



## First Committee Meeting of the Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project in 2024

The first committee meeting of the third year of the '[Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project](#)', conducted in collaboration with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and Rainforest Alliance, took place on June 11, 2024, in Ferizli district, Sakarya. Discussions included opening a summer school for children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers during hazelnut harvesting and improving the living, working, and housing conditions of these workers. Risk assessments were conducted with participants, and field surveys were decided upon for needs analysis in the region. [The meeting was organized to outline project activities, develop solutions, and ensure the committee's continuity in the region.](#)





## June 12, World Day Against Child Labor Event



Balsu organized an event at Hendek Kazımiye Elementary and Middle School on **June 12th to mark World Day Against Child Labor**. The event focused on educating participants about child labor and emphasizing children's rights to education and a safe environment. Discussions also covered environmental awareness and climate change. We highlighted every child's right to education, play, and growing up in a secure environment. Examples from Balsu's pioneering environmental initiatives, such as detecting harmful organisms and producing compost from hazelnut husks, were presented to students.





# Harvesting the Future

## Phase II Remaining Activities

### Training of Trainers (ToTs) in Manisa and Istanbul

- Manisa Session (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2024) – 13 participants from sultana supplier companies
- Istanbul Session (29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2024) – 14 participants from hazelnut supplier companies

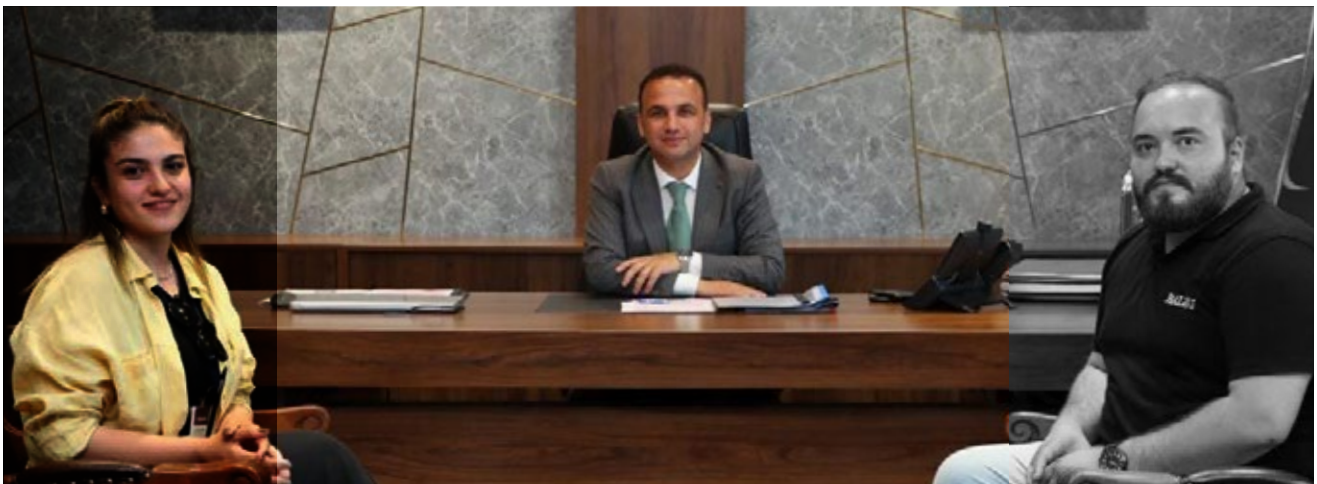


## Participation in the First Meeting of the Third Phase of the Harvesting the Future Project

We participated in the first meeting of the third phase of the [Harvesting the Future Project](#), led by the Fair Labor Association (FLA). As Balsu, we will continue to support the project by sharing our experiences in developing policies and procedures during the new phase. The project aims to enhance recruitment and employment practices for seasonal agricultural workers in Türkiye.

## Pre-Harvest Public Institution Visits in 2024

Balsu continues to strengthen its collaboration by conducting visits to public institutions and local authorities ahead of the 2024 hazelnut harvest. These visits focus on discussing current regulations regarding seasonal migrant agricultural workers and the responsibilities of local authorities, aiming to enhance activities specifically for families of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children. As an example, we have communicated our requests to relevant districts to ensure that the commission decisions to be issued before the harvest include comprehensive measures for employment registered within our supply chain and uphold dignified work practices in line with our ethical standards.





## Biological Fight Against Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Under the biological combat led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, [we participated in the Samurai Wasp release program conducted in Meşebükü village, affiliated with Fatsa district of Ordu](#), to combat the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. A total of 175,000 *Trisolcus Japonicus* (Samurai Wasps) were released into nature across 35 provinces nationwide. Our observations indicate that Samurai Wasps have effectively parasitized the eggs of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. Balsu is actively engaged in an effective combat against the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug concentrated in hazelnut production areas.

