

The seeds of 2 thousand-year-old Ahmet Buğdayı (Wheat)

In these days of the Covid 19 pandemic, countries are announcing many projects to feed on their resources. With the pandemic, it was once again understood how important agriculture is in our country. Prof. Dr. Nevzat Aydın, Professor of Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, talked about the studies they have been carrying out for 4 years with Duru Bulgur to improve seed breeding and increase productivity. With a history of 2 thousand years, Ahmet Buğdayı (Wheat) is presented to Turkish farmers again with the project carried out jointly by Duru Bulgur and Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University. After widespread cultivation, wheat productivity will increase in barren lands and a contribution of 165 million TL will be made to Turkey's economy.

In addition to the measures taken in the fields of health and economy to combat the Covid 19 pandemic, many countries have once again realized the importance of agriculture and how vital it is to feed with their own resources. Prof. Dr. Nevzat Aydın, Head of the Bioengineering Department, who gave information about the progress of the seed improvement work carried out by Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University and Duru Bulgur for 4 years, said that we are counting the days to bring Ahmet Wheat, which is Turkey's 2,000-year-old domestic wheat, back to agriculture. Drawing attention to the correct agricultural practices, Prof Aydın stated: "The project carried out jointly by our university and Duru Bulgur is an important example of good agricultural practice. It is very important to bring the barren lands to the economy by cultivating them. With this seed that we have improved, the wheat grown in barren land will become more productive and quality"

Stating that Anatolia is a very important grain center, but the cultivation, yield, and quality have decreased as a result of unconscious and wrong agricultural practices, Duru Bulgur Honorary President İhsan Duru said: "We have been an agricultural-based industrial operator for 3 generations. We witnessed how wrong farming practices in our region decrease the yield and quality of wheat day by day. The search for quality wheat we needed brought us together with Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University 4 years ago. And we did very good work on this subject. We have improved 2,000-year-old heritage"

Wheat is a strategic product

İhsan Duru pointed out that wheat production is very strategic especially for bread, pasta, pastry foods, and bulgur, which are the basic nutrients in Turkey: "We must be self-sufficient in wheat production. The use of seeds that are inherited from our ancestors and suitable for the climate of our region, by breeding them, relaxes us as a country. Currently, there is around 1 million tons of bulgur production in Turkey. It is a product that we want to open to the outside and started to be very popular in foreign markets. Ahmet Buğdayı (Wheat), which we have improved with our university, is also wheat that is very prone to bulgur. We think that it will contribute a lot to the bulgur to be produced in Turkey with its suitability to the regional climate, yield, color, quality and nutritious essence"

The contribution of improvement Ahmet Buğdayı (Wheat) to the economy is approximately 165 million TL

İhsan Duru stated that the decision taken by the government to make every arable land suitable for agriculture is very appropriate. He said that there is currently wheat production in an area of 1

million 240 million square meters in Turkey and that this will increase with the use of new arable land. Duru used the following statements: "Around 60 percent of these areas are barren. With Ahmet Buğdayı, we aim to increase the wheat production of around 250 kilograms currently received in the barren area to around 280 kilograms. The contribution of this to Turkey's economy with 2019 prices will be approximately 165 million TL"

Karamanođlu Mehmetbey University Head of Bioengineering Department Prof. Dr. Nevzat Aydın, who said that the breeding work has been progressing successfully for 4 years and that the first seeds will meet with the Turkish farmer in 2023 at the latest, added: "After the rapid improvement method published in prestigious scientific journals in the world was proposed to TÜBİTAK, we started working with university-industry cooperation. As a university, our project with the private sector has reached its end and we have brought the seeds we have developed to the soil in October 2019. God willing, on the 100th anniversary of our Republic, we will give 2 thousand-year-old Ahmet Buğdayı (Wheat) to all our farmers for correct agricultural practices."