

CATTLE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMASYA

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**REPORT OF STUDY TOUR IN FRANCE
FROM 18TH TO 23RD NOVEMBER 2009**

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1. Introduction

A delegation from Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya realized a technical study tour in France from 18th to 23rd October 2009 to investigate the possibilities of cooperation and to utilize the experiences of the French organizations, in accordance with propositions reported by Jean Noël BONNET, the Chairman of International Cooperation Office of French Livestock Institute (France Institut de L'Elevage Bureau de Cooperation Technique Internationale), and Mathilde FONTENEAU, after their mission in Turkey. The members of the delegation are:

Güner ASLAN	The Chairman of Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya
Prof. Dr. Selahattin KUMLU	Academic Staff in Faculty of Agriculture of Akdeniz University
Fatih EKİNCİ	Research, Investment and Project Development Office of Association

The following visits are realized during the study tour to evaluate the actions that can be developed at basin level in which Amasya and surrounding provinces (Çorum, Kastamonu, Samsun and Tokat) are located:

- Umotest-Coopex Group in Roulans and the surrounding farms in relation to develop Montbeliarde breed, promotion, training of breeders and artificial insemination technicians of this breed in our basin,
- A cheese production facility of a dairy cooperative of Doubs (near Pontarlier) about dairy collection and processing in relation to a milk processing unit that can be established in our basin,
- ACTILAIT (Institute Technique du lait et des produits laitiers - Milk and Dairy Products Technical Institute) - CECALAIT (Center d'Expertise et de Controle des Analyzes Laitieres - The Centre For Expertise and Control of Dairy Analyses) and Milk Analysis Laboratory of Jura Department (Laboratoire d'Départementale Analyzes du Jura - LDA 39) in Poligny in relation to a milk and feed analysis laboratory that is planned to establish in our basin,
- UCEAR (The Alpes-Rhône Cattlebreeding Co-operative Union) center, facilities of semen production and bulls in Lyon, Biotechnology Laboratory in Châteauvillain, a bull breeding center, Abondance and Tarentaise breeding farms in relation to using beef cattle semen for crossbreeding to increase beef yield in mountainous area in our basin.

The purpose of this report is to express the concrete actions to carry out in our basin and to evaluate cooperation, coordination and technical assistance issues in detail in accordance with informations and impressions during the study tour.

2. Development of crossbreeding with Montbeliarde breed

2.1 Consensus on Montbeliarde breed

Developing Montbeliarde breed, which is a type of Simmental breed and is preferred commonly in France, in Amasya and surrounding provinces (Çorum, Kastamonu, Samsun and Tokat) can be considered. It is stated that using Montbeliarde breed semen on pure Simmental and Simmental crossbred cows, crossbred genotypes with longevity, easy calving, high milk yield can be obtained. A study which includes and test these issues can be launched. The Montbeliarde breed semen can be used on two different groups due to this reason:

2.1.1 On Simmental breed

Simmental breed cows can be inseminated particularly using Montbeliarde breed semen. However, since crossbred calves are not subsidized by the government in Turkey, artificial insemination on pure breeds will depend on breeders preference. But, artificial inseminations on pure breed and crossbred calves can be monitored. The Association can ensure that artificial insemination technicians stock Montbeliarde semen to meet demands for artificial insemination on pure breeds.

2.1.2 On local and local crossbred breeds

Since the calves born from artificial insemination with Montbeliarde semen on local and local crossbred breeds are subsidized by the government, Montbeliarde semen will be used in larger amounts. In other

words, this genotype will be developed more easier and faster in mountainous area.

Artificial insemination will be performed when the breeders demand for the insemination. Furthermore, artificial insemination can be applied by estrous synchronization in 3 or 4 villages to be selected on mountainous area. Performing estrous synchronization and artificial insemination for free will facilitate the execution of the process. Estrous synchronization and artificial insemination expenses can be met by both Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya and France within a project. Estrous synchronization average cost per animal is currently 40 TL.(Approximately 18 Euro).

2.2 Promotion methods of Montbeliarde breed

We can contribute promotion and development of Montbeliarde breed in our region in several ways.

Montbeliarde bulls with fixed prices can be appended to the bull catalogs that will be renewed while entering the new year.

Calves born from crossbreeding applications can be promoted to other breeders by organizing activities like competition etc. when the calves are 3, 6 and 12 months old.

2.3 Montbeliarde breed semen supply

The legislation in Turkey prevents establishing a commercial infrastructure between provinces together. However, if such a partnership can be established by special facilities, a company can be set up when Montbeliarde semen demand increases. Moreover, such a partnership can also be fulfilled for animal feed and other products.

Initially, the need for Montbeliarde semen will be met from Anadolu Hayvancılık which is the distributor of Umotest-Coopex Group in Turkey.

3. Training activities

Scientific or field oriented study will be carried out.

We can realize our trainings by preparing a joint training program with French Livestock Institute.

Our goal is to perform the training by utilizing France's experience and using local elements (animals, pasture, feed, etc.). For this reason, the organized polls to get precise and accurate information in the field will be approved and evaluated, then decision will be made by both sides.

The training of the staffs of Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya, breeders, private veterinarians and artificial insemination technicians will be realized in Association region. Following the training, the trained personnel will visit France for a two day study tour.

Since increasing the quality of milk is a continuous training, it will be included in a general training project.

3.1 Training of veterinarians and technicians

The training of technicians will be given priority.

The artificial insemination personnel have to be trained not only for insemination skills but also for working as an expert consultant guiding the breeders.

The training sessions of artificial insemination, aims at improving operators skills not for initial training, will be realized within a project. To determine veterinarians and artificial insemination technicians that will participate in training, their first insemination success rates will be recorded and evaluated.

The technicians and milk tank operators will be trained to improve the quality of milk.

A training of matting plan can be included in technicians training. The training has to be focused on scoring with the idea of "Accurate scoring provides convenient matting". For this reason, 3 or 5 staffs can be trained.

3.2 Training of breeders

Breeders will be trained about milking practices, animal care, hygiene and related issues. The training will be realized practically in several farms which will be determined by the Amasya Association.

Milk tank operators will be trained. The operators will be the closest observers of practices and changes in their region.

4. Improvement of the milk quality

The breeders has to increase the quality of milk to get high prices at marketing. The training of the breeders and the technicians should be realized to provide cowshed and milking hygiene and functioning of cold chain during milk collection completely.

In relation to establishing of cold chain during milk collection, milk cooling tanks will be provided to farms, with adequate production capacity, to improve the quality of milk. The tank cost will be met by extra price for high quality milk collected from these tanks by montly instalments.

5. Charolais Excellence, Abondance and Tarentaise breeds

As a result of researchs and discussions, it has been decided that developing Charolais Excellence, Abondance and Tarentaise breeds in Amasya and surrounding provinces will provide a benefit in the region and the actions should be evaluated within the scope of a project.

Using Charolais Excellence breed, a sub-type of the Charolais breed and improved in easy calving, precocity, small bulk, quantity and quality in beef yield, semen on Holstein, Simmental, Brown Swiss pure and crossbred cows and all local breed cows that are planned to remove from the herd for beef production purposes has great benefits.

It has been anticipated that Abondance and Tarentaise breed, high beef and milk yield comparing to local breeds, semen can only be used on local and crossbred cows in farms with poor conditions in mountainous area.

The projects about developing both Charolais Excellence breed and Abondance and Tarentaise breeds have to be prepared taking account of and integrating the project about Montbeliarde breed.

6. Establishment of a milk processing unit

Being active in milk processing and marketing sector for producers has some benefits to valorize the milk and stabilize the milk prices. However, a milk processing and marketing unit, belonging to breeders and operated by breeders organizations, is less profitable than expected.

It is evaluted that a production system can be developed by controlling the regional dairy products process and establishing a facility in relation to these products. Experience of French organizations about this action can be utilized.

In Amasya and the other provinces in the basin, small-capacity facilities producing special dairy products that can be consumed by people with pleasure will be able to be successful if well managed. Before the last decision, a feasibility report has to be prepared by professionals.

However, realizing this action in advanced phases, not as a priority, within a medium-term plan will be reasonable.

7. Establishment of a milk and feed analysis laboratory

There is a requirement of milk analysis laboratories that can continue its activities neutrally to determine the quality and the price of milk. This type of laboratories is essential for the control of the milk yield which is one of the indispensable elements of improvement programme.

The potential about the determination of water, antibiotics, fat, protein and somatic cell counting in milk is available in Amasya Association.

The laboratory that is planned to establish in the future has to meet the requirements about milk and feed analysis and realize periodic analysis of all the cows milk.

Since establishment and operation of such a laboratory requires high costs, it is impossible to perform these activities either using potential of Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya or Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey. Utilizing European Union funds with training and technical support of ACTILAIT-CECALAIT Milk Analysis Laboratories of France, an effort will be made to establish and operate an internationally recognized laboratory with your contributions in our province (region).

The information in the project, which was prepared by Ankara University Faculty of Agriculture and Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey to establish laboratories in 5 different regions in Turkey, can be used in the preparation of such a project.

To establish a laboratory center for the region, a pre-feasibility study has to be carried out in cooperation with Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey and Ankara University Faculty of Agriculture. The laboratory has to be designed to analyse not only the tank milk but also the milks collected from milk yield control. With regard to this action a separate study can be performed.

Consequently, it has been decided to prepare project drafts about the issues mentioned above by Amasya Association and inform French partners and to continue cooperation reciprocally.

The study tour, planned within the scope of cooperation initiated between Amasya Association and French Livestock Institute and outlined above briefly, has been realized successfully. Reciprocal informations and impressions strengthened forward joint studies qualitatively. The projects and feasibility studies to be prepared professionally will be the assurance of success in collaboration.