



2. Our Contribution to Biodiversity

Protection of biodiversity is not only vital for all living things but also vital for economic and social development. Ensuring the continuity of flora and fauna in terrestrial, marine and wetlands impacts the future of humanity directly.

Due to our field of activity, we perform large portions of our operations in urban areas. We do not have significant direct impact on water resources, soil and natural habitats since we do not have operational units operating in lands or wetlands with high biodiversity values. However, we strive to reduce all our indirect impacts on our value chain. We are authorized by the public authorities in all our operations. In this respect, **we are subject to all environmental assessments including biodiversity of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Convention on Biological Diversity which we have**

signed as a country, for all legal permits and licenses we apply for to open our stores.

We take responsibility for the prevention of deforestation, waste management and pollution prevention, ensuring sustainability and traceability in agricultural activities and livestock, protecting animals, seeds and plants that are endangered and/or close to extinction, and developing various projects. In our operations and processes, we manage our water consumption, wastewater discharge and solid waste with a responsible approach, and support recycling in all our processes. Our efforts to reduce food disposal and plastic waste, as well as our waste collection and community awareness activities can be accessed in our Waste Management section.

Causes of Biodiversity Loss

According to the Intergovernmental Science and Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' Report, close to 1 million species of animals and plants are at risk of extinction due to human activity. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) states that maintaining biodiversity is essential for food and agriculture. Biodiversity enables agricultural products to be more resistant to disease, epidemics and climate change factors. However, it is estimated that 75 percent of the world's product diversity is lost due to the transformation in global food production. Climate change, consumer preferences and excessive consumption, demographic changes, wrong land use, faulty agricultural activities, plastic pollution, over-hunting and harvesting and spreading of invasive species are amongst the main factors that affect biodiversity negatively.



2.1. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

We cooperate with suppliers who adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in agricultural and animal production to manage our impacts on biodiversity resulting from indirect agricultural and animal production in our supply chain. In this respect, we contribute to the reduction of negative impacts of agricultural production and to the welfare of animals in production. In addition, we are working on developing alternative pest control methods and eliminating the use of pesticides with biological control techniques. We are aware of the importance of global risks at every point that touches biodiversity and ecosystem throughout our value chain and are carrying out our activities in a respectful manner to life in the air and on land in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Good Agricultural Practices – Vegetative Production

Our company is the **first retailer in Turkey that applies the control system for produce on 224 criteria set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry approved ‘Good Agricultural Practice’ principles and procedures.** Agricultural activities must be traceable and sustainable agriculture should be supported in order to obtain the Good Agricultural Practice certificate, which started in 2010. Accordingly, it is expected that a written information system will be provided, traceability will be ensured, independent audits by authorized institutions and organizations and analyzes will be conducted in accredited laboratories and compliance with the control points determined by the official institution.

Our company holds the Good Agricultural Practices Group Certification in the fruit and vegetable warehouses in Antalya, Bursa and İzmir, including the product processing areas, and ensures the up-to-date of these certificates through annual audits.

In 2018, **we procured products from 936 producers with 319 Good Agricultural Practices certificates belonging to 95 groups of fresh fruit and vegetable products** produced in accordance with Good Agricultural Practices procedures and principles.

Our ‘Good Agricultural Practices’ Certified product supply that supports sustainable agriculture has reached 663,565 tons from 2010 until the end of 2018. We support our suppliers and their producers through consultancy, training and incentives for the transition to the Good Agricultural Practices system. In this context, in 2018, we ensured that 36 producers of our 6

We delivered **663,565 tons** of GAP fruit and vegetables to our customers in **8 years**

suppliers received Good Agricultural Practices certification.

We have implemented the **“Good Agricultural Practices Education and Dissemination Project”** in 2018 to spread vegetative production by the principles and procedures of GAP. Within the scope of the project, we raise awareness of our 65 manufacturers, 29 companies and 6 operators with our trainings organized in Istanbul, Antalya, Mersin, Bursa and Izmir.

Since 2010, we have provided plaque and thank-you notes to our 21 suppliers who have supplied products with the Certificate of Good Agricultural Practices.

For dried products (pistachios, hazelnuts, apricots, grapes, etc.), we take part in activities to increase production in accordance with **GAP procedures and principles.** In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, we meet with sector stakeholders to contribute to the preparation of quality control points for dried products.

In 2018, we organized trainings to ensure that our employees are informed on the principles and procedures of Good Agricultural Practices and to increase their competencies related to Good Agricultural Practical products that we offer to our customers in our stores. Accordingly, **349 DC employees and 111 store employees completed their training.**

Good Agricultural Practice – Animal Production

Traceability and sustainability of animal products are amongst the most prominent issues in related to food safety. The rightful demands of consumers on this subject brought the concept of **“Good Livestock Practices”** to the agenda. In this context, in 2013, we implemented the “Good Agricultural Practices in Animal Production” Project with the white meat within the scope of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry’s Good Agricultural Practices standards. In 2018, **we procured chicken products from 2,161 production facilities, and turkey products from 71 production facilities** of our 2 suppliers in accordance with GAP procedures and principles. Thus, by 2018, 100 percent of our chicken and turkey products that we offer to our customers were produced in accordance with the procedures and principles of Good Agricultural Practices and examined through 317 control points and took their place on the shelves.

In the case of egg-laying, we procured **eggs from 12 production facilities** which are included in **6 Good Agricultural Practice Certificates** of 4 of our suppliers.

In 2017, we realized the **“Good Honey” project together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,** as a first in terms of quality management systems in the world honey industry and beekeeping. The aim of the project is to prevent imitation and

100 percent of our chicken and turkey products were sold in accordance with GAP procedures and principles, after going through **317 checkpoints**

adulteration in the honey product, to establish good honey criteria, to construct **reliable honey** production and supply, **to ensure sustainability in production and to reduce losses in honey production.** Since the beginning of the project, workshops have been organized with official institutions, research institutes, universities, producer associations, control and certification institutions. In 2019, we aim to provide honey with Good Agricultural Practice Certificate to our customers.

In 2017, after the supply of raw milk to the market became legal under certain conditions, we have taken another breakthrough for our customers to deliver safe raw milk. We have started to **work with a European Union Approved farm** which produces at international standards within the scope of Dairy Cattle Production and we have presented **Raw Milk with Good Agricultural Practice Certificate** to our customers for the first time. In 2018, we sold 491,690 liters of raw milk with GAP certification.

