

Sustainably Increasing Yield and Quality in Hazelnut Cultivation

On May 17, 2022, Balsu held a training on "Sustainably Increasing Yield and Quality in Hazelnut Cultivation" in Hendek Trade Center Conference Hall, hosted by the Hendek Municipality of Agricultural Services, in cooperation with Düzce University Faculty of Agriculture.



During the training that was moderated by the Düzce University Faculty of Agriculture Dean Prof. Dr. Sevcan Öztemiz, Assoc. Dr. Hülya Unver gave a theoretical training on Hazelnut Pests, while Assoc. Dr. Nedim Altın gave a training on Hazelnut Diseases. Assoc. Dr. Zübeyde Filiz Arslan and Dr. Sam Mokhtarzadeh conducted training on the Weeds in Hazelnut and effect of Climate Change on Hazelnut.

In addition, Mr. Mehmet Coka, the founder of Agrotics company, shared digitalization process of sustainability activities and the work carried out with Balsu in this context. While Farmers, traders and local authorities were showing increasing interest in our trainings, there were 50 students from Düzce University Faculty of Agriculture who participated at this session.

Managing Pests and Diseases



As Balsu, we have visited 47 hazelnut gardens in different altitudes between 06:00-07:00 in the morning and 18:00-19:00 in the evening for detection and counting of pests and diseases. The data obtained are processed into the phenological observation chart, which is updated every year. Pheromone traps were placed at the designated points for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug for population monitoring since 2019.

In the third week of May, the emergence and egg packages of the American White Butterfly were detected. Starting from the second week of May, powdery mildew and root rot in many gardens were detected.

In addition, there is a newly observed disease in hazelnut, which continues to be investigated by hazelnut research institutes and universities this year whether it is fungal or bacterial, spreads rapidly from throughout the black sea region and completely dries out the branch starting from the tip, will harm the yield and quality of hazelnut.

2022 Harvest Expectations

For the month of the May, the temperature decline in compared to the previous year and the sudden increase in temperatures by the 3rd week of May delayed the emergence of the pests by an average of 10 - 12 days, according to our ongoing pest and disease monitoring activity results.

Compared to the same period of the previous year, the temperature values between 1-15 May 2022 decreased by approximately 5 °C. As of the 3rd week of May, it is seen that the temperature increases suddenly, while the average temperature in May is still 1.5 °C lower than the previous year.



We can say that the risk of water stress in the plant should be evaluated during the fruit formation period, considering the sudden rise in temperature in May, the precipitation being less than expected, and the smaller fruit size in high altitudes compared to previous years.

It is thought that the number of seasonal migrant agricultural workers will decrease in 2022 due to the increase in transportation costs and delayed harvest due to climate change.

Hazelnut harvest that usually starts by the beginning of August and continue during the month of September has changed since last 2 years where some hazelnut farmers harvest during the month of November in high altitudes.

As Balsu, we communicate with agricultural labor intermediaries and workerheads before the workers arrive in the hazelnut producing region and conduct an assessment of their roles and responsibilities such as planning the intercity journey of the workers, regular health checks, and arranging the accommodation areas.



RVO: Sustainable Hazelnut Villages

With the “Sustainable Hazelnut Villages” project, which we carry out in cooperation with the Rainforest Alliance, we aim to break the vicious cycle of poverty of seasonal migrant agricultural workers through education of children and empowerment of farmers, workers, authorities and other relevant actors.



Within the scope of the project, activities will be carried out to improve the living and working conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers between 2022 and 2024. In all these activities, the establishment of a permanent committee called "working group" responsible for child labor violations in the region at the end of this 3 years was prioritized.



The first meeting of the committee formed responsible for child labor violations took place on 7 March 2022. In the meeting, a risk assessment was made by discussing health problems in seasonal migrant agricultural workers, occupational health and safety in unsafe conditions of transportation, accommodation and working areas, deductions in workers' wages, practices that do not comply with legal regulations, and child labor.

After the meeting, 14 accommodation areas were visited for improvement in the region, a needs analysis was made, and 2 accommodation areas were planned to be improved.

The roles and responsibilities of the committee members in resolving the identified risks were determined at the second committee meeting held on May 18, 2022.



At the third committee meeting to be held in the third week of July, the strengthening and direct intervention activities to be carried out regarding the upcoming harvest will be discussed.