**AN INTERVIEW WITH AN OLD FARMER**

**A:Do you think agriculture can catch up with the technological developments?In other words,**

 **does it take advantages of technology?**

 B: Yes, I think so.Thanks to techonology, we save not only manpower but also time.The

 quantity and quality of crops we grow have increased since mechanization started in the

 field of agriculture.In that sense ,it is very important for us the farmers to follow the latest

 technological developments .

 **A: In what ways did technology change agriculture positively?**

 B: In the past we had a lot of difficulties in sowing and harvesting crops.Crops such as lentils,

 chickpeas and corn used to be sowed by hand, The field used to be ploughed by male

 cattle – oxen and crops would be reaped with a scythe.During harvest , we would wait

 for hours for the wind to blow strongly enough to separate the grain from the chaff .Today

 we use tractors,sowing machines and harvest machines instead.We do a great deal of work

 in a relatively short time.In short,all the difficulties I mentioned above are something of the

 past now.

**A:What are the changes in the irrigation system ?**

 B: Formerly surface irrigation was practised .As a result ,we had to water crops much more

 times and spend more fuel or electricity than we do now.Today drip irrigation is practised

 instead.It means that we save water, time , power and money.At the same time, soil

 erosion is prevented because water flows into the soil in drops.In additon, we grow more

 and more crops of fruits and vegetables.And all these things are to the good of farmers.

 **A: Do you grow crops on the basis of demand?**

B:Mostly yes.70 % of our crops are grown on demand and on the basis of a contract between

 farmers and food firms.The rest are grown freely – that means there is a risk of selling

 crops at a loss on the part of farmers.

**A: Do you think your income meets your expenses?**

B: That depends on the yield of crops.We usually make a profit on crops.When the yield of

 crops is higher than the demand for them, their prices fall abruptly.In such a case, we make

 a big loss on those crops.

**A: How do you fight against weeds and insects ?**

B: We make use of pesticides recommended by The Ministry of Food and Agriculture.We

 pay a lot of attention to the instructions regarding the use of pesticides.

**A: How are crops transported from the field to the markets?**

B: After being harvested , crops are sold by the owner or agriculture cooperatives to the food

 merchants.And then they are delivered to consumers by means of retailers such as street

 market sellers, greengrocers and supermarkets.And certain crops are transported to the

 nearest plants where they are processed.

**A:What kind of things do you do in order to get a better yield of crops?**

B: Firstly, we use high-yielding and certificated seeds.Secondly, we use manure and fertilizers

 suitable for the nature of the soil in accordance to the soil analysis.Lastly ,we grow crops

 in season so they taste and smell delicious.

**A: What are the effects of the adverse weather conditions on your crops?**

B. As you know, they are strong sun, drought, flood, hail and frost.Luckily,we live in such a climate- that is called the Mediterranean climate- that we rarely experience any of these extreme weather conditions.And I suggest farmers should insure their crops against them all,though.

**A:During your career as a farmer, what changes have there been in the variety of local crops?**

 B:It has always depended on the demand for a crop.For instance, because of the

 government’s agricultural policy , the land for growing tobacco and cotton is getting

 smaller and smaller.They have been replaced by olive trees, grapevines, tomatoes,peppers,

 sunflowers and cucumbers.

**A:How do you think globalization has influenced farming locally ?**

B: Our crops were formerly not in demand both nationwide and worldwide.That’s why, they

 were grown in a relatively small quantity.Today the number of food factories has risen in

 our local area.In this way ,not only has the quantity of crops increased but also

 employment has been provided for the local people.Accordingly, the living standarts have

 risen.At the same time ,we have the opportunity to introduce our local food products both

 throughout Turkey and all over the world.Meanwhile, we are trying to increase the variety

 of crops day by day.

**A: Thank you very much for the interview.**

B: Not at all. It was a pleasure for me and it was very nice being with you.