation of the activities of the enterprises receiving grant support, the level of capacity utilization and the level of employment creation

3.2.1. In the Evaluation Based on the First Criterion

According to the ARDSI Malatya Provincial Coordination data, only 4 of the 276 holdings supported were discontinued, and therefore a repurchase process has been initiated. The holdings that started the repurchase process' proportional value was 1.45%. In our survey, only 1 of the 67 holdings stated they could not continue production due to market conditions. In other words, 1.49% of the enterprises according to the number of enterprises and 5.71% of the enterprises according to the amount of grants do not continue their activities. Considering there is a similarity between IPARD supports and bank loans, it would be meaningful to compare these two, as well as to consider the bank loan follow-up rates. In the 10 years, 2010-2019 between, the ratio of consumer, SME, and commercial loans to follow-up in banks was 3.3% on average; the highest rate was 4.98%, in 2019, and the lowest rate was 2.7%, in 2011. In the same period, the ratio of NPL in the agricultural sector was 4.53%. In holdings receiving IPARD support, the ratio of discontinuing their activities, which was 1.49% according to the number of holdings, is less than half of the follow-up rates of bank loans extended to all sectors and is less than one-third of the loans extended to the agricultural sector. The rate calculated according to the number of approved grants is one point higher than the non-performing ratio of bank loans. The reason for the high rate of non-continuation according to the

amount of grant given is the size of the grant given to that business, although it is a business that does not continue its activities (1,807,403 TL/539,668 Euro). Due to this exceptional situation, the rate of discontinuing its activities was higher than the non-performing loan ratio, but it is considered the sustainability of the projects receiving IPARD support was high. Also, according to Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK) data, it can be said the sustainability of holdings receiving IPARD was quite high, considering the rate of small and medium-sized holdings not continuing their activities was 45%.In the study conducted by Çütçü and Telli (2019) on the IPARD program, as a result of the analyzes made with econometric tests, it was concluded that IPARD increased agricultural exports (2019: 114). The result obtained from this study shows that the production quantity and quality, and therefore their sustainability, in enterprises receiving IPARD support, have increased.

3.2.2. In the evaluation made based on the second criterion

In the evaluation made according to the capacity utilization rate, the fact that the capacity utilization is in the range of 80-85% was considered a high level of success, while 90% and above means the economy is very lively. The capacity utilization rate in the range of 70-80% shows there is development potential (Koç et al., 2017: 8). It can be said capacity utilization under 60% are considered to be unsuccessful within the framework of these values. In the evaluation made regarding sub-measures based on these values:

a) It has been determined poultry meat-producing agricultural holdingswere working at full capacity. Capacity utilization at this level indicates the support provided in this sub-measure has achieved its purpose and this sector is economically viable. It is thought the biggest factor in achieving this success is the producers do not have to use working capital due to the contracted breeding model. Instead, both the animal supply and breeding expenses during production were provided by the contracted company, while the products were purchased by these companies, so there is no problem in marketing. Breeders only cover their labour, electricity, and heating costs. Due to the production and income generated with an average of 60 days, producers did not have any difficulty in meeting these expenses. This shows that giving extra points to the preliminary agreements regarding the marketing process of the products in the IPARD program is the correct approach. For this sub-measure, it was found the relation between the grant amount and operating capacity (r^2 = 0.642, p <0.01) and the gender of the investor and the amount of investment (r^2= 0.595, p <0.05) are positive and statistically significant. Also, the relationship between employment increase and employment cost (r^2 = -0.699 p <0.01) was found to be negative and statistically significant (Table 4). This situation, which contradicts the findings in other sub-measures, is thought to result from the full capacity of all holdings in this sub-measure. These values show the installed capacities of the holdings increase depending on the grant amount. This is an expected situation. However, the interesting thing is that women investors invest have higher amounts. This situation shows it is important to invest in this measure, especially to encourage women to invest.

Table 4. Poultry meat producing agricultural holdings

	Beneficiary's Gender	*Employment Increase*	*Education Level*	*Employment Cost*
Real / Legal Person	0.681**	0.847**	-0.346	-0.463
Beneficiary's Gender		0.306	-0.225	-0.213
Employment Increase			-0.405	-0.699**
Education Level				0.450

** significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed), * significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

In the analysis of the Pearson Correlation for this sub-measure, grant amount and operating capacity (r^2 = 0.642, p <0.01), investor gender and investment amount (r^2= 0.595, p <0.05), real/legal entity and gender of beneficiary (r^2 = 0.681 p<0.01). The relationship between <0.01) and employment increase (r^2 = 0.847 p<0.01) is positive and statistically significant. In addition, the relationship between the increase in employment and the cost of employment (r^2 = -0.699 p <0.01) was found to be negative and statistically significant (Table 4). In the One-Way ANOVA analysis; It has been determined that there is a positive and statistically significant relationship between the increase in employment and real/legal persons (8.98**). It was seen that the relationship between real/legal entity and beneficiary's gender and employment cost and the relationship between employment cost and employment increase were not statistically significant (Table 5). This situation, which is inconsistent with the findings in other sub-measures, is thought to result from the full capacity work of all enterprises in this sub-measure. These values show that the installed capacities of the enterprises increase depending on the amount of the grant. This is an expected

situation. But what is interesting is that female investors invest a higher amount. This shows that this sub-measure can be used more effectively to encourage women to invest.

Table 5. Poultry meat producing agricultural holdings

	Beneficiary's Gender	*Employment Increase*	*Employment Cost*
Real / Legal Person	1.93ns	8.98**	0.67ns
Employment Increase			0.72ns

0.05<p, ns; 0.01≤p<0.05, *; 0.001≤p<0.01, **; p<0.001, ***

b) It has been determined the average capacity utilization in the *Milk Producing Agricultural Holdings* is 61.6%. In 6 of the 8 holdings surveyed, capacity utilization was above 90%, whereas two of them were 20% and 25% respectively, with the average capacity utilization rate decreasing due to these two holdings. Even if we consider these two businesses unsuccessful, it can be said the companies that were awarded grant support under this sub-measure achieved a very successful capacity utilization rate of 75%. On the other hand, two firms declared they were working at low capacity due to insufficient working capital at the end of the investment. In this sub-measure, it is thought these capacity utilization rates would be higher if more attention was paid to their business plans and investment financing in the pre-contract controls. However, even these rates cannot be described as unsuccessful. In the correlation analysis between capacity utilization rate and employment cost for this measure was found to be negatively statistically significant (r^2= -0.904 p <0.01). As an expected result, this indicates the employment cost decreases as capacity utilization increases. Also, the relation between the number of employees before the grant support and the capacity utilization after the grant support was found to be positive and statistically significant (r^2 = 0.987 p <0.01). This result shows the holdings that received support under this sub-measure and were active before the grant support had higher capacity utilization rates.

c) The average capacity utilization rate calculated in *the Red Meat-Producing Agricultural Holdings* was 80%, which is considered to be a successful rate. One of the five surveyed holdings was operating at 30% capacity and another was operating at 50% capacity, meaning the capacity utilization rates of the other three holdings were all over 90%. These two holdings with low capacity utilization rates declared they operated at low capacity due to a lack of financing. It is believed low capacity utilization due to a lack of financing in holdings can be overcome by being more careful at both the evaluation stage of the business plan and in terms of investment financing. Even if we consider these two low-capacity holdings to be unsuccessful, three out of five surveyed companies performed very well. Therefore, it is considered this measure would be much more successful if the necessary revisions were made. In contrast to milk-producing agricultural holdings, the relation between capacity utilization rate and employment cost was found to be positive and statistically significant (r^2= 0.894 p <0.05). While the employment cost is expected to decrease as the capacity utilization increases due to increase in employment cost is thought the increase in capacity increases the need for the workforce in this sub-measure which uses less technology than milk-producing holdings.

d) Within the scope of sub-measure *Processing and Marketing of Milk and Milk Products*, one holding received grant support twice. As this holding operates at full capacity, it can be said the IPARD supports provided within the scope of this sub-measure have also reached their goals. However, since these facilities are holdings that require large investments, the number of applications has been limited. Both the low number of applications and the high amount of investment poses a substantial level of risk because the failure of this holding may mean that all the sub-measures have failed.

e) Within the scope of the sub-measure of *Processing and Marketing of Meat and Meat Products*, four holdings were supported, but only two holdings could be surveyed because one of the holdings did not want to participate in the survey and one of them could not be reached. One of the two surveyed holdings is a slaughterhouse, while the other is a meat processing plant. While the slaughterhouse operates at 70% capacity, the meat processing plant operates at 50% capacity. Holdings officials cite economic conditions and meat imports as the rationale for the reduced capacity. The capacity utilization of these holdings has been evaluated as economically low. However, it is thought the officials can increase their capacity utilization rates in the process, as their reasons for doing so are reasonable.

f) Within the scope of the sub-measure of *Local Products and Micro Holdings Development*, three holdings were supported, two of which were surveyed. It was determined the average capacity utilization was 58%. Operations officials stated the upper limits of IPARD grants are low for this measure, so the capacity rate was low because they could not buy some of the machinery they needed.

g) Four of the seven holdings supported within the scope of the *Rural Tourism* sub-measure were surveyed. It was determined the average capacity utilization of the holdings surveyed was 87.5%. While the capacity utilization was found to be very successful, the beneficiaries said the capacity utilization rates were quite variable seasonally, and that capacity utilization was quite low in some periods. This variability is considered an expected situation for rural tourism.
h) The sub-measure of *Diversification and Development of Farm Activities* had the lowest capacity utilization, at a rate of 39.7%. Although business owners attributed their low capacity usage to bee deaths, this reason was not considered sufficient. As a result of this measure, it is concluded the holdings that receive support cannot be used efficiently. One of the main reasons for this is the producers who do not want to do beekeeping, but who want to own a tractor due to the fact they would be given a tractor for a while under this sub-measure, applied to this sub-measure with high capacity. For this reason, a large number of people whose beekeeping work did not necessitate this equipment applied for this measure. This also increased the number of bee deaths due to maintenance errors. In the supports to be given under this sub-measure, it is thought that decreasing the capacity cap, not providing tractor support, and providing support to experienced beekeepers will increase the capacity utilization rates.
i) Support has been given to a holding in the sub-measure of *Aquaculture Development*. This business operates at full capacity. Due to the limited number of applications, it is considered that a health assessment of this sector cannot be made through a single holding. However, this result is still very successful.
j) Within the scope of sub-measure of *Processing and Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables*, one holding was supported. However, this holding is not active due to problems arising from financing among the partners. This is the most unsuccessful of all measures the IPARD support has provided. The fact that holding with an installed capacity of approximately 3,600 tons is completely idle indicates the support given to this holding has been wasted. In the following periods, if the financing problems can be overcome, it may become operational, but it was found it remained completely idle in the period of the study. While a large grant given to a single holding can be used in more efficient areas, the support given to this holding has been wasted. To avoid similar problems, in the support to be given under this measure, pre-contract controls, business plans and financing issues, as well as the partnership structure of legal persons, should be examined in more detail. It is thought success can be increased if more detailed examinations are conducted.

The correlation between capacity utilization rate and real/legal personality was positively statistically significant ($r^2 = 0.354$ $p < 0.05$). Similarly, the relationship between capacity utilization rate and education level was found to be positive and statistically significant ($r^2 = 0.411$ $p < 0.05$). In addition, the relation between real/legal person and grant amount ($r^2 = 0.696$ $p < 0.01$) and investment amount ($r^2 = 0.700$ $p < 0.01$) was statistically significant. Similarly, in the One Way ANOVA on the survey data; While the relationship between investment amount and capacity utilization rate (3149.86***), employment increase (11.03***) and education level (3.78*) is positive and statistically significant, investment amount and existing/new business (0.56ns), Real/ No statistically significant relationship was found between the legal entity (0.51ns), and the cost of employment (0.45ns). While the relationship between capacity utilization and real/legal entity (12.65***) was found to be positive and statistically significant, the relationship between capacity utilization rate and educational status (2.23ns) was not statistically significant. In addition, the relationship between employment growth and real/legal entity (4.12***) was found to be positive and statistically significant, while the relationship between employment growth and the Applicant's educational status (1.43ns) was not statistically significant (Table 7). According to these data, it can be said the capacity utilization rate and the amount of investment increase in legal persons and as the level of education increases. Due to the increase in capacity utilization in parallel with the amount of investment, it is considered to be important for the success of IPARD program to encourage the applications of legal persons and people with high educational level.

3.2.3. In the Evaluation Made According to the Third Criterion

In our study, it was observed the employment growth provided by IPARD supports used in Malatya was lower than that detected in previous research. For example, while an average employment growth of 3.5 people was achieved per farm in dairy producing agricultural holdings, employment growth of 3.2 persons was achieved in meat-producing agricultural holdings, compared to an average increase of 2.8 persons across all of the sub-measures. Therefore, work employment costs are higher than Turkiye's overall average (ARDSI, 2015: 69). According to the calculations we have made, the amount of investment required to employ a person is shown in Figure 7.

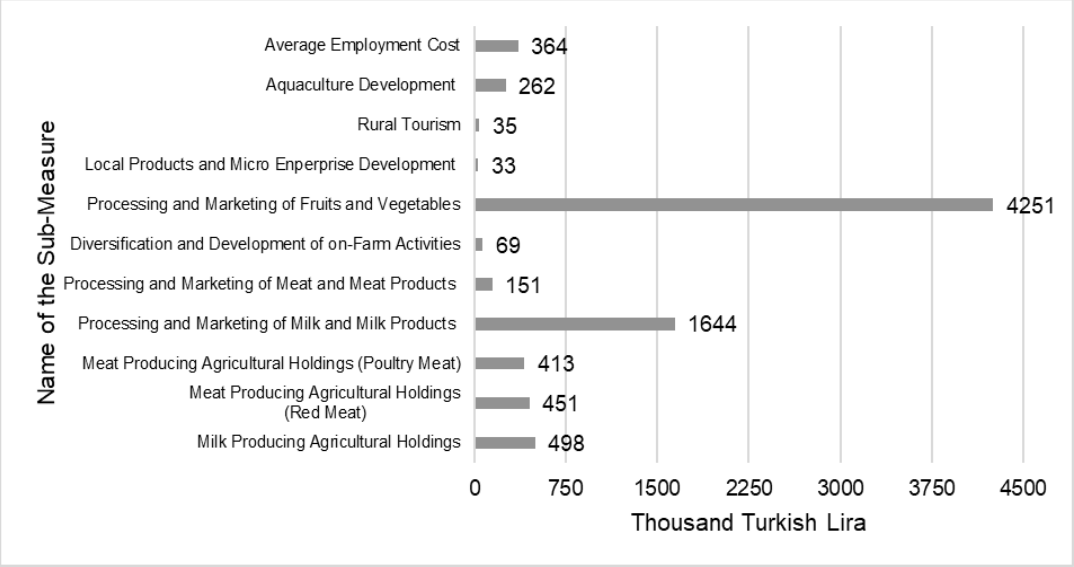

Figure 7. Employment Cost by Investment Amount

As can be seen in the graphic, the highest employment cost was in the sub-measure of Processing and Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables. In this sub-measure, the employment cost was the highest because the holding supported was not active. This value also increases the average employment cost based on all the sub-measures. The second highest employment cost is in the sub-measure of Processing and Marketing of Milk and Milk Products. Technology-based investments in this sector both increase costs and lead to limited employment. Therefore, the employment costs in this sub-measure were also high.

Table 6. All sub-measures supported in IPARD-I

	Investment Amount	*Real/Legal Person*	*Education Level*	*Employment Increase*	*Employment Cost*	*The Capacity Utilization*
Grant Amount	0.987**	0.696**	0.578**	0.653**	0.536**	0.192
Investment Amount		0.700**	0.612**	0.689**	0.560**	0.200
Real/Legal Person			0.540**	0.453**	0.546**	0.354*
Beneficiary's Age			-0.341*	0.054	-0.338*	-0.027
Beneficiary's Gender			-0.143	-0.044	-0,064	-0.200
Education				0.364*	0.465**	0.411*
Employment Increase					-0,036	0.306
Employment Cost						-0.050

**, correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed); *, correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

It is believed these areas should continue to be supported as the capacity utilization rates are high, except the first of the top five measures with the highest employment costs. The capacity utilization rates are very low in the sub-measure of the Diversification and Development of Farm Activities, where the employment costs are the lowest. For this reason, capacity calculations should be made more carefully regarding the support to be offered within the scope of this sub-measure. When the capacity utilization rates are increased, a substantial increase in employment can be achieved at a low cost.

In the Pearson Correlation analysis made on the survey data on the basis of all sub-measures; the relation between real/legal personality and employment growth (r^2= 0.453 p <0.01) and employment cost (r^2 = 0.546 p <0.01) was positively statistically significant. Similarly, the relation between grant amount and investment amount (r^2 = 0.987 p <0.01), real / legal personality (r^2 = 0.696 p <0.01), employment growth (r^2 = 0.653 p <0.01) and employment cost (r^2 = 0.536 p <0.01) was positive (Table 6). In addition, the relation

between capacity utilization rate and employment growth (r^2 = 0.806; p <0.01), real/legal personality (r^2 = 0.408; p <0.01) and investment amount (r^2 = 0.448; p <0.01) in new holdings was found to be positive and statistically significant. However, no statistically significant results could be reached for the existing holdings. It can be said the increase in investment amount in legal persons increases the employment amount and the employment cost. These values mean the increase in the amount of investment in legal persons creates more employment but also increases employment costs. Parallel to the increase in the number of employments, the increase in employment costs is thought to be the decrease in the need for labour force due to the more use of technology in legal persons. Also, it is observed the new holdings have increased employment. Similar to our results, Aslan et al. (2016: 249) in Mardin, it was concluded that the IPARD program had a positive effect on employment. In the study conducted by İnal (2020: 66), similar results were obtained about the impact of the IPARD program on employment.

One of the objectives of the IPARD program is to encourage women and young people to invest in rural development. For this purpose, various advantages are provided to these demographics. For example, an extra 5% in grant support is given to applicants under the age of 40, while female applicants are given additional points in the ranking criteria. When we look at the effect of such support designed to encourage applications from women and young people, it is seen that 176 out of 276 holdings, 63.77% of who are receiving grant support in Malatya, are beneficiaries under the age of 40. The application rate of women remained relatively low, and only 28 women received beneficiary grant support. This means young people can reach the desired target in terms of the number of applications, but the desired rate of increase cannot be achieved in terms of female applicants. It is believed that the advantage provided to young people encourages young people to apply. However, the incentives provided to women are not sufficient, so it is recommended to apply other incentives to increase the number of applications. Also, the application rate of university graduates remained at 27%. As Turkiye's proportion of university graduates is 27.3%, it was found there was not a significant rise in terms of the number of applications from university graduates.

The results of Pearson Correlation analysis showed there is statistically significant relation between education level and real/legal personality (r^2 = 0.540 p <0.01), investment amount (r^2 = 0.612 p <0.01), employment increase (r^2 = 0.364 p <0.05), employment cost (r^2 = 0.465 p <0.01) and capacity the rate of use (r^2 = 0.411 p <0.05). Similarly, education level and employment increase (r^2 = 0.364 p <0.05), employment cost (r^2 = 0.465 p <0.01) and capacity utilization rate (r^2 = 0.411 p <0.05) were found to be positive and statistically significant. In addition, the relation between the beneficiary's age and education level (r^2 = -0.341 p <0.05) and employment cost (r^2 = -0.338 p <0.05) was found to be negative and statistically significant (Table 6). These values show us education level is higher among young people. As the level of education increases, the number of applications as a legal person, investment amount, capacity utilization rate and employment increase. In the study conducted by Bedel (2019: 35), the result of the increase in applications as a legal person as the level of education reached is similar to ours.

In the One Way Analysis of Variance (One Way ANOVA) on the survey data; While the relationship between investment amount and capacity utilization rate (3149.86***), employment increase (11.03***) and education level (3.78*) is positive and statistically significant, investment amount and existing/new business (0.56ns), Real/ No statistically significant relationship was found between the legal entity (0.51ns), and the cost of employment (0.45ns). While the relationship between capacity utilization and real/legal entity (12.65***) and employment growth (5.26***) was found to be positive and statistically significant, capacity utilization rate and existing/new business (0.37ns), applicant's gender (0, 83ns), educational status (2.23ns) and employment cost (0.7ns) was not statistically significant. In addition, the relationship between employment growth and real/legal entity (4.12***) and existing/new business (3.29**) was found to be positive and statistically significant, while employment growth and employment cost (0.73ns), application No statistically significant correlation was found between the owner's gender (0.36ns) and the Applicant's educational status (1.43ns) (Table 7).

As a result of the One-way ANOVA, it is seen that similar results are obtained from the Pearson Correlation analysis. According to this analysis, it was concluded that applicants with higher education levels predominantly apply as legal entities, make higher investments, provide higher employment, and businesses operate at a higher capacity. When the results obtained by both analysis methods are evaluated together, in summary; it can be said that young and educated people invest more and create more employment, but employment costs are higher. It is thought that the reason for the high employment costs is that legal entities and educated young people use technology more in their investments. If additional incentives are provided for educated young people to increase the number of applications, reverse migration of educated young people to the countryside will be possible. This is extremely important for rural development.In the study conducted by Bedel (2019: 64), it was concluded that as the education level increases, the legal personality increases and the sustainability of the enterprises with legal personality is higher.

Table 7. All sub-measures supported in IPARD-I

	Investment Amount	*Real/Legal Person*	*Education Level*	*Employment Increase*	*Employment Cost*	*Existing/ New Holding*	*Beneficiary's Gender*
The Capacity Utilization Rate	3148.86***	12.65***	2.23ns	5.26**	0.7ns	0.37ns	0.83ns
Real/Legal Person	0.51ns			12.65***			
Education Level	3.78*			1.43ns			
Employment Increase	11.03***	4.12***	1.43ns		0.73ns	3.29**	0.36ns
Employment Cost	0.45ns			0.7ns			
Existing/New Holding	0.56ns			3.29**			

p>0.05, ns; p<0.05, *; p<0.01, **; p<0.001, ***

4. CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATION

Rural development constitutes one of the most important agendas of both the EU and Turkiye. Therefore, the European Union IPARD program, as well as Turkiye's implementation of this program, is of great importance. In this study, the results obtained from Turkiye's implementation of the IPARD program were evaluated in the case of Malatya Province. As stated earlier, since IPARD-II has just started, and thus no healthy data can be obtained to evaluate its effects, the evaluation has been made only with data from the IPARD-I program.

Rural Development, the fifth component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) prepared by the EU for the candidate and potential the candidate countries, aims to ensure the harmonisation of these countries with the EU's common agricultural policy and rural development policy. With grant support, the agricultural holdings in these countries are encouraged to produce goods at EU standards, while also developing rural areas. Also, to ensure the investment and employment of young people and women are aimed.

In this study, the level of the success of the IPARD program in Turkiye is evaluated through the extent to which program's goals are achieved. In the evaluation, It was observed to be obtained similar results of the implementation of IPARD program in Malatya and in Turkiye. Also, it is thought the IPARD program was generally successful and better results can be obtained if some areas are revised. Through these supports, a large number of holdings producing at EU standards in Malatya Province have been acquired, an investment project preparation culture has been created, feasibility studies, financial analysis related to the sustainability of agricultural holdings have been gained, and significant contributions have been made to employment growth, both directly and indirectly. In particular, after the grant support has been put into operation and a five-year monitoring period has been provided for the support, the success level of the IPARD program increases. The implementation of the same system in other support programs in Turkiye will increase its level of success. Therefore, it is recommended to apply the IPARD program, which is a very successful support model, to all investment areas. Indeed, Gluscevic et al. (2017: 763-764) in Croatia, it was concluded that the IPARD program made a significant contribution to the development of the rural economy and therefore it would be beneficial to implement it in Serbia.As we mentioned earlier, the study was limited to the IPARD-I period. In the second study to be conducted after the IPARD-II program, which is a continuation of the IPARD-I program, can be tested on the results obtained in this study. An evaluation of a policy success over the results obtained in a short period of 10 years may cause erroneous results. Therefore, it is thought more accurate results can be obtained by performing a second study at the end of IPARD-II.

Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

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Compliance with Ethical Standards

The approval of the Ethics Committee of Malatya Turgut Özal University Non-Invasive dated 01.10.2020 and numbered 01 was obtained for this study.

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