



In collaboration with the Young Lives Foundation, BALSU has completed its winter activities for the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

BALSU collaborated with the Young Lives Foundation to track and support the education process of 505 children from seasonal migrant agricultural worker families. As part of the monitoring and tracking activities, BALSU provided scholarship support to 30 out of the 505 children, and ensured that 44 children were able to continue their education in the provinces where they reside.

The program implemented by the Young Lives Foundation involved five mentors who provided supervision with the assistance of psychologists. They conducted three online meetings with the children at regular intervals. The mentors supported the children on topics such as time management and exam anxiety while also sharing their own professional and personal experiences. [In honor of the World Day Against Child Labour on June 12th, the students' letters were published as part of these activities.](#)

With the start of school holidays, seasonal migrant agricultural worker families have started migrating to the harvest regions. BALSU and the Young Lives Foundation have begun organizing educational activities during the summer months in harvest regions such as Ordu, Giresun, Samsun, Düzce, and Sakarya to ensure that children are not engaged in labor.

We are determined to continue working diligently to ensure the safety, education, and development of our children through the completion of these important efforts.





"Occupational Health and Safety Training Program in Agriculture within the "Harvesting the Future Project"

We recently participated in the "Occupational Health and Safety Training Program in Agriculture" organized by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) within the ['Harvesting the Future Project'](#).

On May 30, 2023, our team actively engaged in a comprehensive training program that focused on international standards, including the norms established by the International Labour Organization and the European Union Workplace Assessment Directive. Furthermore, the training covered Turkey's legal regulations relevant to occupational health and safety in agriculture.

The program explored various critical topics, such as companies' responsibilities, risk factors prevalent in the agricultural sector, statistical analysis of work accidents and occupational diseases, and identifying areas of concern. Moreover, special attention was given to the precautions necessary for the safety of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and other vulnerable groups.

This training has allowed us to update our knowledge and gain a better understanding of international standards and local legal requirements. Armed with this newfound expertise, we are dedicated to creating safe working environments within our facilities and ensuring the well-being of our valued employees.

Sustainability and Social Awareness Increasing with Good Agricultural Practices in Hazelnut Cultivation

The ['Agriculture for Our Future, Good Agriculture for the Future of Hazelnuts Project'](#), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, aims to promote good agricultural practices in hazelnut cultivation in Karakavuz and Bařoren villages in Ereęli, Zonguldak province.

As part of this exciting project, the Ereęli District Agriculture and Forestry Directorate provided support to the activities organized at Kızılca Middle School.



The events were carried out with great enthusiasm, and 100 children participated in the activities. Information was provided on Sustainable Hazelnut Farming and its relation to the environment, addressing topics such as climate change, biodiversity, and zero waste. Moreover, awareness was raised on child rights and child labor issues. [To mark the 'World Day Against Child Labor' on June 12, a banner painting event was held in the schoolyard, advocating the message.](#)

As part of the project, agricultural training sessions were provided to 40 female hazelnut farmers. The sessions covered topics such as new hazelnut planting, good agricultural practices, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. Interactive question-and-answer sessions were conducted, addressing working conditions, child labor, occupational safety, financial literacy, and social projects. At the end of the training, participants received certificates of participation and practical gifts for their gardens.

Our project supports an approach that emphasizes agricultural sustainability and eradicating child labor. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey and the Ereğli District Agriculture and Forestry Directorate for their invaluable support and contributions to the successful implementation of this project.

We will continue to initiate and participate in many more projects and activities to protect our future and ensure the sustainability of agriculture.





The Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project held its first committee meeting in 2023

We have entered the second year of the '[Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project](#)', which is carried out in collaboration with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and Rainforest Alliance. In this context, the new phase of the project was initiated with the fourth [Working Group Meeting](#) held on June 20, 2023, in the Ferizli district of Sakarya.

The meeting was attended by Ferizli District Governor Hasan Balcı, 12 local government representatives, village headmen, and the Young Lives Foundation. General information about the project was provided and the results achieved in the first year were shared during the meeting. The main objective was to determine the activities to be carried out in the second year, develop a common solution proposal to find solutions to the problems, and exchange ideas to ensure the continuity of the local committee in the region.

During the meeting, opening summer schools within the scope of child protection and improving the living and working conditions of seasonal mobile agricultural workers were discussed. Risk assessment was conducted among the participants, and decisions were made such as organizing informative meetings for agricultural intermediaries before the harvest season, transferring the duties and responsibilities of agricultural intermediaries to the parties with the participation of local units supported by the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), and creating a joint investment plan to improve the accommodation areas of seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

The new phase of the Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project has started with this important meeting. Our project aims to promote sustainable farming practices among hazelnut producers in collaboration with RVO and to increase social awareness. We would like to express our thanks to all stakeholders who participated in the committee meeting, and we would like to emphasize our determination to continue our efforts for the successful continuation of the project.





Sustainable Hazelnut Development: Our Thorough Approach and Activities

As of June, low temperatures have caused the shedding of husks on hazelnut trees, and excessive rainfall has increased the moisture level, posing a higher risk of blight disease. Therefore, in July, we will carry out foliar fertilization, plant growth regulators, and fungicide applications to ensure the full development of husks.

In our model gardens, which are part of the projects conducted in collaboration with our farmers, we conduct soil and leaf analyses to determine the appropriate fertilizers for hazelnuts. Our expert teams select and apply foliar fertilization based on the results of these analyses.

In June, we continue our efforts to prevent the spread of diseases and pests through weed control. In our model orchards, we utilize pheromone traps for integrated pest management, enabling us to detect harmful species and monitor their population in relation to the economic damage threshold. For pests that cannot be controlled using pheromone traps, we closely monitor their numbers to assess the situation. During our training sessions, we emphasize the importance of integrated pest management methods as they are the cleanest and most sustainable options, minimizing the use of insecticides. By implementing these measures, we aim to promote the sustainable development of hazelnuts while ensuring the health and productivity of hazelnut trees.

