

Hazelnut Production: Agricultural Frost Risk and Precautions Taken

In hazelnut cultivation, spring frosts pose a risk when the buds start to swell and the leaves begin to burst. However, in recent years, with the effects of climate change, this risk has increased even more with situations such as early bud burst. This year, we are closely monitoring meteorological changes, as hazelnut development is occurring 15-20 days earlier than last year due to such changes.

According to the maps prepared by the General Directorate of Meteorology of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, snowfall and frost danger are predicted in the last week of March in the Eastern and Western Black Sea regions, as well as the inner parts of Turkey.



The following precautions have been taken by our sustainability team against these risks:

- To serve as an example for farmers in the long and medium term, agricultural insurance has been provided for model gardens, and awareness-raising training has been organized for farmers on this issue.
- According to the low estimated temperatures on the maps and hazelnut phenology, informative SMS about the effects of frost and the measures that can be taken to avoid exposure to these effects were shared with the farmers in the regions with high frost risk.
- Instant temperature monitoring has been carried out with meteorological stations and specific systems.



In the future, our experts will conduct studies to determine the impact of damage in areas where frost damage is suspected based on temperature measurements. Plant nutrition practices that reduce the impact of stress on plants will be recommended to farmers. This way, we will have taken important steps to combat agricultural frost risk and ensure the sustainability of hazelnut production.

Farmer trainings for 2023 have commenced in the West and East Black Sea regions since March



These trainings aim to promote sustainable hazelnut cultivation and cover topics related to the agricultural environment, social responsibility, and traceability. To ensure that our farmers stay up-to-date, we update our training modules every semester and share them with those registered in our sustainable agriculture program. Our trainings will run until the end of May as per our planned schedule with stakeholders in the production regions.

International Labor Organization (ILO) - Private Sector Capacity Building Training

ILO's Capacity Building Training took place in two sessions on March 27th and 29th. The training focused on seasonal migrant agriculture and child labor, starting with an examination of the concepts, data, and legal frameworks related to child labor.

During the training, the living and working conditions of seasonal migrant agriculture and child labor were discussed. Legal requirements and stakeholder responsibilities were thoroughly covered and debated. The participation and knowledge-sharing of different companies kept the training effective.

Faaliyetler	Sorumluluk
Mevsimlik gezici tarımda çalışan ailelerin çocuklarının gelişimine katkı sağlayacak düzenli ve süreklili sosyal hizmet faaliyetleri	Sosyal çalışmacılar, sosyal çalışma görevlileri
Çocuklar ve ailelerinin ihtiyaç duydukları kamu hizmetlerine erişimlerinin sağlanması	Çocuk İşçiliği Mücadele Birimleri
Okul aile işbirliğinin sağlanması için veli toplantıları ve ev ziyaretleri düzenlenmesi	Sınıf öğretmeni, rehberlik öğretmeni ve idareciden oluşan komisyon
Okula erişim ve devamı sağlamak için kurulan «Takip Ekiplerinin» ailelerle teması	İdareci, öğretmen ve rehber öğretmenlerden oluşan «Takip Ekipleri»
Ailelerle temas için ev-çadır ziyaretleri dahil olmak üzere alternatif yöntemler oluşturulması	Okul yöneticileri

Mechanisms for preventing child labor in seasonal migrant agriculture were shared under the title of policy development and coordination, including implementation, monitoring, and evaluation units. Integration levels of public policies were also discussed.

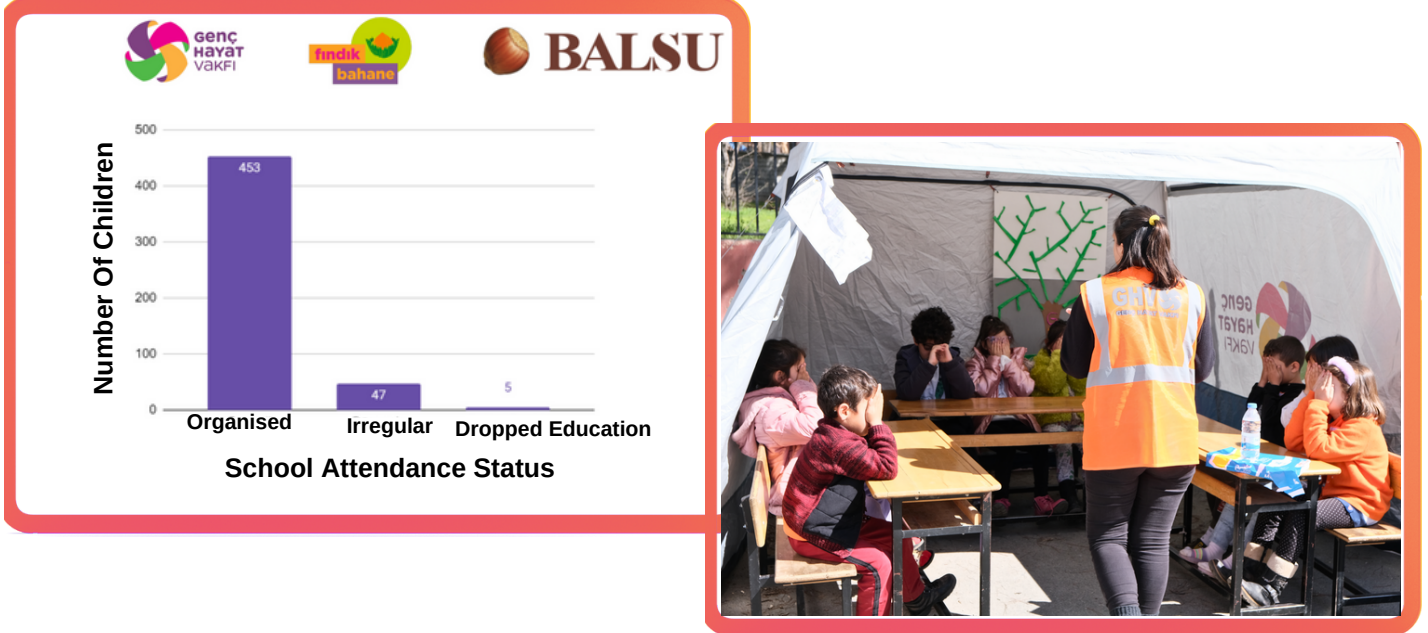
Finally, communication and intervention methods with children and families at risk of or currently working in seasonal migrant agriculture were discussed and evaluated through case studies.

Monitoring Workers in Origin Areas After the Earthquake

After the devastating earthquakes that deeply affected our country and caused thousands of citizens to lose their lives on February 6, monitoring activities were carried out to learn about the situation of seasonal migrant workers, their families, children, and agricultural vehicles involved in Balsu supply chain.

Within the scope of the "In a Nutshell Project" meetings were held to follow up on the status of 505 children after the earthquake. During these meetings, information about the children's education status, whether their homes were affected by the earthquake, their accommodation conditions, and migration plans for the next hazelnut harvest season were obtained.

In addition, Young Lives Foundation continues its psychosocial support activities within the scope of entertaining, instructive and hygiene trainings to support the well-being of children.



According to the monitoring results;

- Most seasonal migrant worker families live in Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Şırnak, Mersin, and Mardin provinces.
- More than half of the 505 children and their families were not affected by the earthquake, while the rest had varying degrees of damage to their homes.
- The majority of the children stayed in their homes, while others stayed with relatives, in tents, or moved to different houses.
- 1% of children left school, approximately 10% attended irregularly, and the others continued their education regularly.
- It was learned that the families will go to Sakarya, Düzce, Ordu, and Giresun provinces as seasonal migrant workers during the hazelnut harvest season.

Balsu has carried out monitoring activities within the scope of the "Sustainable Hazelnut Villages" Project

Distribution of 80 Children

The monitoring activity, which started in February, will continue until the harvest and 80 children will be monitored.

Following the interviews conducted in February after the earthquake, it was determined that 11 families' homes were severely damaged, and 5 families continued to stay in their damaged homes. Seven families' homes were slightly damaged, and all of them continued to stay in their homes. Three families stayed with their relatives or in village houses, two families stayed in tents, and one family stayed in an empty space such as a mosque/warehouse without a specific location. Additionally, school and class information was obtained from all parents interviewed.

During the second interview with the group after the earthquake in February, it was determined that three children did not want to go to school due to their fear of earthquakes and were absent. The family staying in the warehouse and two families moved to a new home, while it was found that 56 children stayed in their own homes with their families.



As a result, it was noticed that the priority of the need for safe accommodation for groups of workers in earthquake-affected areas could be addressed by monitoring the families, children, and agricultural intermediaries that are part of the Balsu supply chain. It was learned that there was damage not only in the accommodation areas but also in the schools. Children who were negatively affected by the earthquake psychosocially did not want to go to school due to their fear and the damage that occurred in schools. Furthermore, it can be said that families and children who are economically disadvantaged became more disadvantaged due to the earthquake.

