

“Energy Forestry” In Providing Rural Development and Preventing Energy Poverty: The Example of Akçakoca Forests

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Abstract

Turkey's Energy Efficiency and Environment Department (2020) by showing the rapid increase in population and industrialization, as indicated on the energy needs entails. Renewable energy option is one of the resources to be used in order to provide sustainable energy without causing environmental pollution. As a renewable energy source, the energy forests facility is considered to be a convenient and important energy source, especially for environmentally friendly and rural areas, as it helps socio-economic developments. Akçakoca, located in the coastal region of the Western Black Sea Region and has chosen as a study area, has a forest area of 16.927,30 ha in total, which can be suitable for the energy forest facility as a “normal forest” under 4 forest sub-district directorate. Suitable for energy forestry, alder, plane and false acacia species are found in the study area. Within the scope of the study, soil, slope, land use capability and stand maps were produced in Arc Map 10.2 program in order to calculate the efficiency of the area in terms of energy forestry and to determine the areas suitable for energy forestry. These determined areas are classified as less suitable, medium suitable and very suitable. Preliminary estimates were made for obtaining energy from selected areas. Verbal interviews were held with managers from the Akçakoca Forest Management Directorate, and their opinions were taken on the applicability of energy forestry, the processing and rural development of the forest villagers.

Keywords: Energy poverty; Environment; Forestry; Turkey