

BALSU SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2020

October 15th, International Women Farmers Day

Social projects planned to support women farmers for the sustainability of hazelnut agriculture were evaluated during the visit of Hendek Municipality Agricultural Services Directorate. We held the meetings on October 15th, International Women Farmers Day.

Following the assessment of the tasks carried by women in hazelnut farming, Balsu revealed the importance of their contribution to the hazelnut agriculture and implemented the "Strong Woman, Strong Agriculture" (SWSA) project.

Women are both decision makers and implementors in agricultural production. For this reason, we launched the SWSA project in Düzce in 2017 to increase awareness of women on sustainable agriculture issues and contribute preventing child labour by means of empowering them both economically and socially.

It has been demonstrated that women farmers, who are empowered in economic and social life, become leaders for sustainable development and are representatives of change.

We promise to expand the project within different regions in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.



The Effects of Climate Change are Visible

Throughout the Black Sea -hazelnut producing- provinces (Zonguldak, Düzce, Sakarya, Kocaeli, Bartın, Samsun, Giresun, Ordu, Trabzon), the temperature increased by 2 to 3 degrees in September compared to the previous year and long-term averages. Also, in September the amount of rainfall at these provinces remained below long-term averages.

We know that in July and August, which are critical months in terms of hazelnut development, flower buds' of 2021 crop are formed under the influence of climatic events such as temperature, shading, sun exposure and rainfall. The temperature and rainfall data for these months followed the same trend; temperatures increased; rainfall decreased.

According to the results of the phenological observations, due to the high temperatures and rainfall problems since July, the hazelnut plant is experiencing a delay in the transition to the sleep period.

Moreover, while the maturity of catkins is expected during the months of December and January, we have witnessed the numbers of hazelnut catkins were decreasing in some regions. Of course, we should note that this may be caused by lack of plant nutrients not just climatic stress.

In addition, during the garden visits in October, we recorded that the hazelnuts bugs, which should normally be in search of winter quarters, have increased in terms of species and density compared to the spring term.



"We inform hazelnut farmers during the stages of hazelnut development in relation to the climate data. Ecological and climate – friendly agricultural systems should be adopted in hazelnut production."

