

BALSU SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

Snowfall in Hazelnut

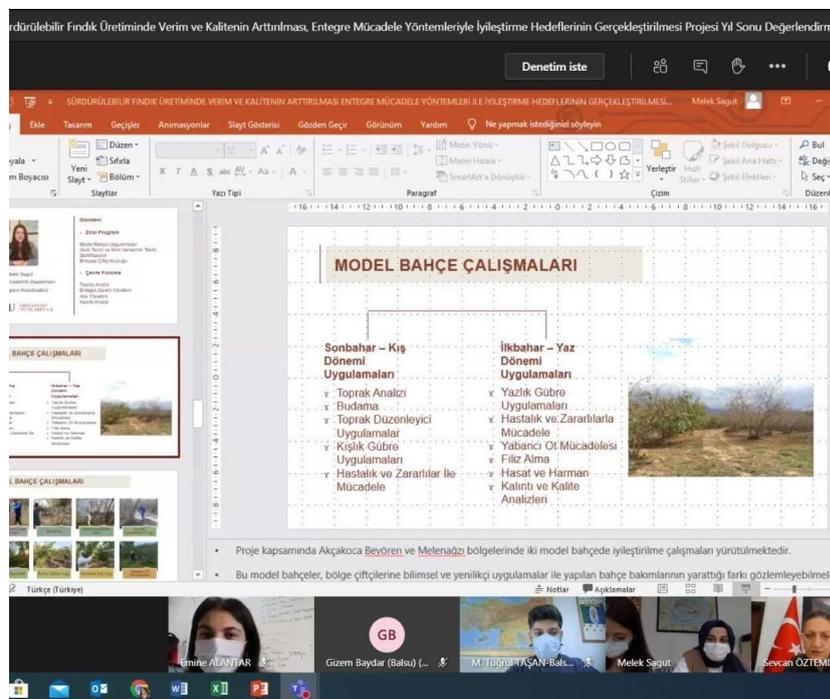
OCAK 2021

Snowfall levels were up in most of the hazelnut growing regions of the Black Sea during the month of January. In recent years, snow cover and snow water which are very important for good tree growth and the production of high-quality hazelnuts has dropped due to global warming. Rainfall amount had also decreased and hazelnuts could not meet the chilling requirement based on the climate data. Chilling is required to ensure fruitfulness and reliable hazelnut crop. Also, increasing temperatures could mean early flowering which could lead to early spring frost risk with temperature below -8 degrees and humidity level above 85 percent.

Farmers were informed that they could strengthen their gardens with applications such as winter fertilizer and Bordeaux mix against the risk of frost, and that they could use “fogging method” by closely monitoring product development and temperatures especially during the nights. After the snow melts, the farmers were advised to revisit their gardens, provide information about the current development status and contact our team in order to plan future applications.



Increasing Crop and Quality & Agro-Environmental Project: 2019 – 2021



An online internal evaluation meeting was held within the scope of the "Increasing Crop and Quality in Sustainable Hazelnut Production by Disseminating IPM Techniques" project that has been ongoing since 2019 in cooperation with the Istanbul Exporters' Association, Balsu and Düzce University Faculty of Agriculture.

During the meeting which was led by the Dean of Düzce University Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Sevcan Öztemiz, annual agricultural and social good practices, climate data in relation to the hazelnut development, status of pests and diseases and smart agricultural practices were evaluated. It was decided to organize an online project conference with a wider participation in the Spring period.

Suppliers are Visited

Balsu's supplier visits continued throughout January in order to update our certified farmer groups and traceability requirements. Responsible sourcing standards were shared with the suppliers in line with our sustainable and certified hazelnut production target in 2021.

Update on the Harvesting the Future Project's “Origin” Activities

The FLA team shared the latest information about labour intermediary training and registration efforts. Due to the ongoing pandemic conditions, a new approach was developed for the labour intermediary training. A community-based and remotely managed information sharing and registration pilot was designed. Accordingly, the facilitators selected from seasonal agricultural workers and intermediary communities will contact the intermediaries mapped during 2020 Harvest data collection activities, providing them information about the relevant legislation and assisting their registration with İŞKUR (Turkish Employment Agency).

The activities will be carried out in 3 main regions until the end of February:

- o Şanlıurfa – Diyarbakır: 20 Labour Contactors
- o Mardin – Şırnak: 20 Labour Contactors
- o Manisa - Balıkesir: 10 Labour Contactors

Balsu aims to participate in the Harvesting the Future project with 10 labour contractors mapped in 2020.

