

**EVALUATION OF KASTAMONU VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION’S (VDACA): ORGANIZATION,
OPERATION MODE AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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Abstract

Only dairy cooperatives among the fields which VDACA carries out studies have been included in the research. The purpose of the research is to perform impact assessment of VDACA management and studies by cooperative members. For this purpose, cooperatives and subjects present in three districts of Kastamonu province have been selected using random sampling method. Face to face interviews were conducted with a total of 116 cooperative partners among 21 cooperatives selected. Survey results were assessed with the SPSS program and their significant situations were examined through Anova analysis. The subjects’ individual characteristics, the education, size of the enterprise, number of milch cows and their distribution to the districts have been interpreted by examining them. The ANOVA test was applied related to these aforementioned 4 characteristics. However, any statistical significant value couldn’t be found.

Keywords: *Impact assessment, agricultural cooperative, evaluation, Kastamonu*

Introduction

It should be especially stated that this study was realized upon a civil society organization VDACA’s application to our faculty for revealing the impact of studies carried out by itself. The subject of this study is the evaluation of the impact of studies conducted by VDACA. The research covers only the assessment of VDACA’S management and study by dairy cooperatives partners. The subject of the research includes 3 main features. These can be listed as follows:

The assessment of VDACA management services by cooperative members and the impact assessment were determined as the purpose of this research.

The researches on agricultural cooperatives up to the present have mainly addressed cooperative activities in terms of agricultural economy. Meanwhile in this study, the organization impact assessment was conducted for VDACA which is an upper organization.

Theoretical Foundations of the Research

In the research, the approach which was developed by Albrecht (1974) was modified according to the conditions of VDACA and a kind containing the knowledge of self experiment acquired from previous assessment studies (1976;2000;2005a,b.) by the project manager was applied. The essence information regarding this approach was presented below. The concept of assessment is used as the self-criticism of the action to be researched, the result of the program implemented, the proof and control of the impact reached and finally the determination of effective factors, scientific solution of the cause-effect relationship. In this study, the evaluation process was barely conducted in three stages. Firstly, information was gathered through observations. Secondly, certain criteria and assumptions were identified on the basis of observations conducted. In the last stage, some judgments in relation to the impact of VDACA were expressed and conclusions were drawn. This research is a process evaluation (Post-hoc-evaluation). Because, the VDACA’S studies are still continuing. Thus

the impacts and responses arising out during the implementation period could be obtained directly. Thus the findings obtained during the research process can contribute to enhance the success of VDACA'S studies.

The Research Question and Hypotheses

Just one of each research questions and hypotheses has been included herein due to page limitation. The research question:

“After the cooperative partners become members to the VDACA, what is the situation regarding the satisfaction for the rise of income and VDACA'S activities and management?”

Hypothesis:

“VDACA management is regarded as successful by the subjects because the construction of milk collection centers by VDACA is effective in marketing of milk, the rise of milk prices.

General information on the research area

Kastamonu province takes place between 41 degrees 21 north latitude and 33 degrees 46 east longitudes in the Western Black Sea region. Its altitude above sea level is 775m. Its area is 13.108,1 km². It comprises 1,7% of Turkey's lands. Kastamonu province mostly consists of rugged terrains. The surface area of Kastamonu is comprised of 74,6% mountains and forests, 21,6% plateaus and 3,8% plains. These data shows that the arable areas are limited in the Province. But however, its structure is suitable for animal husbandry.

Kastamonu province ranks 51st among 81 provinces according to the “Provinces' Development Level Performance”¹ study carried out in 2003 by State Institute of Statistics. When the education indicators are examined, it is seen that the ratio of literate population is 80%, the proportion of literate female population in total women population is 72.3%.

The population of Kastamonu as of the end of 2012 was found as 359 thousand 808. The number of people living in the city center is 98 thousand 775, total number of people living in city and district centers is 202 thousand 006 and total number of people living in villages is 157 thousand 852.

Materials and Methods

The information available regarding the subject was obtained from VDACA, Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Chamber of Agriculture. The primary data of the research was acquired through the research conducted.

VDACA covers Kastamonu, Çankırı, Bartın provinces with respect to the region. The cooperatives in Çankırı and Bartın provinces were excluded from sampling due to two reasons. First, the cooperatives in these provinces have more recently become members to VDACA. Second, the cooperatives in Kastamonu province are more intense numerically than the aforementioned provinces.

The cooperatives are working in four areas of specialization. Dairy products, dairy-forestry products, forestry products and irrigation. According to the 2014 figures, there're 313 member cooperatives to VDACA. The first cooperative has been established in 1977. There are 107 cooperatives operating in dairy products, 133 in forestry products, 55 in dairy and forestry areas. A total of 17333 partners are members to these cooperatives. In the research, only dairy cooperatives were included in the assessment. Because VDACA'S intense working areas is intended for dairy cooperatives. Two layers were determined in selection of cooperatives within the sampling. The distribution of cooperatives by districts, the distribution of cooperatives by founding years. However, this layer separation was not taken into account in statistical assessment due to lack of any difference in evaluation criteria for VDACA by the distribution.

Purpose-sampling method was used in the selection of cooperatives. A total of 22 cooperatives were included in the sampling. The distribution of selected cooperatives by districts, number of selected cooperatives and subjects were illustrated in the following tab. 2.

The Selection of Subjects

The number of subjects to be surveyed was determined as follows with stratified random sampling. At least five members were surveyed among each cooperatives selected. Even though priority was given to make surveys with female cooperative partners, in real terms female cooperative members couldn't be found. A total of 105 subjects were envisaged.

However, a spare of 11 subjects with a proportion of 10% were included in the sampling in order to avoid the situation of not able to find subjects or not want to make interviews. Briefly, a total of 116 subjects were surveyed with face-to-face interviews. Only 4 of them were not taken into the consideration due to the information given was contradictory.

Table:1 Selection criteria of cooperatives

BY DISTRICTS	Number of Dairy Cooperatives		NUMBER OF SELECTED COOPERATI VES		Number of Selected Subjects		FOUNDING YEARS (Of the Selected Cooperatives)			
							BEFORE 1998		1998 AND AFTER	
	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%	NO	%		
CENTER	28	26,2	8	38,1	39	34,8	3	33,3	5	41,7
TAŞKÖPRÜ	43	40,2	9	42,9	65	58,0	5	55,6	4	33,3
DADAY	8	7,5	4	19,0	8	7,1	1	11,1	3	25,0
TOTAL	107	100,0	21	100,0	112	100,0	9	100,0	12	100,0

The assumptions were identified based on the information obtained through observations, as mentioned above, which were performed prior to the main survey application and accordingly the survey questions were prepared. Trial surveys were conducted with a total of five cooperative partners selected with random sampling for understandability of these questions and for preventing similar problems that may arise. The main survey questions were given their final forms on the basis of the conclusions acquired from here. The subjects to be surveyed in each cooperative were determined according to age, gender, education, size of the enterprise. Thus, the assessments were compared according to different education, size of enterprise, number of milch cows. For this, the information belonging to cooperative partners were ascertained prior to the main survey.

The data obtained were explained by means of a statistical software (SPSS) and were interpreted. The ANOVA test was applied. Additionally, the situation was watched in the place by attending cooperative general assemblies.

The researchers focused mainly their attention on observations in the villages and pollsters were not used, as mentioned above, because of the information obtained from survey applications doesn't always reflect the actual situation. The research was carried out on site by two researchers.

Results and Discussion

The research findings will be handled in two main chapters including VDACA data and survey application results. In the first chapter the services offered to member cooperatives will be evaluated on the basis of VDACA data and in the second chapter VDACA will be evaluated with respect to success on the basis of research data.

The evaluation of success on the basis of VDACA data

Meanwhile on the basis of VDACA data, two properties will be examined. The first one is the services offered to member cooperatives; the second one is the assessment according to the tenure of VDACA chairmen of the executive boards.

While there were 2 milk collection centers in 1998, this number rose to 30 in 2013. As understood from this data, a great boom happened in the number of milk collection centers. Milk collection centers have increased by 15 times. In addition to these, VDACA has two important services like input supply, technical knowledge and education. Furthermore, while the turnover of VDACA was 181.082,23 TL in 1998, it became 15.791.604,57 TL in 2013. In short, a 87-fold increase was realized in respect of the turnover. While the shareholders' equity was 3.110,75 TL in 1998, it became 2.874.303,82 TL in 2013. The shareholders' equity rose 924-fold in 16 years.

While the tenure of VDACA chairmen was between 3 and 5 years at most until 1998, the present chairman has been uninterruptedly performing the task of presidency for 16 years.

It can be said that the realization of these services by VDACA is directly connected with the democratic and participatory organizational management. As the VDACA management became professionalized and the partners' existing problems were solved, so the service offering activities' contribution to the partners increased. The VDACA activities presented above have only become possible with a professional, effective management policy oriented to the interests of members. VDACA can increasingly solve the current problems because of implementing the cooperative principles (participation in decisions, volunteering, and democratic management).

The evaluation of success according to the opinion of cooperative partners

The subjects' educational status with "income" and "satisfaction" assessments was compared in table 2. When those who graduated from secondary school, high school and university are combined in respect of the distribution and interpreted, such a conclusion emerges: As seen in the table, when the subjects are asked "Was there any increase in your income after being members to VDACA? 97,3% of the subjects graduated from primary schools stated their income increased. Only 2,7% of them said nothing changed. This ratio is 97,05% for those who have education at a level of secondary school, high school and university. Briefly, the difference between the evaluations of those who are primary school graduates and those who are secondary school, high school and university graduates is 25%. In other words, the educational status plays no role in assessment of VDACA. Those who said nothing changed in incomes are very few.

When asked about the satisfaction from the activities and management of VDACA, it can be said that there's almost no difference with respect to educational status of those who say "Very satisfied". The enterprises with a size of between 1 and 50 were united. Likewise, those over 51 deceres were gathered in a single segment.

The size of enterprise doesn't also show a difference with respect to the "income" assessment of VDACA. While the small enterprise owners (small holders) said "very satisfied" with a ratio of 58,8% about "satisfaction" status, the owners of larger enterprises answered as "very satisfied with a ratio of 40,2%. So this indicates that VDACA has a better communication with small enterprise owners.

When the milch cow options are also dealt in two options including 1-10 and 11 and over, the emerging situation is as follows: While 98,3% of the owners of enterprises having less than eleven milch cows expressed an increase in income; 95,15% of those having 11 and over cows said that the income increased. The difference between them is a mere trifle. When asked about the satisfaction from VDACA, 50% of the owners of enterprises having 1-10 milch cows said "very satisfied". This ratio is 49,2% for the subjects having more than 11 milch cows. The situation for the subjects who expressed only "satisfied" is as follows: the ratio for the owners of enterprises having 1-10 cows is 50%, and this ratio for the owners of enterprises having 11 and over cows is 51,7%.

When the “question about income increase” according to the districts is considered, the following situation appears. Taşköprü is 100%, the central district is 94,9%, Daday district is 87,5%. When the satisfaction status is considered, this result is seen. The ratio of “very satisfied” in Taşköprü district is 55,4%, it is 41% in the central district, 12,5% in Daday district. Its reason can be explained as follows: There was no significant change in the previous situation due to milk collection centers have recently established in these cooperatives and those who are buying and marketing milk are members of the cooperative. The ANOVA test was applied, however a significant situation couldn’t be found out. Because the subjects’ assessment ratio for the criteria is very close to each other.

Table 2. The Evaluation of VDACA According to the Breeders’ Properties

EDUCATIONAL STATUS	INCOME				SATISFACTION						TOTAL	
	INCREASED		NOT CHANGED		VERY SATISFIED		SATISFIED		LESS SATISFIED			
	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%
PRIMARY SCHOOL	71	97,3	2	2,7	34	46,6	39	53,4	0	0	73	100
SECONDARY SCHOOL	16	94,1	1	5,9	4	23,5	13	76,5	0	0	17	100
HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY	22	100	0	0	15	68,2	7	31,8	0	0	22	100
TOTAL	109	97,3	3	2,7	53	47,3	59	52,7	0	0	112	100
THE SIZE OF ENTERPRISE	INCREASED		NOT CHANGED		VERY SATISFIED		SATISFIED		LESS SATISFIED			
	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%
1-30 DÖNÜM	10	100	0	0	7	70	3	30	0	0	10	100
31-50 DÖNÜM	20	95,2	1	4,8	10	47,6	11	52,4	0	0	21	100
51-100 DÖNÜM	57	98,3	1	1,7	29	50	29	50	0	0	58	100
101 VE YUKARISI	22	95,7	1	4,3	7	30,4	16	69,6	0	0	23	100
TOPLAM	109	97,3	3	2,7	53	47,3	59	52,7	0	0	112	100
NUMBER OF MILCH ANIMALS	INCREASED		NOT CHANGED		VERY SATISFIED		SATISFIED		LESS SATISFIED			
	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%
1-10 PCS	59	98,3	1	1,7	30	50	30	50	0	0	60	100
11-20 PCS	37	97,4	1	2,6	15	39,5	23	60,5	0	0	38	100
21 AND OVER	13	92,9	1	7,1	8	57,1	6	42,9	0	0	14	100
TOTAL	109	97,3	3	2,7	53	47,3	59	52,7	0	0	112	100
THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE	INCREASED		NOT CHANGED		VERY SATISFIED		SATISFIED		LESS SATISFIED			

COOPERATIVE IS PRESENT	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%	SAYI	%
CENTER	37	94,9	2	5,1	16	41	23	59	0	0	39	100
TAŞKÖPRÜ	65	100	0	0	36	55,4	29	44,6	0	0	65	100
DADAY	7	87,5	1	12,5	1	12,5	7	87,5	0	0	8	100
TOTAL	109	97,3	3	2,7	53	47,3	59	52,7	0	0	112	100

Conclusion

The incomes of the union partners have risen with an increasing rate. The subjects' satisfaction from the VDACA varies between "very satisfied" and "satisfied". There are no subjects who are less satisfied or not satisfied. VDACA has a say and effective in local milk market and marketing. The services provided to the partners by VDACA have increasingly risen. In summary, the subjects' educational status, the size of enterprises, number of milch cows, on the basis of districts shows no difference regarding the "Satisfaction" and "Income", the assessment criteria for VDACA". The services provided by VDACA also indicate that the expectations of the cooperatives were satisfied increasingly when they're becoming members to the VDACA. And this demonstrates the democratic and effective management of VDACA. As the members of VDACA are increasing, so the quality and quantity of the services offered by the union are rising and VDACA is appearing as a power across Turkey and Kastamonu in production and marketing process.

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