

Good Agricultural Practices in Hazelnut Production

As Balsu, we carry out group certification of good agricultural practices in hazelnut in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Since 2016, the first year it was implemented, we have been bringing farmers together with the certificate of good agricultural practices, which has monitoring and improvement targets in important areas such as product quality, environmental management standards, and the health of farmers and workers.

As of this month, approximately 500 of our farmers located in 5 provinces, 27 districts and 145 villages have been entitled to receive good agricultural practices certificates.



Discussion Panel for "Citrus long-horned beetle"

A panel for Citrus long-horned beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*) was held at Sakarya University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, within the scope of "177th Anniversary Events of Agricultural Education". In the panel, the biology of the Citrus long-horned beetle, its life cycle, its damages, how to control it and the activities carried out in Türkiye on the pest were presented.



When the pest is detected in Türkiye, the quarantine process is initiated. The pest has been detected in the provinces of Trabzon, Antalya, Rize, Diyarbakir and Sakarya throughout the country. In 3 districts of Sakarya province, approximately 60 hectares of contaminated land were detected and approximately 25 hectares of land were eradicated.

Sakarya University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Panel for 177th Anniversary Events of Agricultural Education:

You can access it from the link below
<https://ziraat.subu.edu.tr/tr/node/554>

Visit to Hazelnut Research Institutes

High temperatures, lack of rainfall and cooling requirement create stress in the hazelnut. This situation makes it difficult to dissolve soil conditioner and plant nutrients applied in autumn and winter. At the same time, the maturation period of the catkins, female flower (carnation) and time of bud (leaf) burst could be earlier.



Research Institutes affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry working directly in the field of hazelnuts' ecosystem health improvement, climate change mitigation were visited. The measures taken by the ministry due to the physiological, biological and chemical changes to be experienced in hazelnut with the effect of changing climatic conditions and drought, R&D and improvement projects were discussed.

As Balsu, we have been following and recording the climatic data and the phenological development of the hazelnut since 2018. According to the common opinion of the experts in the field visits, farmer interviews and institution visits regarding the 2023 crop, there is an "earliness" period of 15-20 days in hazelnut compared to the previous year.



Balsu also encourages and supports farmers for making agricultural insurance in their gardens. We support research and field trials on the determination of the most suitable pollinator variety and artificial pollination when necessary, in cooperation with Sakarya University of Applied Sciences.

With our system developed in cooperation with Agrotics, farmers can record the applications in their gardens and will be able to examine the conditions such as plant nutrients, transpiration, carbon emissions, drought in their gardens. In case of any climatic risk and pest/disease emergence, farmers will be able to benefit from the early warning systems.



“Sustainable Hazelnut Villages” Project in the Provinces of Origin

Within the scope of the "Sustainable Hazelnut Villages" project funded by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and carried out in cooperation with Rainforest Alliance and Balsu, we visited the provinces of origin where workers migrate for harvesting of the hazelnuts as well as other agricultural products.

With the participation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Rainforest Alliance, Young Lives Foundation and Balsu, directorates of employment agencies and national education, social security institution and a school in the region, governorships, district governorships, seasonal migrant agricultural workers and agricultural business intermediaries were visited in the provinces of Mardin and Diyarbakır.



In these visits, the presentation of the Sustainable Hazelnut Villages project, the works carried out in its first year and the work plan to be carried out in the provinces of origin were mentioned. Talks were held with the representatives of the public and institutions visited on the problems in the seasonal migrant agricultural labor cycle. Our next visit within the scope of the project will be held next month for the certification of agricultural business intermediaries.

Children monitoring within the scope of the In a Nutshell Project

Children protection activities continue in the provinces of origin during the winter period.

In the 2022 harvest period, 505 of 2704 children who were directed to safe areas within the scope of the “In a Nutshell” project are monitored for their formal education attendance.

The basis of monitoring activities is to follow up the schools in order to continue their formal education, and to direct them to the relevant services of public institutions according to their needs.

Interviews were held with a total of 202 schools from the provinces of Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Mardin, Şırnak and Mersin. Monitoring of children whose harvest period is detected will continue until the end of May. Thus, the attendance status of the children determined throughout the year will be monitored.

