

# Remediating Desertification in Eskişehir Hotspot



Soil erosion by water in sloping dry-farming areas is the basic threat over rural welfare in semi-arid Central Anatolia.



## Priority Remediation Strategies

| Rank | Remediation Strategy |
|------|----------------------|
| 1    | Wooden terraces      |
| 2    | Contour tillage      |

The previous WB3 workshops revealed two technologies to prevent water erosion in the Eskişehir hotspot. These (wooden terraces and contour tillage) are applied and monitored for two years and the results were evaluated in a workshop held in 24 June, 2011 in Eskişehir.

Voting of remediation strategies based on various criteria indicates that wooden terraces are more favorable due to increased production and soil and water conservation while contour tillage is still a significant option with very low installation cost.

## Promoting Remediation in Eskişehir Hotspot

- Stakeholders thought that the results of monitoring activities are of central significance in adoption of remediation strategies by farmers. Among others, particularly the yield increase and types of expenditures for individual technologies should be explained in simply designed brochures and in conferences together with collaborating stakeholders.
- Carefully designed popular articles to be seen in local newspapers were considered equally useful.
- More detailed policy briefs were thought suitable for policy makers of various levels.
- Basic obstacle against adoption is economic and demographic (decreasing welfare and emptying of rural settlements due to migration)

## Next Steps

- Workshop report will be sent to stakeholders between 15-30 October, 2011.
- A brochure including the virtues of wooden terraces will be prepared and disseminated by Dr. İnci Tolay and Dr. Zehra Altaç during November 2011.
- A newspaper article on the remediation strategies will be prepared by Dr. Faruk Ocakoğlu in September 2011.



## Key Policy Messages

- Soil erosion in hillslopes of Anatolia is seriously endangering welfare of rural population.
- Farmers are willing to adopt cheap technologies adding their welfare if they are numerically persuaded.
- Wooden terraces are easy and cheap to install, even with own belongings of farmers, and increase yield very much.
- Contour tillage is also useful in many respects but more fragile under extreme rainfall events.
- Financial support from government is crucial in adoption of the remediation technologies.

## Feedback

- \*All –inclusive nature of DESIRE project is very useful but time-consuming.
- \*Determining the future steps of the project with stakeholder discussions is particularly encouraging for farmers.
- \*More budget and involvement of farmers into experimental phase of project would increase the chance of adoption of strategies.