

### Renovation of Shelters

As Balsu, we carry out renovation works in the accommodation areas of seasonal migrant agricultural workers within the scope of the "Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project", which we carry out in cooperation with the Rainforest Alliance.

The buildings in Bakırlı and Karadiken neighborhoods of Ferizli district in Sakarya province, where 75 seasonal agricultural workers stay for 2 months each year, were identified, their needs were determined and improvement works were completed.



**JUNE 2022**

In the building located in Bakırlı district; roof collapse, moisture problem, missing and broken glass problems were resolved, electrical installations were repaired. In the Karadiken neighborhood, the toilet and bathroom were renovated and the interior plaster was resolved.

As Balsu, we have been working to improve the living and housing conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers since 2017. We observe that the improved condition of the accommodation areas of the workers who come to the region strengthens the relations between the garden owners and the workers.

It has been determined that groups of workers who live in better conditions are more productive during working hours. Improvements in living spaces also make significant contributions to the psychosocial and physical development of children who stay at shelters while their families working in the field.



**AUGUST 2022**

Within the scope of the Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project, which is targeted to be completed in 2024, renovation and improvement activities for accommodation areas will continue.

## Hazelnut Harvest in the Western and Eastern Black Sea Provinces

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers, accompanied by agricultural labor intermediaries called workerheads/dayıbaşı, from the Eastern and Southeastern Regions; immigrates to the Black Sea Region to work for an average of two months in the hazelnut harvest.

This year, as every year, we contacted agricultural labor intermediaries in our supply chain and received information about worker groups before the start of the harvest season. According to the results of more than 100 interviews we held this year, 15 percent of the workers in the Balsu supply chain stay in tents, while the remaining workers stay in outbuildings/workers' houses.

Agricultural labor intermediaries, who stated that they will start to come to the harvesting areas as of the first week of August, stated that the cost of transportation has increased significantly compared to previous years and that it is calculated that a worker must work for about 10 days only to cover the transportation cost.

Agricultural labor intermediaries frequently stated that bringing workers to the region would be a problem due to the serious increase in transportation costs, working hours and wage differences compared to local workers.

As Balsu, we have been working on registered employment in cooperation with the local authorities since 2018 within the scope of the agricultural labor contractor and worker support program.



We organize good social practices, occupational health and safety trainings and provide personal protective equipment support to workers, agricultural labor intermediaries and garden owners.

We update our program content, which we strengthen every year, according to the needs of the workers in line with the feedback received from the field.

As Balsu, we carry out remediation activities such as access to clean water, mobile WC and refurbishment in accommodation conditions etc. for worker groups to access decent living and working conditions.

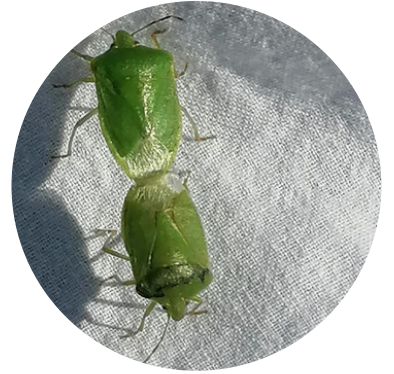
As part of the fight against child labour, we create summer schools or safe areas in partnership with Genç Hayat Foundation in order to support children right to education and raise awareness of child labor in hazelnut supply chain.



## Yield and Quality 2022

As we have emphasized in the previous months, the date of emergence of diseases and pests in hazelnuts was delayed by an average of 10 days in 2022 compared to the previous year. The increase in air temperature towards the end of April delayed the vegetation development in hazelnut. It has also been determined that fungal and bacterial diseases increase with the beginning of the vegetation process. This disease, which is seen especially in areas where there is air circulation and where the wind is in contact with more, is expected to have a negative effect on yield.

It has been determined that the damage of Green Skunk (Palemona prasina) and other sucking insects this year is more than in previous years. It is possible that the damage of these insects and the water stress caused by the excess temperature in July may cause the hazelnuts to fall. We receive feedback from the field about the increase of diseases such as Botrytis cinerea and bacterial blight and their effects on fruit quality. In addition, due to climate change in the last few years, the fact that male and female flowers reach reproductive maturity in hazelnuts at different times has adversely affected pollination and, accordingly, fertilization.



"The effect of all these factors on the yield estimates announced by the ministries, unions and chambers of agriculture should be taken into account."

## Ayvacic Chamber of Agriculture Spring Festival



As Balsu, we participated in the Ayvacik Traditional 8th Spring Festival organized by Ayvacik Local Action Group, Ayvacik Chamber of Agriculture and Ayvacik Municipality. At the festival where we opened a booth, we provided our farmers with the necessary information about sustainable hazelnut cultivation and provided motorized equipment for weed control in the gardens. We have also made a commitment to our farmers that we will always support them in their activities that will accelerate their transition to sustainable agriculture.

## Farmer Coaching

During the month of July, field observations and maintenance were made on issues such as pruning, fertilization, diseases and pests in hazelnut orchards. Damaged branches and stems were intervened on-site and farmers are supported.

As diseases and pests, green skunk (*Palemona prasina*), American white butterfly (*Hyphantria cunea*) and powdery mildew disease were followed up, and technical support was provided to the farmers regarding their applications.

Sticky pheromone traps have been hung at the designated points for brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) and they are regularly monitored.

An increase in the population of the American white butterfly is expected, especially in the coastal areas of the Western Black Sea this year, and the measures that can be taken in this context are conveyed to our farmers through our social media accounts and garden visits.



In addition, leaf samples were taken from the gardens of our farmers during this period, and it was aimed to apply a feeding program according to the nutritional values of the plant in order to prepare the hazelnut for the next season.

While evaluating the hazelnut's social, economic and environmental impacts during the field visits, the importance of determining the harvest dates and harvesting method correctly and paying due attention to the post-harvest threshing were emphasized.