

Kizer travels to Turkey

A Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering staff member will spend one month overseas helping Turkish farmers.

Mike Kizer, associate professor in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Extension, will work with Su Yapi, a Turkish consulting firm in Ankara to develop an irrigation plan for the Southeast Anatolia Project, well-known in Turkey as GAP.

This rural development project includes developing methods to carry water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to irrigate 54,000 hectares of farmland, Kizer said.

Kizer said he was chosen because of his knowledge in agricultural engineering and his experience in traveling overseas. He has worked in Malaysia, Tanzania and Kenya.

The Office of International Programs at OSU submitted a proposal and was selected by the World Bank to work with Su Yapi on GAP.

OSU will work on the Harran Plains, which is only a small portion of GAP.



Mike Kizer

The local farmers of the Harran Plains want the use of water to be controlled by them instead of the government, Kizer said.

Kizer will meet with local farmers and government officials to discuss irrigation scheduling, economics of development, on-farm canals and irrigation structures, and how to set up an

organization to control the allotments of water.

Kizer will stay in a government guest house in Sanliurfa, the project headquarters.

Kizer's trip is funded by the World Bank.

Negotiations on the project began in August. OSU has seven months to complete the final written report, which is then submitted to the World Bank.

If the World Bank approves the plan, OSU will be the contractor to implement the project.

Kizer said he is traveling to Turkey with an open mind.

"I don't know what to expect, but I don't expect it to be too much different than here," Kizer said.

Kizer is one of the nine staff members of OSU who are going to Turkey to help with the project. Others include James Osborn, Bill Raun, Gordon Johnson, Art Stoecker, Larry Sanders, Mike Woods, Joseph Paden and James Shreffler.

Turkish scholars visit OSU

Biosystems and agricultural engineering professors are advising four Turkish scholars in a "continuing education professional improvement program" at OSU.

The scholars are attending classes, taking field trips, doing research and testing data so they can take information back to Turkey, said Ray Huhnke and Tom Haan, Turkish scholar advisers.

"The program is a study leave," Huhnke said. "The government of Turkey identified four individuals based on the needs for future development. Turkey is a country in transition, and the government is making agriculture more sustainable in many areas."

Dan Storm, environment and natural resources associate professor and Turkish scholar adviser, said the program gives the Turkish scholars

work experience in agricultural engineering, and they can learn about OSU and U.S. agricultural systems.

"They benefit from the hands-on experience" Storm said.

Storm also said the program is good exposure for both OSU and the scholars.

"We learn how their systems works, and they learn how our system works," Storm said.

Fatih Bakanogullari, one of the Turkish scholars, wants to upgrade his skills in hydrologic modeling, Haan said. He is using OSU's hydrologic model to test his data that he brought from Turkey.

Hicrettin Cebel and Irfan Oguz, Turkish scholars, are working on a research project estimating nonpoint source pollution, Storm said. By working on this project, the scholars are learning

to use geographic information and global positioning systems.

These scholars arrived to OSU in July and will be returning to Turkey in December.

Winrock International, the sponsor of the program, will cover all costs such as housing and living expenses.

Haan said Bakanogullari is adapting well to the program.

"I had him write down his goals for the program so we could tailor the program to meet his goals," Haan said.

Huhnke said his advisee, Murat Eker, is attending an agricultural economics farm management class.

"He is eager to learn and wants to absorb everything he can," Huhnke said. "He does very well in communicating his thoughts."

All four Turkish scholars traveled to Orlando, Fla., and attended the international ASAE meeting.