

BALSU SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



Mid-Term Impact of Climate Change on Hazelnut Yield

The second meeting of the "Climate Change Hazelnut Working Group" with the organization of Rainforest Alliance Turkey was held under the moderation of Bogaziçi University.

According to the statistical approach that has been applied with the climate inputs obtained from the regional climate model scenario for the 30-year future period covering 2021 to 2050; climate change is more likely to affect the hazelnut yield and the eastern black sea having a significant portion of total hazelnut production, is projected to be the region most affected by the decrease.



Accordingly, yield may decrease in 42 of the 88 selected locations. Of the 42 locations foreseen to decrease, 26 are located in the eastern Black Sea sub-region.

Throughout the study, in addition to the temperature and precipitation data; duration of sunshine, relative humidity and soil condition were examined as the influential variables on hazelnut yield.

Read full report: <https://www.mdpi.com/711364>



Regenerative organic farming methods

Since 2019, we have been practicing regenerative organic hazelnut farming methods in our model gardens.

Chemical fertilizers and pesticides applied unconsciously every year without implementing basic steps of "integrated pest management" damage soil health and pose a risk for the healthy development of hazelnuts.



As we believe the healthy soil is the foundation of the good agricultural practices our focus is on increasing the organic matter in the soil and restoring missing nutrition based on the soil analysis results.

In order for the soil to be considered a living, healthy and fertile soil, the organic matter ratio should not be less than 3%. Unfortunately, 98% of our country's soil has organic matter content of less than 3%.

Labour Intermediary Certificates

Labour contractor "Dayıbaşı", who fulfill the task of finding jobs and workers in agriculture, have obligations such as arranging contracts between workers and farmers, reporting the activities carried out to governmental employment agencies, and improving the working and living conditions of the workers. As Balsu, in order to form the basis of registered employment; Since 2017, we have been providing training, certification and registration support for labour contractors active in hazelnut agriculture for them to obtain "Labour intermediary certificate" as requested by law.



We continue to support labour contractors and workers also in 2021 by aligning our activities with the COVID-19 situation.

Sustainability Activities in 2021

As Balsu, we continue to bring together a training-oriented sustainable development strategy with hazelnut farmers, hazelnut workers and all relevant stakeholders.

Key points for sustainability in the supply chain; social and agricultural sustainability, traceability, occupational health and safety, agricultural professionalism, and environmental protection policies.

As of March, we started to form farmer groups in line with our sustainability targets of 2021.

Few of our projects:

- Integrated Pest Management
- Support and Grievance Channel
- Agricultural Stations
- Camera and Pheromone Traps
- Stakeholder Collaboration
- Safe Areas / Summer Schools
- Children Protection
- Improving Working Condition
- Improving Living Conditions
- Access to Clean Water and Hygiene
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Health Screenings
- First Aid Trainings
- Origin Activities
- Strong Woman, Strong Agriculture
- Labour Intermediary Certification
- Working Contracts

Balsu's sustainability activities are monitored and evaluated annually by third-party independent audit firms.