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Classification of Traditional Agroforestry Practices in West Mediterranean Region of Turkey

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Agroforestry – while still a new concept in Turkey at the academic and institutional level – has been practiced in traditional forms for many years by villagers in nearly every part of the country. This study therefore undertook to observe and document traditional agroforestry practices in Turkey. The West Mediterranean region was selected for this purpose. Diagnosis and Design Methodology (D&D) was applied for examination of the traditional agroforestry practices. Each agroforestry practice was determined and classified in the agroforestry systems. According to this study, the nature of agroforestry systems and the purpose of the productions in the region are similar to other applications in the world. Many of the agroforestry production patterns are seen as traditional to the entire region. Results showed that agroforestry applications in the region can be placed in the following major categories: (i) agricultural systems (e.g., alley cropping, multilayer tree gardens, multipurpose trees on crop lands, plantation crop combinations, homegardens, trees in soil conservation and reclamation, shelterbelts and windbreaks); (ii) silvopastoral systems (e.g., trees on range land or pastures, protein banks, plantation crop with animals; and (iii) agrosilvopastoral systems (e.g., homegardens involving animals, multipurpose woody hedgerows, apiculture with trees, aquaforestry, multipurpose woodlots). These practices are also suitable agroforestry patterns for solving problems related to deterioration of family farms, increased soil erosion, surface and ground water pollution in West Mediterranean Region of Turkey. As agroforestry practices, shifting cultivation and taungya were also determined in the region; however, both practices are not applicable, as they lead to forest degradation.

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