



Final Year Meetings of the Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project Held

The final committee meeting of the 'Sustainable Hazelnut Villages Project,' carried out in collaboration with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and Rainforest Alliance, took place on October 1, 2024, in the district of Ferizli in Sakarya province. The committee meeting, which reviewed the work of the 2024 harvest period, concluded with the participation of all committee members and the planning of future goals.

The project's closing meeting was held on October 31, 2024, with the participation of numerous internal and external stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the Sakarya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and local authorities of Ferizli district.

During the project, a total of 243 children were reached and various educational sessions were held within the scope of combating child labour. Additionally, training was provided to 44 agricultural intermediaries, and 30 intermediaries were certified through these trainings. Throughout the project, training was provided to 1,020 seasonal agricultural workers and 472 farmers.

The project was successfully completed as a model demonstrating the strength of district-based committees in combating child labour and improving the working and living conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers.










B.E.S.T (Balsu, Ethical, Sustainable, Traceable) Program



Balsu has launched the B.E.S.T (Balsu, Ethical, Sustainable, Traceable) Program aimed at achieving sustainability and social responsibility goals in the agricultural sector. Under a five-year protocol signed with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and Young Lives Foundation, Balsu aims to improve the living conditions of seasonal agricultural workers and their families, prevent child labour, and promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

In 2024, activities under the B.E.S.T program were conducted across 4 cities, 10 districts, and 38 neighbourhoods.

Identified Families	Identified Children	Participation in Educational Activities	Monitoring and Referral	Farmer Interviews	Needs Assessment for Living Spaces
 609	 1193	 849	 793	 730	 31





Field Visit with Fair Labor Association (FLA) to Meet Women Farmers

On October 15, World Women Farmers Day, [the Fair Labor Association \(FLA\)](#) visit included a financial literacy training session for women farmers organized by the Young Lives Foundation. Following the training, a practical pruning workshop was conducted under the B.E.S.T program to enhance the agricultural knowledge, skills, and productivity of women farmers.





Balsu Participated in the Anniversary Meeting of Fair Labor Association (FLA)

At the roundtable meeting held during the [anniversary event of the Fair Labor Association \(FLA\)](#), Balsu participated in the session titled 'Empowerment of Women.' During this session, Balsu's efforts to empower women, collaborations with NGOs on the topic, and services offered to employees were discussed, with information shared and questions from participants answered.





Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Control Project Promotion Meeting Held in Gümüşova District, Düzce Province

The "Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Control Project in Sustainable Hazelnut Cultivation" was launched through signed agreements in collaboration with the Gümüşova District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, the Istanbul Hazelnut and Products Exporters Association, Balsu, and the Gümüşova Chamber of Agriculture. This project aims to control the spread of the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha Halys*), which causes significant damage in agricultural production, and to promote the use of handmade traps.

Starting in March 2025, the project envisions the placement of a total of 384 traps across 18 villages and 6 neighbourhoods in the Gümüşova district. This project, scheduled to last until September 2025, aims to monitor the stink bug population and control the pest effectively. Through these projects, Balsu aims to monitor the pest population, determine necessary control methods, and set an example of collective pest management.

