



Balsu Children Protection Program 2023 Focused Assessment Published



The Children Protection Program, conducted by Balsu in collaboration with Young Lives Foundation, was evaluated in a report prepared by the Fair Labor Association (FLA). The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the 2023 harvest and the 2024 winter period, based on interviews with the children of seasonal agricultural workers, their families, and local authorities.

The partnerships established by Young Lives Foundation with public institutions and civil society organizations played a crucial role in the program's success. While local authorities encouraged children's participation in educational activities, the mobile workshops and summer schools provided children with a safe environment to continue their educational and psychological development. The satisfaction rate of children participating in the mobile workshops was recorded at 9.3 out of 10.

[You can view the focused assessment report at this link.](#)





Post-Harvest Training and Support Programs for Hazelnut Farmers

Throughout September, Balsu is offering comprehensive training programs aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture for hazelnut farmers. The training sessions focus on critical topics such as composting, soil analysis, effective pruning techniques, and integrated pest management, with the goal of improving both product quality and soil health.

The training encourages the conversion of hazelnut husks into compost, helping to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers. Based on soil analysis results, farmers are provided with appropriate fertilization programs to optimize soil fertility. Integrated methods for combating diseases and pests are promoted, aiming for responsible management of chemical usage.

Farmers receive practical training on soil sampling and analysis processes and learn how to manage the process correctly. After the training, continuous support is provided through communication groups, ensuring the sustainability of knowledge sharing and practical applications.





Balsu Offers Effective Solutions for Combatting the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Since March 2024, Balsu has been using funnel and pheromone traps to control the brown marmorated stink bug population and establish an effective monitoring system. These efforts are being carried out in collaboration with provincial and district agricultural directorates, increasing farmers' awareness and promoting effective pest control methods.

According to the established control schedule, hazelnut farmers are regularly informed, and the necessary support is provided. This approach aims to manage the pest population and minimize crop losses.

Period	Activities	Explanation
September - October	Overwintering Search Period	Brown stink bugs start looking for winter quarters. Monitoring is carried out during this period.
November - December - January	Overwintering Retreat Period	Brown stink bugs are attracted to winter quarters. Traps are checked in winter quarters and pests caught are disposed of.
February - March - April	Overwintering Emergence Period	Brown stink bugs start to come out of their winter quarters. During this period, traps are placed and monitored.
May - June - July	Active Period and Reproductive Period	Brown stink bugs actively feed and reproduce. Traps are checked frequently and the population is monitored. <u>Pheromones are changed during this period.</u>
August	Attractive Period	Brown stink bugs become more sensitive to attractants. Traps are reinforced with attractants.





2024 Harvest Data Analysis of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers

Balsu continues to provide comprehensive training for agricultural workers in pre- and post-harvest processes. During the 2024 harvest, social workers in the Eastern and Western Black Sea regions reached 115 worker groups and a total of 1,992 seasonal agricultural workers across 6 provinces, 16 districts, and 47 neighborhoods.

Following training sessions on occupational health, safety, and hygiene, 2,114 personal protective equipment and hygiene kits were distributed. The average working hours, which were 10 hours and 30 minutes between 2017 and 2023, were reduced to 9 hours and 15 minutes in 2024. Additionally, 233 internal harvest observations were conducted under the B.E.S.T program to assess the effectiveness of field practices.





Contribution to Social Transformation Training for Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers

In collaboration with Yanındayız Association, Balsu provided training to 150 seasonal agricultural workers in the village of Değirmencik in Ferizli district, Sakarya province, as part of the "Contribution to Social Transformation Project." The training raised awareness on workplace violence, discrimination, and harassment, enhancing workers' abilities to cope with such situations.

The importance of a safe working environment was emphasized, along with discussions on the impact of gender roles in the workplace and workers' rights.





Minister of Labor and Social Security visited the B.E.S.T Program

The B.E.S.T (Balsu, Ethical, Sustainable, Traceable) Program, carried out in collaboration with Balsu and Young Lives Foundation, under a 5-year protocol signed with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, continues to be successfully implemented in the provinces of Düzce, Sakarya, Ordu, and Samsun.

The Minister of Labor and Social Security, Mr. Vedat Işıkhan, visited the Cumayeri district of Düzce to observe the impact of the program in the field. During this visit, Mr. Işıkhan met with hazelnut farmers, seasonal migrant agricultural workers, and children.

[For more information, you can access the details of the visit at this link.](#)

