



## **Our Pre-Harvest Training Sessions Have Been Completed as Part of Our Farmer Support Program.**

As Balsu, we continue our farmer support programs by organizing theoretical and practical training sessions aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of our farmers. In collaboration with local authorities and relevant public institutions, we provide personal farmer coaching and bring modern farming techniques to the field.

From October 2024 to July 2025, we held training sessions in 6 provinces, reaching over three thousand farmers. Through these sessions, we delivered support packages consisting of personal protective equipment and agricultural inputs to farmers in the Eastern and Western Black Sea regions, ensuring their safety and well-being.

As part of our "Technical Transfer Group Project," which aims to support sustainable hazelnut farming and rural development, lead farmers are taking on the role of sharing the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their regions. This process is supported by regular trainings and field visits, knowledge and experience are shared through cooperation with stakeholders on specific topics.

By increasing farmers' access to both knowledge and safe production tools, we continue to contribute to the widespread adoption of sustainable agriculture.





## Impact of Climate Change on 2024 Yield.

Hazelnut development requires different climatic conditions throughout the year, and fluctuations during this process directly affect product quality and quantity. However, in recent years, the impact of climate change has made it difficult to meet these needs, leading to significant crop losses.

At the end of March 2025, local areas experienced agricultural frost, followed by a longer and more severe frost in mid-April, which caused significant damage to the hazelnut buds and leaves during the blooming and leafing period. Following this, drought during the filling stage led to branch drying and problems with internal development. The spread of the brown marmorated stink bug, which has increased over the past two years, continued to affect this year's crop. Trap distribution, training, and monitoring activities, carried out in collaboration with public institutions, continued throughout the season. As a result of these conditions, it is predicted that the crop yield will decrease, and the remaining product will have weak internal filling, with poor quality and blemishes.

The effects of climate change and pests are expected to persist in the coming years. Integrated pest management strategies are becoming more important within the scope of collaborations to prevent losses in yield and quality.







## **Balsu Joins the Green Deal Compliance Program.**

As Balsu, we aim to strengthen our environmental and social responsibilities within the scope of sustainability efforts by participating in the Responsible® Program conducted by the Ministry of Trade in order to comply with the Green Deal.

The first steps of the Responsible® program process were taken, and Balsu's current structure, business processes, and sustainability vision were evaluated during the visit.





## **Visit to Balsu by the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO) and TÜBİTAK as Part of Climate Change Risk Analysis**

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization, and Climate Change, and in collaboration with the Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO) and TÜBİTAK, an evaluation meeting was held with experts as part of the climate change risk analysis study. During the meeting, climate risks were discussed both at the factory level and within the supply chain.

Additionally, a visit was made to Balsu's Hendek factory with the participation of officials from the collaborating institutions, where climate risks and opportunities related to hazelnut farming, processing processes, and logistics operations were evaluated on-site. As an outcome of the project, a comprehensive risk analysis report is expected to be prepared.







## **Balsu's Sustainability Journey: B.E.S.T Program with Young Lives Foundation. Pre-Harvest Activities:**

B.E.S.T (Balsu, Ethical, Sustainable, Traceable) Program, launched in collaboration with Balsu and Young Lives Foundation, has been implemented since the summer of 2024 with the goal of preventing child labor in seasonal agriculture and building a sustainable supply chain. The program is carried out in close cooperation with public institutions, Ministry of National Education staff, and local monitoring committees, with the participation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

As part of this, visits were made to local authorities responsible for regions within our supply chain before the harvest season, in collaboration with Young Lives Foundation.

During public institutions-farmer meetings, farmers have the opportunity to share their knowledge, experiences, and observations on combating child labor, ethical production, and sustainable agricultural practices with relevant institutions before the harvest season.

An important phase of the program, the teacher orientation and field supervisor training, has been successfully completed, and with these orientations held in Düzce, Sakarya, and Samsun regions, preparations for the harvest season have been reinforced.

