



Balsu Provides Support to Hazelnut Farmers with Agricultural Training

Post-harvest operations carried out in the fall season carry great importance as they directly affect the hazelnut crop of the following year. To this end, Balsu provides important support to farmers by providing training on important topics such as pruning techniques, soil analysis and compost fertilizer preparation.

In this context, detailed information was provided to all farmers, especially on the production of [compost fertilizer from hazelnut husks](#). In addition, soil sampling began towards the end of September. As a result of these analyses, fertilization programs are created to eliminate the identified nutrient deficiencies in the appropriate form and timing. The aim is to reduce the random use of fertilizers and thus reduce costs.

Pruning workshops in hazelnut farming hold strategic significance. Proper and informed pruning increases effectiveness in combating diseases and harmful organisms, ensuring the longevity of the trees. Therefore, teaching farmers these crucial techniques through pruning workshops is a critical step in enhancing the quality and productivity of hazelnut production. As Balsu, we continue to support hazelnut production by equipping farmers with agricultural knowledge and skills.





2023 Hazelnut Crop Assessment: Impact of Climate Change

In 2023, hazelnut farmers faced a more challenging season than previous years under the impact of climate change. The [negative effects of climate change on the hazelnut crop](#) were noticeable in many aspects, especially in terms of hazelnut quality and quantity. The 2023 crop was shaped by the negative impact of intense drought and high temperatures from October 2022 to February 2023 on hazelnut fertilization.

In June of the same year, sudden rains led to shedding during the period when hazelnut kernels were completing their filling. High temperatures in August 2023 hindered the internal filling of the hazelnuts, adversely affecting the harvesting process.

As a result, the hazelnut crop of 2023 proved to be a season that tested farmers' resilience against the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. We would like to emphasize that as Balsu, we have organized awareness-raising training sessions on climate change for hazelnut farmers, aiming to assist them in being more informed and prepared.





Data Analysis of the 2023 Harvest Season for Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers

Balsu provides information and guidance to all stakeholders in the supply chain, both before and after the harvest, regarding legal working hours, employment contracts, and the responsibilities of agricultural labor intermediaries under the scope of Good Social Practices.

[Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker trainings](#) took place in 6 provinces, 14 districts, and 34 neighborhoods. The trainings reached 118 worker groups and 2003 seasonal migrant agricultural workers. At the end of the trainings, all workers were provided with personal protective equipment and hygiene kits.

According to the survey results conducted with 147 voluntary workers during the training process, it was determined that 60% of seasonal migrant agricultural workers are female, while 40% are male. As for accommodation, 99 out of 118 worker groups stayed in workers' houses, 15 in tents and 4 in old school buildings. Additionally, it was observed that unlike the previous year, workers also came from Adana, Batman and Hatay provinces, in addition to Diyarbakır, Şırnak, Şanlıurfa, and Mardin provinces. During this process, 63 worker groups signed Seasonal Agricultural Work Contracts with farmers, and in collaboration with Provincial Directorate of Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), 26 agricultural labor intermediaries were certified.

According to the analysis of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker surveys conducted since 2017, the average working hours for the period of 2017-2021 were determined to be 10.5 hours. However, it has been observed that in 2022, the average working hours decreased to 10 hours, and in 2023, it further decreased to 9.5 hours.





2023 Hazelnut Harvest Event

In collaboration with Kocaali Municipality and Süngüt Village Council, Balsu organized a memorable volleyball match in Süngüt Village of Kocaali. Organized as a [2023 Hazelnut Harvest Event](#), the match between seasonal mobile agricultural workers and local youth was full of enthusiasm.

This friendship match brought together both seasonal migrant agricultural workers and the youth of the village. This event, filled with vibrant scenes, once again showcased the unifying power of sports. The match, attended by the Mayor of Kocaali, representatives from Balsu, and the Süngüt community, highlighted both competition and friendship.

After the friendship volleyball match in Süngüt Village, the Mayor of Kocaali thanked the seasonal mobile agricultural workers for their efforts. Emphasizing the critical importance of hazelnut agriculture for the region, he stated that the work in this field will continue to increase. He also thanked Balsu for their support to the workers and their support for the construction of the volleyball court. He expressed his hope that these valuable examples of collaboration will inspire other districts.

At the end of the match, all players were presented with medals to remember this special day. It is hoped that similar organizations will take place in the coming years.





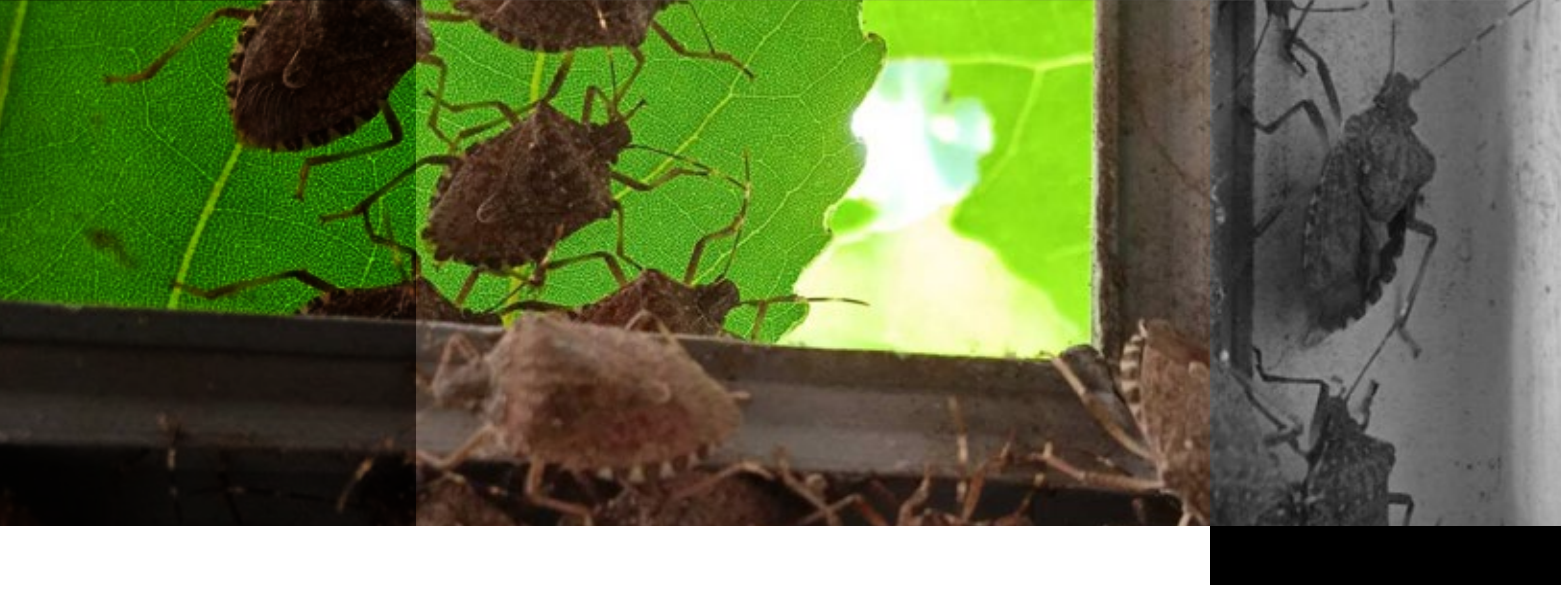
Activities Targeting Children Engaged in Seasonal Agriculture or Facing High Labor Risks in Collaboration with Balsu & Young Lives Foundation Took Place

Household Visits to Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker Families: Household Visits to Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker Families were Conducted Between August 7th and September 8th. Within the scope of these visits, which established the most intense communication with agricultural worker families, informative sessions were held on preventing [child labor](#). During the household visits, children aged 6-17 engaged in seasonal agriculture or at risk of labor were identified, and their participation in educational programs was facilitated. Additionally, dry food packages were distributed to the seasonal migrant agricultural worker families during the visits.

Educational Programs: In order to prevent children from going to the hazelnut farms and to keep them in a safe area, a total of 5 weeks of educational activities were conducted from August 7th to September 8th.

Sessions with Children; academic support, public education modules, introduction and group trust-building, coexistence with differences, algorithmic thinking, hygiene and self-care, support for psychological well-being, emotional awareness, self-worth, love, empathy, self-awareness, and hope sessions were organized.





Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Invasion Threatens Black Sea Region!

The brown marmorated stink bug is an invasive insect species that causes significant damage to hazelnut orchards, leading to harm to the crop. Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in the population of brown marmorated stink bugs in the Black Sea region, especially in the provinces of Ordu, Düzce and Sakarya. This situation could adversely affect hazelnut production in the upcoming period.

Biological **control methods** are also being employed to manage the invasion of brown marmorated stink bugs. It is crucial for agricultural authorities to guide farmers in this battle and provide the necessary support. A determined effort and collaboration are essential for effectively bringing the population under control.

Various **informative meetings** have been organized with the aim of raising awareness among farmers for a more effective fight against the brown marmorated stink bug invasion. These activities hold great significance for hazelnut farmers. It is time to act together to eliminate this threat.

