Health And Safety of Forest Workers in Occupational Certification Developed By Forest Cooperatives

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The OR-KOOP Central Union defines itself as the organizing force of Forest Villagers. ORKOOP is a genuine democratic popular movement born out of years of struggle as a result of the sacrifices of thousands of forest villagers. ORKOOP, the Central Union of Forestry Cooperatives of Turkey, was established on July 11, 1997 with the gathering of 7 regional unions.
Why ORKOOP was established?

In the absence of any social security, ORKOOP was born as part of a search for solutions to the problems of forestry villagers working under the most natural conditions with inadequate equipment for weak aid according to traditional knowledge. Since its foundation, ORKOOP has acted with the belief in the development and efficient use of the forests, the greatest wealth of our country, and maintains the economic and social benefits of its partners by constantly communicating and cooperating with the relevant institutions.
What is the purpose of ORKOOP?

OR-COOP; Forests work to ensure that the villagers receive a fair share of the national income. In Turkey, activities to develop and expand forests are aimed at realizing forestry production according to national interests. The forest fulfills the leadership role to provide social rights to the villagers. It works on training, supervision and support to raise awareness in forest villages and cooperatives.
How ORKOOP is organized?

The vertical organization of the village cooperatives took some time in their own dynamics. According to the data of the year 2013, there are 8219 agricultural development cooperatives in Turkey. These cooperatives are partners of 889,206. 4,000 of these cooperatives are located in forest villages. These cooperatives have more than 400 forest villagers.

According to ORKOOP, there are 28 regional associations and 2,440 cooperative partners according to the year 2017. The common number of these cooperatives is 294,403. 18 of these district associations and 1,506 of unit cooperatives are predominantly interested in forestry. There are 167,841 forest villagers in common for forestry-related cooperatives.
Most of the cooperatives, which are OR-KOOP members, deal mostly with forestry. In addition to forestry activities, they also engage in agriculture and animal husbandry. A large part of forestry activities in Turkey are carried out in forestry cooperatives. ORKOOP follows international co-operative principles. OR-KOOP takes its power from its partners. The contributions of 28 regional associations to capital are symbolic. Certain amounts of ORKOOP's income are deducted from their appropriations in the direction of their claims as a contribution to the education and audit cost fund of their members. OR-KOOP conducts a financial general meeting every year and an elective general meeting every four years.
The Central Association of Forestry Cooperatives of Turkey (OR-KOOP) is one of the active members of the international cooperative movement as much as it is in the national arena. OR-KOOP is member of International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA). OR-KOOP is also the member of the Cooperative Europe, the largest continental organization of ICA and the International Organization of Agricultural Cooperatives (ICAO), the sector organization. Other hand OR-KOOP has representative on ICAO and ICA Cooperative Europe Board.
The ORKOOP Central Union attaches importance to the work of the cooperatives and the term educates the trainers and their managers, partners and staff. It is carrying out joint works with regional associations and unit cooperatives in this direction. In these training activities, partners are trained in forestry, job security, cooperatives and environmental protection issues and contribute to their professional development. In these matters, the Forestry and Agriculture organization cooperates with forest faculties. The training programs that are prepared try to contribute to the healthy development of our country's forestry and cooperatives in the future with the training documents which are formed in accordance with the experiences gained.
Forestry works is the most dangerous business after mining. Forest villagers who perform this service are experiencing various work accidents and sometimes accidents result in death. OR-KOOP provides social assistance to forest villagers who make up the lowest income group of our country to help themselves and their families. The losses incurred by partners are compensated according to the criteria set out in the OR-KOOP Mutual Fund and financial support is given to the remaining family members in case of death. OR-KOOP regional cooperative unions are funded by primary cooperative partners in the case of deaths, benefits, or disabilities due to work accidents during forestry and other agricultural activities.
ORKOOP's activities- Project Studies

ORKOOP is a cooperative top organization that has realized important projects with its technical capacity and project experiences. So far, we have implemented many national and international resources and projects. He provided services for partners and cooperatives of our country with these projects. One of the project works is in the field of vocational qualification.
ORKOOP's activities- Vocational Training and Professional Qualification

Working in the forests is difficult because of the natural conditions. Even the use of tools and machinery in the forests depends on the knowledge and skills of their workers. The vast majority are caused by the fact that the forest workers of forest villagers have learned from their experiences. For this reason, work accidents are high. More than 70% of forestry work in Turkey is undertaken by forest cooperatives and partners. Forest villagers are trained by the Ministry of Forestry and cooperatives. For this reason, studies are being carried out to prevent occupational accidents.

A large part of its partners, the ORKOOP, a forest peasant, has received the sole authority to issue vocational qualification certificates in some jobs, particularly forestry, in forests. He has also undertaken the responsibility of issuing certificates in forestry work as well as the trainings he has given before.
RESULTS

Forest cooperatives are implementing a variety of health and safety practices for their partners and employees around the world. They provide services on professional certification. Since the year it was established for the forest cooperative partners in Turkey, it has been providing trainings on health and safety issues.

In recent years, forest cooperatives have gained importance for the work in this field by seeing the importance of professional certification in forestry work. Forest cooperatives are part of the green economy. Cooperatives are involved in the development of green jobs. Cooperatives will also work on professional certifications in new green jobs when necessary.

In the future, green jobs will grow even more in the forest
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