

## ENERGY POTENTIALS AND AGRICULTURAL SIZE OF THRACE IN TURKEY

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**Abstract:** The Thrace region of Turkey is a very rich region with respect to agricultural sources and product diversity. Though the Thrace region remains within the boundaries of three countries, Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece, according to its geographical structure, its potentials must be planned jointly. In this study, the energy potentials, agricultural areas, product diversity, agricultural-economical size, etc characteristics of the Thrace region in Turkey are examined. According the existing situation, mathematical models are established for the future planning and some suggestions are made.

**Key words:** Thrace energy, Thrace agriculture.

### INTRODUCTION

With its geographical situation and social-economical structure, Thrace is the most developed region of Turkey. Other than the developed industrial areas, together with its underground and upper ground sources, its high agricultural capacity makes the region more important. As it is a close region to EU countries, investments have made in this region and when the energy sources support this, its comfort level highly increased. In order to correctly plan the investments, the existing sources must be explained well. The main purpose of the studies is to explain in detail the energy sources and agricultural structure of the east Thrace, to give brief information about Turkey and establish a perspective to assist in the investment plans in the region. In Thrace, there are three mountains, 924 m Kuru mountains in Edirne, 287 m Kale hill in Tekirdag and 1031 m Istranca mountains in Kırklareli, three rivers, Tunca river: Bulgarian boundary-(Merik river 18 km) length 61 km, Merik river: Turkish boundary with Greece length 211 km and Ergene river: Saray-(Merik river 18 km.) length 281 km, three lakes, 8 km<sup>2</sup> Gala lake in Edirne, 11 km<sup>2</sup> Buyukcekmece lake in Istanbul and 16 km<sup>2</sup> Kucukcekmece lake in Istanbul and four dammed lakes, 6.2 km<sup>2</sup> Kadikoy dammed lake in Edirne, 43 km<sup>2</sup> Buyukcekmece dammed lake in Istanbul, 10.2 km<sup>2</sup> Kayalikoy dammed lake in Kırklareli, 15.5 km<sup>2</sup> Karademir dammed lake in Tekirdag [12].

Thrace has a lower population density when compared to Turkey average and as it is close to metropolitan city Istanbul, there is immigration from the region. The population structure of Thrace and Turkey is given in table 1 [10].

Table 1. The population structure of Thrace

| Properties                                    | Year | Edirne | Kırklareli | Tekirdag | Thrace  | Istanbul | Turkey   |
|---|------|--------|------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Population                                    | 1985 | 389638 | 297098     | 402721   | 1089457 | 5842985  | 50664485 |
|   | 1990 | 404599 | 309512     | 468842   | 1182953 | 7309190  | 56473035 |
|   | 2000 | 402606 | 328461     | 623591   | 1354658 | 10018735 | 67803927 |
| Area (km <sup>2</sup> )                       |      | 6275   | 6550       | 6469     | 24378   | 5278     | 814578   |
| Population density                            | 1985 | 62     | 45         | 65       | 57      | 1023     | 65       |
|   | 1990 | 64     | 47         | 75       | 62      | 1280     | 73       |
|   | 2000 | 66     | 52         | 99       | 72      | 1928     | 88       |
| Population of provincial and district centers | 1985 | 183033 | 134780     | 208621   | 526434  | 5572218  | 26865757 |
|   | 1990 | 210421 | 149532     | 258940   | 618893  | 6753929  | 33326351 |
|   | 2000 | 230908 | 189202     | 395377   | 815487  | 9085599  | 44006274 |
| Population of sub-districts and villages      | 1985 | 206605 | 162318     | 194100   | 563023  | 207767   | 23798701 |
|   | 1990 | 194178 | 159980     | 209902   | 564060  | 555261   | 23146684 |
|   | 2000 | 171698 | 139259     | 228214   | 539171  | 933136   | 23797653 |