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**CLEMDES - Clearing House Mechanism  
on Desertification for the Northern Mediterranean Region**

**TURKEY NATIONAL MEETING REPORT**

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By

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The first CLEMDES National Meeting in Turkey was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2004 in the Ataturk Conference Hall, General Directorate of Rural Services, Ankara. An invitation letter was sent to about 150 relevant persons, institutions and organizations in Turkey. The objective of the meeting was to introduce the CLEMDES project to the relevant institutions in Turkey and invite to work together for creating and operating the national network that will join to the CLEMDES.

The Director General of GDRS, Mr. Ali Altuntas opened the meeting and Mr. Iraj Namdarian who represents the programme's coordination group, acting under the authority of Italy's Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria (INEA), gave a speech introducing the CLEMDES project and the context under which it is taking place, as an accompanying measure to projects of the European Commission's priority area of combating desertification. It was stressed that the goal of the project is to improve cooperation between bodies that deal directly or indirectly with desertification in the six participating (Italy, Greece, Turkey, Spain, Portugal and Israel) countries by collecting metadata on those institutions.

UNCCD Turkish National Focal Point Mr. Mevlut Duzgun also presented activities of Turkish National Coordination Body and explained importance of UNCCD and related works for Turkey. Then, an introductory presentation about desertification in Turkey was made by GDRS Soil Conservation Section Director Mr. Yakup Saglam.

After providing the background for the project, Assoc.Prof. D.Murat Ozden introduced the



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CLEMDES website and the Clearing House Mechanism as a central database accessible through the internet.

At the end of this presentations, the participants were invited to ask questions in regard to CLEMDES project. This discussion took about one and half hour and all participants were very active. The discussion gave rise to various issues with regards to the operation and efficiency of the programme. Project partner, the Chairman and members of the Turkish National Coordination Body and Mr. Iraj Namdarian answered questions and noted issues for further discussion and resolution for the next workshop of the partners involved in the programme.

The bodies that were represented in the National Meeting were the following:

- Ministry of Agriculture - General Directorate of Agricultural Production
- Ministry of Agriculture - General Directorate of Agricultural Research
- Ministry of Agriculture - General Directorate of Agricultural Reform
- Ministry of Agriculture – Research Planning and Coordination Department
- Ministry of Forestry and Environment
- Soil Science Society of Turkey
- University of Ankara
- University of Cukurova
- University of Trakya
- University of Osmangazi
- General Directorate of State Meteorological Affairs
- General Directorate of Rural Services
- Union of Turkish Agricultural Engineers
- GDRS Provincial Directorate of Nigde
- Turkish Foundation for Combatting Erosion, Reforestration and Protection of Natural Habitats
- GDRS Research Institute of Eskisehir
- GDRS Research Institue of Konya
- GDRS Research Institue of Tokat
- GDRS Research Institue of Ankara
- GDRS Soil and Fertilizer Research Institute
- General Directorate of State Hydrolics Works
- Chamber of Agricultural Engineering