



Smart farming does not mean forgetting our traditions. It means using simple tools to make our hard work easier. If technology helps us save water, protect the soil, and sell better in the market, then it is worth trying. We must keep the wisdom of our fathers but also prepare the land for our children."

## Name

Mehmet KAYA, 34 years old farmer from Sakarya Province

## Country

Turkiye

## Introductions

I am Mehmet. I have been farming since I finished high school. My father and grandfather were farmers before me. We have 6 hectares of land in Sakarya where we grow maize, wheat, and keep some cows. Farming is our family's bread and butter. We are not rich, but we are proud people. What we take from the land, we return with hard work."



## Your Current Skills

I know crop rotation with maize and wheat, how to care for cows and chickens, and how to irrigate with simple tools. I can handle a tractor, and I sell my produce in the bazaar. Most of what I know about fertilizers and pesticides comes from neighbors and my father's advice



## Describe how you currently use Technology

I use my smartphone for WhatsApp farmer groups. Sometimes I watch YouTube to learn about pruning or fixing irrigation. But I keep my records on paper. I have never used soil testing apps or digital tools. For me, word-of-mouth is stronger than the internet



## Outline challenges and Opportunities for Upskilling?

"Internet in the fields is weak, and I prefer learning face-to-face. I also worry about expensive or complicated new tools. But I see chances too: short videos are useful, our cooperative is looking into no-till machines, and younger farmers are bringing new ideas. I listen with curiosity.

## What are your current and future training needs?

Now, I need to learn composting for maize and wheat residues, how to save water with drip irrigation, and how to plant flowers or hedgerows for bees. In the future, I want to know how to apply for EU support, how to sell as 'eco-friendly,' and how to use simple digital apps for weather and records



## Recommendations?

Keep it simple, short, and local. Show us in the village hall with pictures. Let farmers teach each other. Give us demonstrations like compost pits or rainwater tanks. Make guides in Turkish, easy to read on a phone. And help us work with cooperatives so we can test new things without spending too much

### Top Tip

Don't waste anything. If the cow gives manure, put it back in the soil. If the rain fills the barrel, save it for the dry days. A farmer who respects waste will never go hungry



Co-funded by  
the European Union