The Young Lives Foundation and Balsu conducted Institution Visits within the Scope of the 'In a Nutshell'23 Project

The 'In a Nutshell'23 Project, conducted in collaboration between the Young Lives Foundation and Balsu, aims to identify children participating in the seasonal migrant agricultural labor cycle and at risk of working during the hazelnut harvest. The project aims to keep these children away from hazelnut harvesting and involve them in educational activities. As part of the project, educational content will be delivered to children through on-site training sessions held in schools and safe areas.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the Balsu team, discussions were held with public institutions. The meetings were conducted meticulously in the provinces of Sakarya and Düzce. Throughout this process, Governorates, District Governorates, Provincial and District Directorates of National Education, and Provincial Directorate of the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) were thoroughly informed about the plans and objectives of the activities.

The visit of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security team to the Balsu factory was carried out to support and contribute to the project efforts. Within the scope of this visit, the progress of the project and the measures taken for children's education were discussed in detail.

Fair Labor

Adil Yaşam Ücreti & Gelir Eğitimi
Geleceği Hasat Etmek Projesi

Promoting Fair Life and Living Wage Training in Agriculture

The "Harvesting the Future Project," undertaken with the aim of improving the working conditions of seasonal migrant labor in Turkey's agricultural sector, takes a significant step under the leadership of the Fair Labor Association (FLA).

As part of the project, a training program titled "Fair Life and Living Wage in Agriculture" has been initiated.

Within the scope of this training, fundamental concepts related to Living Wage were thoroughly addressed. Additionally, tools for collecting data on how these concepts can be implemented in the field were introduced to participants. These trainings aim to enhance the living conditions of agricultural workers and enable them to earn fair wages.

To learn more about the project and to explore the educational content in detail, you can refer to the following links:

Harvesting the Future Project Details

Fair Life and Living Wage Training Guide in Agriculture

Ensuring fair working conditions in the agricultural sector, protecting workers' rights, and ensuring a sustainable future are greatly important, highlighting the significance of such educational programs. As Balsu, a stakeholder in the Harvesting the Future Project, we are playing a signif icant role in line with these objectives.

Balsu Sustainable Agriculture Program Trainings Successfully Completed

Balsu is enhancing agricultural awareness and promoting efficiency through theoretical and hands-on training programs designed for farmers.

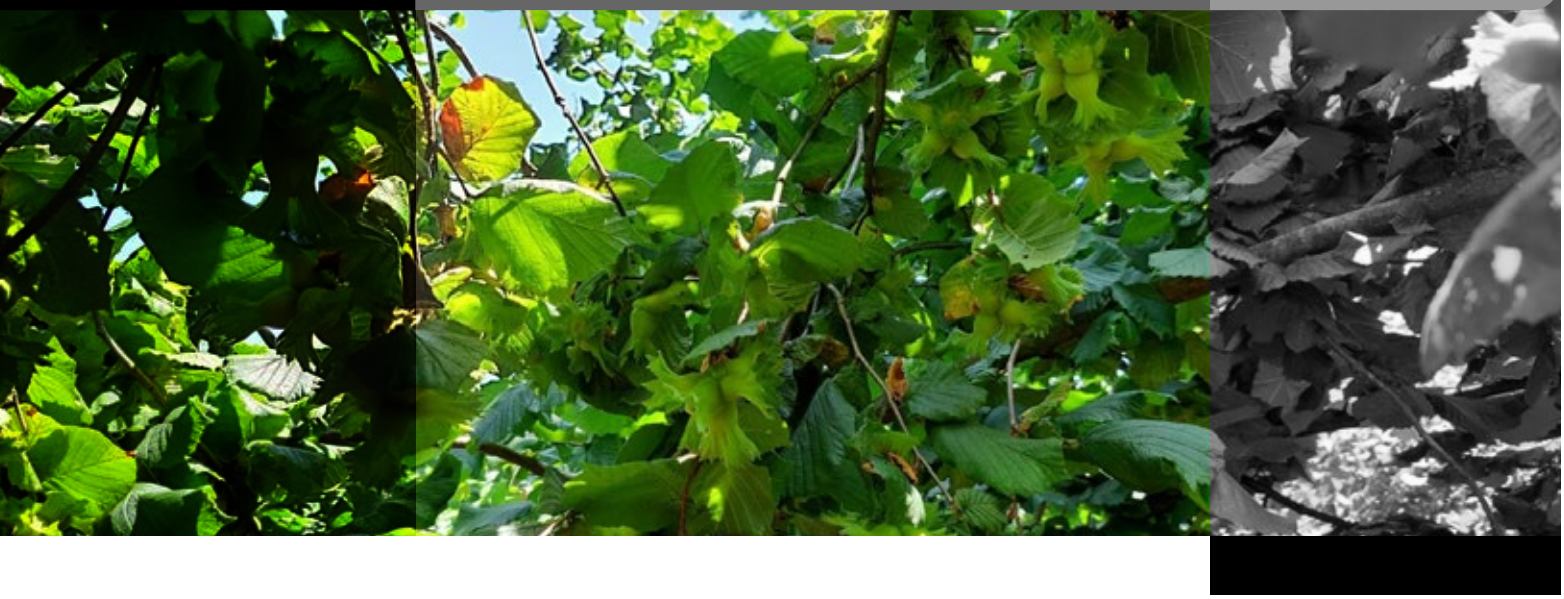
Here are the highlights

Training Periods:

Pre-Harvest Trainings (Integrated pest management practices and proper harvest management in hazelnuts)

Post-Harvest Trainings (Practical pruning management, soil analysis sample collection, and husk compost activities)

Training Contents:	Training Distribution:		Post-Training Gifts:
Traceability and Certification Agricultural Environmental Practices Good Social Practices Occupational Health and Safety Total Participant: 2200 farmers 2022 Post-Harvest: 963 farmers 2023 Pre-Harvest: 1237 farmers	**Fall 2022:** Eastern Black Sea Region (Samsun, Ordu, Giresun): Districts: 11 Villages: 27 Total Participation: 375 farmers Western Black Sea Region (Bursa, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Düzce, Zonguldak, Bartın): Districts: 14 Villages: 22 Total Participation: 588 farmers	**Spring 2023:** Eastern Black Sea Region: Districts: 11 Villages: 19 Total Participation: 302 farmers Western Black Sea Region: Districts: 13 Villages: 27 Total Participation: 935 farmers	Hazelnut Cultivation Documents Personal Protective Equipment Pruning Shears Through its provided training, Balsu is laying the foundation for sustainable agriculture, aiming to leave a stronger agricultural sector for the future.



Climate Change Leaves its Mark on Hazelnut Harvest

During the 2023 season, hazelnut cultivation has been affected by natural disasters and the wide-spread impacts of global climate change. Despite its impressive ability to adapt, demonstrated through various types, extensive cultivation areas, and resilience to changing climate conditions, this year's expected yield has subtly decreased in comparison to the previous year's harvest.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's pronouncements underscore this shift, with the 2022 yield projection having stood at an impressive 765,287 tons.

However, the current year's anticipated harvest is projected to reach a level of 717,931 tons.

The hazelnut sector had to cope with several adverse conditions during the 2023 season. These challenges include:

Impact of Drought: Dry weather conditions in September, October, and November coincided with the hazelnut pollination and fertilization season. This situation triggered discrepancies in the formation of generative organs in hazelnuts and during fertilization.

Altitude Losses: Late spring frosts in late March in regions at altitudes of 600 - 700 meters adversely affected the formation of hazelnut catkins and resulted in losses in these areas.

Excessive Rainfall and Flood Disasters: Excessive rainfall and flooding occurred in some regions during the season. These heavy rains, leading to floods and landslides, adversely affected production. Particularly, the floods in Bartın and the floods and landslides in Sakarya, Hendek deeply affected the sector.

Temperature Fluctuations: Sudden and extreme temperature fluctuations in July caused sunburns depending on garden orientation, nutritional status, and soil depth.

Diseases and Weather Conditions: Generally rainy and cool weather conditions positively affected pest populations, while diseases like powdery mildew, bacterial blight, and gray mold were negatively impacted by these conditions, hindering their spread.

Challenges in Orchard Management: Due to challenging weather conditions, farmers faced difficulties in carrying out orchard maintenance practices, affecting production efficiency.

Moreover, the observed autumn earliness in phenological development indicates a harvest delay of 10-15 days compared to the previous year starting from spring. In this context, experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have announced the recommended harvest start dates, varying by altitude, within the range of August 12-26.