

The Need of a Parcel-Based Information System to Support Agricultural Sector

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SUMMARY

Agricultural sector has a very important role for its direct relation to manufacturing foodstuffs and nutrition, having a great number of active population and labour force, its contribution to income, and providing raw material and capital to industry. Therefore, some policies have been developed by international organizations (e.g., EU, FAO, World Bank) regarding this important sector. Many of these policies aim at reforming agricultural sector of developing countries and gaining a nutrition balance all over the World. In order to be able to adopt or apply these policies, nations must have an adequate and effective land related information system. Beyond just the adoption of these kinds of international policies, nations, especially developing countries, should have a parcel-based information system to boost their agricultural economy. By using such a system, they can control their land and labour force, generate or adopt new policies, finally reach an effective agricultural production and management level. In this context, in Turkey, in joining to the EU, to adapt agricultural sector to EU's *Common Agricultural Policy* (CAP), some nationwide re-structuring and reform projects were started as of the year 2001. After beginning applications of these projects, many difficulties have been encountered. The main cause of these difficulties is a lack of appropriate geospatial data infrastructure to support the projects. In this paper, a need of a parcel-based information system in support of agricultural activities and policies in developing countries was examined and analyzed on the light of Turkey's experiences and needs towards EU.