



## Severe Losses Detected in Hazelnut Orchards Across the Black Sea Region

A sudden drop in temperatures in April 2025 [caused significant frost damage in many agricultural regions](#), particularly in the Black Sea area. In high-altitude hazelnut orchards, crop loss has reached up to 100%.

**Field inspections have revealed the following damage levels:**

- **Ordu:** 15% loss at 0–200 m, 35% at 200–400 m, and up to 75% above 400 m. Notably, 60% of Ordu’s hazelnut production takes place at these higher altitudes.
- **Giresun:** Damage reached up to 50% in areas above 400 m, which account for 25% of the province’s hazelnut production.
- **Samsun:** At altitudes over 400 m, losses of around 70% were recorded. These areas represent 15% of local production.
- **Western Black Sea (Sakarya–Düzce):** Damage of approximately 50% was reported in orchards located above 400 m, covering 15% of production in the region.

According to current assessments, **hazelnut-growing areas with a total production potential of approximately 270,000 tons have been affected by this event.** This development has critical implications not only for the 2025 harvest season but also for long-term agricultural planning. Producers with agricultural insurance have initiated official loss assessments through experts, while the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has started accepting support applications for uninsured farmers. Field teams have also been sharing guidance on agricultural practices to apply in affected orchards post-frost.

**The impact was not limited to hazelnuts:**

- **Central Anatolia:** Apples, pears, quinces, walnuts, cherries, and grapes
- **Mediterranean Region:** Watermelons, potatoes, citrus fruits, and various vegetables also suffered damage due to frost.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has described the event as “the most severe agricultural frost of the past decade.” At Balsu, we are in close communication with affected producers and continue to monitor the situation closely.



## **Balsu Launches Internal Audits and Completes Good Agricultural Practices Inspections**

As part of its corporate social responsibility framework, Balsu has initiated internal audit processes to monitor and enhance agricultural practices among its farmers.

In collaboration with local stakeholders across the Western and Eastern Black Sea regions, pre-harvest training and awareness activities were conducted to reduce environmental impact, strengthen social responsibility, and improve the living conditions of seasonal agricultural workers.

In parallel, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) inspections were completed in the Ferizli and Hendek districts of Sakarya, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The audits confirmed compliance with sustainable agriculture standards. The monitoring process will continue during harvest season with third-party independent audits.







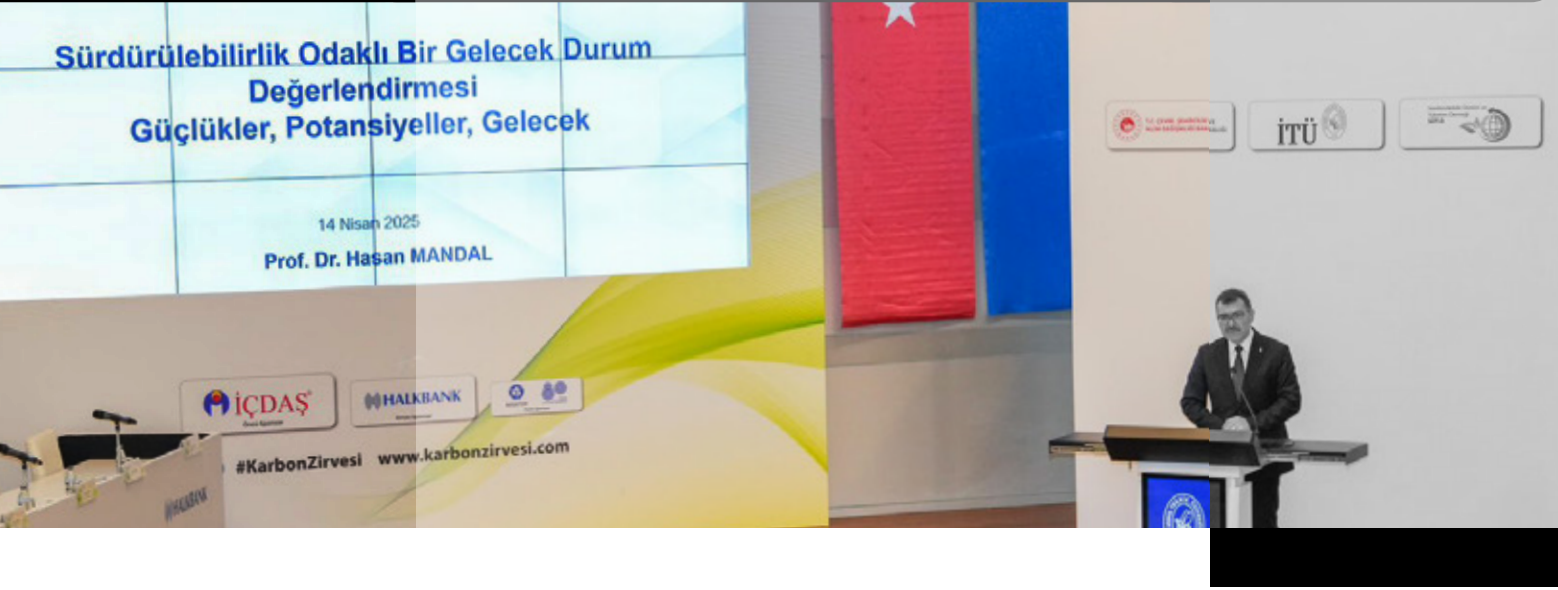
## Balsu Attends Meeting on Education Access for Children of Seasonal Agricultural Workers

Balsu participated in the meeting organized under the [Ministry of National Education's Circular No. 2024/52](#), focused on improving education access for children of seasonal agricultural workers.

The meeting addressed local support models and monitoring mechanisms to ensure continuity in education. Additionally, an information session for village heads was held at the Hendek Mukhtars -Village Head Association in collaboration with the Young Lives Foundation.

**We continue to engage with local stakeholders to ensure equal access to education for every child within our supply chain.**





## Balsu Joined the Carbon Summit

Balsu participated in the [10th Istanbul Carbon Summit](#), hosted by Istanbul Technical University, to closely follow discussions on sectoral transformation, emission reduction strategies, circular economy, and sustainability reporting. Key policy tools such as the Emissions Trading System (ETS), Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), and Türkiye Sustainability Reporting Standards (TSRS) were also covered during the event.

We attended the summit to learn firsthand about climate developments and be part of the ongoing dialogue.







## Young Lives Foundation Achieves Strong Field Results Through Winter Term B.E.S.T Program Activities



Within the scope of the 5-year cooperation protocol signed with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Young Lives Foundation achieved tangible outcomes through its winter term activities carried out between September 2024 and March 2025 under the B.E.S.T (Balsu, Ethical, Sustainable, Traceable) Program. During this period, 667 farmer interviews were conducted, providing insights into the program's impact and effectiveness in the field. Based on the data obtained, awareness-raising trainings were organized for farmers, and 274 farmers received mentoring support. These efforts enhanced communication with the target group and increased the inclusivity of the program. In meetings held with 71 teachers in provinces with high rates of migration for seasonal agricultural labour, the challenges faced by children in accessing and continuing education during the agricultural cycle were discussed, and possible solutions were developed. The positive effects of the harvest and winter activities on children were also reflected in these evaluations.

The assessment report, which includes case management efforts, school attendance monitoring, and outputs of child protection mechanisms, serves as an important resource for tracking the impact of the B.E.S.T program. At the same time, the report provides guidance for the program's progress in line with sustainability principles.

