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**Eti Bakır develops R&D project with TÜBİTAK for the rehabilitation of mine sites**

**Continuing its activities with a focus on sustainability, Eti Bakır has launched an R&D project in partnership with Artvin Çoruh University and TÜBİTAK, aiming to develop environmentally friendly production. The project, which is an important manifestation of the university-industry partnership, targets finding the best ways of rehabilitating the soil to restore forest lands.**

Pioneering the zero carbon journey in the mining sector and making continuous efforts to reduce its carbon footprint to 10 percent in the next five years, Eti Bakır continues to invest in environmentally friendly production. In 2004, Eti Bakır was acquired from the Privatization Administration and has been operating under the roof of Cengiz Holding ever since. In the last two decades, Eti Bakır has invested more than 2 billion dollars in mining technologies, infrastructure, R&D innovations, and carbon and water footprint reduction efforts, including a project for the environmentally friendly rehabilitation of mine sites, marking the company’s most recent project in this field.

The 18-month R&D project, carried out by Eti Bakır in partnership with Artvin Çoruh University and with the support of TÜBİTAK and the Directorate of Technology and Innovation Support Programs (TEYDEB), involves the use of specific plants for the rehabilitation of soil in mining regions. The results obtained from the studies with castor bean, sunflower, poplar and birch plants are a good reference point for best practice in soil rehabilitation.

**A FIRST IN MINING**

**Eti Bakır Environment Director Yusuf Topçu** said that Eti Bakır, which produces from mine to end product and brings added value to the economy, meeting 20 percent of Türkiye's copper production, sets an example to the world with its sustainability vision. Emphasizing that the spread of sustainable business models in global companies over the last two decades has played a critical role in production, Topçu continued as follows: “We contribute to the world’s journey to zero carbon with the circular economy we have created through process improvements. We have realized many environmentally friendly projects on a broad spectrum ranging from waste management to afforestation, and from water and energy efficiency to carbon emission reduction. With the support of Artvin Çoruh University, TÜBİTAK, and TEYDEB, we broke new ground in the mining sector in Türkiye. With this project, we have identified the plants that accelerate the rehabilitation of the soil and provide the most efficient solution. Studies have shown that these plants make significant contributions to the purification and reclamation of metals in the soil. The project results will guide us through the rehabilitation works to be carried out in Artvin. Thus, we will rehabilitate our mining sites in the most accurate way to restore forest lands. We plan to apply the project, which we put into action in Artvin for the first time, also in other areas where we have mining operations.”