



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Awareness Raising and Collaboration Meetings

Awareness efforts regarding the brown marmorated stink bug are ongoing!

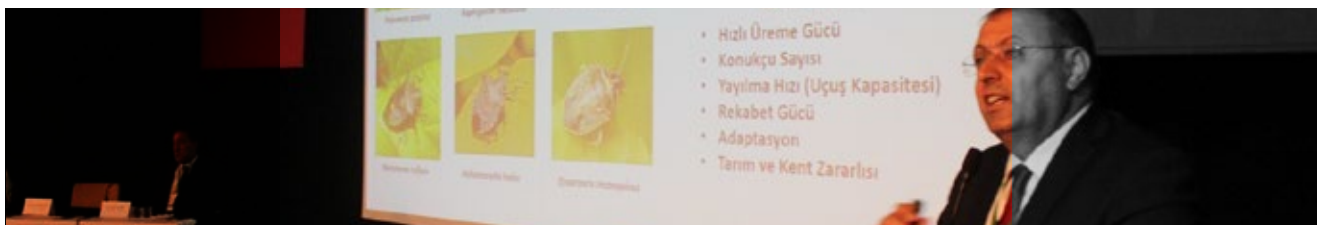
The "Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Panel," organized by the [Düzce Provincial Directorate of Agriculture](#) and Forestry with the support of the Istanbul Exporters' Association and Balsu, took place. The meeting addressed awareness and collaboration activities concerning the brown marmorated stink bug, which poses a significant threat to the hazelnut sector.

The panel was attended by the Governor of Düzce, the General Director of Food and Control, the Provincial Director of Agriculture and Forestry for Düzce, officials from Agricultural Provincial Directorates, university faculty members, the Istanbul Hazelnut Exporters' Association, private sector representatives, non-governmental organizations, and hazelnut farmers.

Dr. Kibar Ak from Ondokuz Mayıs University provided technical information about the brown marmorated stink bug and discussed methods of combating it. Additionally, the Provincial Agriculture Directorates shared their efforts in combating the brown marmorated stink bug during the panel.

As part of his visit to Western Black Sea region districts, Dr. Kibar Ak participated in informative meetings organized by Balsu for registered farmers in the sustainable agriculture program. These meetings included discussions on techniques for combatting the invasive pest.

The battle against the brown marmorated stink bug is of paramount importance to the hazelnut sector's future. Balsu continues to collaborate to find effective solutions to address this critical issue.





Gender Equality and Health Awareness Training

Gender Equality Training

As Balsu, in collaboration with the "Yanımdayız Derneği" and within the framework of the [COS \(H&M\) Social Contribution Project](#), we organized a training for our employees at [our Ordu factory](#). The training aimed to increase awareness about gender equality, gender-based violence, and harassment, and to reduce harassment and violence against women.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Event

The 1st to 31st of October, designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month by the World Health Organization, was celebrated through an informative event in collaboration between [Balsu and the Provincial Health Directorate](#). The event, held for female employees at our Hendek and Ordu factories, aimed to emphasize the importance of early detection in breast cancer and increase awareness, ultimately contributing to raising public health awareness and enhancing cancer awareness.





October 15 World Women Farmers Day Celebration

At Balsu, we celebrate [October 15 International Day of Rural Women](#), appreciating the significant contributions of women farmers and working towards sustainable agriculture. We extend our thanks to all women farmers!

Ereğli District Good Agricultural Practices Project

The "[Agriculture for Our Future, Good Agriculture for the Future of Hazelnuts](#)" project, carried out in collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Balsu, continues in the Ereğli district.

As part of the project, a technical tour began with the visit of farmers to Balsu's factory, followed by informative sessions on hazelnut post-harvest practices. The event was attended by farmers from Ferizli and Ereğli districts, as well as agricultural engineers from Sakarya Province, the Director of Ferizli District Agriculture, and the Director of Ereğli District Agriculture.

Dr. Şemsettin Kulaç, Director of the Hazelnut Research Center at Düzce University (DÜFAM), provided practical insights into hazelnut pruning techniques for the farmers. This collaboration sets a significant example for the sustainability and quality improvement of the agricultural sector.





Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project Working Group Meeting Held

The second working group meeting of the Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project, carried out in collaboration with the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy's Enterprise Agency (RVO), Rainforest Alliance, Young Lives Foundation, and Balsu, [took place in Ferizli, Sakarya, in 2023](#). The project underscored its accomplishments in social initiatives, training, and enhancements in worker accommodations during the 2023 hazelnut harvesting season, with a focus on safeguarding children. Following the meeting, the region's risk assessments were reviewed, with a strong commitment to the working group's continuation beyond the project's scope.





Balsu and the Young Lives Foundation participated in the National Strategic Workshop

Balsu and the Young Lives Foundation attended the National Strategic Workshop of Alliance 8.7, which aims to eliminate child labor within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.

In collaboration with the [Ministry of Labor and Social Security](#) and the International Labor Organization's Turkey Office, we contributed to policy recommendations on "Supply Chain Due Diligence" and "Preventing Child Labor" during the first phase of Türkiye's process to become a leading country.

We will continue our efforts to maintain a pioneering role in Türkiye's journey to become a leading country, working towards establishing a supply chain that respects human dignity.

