



***“Hand in hand
with the farmer”***

Distribution of Donated Hazelnut Collection Machines Project

PREFACE



In order to look at the future from the past with confidence, the first rule for creating healthy and long lived societies in the world is the existence of corporations, which are eco-friendly, qualified and trustworthy. The stable development and growth of such firms is wholly dependent on mutual “trust”.

It has always been our firm’s priority to purchase the highest quality raw materials from the producer at the production stage, meticulously process the same and present to the consumer healthy and tasty products.

With this perspective, as the Durak Hazelnuts family, one of our main goals has always been to find the answer to the question of “how can we achieve better results?” by cooperating with the producers in every platform.

In order to reach the international standards in hazelnut farming, especially for preventing child labour, reducing the cost of production by switching to mechanised farming, and increasing the quality of production, our firm regularly conducts studies, organizes trainings and conferences for the producers and engages in social responsibility projects.

The social responsibility projects that were undertaken by our firm are as follows:

1. Project, in 2013, with our project titled “OUR PRIORITY IN HAZELNUTS IS QUALITY 2013”; we distributed jute bags and made “End to Child Labour in Hazelnut Farming” our slogan.
2. Project, in 2015, with our project titled “CHILDREN BELONG TO THE PLAYGROUNDS NOT THE HAZELNUT GROUNDS”, we aimed to raise awareness about child labour, contribute to the social and personal development of our students, and also create consciousness about “Child Labour”, which was one of the main goals of the project, in the minds of the children, who are going to be the grown-ups of the future.

With our “HAND IN HAND WITH THE FARMER” project, we donated hazelnut collecting and sweeping machines to the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu for use by our farmers, and aimed to reduce the cost of production, raise awareness of and encourage mechanised farming and most importantly, abolish child labour.

Hasan Basri DURAK
President of the Board of Directors

DEFINITION OF THE PROJECT

With the sponsorship of DURAK FINDIK A.Ş., the “Hand in Hand with the Farmer” project, which included the transfer, distribution and training relating to 8 hazelnut harvesting machines, and 8 hazelnut sweeping machines, which were donated to the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu, was carried out.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The main aim of the project is to accelerate the shift to mechanised farming and thus reduce the cost of labour to a minimum and consequently abolish child labour once and for all. The main objectives of this project are listed below:

- 1-Reduction of labour costs by 50%.
- 2-Since the hazelnuts will be collected from the ground after shaking, they will mature, which will increase yield and quality.
- 3-Aflatoxin formation, which results from immature collection, will be prevented.
- 4-With the shift to mechanised farming, children will be not employed as workers and the child labour problem will be permanently resolved.

PROJECT PARTIES

This project was carried out together with the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu with financing from Durak Fındık A.Ş.

PROJECT PERIOD

The preliminary studies of the project were completed, and after the approval of THE Durak Fındık A.Ş.'s board of directors, a protocol was signed on 15.05.2017 with the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu. The project will continue to be carried out during the 2017 harvest season and the following harvest seasons.

PROJECT INCENTIVES

Within the scope of the project, in order to reduce the costs in hazelnut farming and to enable the shift to mechanised farming, 8 Hasatsan brand hazelnut collection machines and 8 Husqvarna brand hazelnut sweeping machines were purchased. These machines have been donated to the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu by Durak Fındık A.Ş. for collection of hazelnuts in the hazelnut gardens of the producers in Ordu, the province in which 32% of the hazelnut production of Turkey is realised.



PROJECT RESPONSIBLES

Durak Fındık A.Ş.



Ahmet DURAK
Ünye Ünye Branch Manager



Vedat MACİT
Project Coordinator

Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu



Kemal YILMAZ
Provincial Director



Ekrem OĞURLU
Provincial Assistant Director

PROJECT PROCESS

Donation Distribution Program:

In order to reduce the cost of hazelnut farming and spread mechanised farming,
on 15.05.2017, at the Durak Fındık A.Ş. Ünye facilities, within the scope of the “Hand in Hand with the Farmer” project, 8 hazelnut collection machines and 8 hazelnut sweeping machines were purchased by Durak Fındık A.Ş. and ceremonially handed over to the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu.

Mayor İrfan BALKANLIOĞLU, Ünye District Governor Ümit Hüseyin GÜNEY, Provincial Director of Food, Agriculture and Livestock Kemal YILMAZ, President of the Board of Directors of Durak Fındık A.Ş. Hasan Basri DURAK and members of the Board of Directors, the press and other guests attended the ceremony.

PROJECT TIMELINE

In his speech at the ceremony, Mr Kadir Durak, member of the board of directors of Durak Fındık A.Ş. stated that, in order to accelerate the shift to mechanised farming and thus reduce the cost of labour to a minimum and consequently abolish child labour once and for all this year, they have donated 8 hazelnut collection machines and 8 hazelnut sweeping machines to the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu and thanked the mayor and other guest for their attendance.

Governor Balkanhoğlu said, “With these machines, the labour costs will decrease very much. The hazelnuts will be collected once they have matured, and this will have various benefits. I believe that this is a great benefit for Ordu.”

Provincial Director Kemal YILMAZ stated in his speech, that in 89% of our province’s agricultural lands, hazelnuts are grown. The economy of this province is based on hazelnuts. Therefore, the main objective of our activities is to increase the yield and quality of hazelnuts and to reduce the costs. The most important cost item in hazelnut farming is labour. The machines that have been donated will reduce the labour costs, and furthermore we will harvest our hazelnuts on time. Therefore, production will increase and our farmers will earn more. I hope that the machines, which have been donated by Durak Fındık A.Ş. will be beneficial for the agriculture in our province, and thank everyone who has been involved.

After the speeches, the protocol was signed.





EXAMPLES OF NEWS IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE PROJECT





USE OF HAZELNUT COLLECTION MACHINE TRAINING PHASE

On 25.07.2017, the technical team of the firm Hasatsan gave a practical training course on how to use the machines to the engineers and technicians of the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu and farmers, who will assist the use of the machines in their districts.



HARVEST FESTIVAL AT SAMPLE GARDENS WITH THE HAZELNUT COLLECTION MACHINE

The first mechanised hazelnut harvesting festival was carried out at the Perşembe County's Doğan district.

Governor Seddar Yavuz, Deputy Mayor of the Province Ordu Ahmet Çoruh, Perşembe District Governor Ahmet Arık, Altınordu District Governor Niyazi Ertan, Director of the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu Kemal Yılmaz, President of the Perşembe Chamber of Agriculture Arslan Soydan, many growers and other guests attended the harvest festival. At the festival, Governor Seddar Yavuz, Provincial Director Kemal Yılmaz, President of the Chamber of Agriculture and sample farmers gave speeches respectively. After the speeches, the first harvest of the year was carried out with the hazelnut harvesting machine. The attendees all witnessed that the use of the machine was considered positively, and the harvest was carried out in accordance with the objective of the project, and that the producers were happy with the use of the hazelnut collection machine.



The second mechanised hazelnut harvesting festival was held at the Düzsaylan district of Ünye, at a Farming Day with the theme “Mechanised Hazelnut Harvesting”. Ünye District Governor Ümit Hüseyin Güney, Director of the Directorate of Food and Agriculture of the Governorship of Ordu Kemal Yılmaz, County officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and many growers attended the ceremony.



Kemal Yılmaz, who previously stated that with mechanised harvesting the cost of harvesting will be reduced by 50%, said the following:

“We carried out this activity at Fatsa County, and today we carried it out in the county Ünye, tomorrow we will do it at some other county. At the same time, we have also studies on increasing the yield. Currently, there are sample gardens where we reached 300 kilos of production per 1000 square meters. From now on, with new projects we will create modern gardens at wider locations, and our province will become an example to the world rather than taking examples from the world. We believe that mechanised harvesting will reduce the cost of labour by at least 50%. Since we are using the machine for the first time this year, we are facing some problems, but our citizens will soon learn to overcome these problems by using the machines, and thus we will have enabled them to produce more profitable produce.

On Farming Days, information on the machine’s specifications, how to harvest with the machines and generally on hazelnut harvesting was also provided to the growers.



RESULTS ACHIEVED AT THE GARDENS WHERE MECHANISED HARVESTING WAS CARRIED OUT

- It has been determined that the cost of labour in these gardens have been reduced by 50%, which is one of the most important benefits of mechanised harvesting.
- Since hazelnuts are allowed to mature and fall down on their own or they are shaken to fall down, pre-mature harvesting is avoided, and thus one of the main causes of aflatoxin formation is eliminated
- It has also been seen that the yield and quality has increased on fallen down matured hazelnuts.

PROBLEMS FACED

Certain problems were also observed during mechanised harvesting. We can list the main ones as follows: the fact that the roads within the gardens are small, the hazelnuts were not planted orderly and systematically and especially densely planted gardens made it difficult to move the harvesting machines.

Although there may have been some minor problems in our demonstrations caused by the geographical structure of our province's farming areas, we believe that such problems could be overcome within time and with the spread of mechanised farming alternative methods and machines will be developed to resolve such problems.

SUGGESTIONS

In our province and region, the main issue discussed related to hazelnuts are unfortunately the hazelnut prices. The most important cost factor of hazelnuts is the labour costs of harvesting. With mechanized harvesting, the labour cost will decrease, quality and yield will increase, and thus unit costs will decrease and profits will increase. As per our assessments, the demands of our region's citizens show that mechanised harvesting can develop in our region. To continue our activities in this direction will be of great benefit to our region and hazelnut farming in our country.



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