

<b>Title</b>	Cut Flower Cultivar Improvement Project (II. Stage). Carnation Cultivar Improvement Project
<b>Number</b>	111O128 TÜBİTAK 1001
<b>Leader</b>	Ayşe Serpil KAYA
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<b>Budget</b>	175.150
<b>Periods</b>	15/03./2012- 15/03/2015
<b>Organization of Funding Sources</b>	TUBITAK, Gündeş Tarım, Tan Tarım

**Abstract:** Carnation is the most produced (513.7 ha) and exported cut flower which also gives a wide area of employment in Turkey. European countries which are target markets imports rose and secondly carnation from our country. Carnation production in these countries has been decreasing for some reasons and the need for carnation has been met by Africa and South America countries in recent years. Therefore, Turkey's geographical closeness to the European countries could be seen as an opportunity. Dependence to the outside in terms of production material is the most important problem in cut flower sector. Although Turkey is the gene center of the carnation, unfortunately we do not have any our own improved carnation cultivars so far. Therefore, the production material (shoot, seedling and parent) is imported in every year and for that our country is paying royalty. The production material costs about 30 percent in total cut flower production costs. By reasons of high production costs and producing the unlicensed materials causes some legal and criminal problems and also some quality and quantity losses in carnation production sector. Furthermore, high cost of production material decreases our growers competition in the world market. It is necessary to improve new techniques for producing plant material and breeding carnation cultivar. Breeding high yielded commercial carnation cultivars could give an important contribution to the cut flower sector and the country economy. The first step to begin a breeding program in carnation is to form gene pools. With this aim, a project named 'Cut flower cultivar improvement project – formation gene pools in carnation and gypsophila (I. Stage) supported by TÜBİTAK was carried out in Bati Akdeniz Agricultural Research Institute (BATEM) in 2005-2008. In the study, collected 129 genotypes used for formation, a new gene pool, also genotypes were characterized. The objectives of the project are to improve new carnation cultivar by clon selection and determine the performances of newly improved cultivars. The proposed project will be carried out in BATEM's Ornamental plants department's climate controlled greenhouses in 3 years. There are 6 researchers and a consultant apart from the project leader.