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Do Not Dispose My Future!

Raising Ecological Awareness Through Participation of Children

TR2016/DG/03/A3-01/483
Civil Society Support Programme III

CHILDREN’S POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



CHILDREN'S POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A four-month, sixty-nine-hour training program on environment and climate change, including applied and outdoor activities, is implemented in the scope of “Do Not Dispose My Future!” project, for our participant children. Within the scope of this training, we implemented a comprehensive program that included different educational techniques such as explaining basic concepts and processes, outdoor observations, keeping environmental observation notebooks, field trips, and good agricultural practices to develop children's environmental and climate awareness. At the end of the training program, we came together with our children and asked them to work up on environmentally friendly suggestions that they could reflect their educational achievements.

In this study, we present our participant children's recommendations for the public and private sectors on environmental issues and climate change adaptation. First, at the end of the training process, children formed 9 working groups within the framework of the themes they identified. Associating the environmental problems they encounter in their daily lives with the knowledge and environmental observations they gained during the project, the children formed groups around the issues they attach importance to. They researched sample projects for the issues they identified in this process where they developed their environmental and climate change awareness and presented their ideas through posters. Children worked on their projects and proposals in three main themes:

1. Effective use of resources: Under this theme, they developed proposals on water infrastructure and water cycle.
2. Green public services: They presented their work especially on waste management and recycling, green transportation, air pollution.
3. Adaptation to climate change: They presented proposals on composting and green architecture from agricultural practices suitable for climate change.

Secondly, after the training activities, we organized field trips to four workplaces that we identified from different sectors and production areas. The children learned about the production processes in these workplaces and observed the different stages of these processes and their possible impacts on the environment. Afterwards, they came together and developed eco-friendly practice suggestions for the workplaces they visited. Their suggestions focused on waste management, recycling, and efficient use of resources, especially energy.

CONTRIBUTORS

“Do Not Dispose My Future!” Project Team

Melike Selin Durmaz Ekenler - Trainer and Facilitator

She was born in Mersin in 1987. She completed her bachelor's degree at Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning and her master's degree at Istanbul Technical University, Urban Design Program. She completed her master's thesis on an urban garden project in Berlin where she was a volunteer, which led to her interest in the field of urban agriculture. During her PhD studies, she tried to examine and discuss different experiences, including urban agriculture, by addressing this interest through the debates on the right to the city and the commons. She produced podcasts and publications on this subject. She produced content in the field of climate change, ecology and environmental studies and carried out projects with children and youth. She is currently preparing her PhD thesis on urban agriculture in the context of resilience approach.

Mümtaz Kirik - Trainer

He was born in 1990 in Adana. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Istanbul University Faculty of Political Sciences. In 2020, he founded *Özgür Sinematek* to support young filmmakers in Adana. He is currently working on his PhD thesis on recycling policies at Istanbul University in the same department.

Seyhan Municipality Community Center Teachers

Emine Seymen - Yeşilevler Community Center Teacher

Turkish Language and Literature Teacher. Since 2021, she has been working as a teacher at Seyhan Municipality Yeşilevler Education Center. As a person who admires nature and greenery, she strives to guide her students to love and respect for nature. In addition to helping children with their school lessons, they design and implement activities in areas such as environment, gardening and recycling. “Through the activities we carried out in this project, our awareness about respect for nature, love of nature, protection of nature, climate crisis and

solutions to the crisis increased. I would like to thank your association for successfully conducting this useful workshop and our teachers who contributed”.

İbrahim Kurt – Fatih Community Center Teacher

"I would like to start by thanking Seyhan Municipality and Flying Balloon Association for their support and encouragement throughout this project. This support and strength we received, coupled with the efforts and enthusiasm of our children, resulted in this excellent project. In this way, our children had the opportunity to get to know themselves, tell and express themselves. Awareness of taking responsibility has emerged. When we look at the point we have reached from where we started, we have seen that we have achieved great things and this has encouraged us even more. Hope to see you in other projects”.

Project Participant Children

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Elif Kaya
Muhammed Emin Alkan
Eylül Güngör
Selim Acar
Meryem Acar
Neslihan Acar
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Duran Öner
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Hatice Aşan
Esmâ Şahin
Alim Yıldız
Havva Ağca
Nazmiye Ağca
Yağmur Özdemir
Yağmur Temel
Ecrin Tultar
Simanur Ünal
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Asya Darbaş
Nevin Darbaş
Arzu Asel Acar
Esra Gelgili
Mehrihan Gelgili
Ceyda Gelgili
Gül Tedik
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Derya Özdemir
Berfin Temel
Berat Tultar
Bozan Ege Akkuş
Sudenur Yürekli

EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES

1. Gray Water Infrastructure

Observation: We learned that there is water scarcity in different parts of the world due to both natural disasters and unconscious consumption patterns of human beings. We realized that while water should be seen as a natural asset of the ecosystem that we share with other living things, we use and consume it only as a resource. We have researched infrastructure systems that save water use in homes, schools, and workplaces.

Recommendation: We learned that the water we use in kitchens and bathrooms is defined as gray water. It is possible to recycle gray water, not only in new buildings but also in old and multi-storey buildings, with an infrastructure system that can be arranged. This infrastructure can be summarized as a septic tank where gray water can be collected and treated, and the recycled water obtained from there can be used mainly for washing machines, toilets, garden irrigation and cleaning. The gray water infrastructure, which provides significant water savings by using it in areas where we do not need drinking water quality water, is seen as beneficial not only at the building scale but also at the local level in terms of saving the network water and treatment systems provided by municipalities.

Evaluation: The reason for choosing the gray water infrastructure system proposal as a project topic is that children's sensitivity to the protection and recovery of water assets has increased during their education process due to the increasing water scarcity in the world. Starting from environmental observations, the group investigated what could be done in the most active way in this regard and came up with the idea that this system could be used especially in schools, information centers and workplaces where they are crowded. The gray water infrastructure system was included as a 3D model in the project presentations.

2. Rainwater Harvesting"

Observation: One of the observations we made about our environment was the accumulation of rainwater in some areas on rainy days. We had even observed that in very cold weather these waters iced over in some hollow areas. We did research on how rainwater, which we learned could be used as domestic water, could be collected in buildings and throughout the city. We learned that heavy rainfall, which is increasing in direct proportion to global warming, should be taken under control in cities. In addition to the damage caused by floods to settlements, we also learned that floods disrupt the balance of both soil and existing water resources.

Recommendation: In our project, which we developed with the idea of making paths for rainwater and collecting and using this water with the slogan "Water flows and finds its way", we proposed to ensure water recovery and saving. It is possible to harvest rainwater from the roofs of the buildings and the infrastructure of the streets, store this water and use it as domestic water. This requires infrastructure systems at different scales, from our homes and schools to the city and fields. As with gray water infrastructure, these waters can be used in similar areas of use. Thus, a system that both saves water and prevents floods and overflows is provided. In addition, when we direct rainwater harvesting to garden and field irrigation, we also contribute to the development of plants.

Evaluation: Rainwater collected in buckets on rainy days was used to irrigate the plants in the garden. Having already experienced this, the children were curious about how rainwater could be collected and used from the roofs of buildings to the city as a whole and developed an infrastructure proposal. In this project, the gains of rainwater harvesting, which are wondered through environmental observation and realized through research, stand out.

GREEN PUBLIC SERVICES

1. Our Animal Friends and Waste

Observation: Humans are not the only ones living in our world, in our cities, in our neighborhoods. We live together with many living things in cities. The cats and dogs in our neighborhood are fed in front of the door or in the garbage. Because people throw garbage mixed with leftover food and waste such as glass, metal, plastic, etc., living creatures can be injured and harmed. On the other hand, there are also living creatures in the water sources in our city. The garbage thrown into the canals threatens both the creatures living in the water sources in the region and the entire ecosystem due to its connection to the sea.

Recommendation: We want waste separation primarily for the living creatures we share our living spaces with. We suggest that both feeding points for animals and recycling points where waste can be separated should be established in our neighborhood. On the other hand, we are aware of our carbon footprint, which is one of the important causes of global warming. We should reduce our garbage as much as possible and separate it at the source. We have learned that it is not enough to separate wastes according to their types, they need to enter appropriate recycling processes. Therefore, we recommend that waste sorting points should be established by relevant institutions.

Evaluation: The project, which includes suggestions on separating waste at the source and ensuring that it is collected at the relevant points, was developed based on the damage caused by waste to the living creatures that children have a one-to-one connection with in their neighborhoods. With the understanding provided by the ecological principles of "everything is interconnected" and "everything goes somewhere", awareness of the situation of waste and its relationship with the habitats of all living things stands out in this project.

2. Zero Waste Market

Observation: In our observations at homes, workplaces and schools, we have seen that there is a lot of plastic waste and that it is found in heaps in waste collection areas for recycling. When we researched the recycling of plastic waste, we learned that the water and energy needed in this process is not less. We researched methods to reduce waste at the source, starting from the markets, where we shop the most. We developed our project to reduce the amount of packaging that occurs due to the re-purchase and disposal of products sold in small quantities, especially in the care and cleaning departments.

Recommendation: We have examined where shopping in zero waste markets is done with multi-use cloth or plastic bags from filling areas such as cereals, coffee, tea, spices, etc. For this method to become widespread, we recommend that filling areas be provided in the markets for products like cleaning, detergent, etc. which are another frequently used consumption area. It is possible to prevent the amount of packaging that becomes waste every time by providing gallons containing large quantities from the relevant companies and customers filling their empty packages that they bring with them as much as they need from these areas.

Evaluation: It is understood that the children's environmental awareness increased as their observations extended from their homes to the consumption areas in their neighborhoods. Investigating the methods to produce less waste before entering recycling processes shows that the project cares about environmental responsibility.

3. Waste Oil to Biodiesel

Observation: We learned that frying oils, which often end up in the sink in our homes, damage water treatment systems and cause water pollution. 25 percent of wastewater pollution is caused by used vegetable and animal oils. This pollution mixes into seas, lakes and rivers, reducing the oxygen in the water. Thus, all living things, especially fish, are harmed.

Recommendation: When we researched recycling possibilities, we learned that these oils can be transformed into raw materials to be used in soap and chemical industries as well as biodiesel fuel production. If we can collect waste oils in 5-liter plastic bottles, it is possible for the relevant units of the municipalities to receive them. As a project suggestion, instead of aiming to deliver them one by one from each house, waste stations can be established to encourage more regular collection of oils. Not only waste oils, but also hazardous wastes such as batteries can be collected at these stations.

Evaluation: While developing their projects, the children researched the processes that waste oils go through and learned that the use of frying oils more than 2 times poses risks to human health. Aiming to inform their families both about this issue and about the damage to the ecosystem caused by the water pollution caused by pouring the oils into the sink, the children developed their projects with the information they gained about their daily life habits.

4. Plants and Filters Against Air Pollution

Observation: We not only smelling but also see the pollution of the air we breathe. We think that toxic gases released by factories and transportation vehicles influence the visibly increasing air pollution. During the training process, we learned that global warming is caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the amount and intensity of which increase during fossil fuel consumption, industrial and agricultural activities. While human activities have a direct impact on climate change caused by global warming, it is also possible to slow down and repair this process with new methods. We realize that air pollution not only causes significant health problems, but also affects soil and water pollution, and we believe that these inseparable cycles need to be improved.

Recommendation: We demand that there should be no factories without filters in industrial zones and that this process should continue to be monitored. The fact that air pollution is most prevalent in cities also shows that this is where we need to start. We suggest that local species that are prominent in cleaning polluted air should be researched, planting and afforestation activities should be carried out, and these areas should be sustainable. In addition to the large areas that can be planned regionally, we want these local plant species to be spread in the gardens of facilities such as hospitals, schools, business centers and hotels in cities.

Evaluation: Local plant and tree species were investigated in the project developed with the awareness of environmental problems that cause air pollution. Information was obtained on

which institutions and how often the filter inspections of factory chimneys are carried out. Starting with the knowledge that greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming are intensifying as a result of human activities, the project offered suggestions for taking action starting from the environment we live in.

5. Harmless and Toxic-Free Transportation

Observation: The increase in the use of private cars is directly proportional to the intensification of traffic and air pollution. When we investigate environmental-friendly transportation methods, we see that pedestrians walking, cycling and public transportation systems are prioritized. When we examined the situation of public transportation vehicles around us, we thought that alternatives should be produced because they are still moving with fossil fuels, although they have more human capacity.

Recommendation: In addition to proposals to popularize bicycles and renewable energy vehicles, we propose a public transportation vehicle design called "Hydro-bus" in our project. We propose the idea of thinking about the possibility of producing buses that run on water, but gain energy by burning hydrogen in water, not by consuming water. Our aim here is to popularize the idea that environmentally friendly methods can be developed to replace the types of fuel we are used to.

Evaluation: Focusing on air pollution caused by existing transportation systems, which is an important human activity in cities, your project offers innovative solutions to reduce our carbon footprint. It is seen that the project emphasizes bicycles and public transportation instead of private car use and questions the carbon footprint of existing public transportation vehicles.

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Compost Network

Observation: Organic wastes, which normally decompose in nature and mix into the soil on their own, become garbage in our cities. During the trainings, we learned that the organic wastes released by the food we consume in our homes can be collected by composting method and that compost production can contribute to the fertility of the soil. We examined sample projects that enable the composting method, which provides a natural fertilizer that is beneficial

for the soil, to be done in homes as well as in larger areas of the city, especially with fruit and vegetable scraps collected from the market places.

Recommendation: We recommend the establishment of food waste collection areas like the collection points for recyclable waste. In the composting area that can be established as an example in our neighborhood, we want to collect food waste to be brought from homes and obtain natural fertilizer by composting method, and we want to ensure that information is shared here. We suggest that the fertilizer to be obtained should be used in the gardens and green areas needed in our neighborhood and that the municipality should act with the support of the municipality to spread this system.

Evaluation: During the trainings where the ecological principles of "life is transformation" and "there is no garbage in nature" were exemplified, the composting method and the transformation it provides attracted the attention of the children. During our research, it was learned that there are different composting methods, but people have difficulty in maintaining these methods in cities. For this reason, the project was based on the idea that this process could be encouraged by creating collection points for food waste, and a model facility proposal and functioning that could be established in children's neighborhoods emerged. It was proposed to spread this model to the city as a compost network. As a first step, composting was tried out at Yeşilevler Education Center during good agricultural practices trainings.

2. Green Architecture and Landscape

Observation: We think that there should be more green areas around us and we want to have easy access to these areas. We want people to realize that green spaces are not only good places to spend time but also important breathing points for cities. However, a lot of water and energy is wasted in the greening and maintenance of these areas, which are generally made up of grass. With this in mind, we wanted to research ecological landscaping and present alternatives.

Recommendation: Smart green space systems can help cities save water and energy, combat air pollution and contribute to biodiversity. For this purpose, landscape design can be made in accordance with the climate and local species of the region, and infrastructure systems such as lighting can be installed using renewable energy sources. While it is possible to organize large open spaces in cities in this way, rainwater collection, planting and orchards can be established on green roofs that can be designed at the building scale. Encouraging these arrangements especially on the roofs, gardens and courtyards of various institutional buildings will contribute to the continuity of the green infrastructure system.

Evaluation: Green spaces, which we generally normalize the lack of in cities, are important both for our physical and social needs and for the continuity of ecosystems and biodiversity in our environment. The project proposes the expansion of healthy, livable and accessible green spaces and emphasizes that the infrastructure, design and maintenance processes of these spaces should be climate-friendly. In addition to proposals at the city scale, examples are presented on the contributions of producing small-scale green systems in our immediate surroundings.

BUSINESS VISITS AND CHILDREN'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ECO-FRIENDLY IMPLEMENTATIONS

In the scope of **Do Not Dispose My Future!** Project ,children visited businesses from different sectors together with the project team in May and June 2022. The visits to different business places from the service, agriculture and industry sectors contributed to reinforcing other activities carried out throughout the project and achieving the project goals.

The overall objective of the project emphasized the active participation of children in decision-making processes on environmental and climate change issues. Through the active participation of children, it was aimed to increase the ecological awareness of the public. Thus, it was aimed to develop children's advocacy skills on environmental rights and climate change as a problem affecting their future and to ensure their active participation in processes affecting their own lives.

One of the activities carried out in line with these goals and objectives was workplace visits. Children participating in the project activities visited workplaces operating in different sectors in Adana together with the project team. They met with managers and experts in the workplaces they visited, received information about the production process and observed the stages of the production process on site. They asked questions and received information about the environmental impact of the production in the workplaces they visited. Afterwards, with the guidance of the facilitators in the project team, they developed "environment-friendly practices" for the workplaces they visited.

Table 1: Business visits

Business place visited	Sector /Field of activity	Date of visit
Masel Otel	Hizmet / Otelcilik	20.06.2022
Yılmaz Elyaf Packaging Waste Recycling	Sanayi / Geri Dönüşüm	21.06.2022
Sabah Gazetesi Newspaper Adana Regional Directorate and Printing Facilities	Hizmet / Basım-Yayın	24.06.2022
Perçin Silage Agriculture and Livestock Enterprise	Tarım / Tarım ve Süt Ürünleri	28.06. 2022

Masel Hotel Visit

During their visit to Masel Hotel, children listened to a presentation about the hotel from Mr. Mustafa, the general manager of the hotel. Mr. Mustafa told the children about the measures taken at the hotel, waste saving, water usage warnings, ecological practices, and sustainable business logic. The hotel owners, who also own farms, stated that they do not throw away the excess food from the hotel but utilize it in their farms. Afterwards, different parts of the hotel were visited. While visiting the hotel rooms, kitchen, lobby and restaurant sections, the children received information from the hotel staff about the functioning of the relevant sections.

In the hotel restaurant, the children's attention was drawn to the fact that cutlery and bread were placed in small plastic bags. Mr. Mustafa, the hotel manager, explained that with the Covid-19 outbreak, customers have more sensitive expectations about hygiene. They exchanged ideas with the children on alternative solutions instead of plastic bags that could also meet the hygiene sensitivities of the customers. The children also showed interest in the signs in the hotel rooms to protect the environment and the planet. There were also informative cards on the beds to protect the environment and reduce waste. The children and the project team also talked about the project in general to Mr. Mustafa, the Hotel Manager, and the hotel staff and shared our activities within the scope of the project.



After the trip, the children came together with the facilitators from the project team and brainstormed on what kind of environmentally friendly practices could be implemented in the hotel industry. With the guidance of the facilitators, they developed a series of eco-friendly practices that they could suggest to Masel Hotel to support ecological and sustainable service delivery:

- One of the children's suggestions was to remove cutlery and bread from plastic containers and prevent plastic waste in the hotel restaurant. In response to public hygiene sensitivities due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was suggested that cutlery and single loaves of bread be placed in cloth or paper bags. This would significantly reduce the amount of plastic waste and allow for more efficient recycling in paper bags. It was also suggested that all single-use plastics in the hotel be reduced.
- It was suggested to provide environmental awareness trainings for the hotel's employees. Thus, the sorting and recycling process can be better managed with employees who are more aware of recycling and sustainability.
- In addition to environmentally friendly warnings in the rooms, it was also suggested that faucets be changed with faucets that can provide more efficiency with less water.
- The children's last suggestion was to put a note card in the rooms to indicate whether the towels were used or not. This would save hotel staff from having to re-wash unused towels, save electricity, water and detergent, and produce less waste.

Yilmaz Elyaf Packaging Waste Recycling

Yilmaz Elyaf, which produces polyester synthetic fiber by turning disposable plastic bottles into raw materials, is the only recycling facility in Adana that produces fiber from recycling. The synthetic fibers produced in this facility are used in many areas such as ready-to-wear, automotive, yarn, cleaning and general textiles.



Ms. Burcu, the environmental engineer of the facility, made a short presentation to the children who visited the facility and explained that synthetic fiber, which is normally produced from petroleum derivatives, can also be obtained through recycling. Mrs. Burcu told the children about the importance of recycling, explaining that in Europe, tax reductions have started to be applied to manufacturers that use recycled materials and that the sector is growing rapidly. She added that the fibers produced from recycled plastic bottles are mostly used to produce products such as yarn, cleaning cloths, diapers, wet wipes and automobile upholstery materials.

Ms. Burcu told children that the best thing to do is to minimize the use of plastics and explained that the most important step for now is to recycle the plastics consumed. Thus, she emphasized that while environmental pollution is minimized on the one hand, on the other hand, raw material and energy resources in our world can be saved.



Then the children went on a tour of the facility and observed the process of turning plastic bottles into fiber. Observing the process of collecting waste plastic bottles, washing them, breaking them into pieces and finally turning them into fiber, the children expressed their surprise that plastic bottles could be recycled and that they would be more careful when using plastic bottles from now on.

During the visit, the children asked questions about the production process at the recycling plant:

- They asked how the waste from the washing process is disposed of. They learned that they are sent to disposal facilities where they are incinerated.
- They asked whether there was any practice in the plant to treat and recycle the water used in the washing process. They learned that there is a project on this subject and that it will be implemented soon.

After the tour, the children came together with the facilitators from the project team and brainstormed on what kind of environmentally friendly practices could be implemented in the plastic recycling sector. With the guidance of the facilitators, they developed a series of

environmentally friendly practices that they could suggest to Yılmaz Elyaf Packaging Waste Recycling to support ecological and sustainable production:

- Based on the high amount of electricity consumed in the factory, they suggested the installation of solar panels for electricity generation and sustainable electricity consumption.
- Secondly, the children proposed a method they had learned about in previous training processes, namely the method of making fertilizer from the pulp obtained by treating wastewater.
- They suggested to the facility, which uses a lot of water during the washing of the plastic bottles, that this water could be treated and then recycled, thus creating an in-plant water cycle. The treated water could also be used for irrigation purposes in a garden to be built at the facility.

Visit to Sabah Newspaper Adana Regional Directorate and Printing Facilities

Children visited Sabah Newspaper's Southern Regional Representative Office, which consists of a printing center, a news center and a distribution warehouse, where they first met with Ersin Ramoğlu, Southern Regional Coordinator of Sabah Newspaper. Mr. Ersin Ramoğlu told the children about the daily adventure of a newspaper, from the news layout to the printing, distribution and recollection of the news, and then answered the children's questions. The children then went on a tour of the facility and listened to how news is gathered in the newsroom, how reporters work and how pages are designed. The children then went to the printing department of the newspaper and watched the printing process of the newspaper printed from recycled paper. They listened to the working of the printing machines and printing techniques. In the last part of the trip, the children listened to how newspapers, magazines and other printed materials are collected, loaded onto trucks and distributed from Çukurova Region to Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia.



During the visit, the children asked some questions to Mr. Ersin, Regional Manager of Sabah Newspaper, and the printing house staff to understand sustainability in newspaper and news production processes:

- Some of the children said that printing newspapers is completely unnecessary in our age and suggested moving the existing newspaper entirely to digital media in order to avoid wasting paper. This would make more efficient use of natural resources.
- Seeing that unsold newspapers and magazines were being returned, the children thought that they should be recycled and suggested that a recycling department should be set up in the facility. The newspaper officials explained that they had a contract with a company that bought scrap paper and sold the returned newspapers there. In this way, they stated that these newspapers are directed for recycling.

At the end of the visit, the children received a gift of a book set containing stories and coloring books.



After the trip, the children came together with the facilitators from the project team and brainstormed on what kind of environmentally friendly practices could be implemented in the printing and publishing sector. With the guidance of the facilitators, they developed a series of environmentally friendly practices that they could suggest to Sabah Newspaper Adana Regional Directorate and Printing Facilities to support ecological and sustainable production:

- Seeing that there were too many unsold and returned newspapers, the children suggested that to prevent the production of more newspapers than are sold and to reduce the carbon footprint, it should be clearly determined how many newspapers are sold on a daily, weekly, and yearly basis. In this way, newspapers will only be printed

as much as they will be sold, which will reduce our carbon footprint by preventing the waste of paper, paint, electricity, and labor.

- Having learned in previous trainings that electricity can be produced efficiently from solar panels due to the duration of sunshine in Adana, the children suggested that solar panels should be installed in the facility and at least part of the electricity used in production should be obtained from solar energy.

Visit to Perçin Silage Agriculture and Livestock Enterprise



During their visit to Perçin Silage. Agriculture and Livestock Enterprise in Sarıhuğlar Village of Adana, the children firstly received information about silage and silage making from the owners of the enterprise. They were informed about the importance of silage in the agriculture and livestock sector and its environmental impact.

The storage of green and water-rich feeds by fermentation (souring) in an airless environment is called ensiling, and the feed obtained as a result of this process is called silo feed or silage. In our country, the meadow and forage areas are limited, the grazing season is limited and the feed need of animals in winter is an important problem. If the feed of animals in winter is provided from green and juicy feeds, the productivity of animals can be maintained throughout the year. In seasons when green and wet forages are abundant, surplus plants and plant residues are silaged to obtain silage. In this way, it provides good and cheap nutrition for animals during the winter months when green and juicy feeds are not available. Ensiling is also cost effective. The problem of grass storage and storage costs are minimized.

In addition, planting silage crops contributes to the efficient and effective use of agricultural land and does not affect agricultural activities for food production. Silage crops taken from the field early, so there is time available for planting other crops. Corn is one of the most important silage crops in the world due to its ability to produce a lot of green parts from a unit area, its suitability for silage production, the high nutritional value and flavor of silage, and its low cost compared to other feed raw materials. When corn is silaged, all the above-ground parts of the plant (cobs, stalks, leaves) are utilized in the most economical way. Perçin Silage

Agriculture and Livestock Enterprise also produces bulk and packaged corn silage. The enterprise, which makes silage in one-ton packages, supplies products to all parts of Turkey.

Business owner Mehmet Ali Perçin told the children about the silage method, which is based on collecting, baling and storing corn and fermenting it. Since there is not enough green grass and nutrients in the winter, corn, which is planted in summer and gives the most green plants per unit area, is harvested, baled and stored in its wet state to be offered as feed to animals in winter. While this storage method saves on feed supply in winter, baling the silages also saves storage space and prevents the feed from drying out completely.

Mr. Mehmet Ali then gave information on another area of activity of the enterprise, namely husbandry, and milk production. Milk production is also carried out within the facility. Most of the milk produced is sold to local dairies and some is sold directly to the public as raw milk. The children who visited the facility first observed and listened to how the cattle spend a day, how the animals are fed, cared for, milked and stored. Mr. Mehmet Ali explained that they use the manure produced by the animals in agricultural production, thus avoiding the use of chemical fertilizers and saving money and ensuring sustainable production.



After the tour, the children came together with the facilitators from the project team and brainstormed on what kind of environmentally friendly practices could be implemented in the

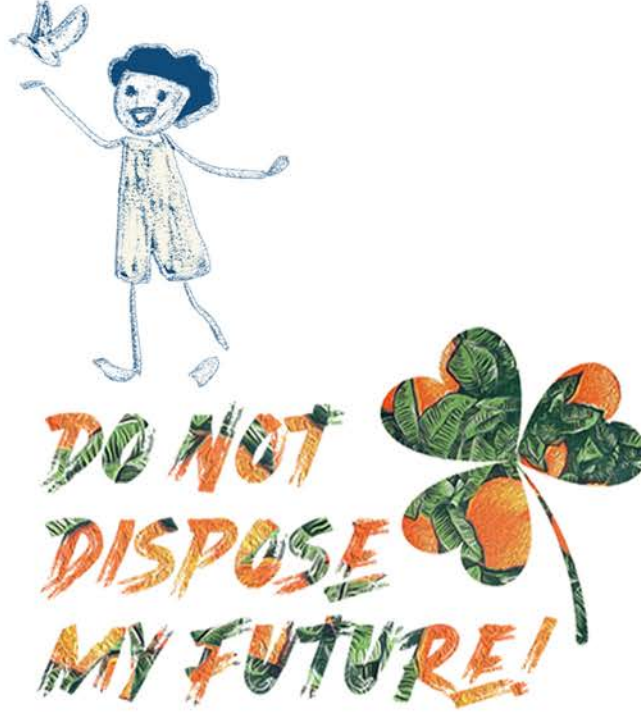
agriculture and livestock sector. With the guidance of the facilitators, they developed a series of environmentally friendly practices that they could suggest to Perçin Silage Agriculture and Livestock Enterprise to support ecological and sustainable production:

- The children suggested the installation of a rainwater storage system in the facility, which is built on a very large area. The rainwater could be used both as drinking water for the animals and for cleaning in the dairy.
- They suggested setting up outlets in the city where everyone can bring their own containers and buy milk. In this way, milk can be delivered directly to the consumer without being processed in factories and placed on market shelves in plastic packaging. This would reduce plastic waste and contribute to reducing the carbon footprint.

NOTES



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