

Title	The Citrus Variety Improvement Program in Turkey
Number	TAGEM/BBAD/92/A08/P09/
Leader	Şenay KURT
Researcher/es	Ertuğrul TURGUTOĞLU, Gülay DEMİR, Nejla ÇELİK, Bengi TOPKAYA KÜTÜK
Budget	118.000
Periods	01/01/1992. - Sürekli
Organization of Funding Sources	General Directorate of Agricultural Research And Policies

Abstract:

Almost of citrus trees in Turkey are infected with one or more virus and virus like disease caused the large economic losses. The establish of a Citrus Variety Improvement Program for Turkey (CVIPT) was needed to solve this problem. To accomplish, the computer controlled greenhouse facilities covering 7.000 m² of screenhouse were establish to conduct biological indexing and to maintain virus- tested, foundation plants, and also to propagate budwood increase plants. These facilities are located at Antalya Citrus Research İnstitute in Serik.. A laboratory facility was constructed at Serik and equipped to do shoot tip grafting (STG), thermotherapy, ELISA and polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE). Budwood program was begun with the establishment of a foundation block of trees. These trees were derived from both STG and treated sources, were extensively indexed for a broad range of citrus virus and virus- like disease. The program began with 36 candidate trees of ten cultivars, wich were selected from the best commerical growers in Turkey and consist of the following steps;

- a) Selection of trees,
- b) Shoot tip grafting (STG),
- c) Indexing of the STG material,
- d) Establishing the foundation and budwood increasing blocks,
- e) Healthy nursery material propagation.

Between 1995 and 2013, 226 citrus cultivar (97 orange, 54 mandarin, 50 lemon, 12 grapefruit, 13 others) included to the program. 200 clones screened in STG, Thermotherapy and Indexing were planted to the foundation block.