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Dry Bean Bio-Diversity in Kelkit Valley

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Aim of the study: Kelkit Valley has a 6000 year old heritage. The Kelkit Valley is one of the rare areas of Turkey that have not been contaminated and have not been suffered serious damage to their natural structure. Local dry bean populations, especially grown in the Kelkit Valley, attract interest in all parts of Turkey and take place in Turkish cuisine with their taste. In this study, it is aimed to reveal the diversity of the Kelkit Valley's local bean populations.

Material and Methods: In the study, 5 provinces, 15 districts and 122 villages visited and 225 materials were collected within the boundaries of Kelkit Valley. The collected materials were grouped considering the seed shape and color and 367 sub-samples were formed. Even the seed colour and shape of the collected dry bean populations give clues to how rich the Kelkit Valley is in terms of diversity.

Results: The results showed that dry bean is grown by almost every village and every farmer even in small areas. It has also been determined that there is no commercial dry bean intake in the region. It can be said that most of the collected materials is local. In particular, grown dry beans in the towns and villages of Kelkit, Şiran and Suşehri districts, which are located within the boundaries of the Kelkit Valley, consumed in many places of Turkey. It is seen that dry bean is one of the most important field crops of the region along with wheat, maize and potatoes.

Keywords: Kelkit Valley, local dry bean, diversity, population, seed.