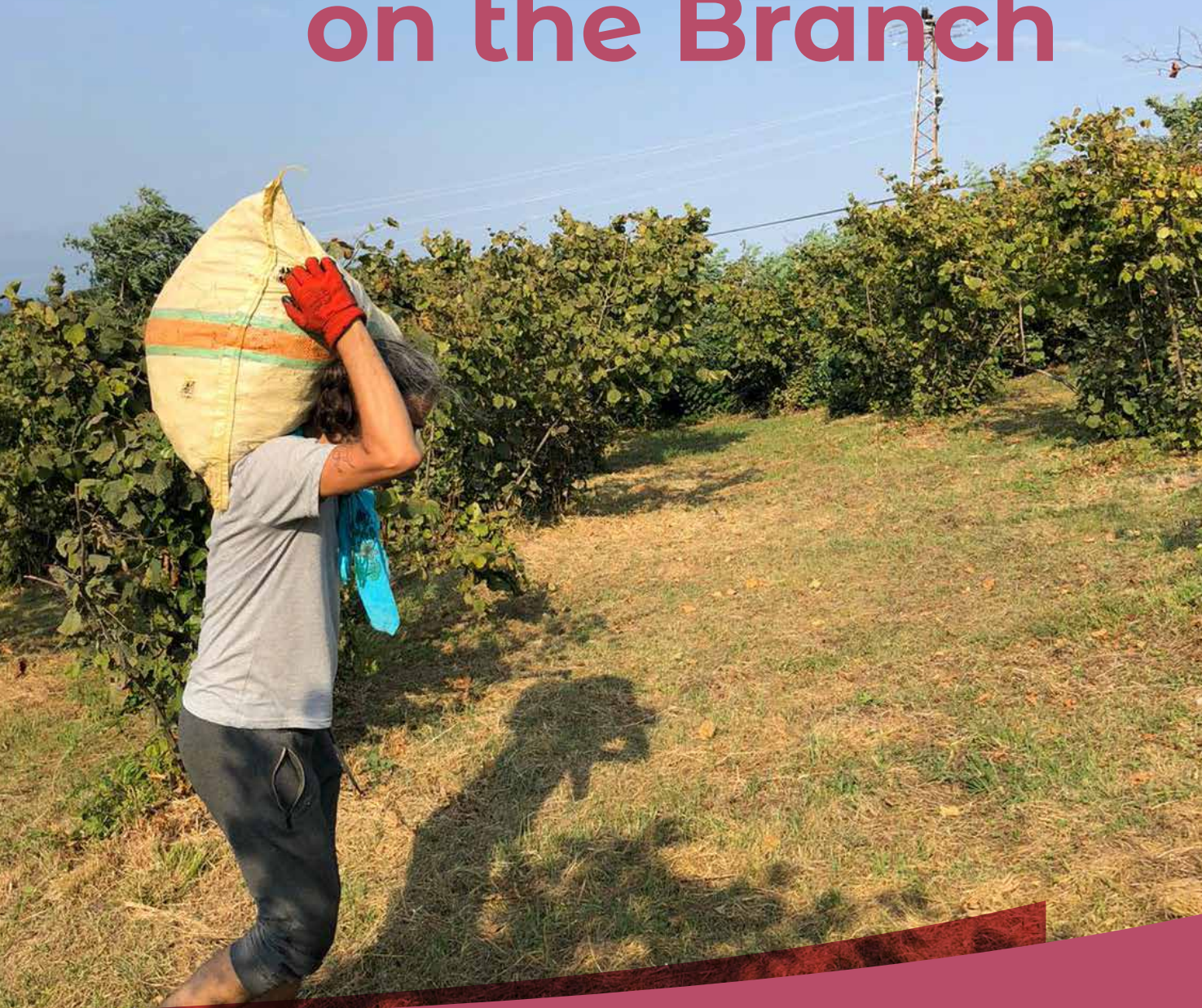


# Hazelnut won't Remain on the Branch



Possible Impact of Covid-19 Outbreak the Participation of Seasonal Migrant  
Agricultural Workers and Their Children in Hazelnut Harvesting and Necessary Measures



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**Possible Impact of Covid-19  
Outbreak the Participation of  
Seasonal Migrant Agricultural  
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in Hazelnut Harvesting and  
Necessary Measures  
A Rapid Assessment**

# Possible Impact of Covid-19 Outbreak the Participation of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children in Hazelnut Harvesting and Necessary Measures

## A Rapid Assessment

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## Acronyms

<b>AFAD</b>	Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>ÇKS</b>	Farmer Registration System
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>LFH</b>	Life Fits into Home
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>İŞKUR</b>	Turkish Employment Agency
<b>MoNE</b>	Ministry of National Education
<b>METİP</b>	Project on Improving Working and Social Life of Seasonal Agricultural Workers
<b>TÜİK</b>	Turkish Statistical Institute
<b>TZOB</b>	Turkish Union of Agricultural Chambers
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>US</b>	United States of America
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>YKS</b>	Test for Admittance to Higher Education Institutions
<b>YÖK</b>	Higher Education Institution



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# Hazelnut

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## Foreword

The Covid-19 pandemic affected the world as a whole and forced billions of people to stay home to reduce the risk of transmission while making again billions vulnerable to risks while they kept working in crop fields, orchards, factories, streets and in various jobs. The centre of the outbreak shifted from China to Europe and the US starting from March 2020.

The period in which the disease started to spread in the northern hemisphere was when there was transition from winter to spring. It therefore coincided with the start of agricultural activities including sowing, weeding, hoeing, irrigation, medication and harvesting of some crops in temperate zones.

As borders were closed to international travel and domestic mobility was restricted by some rules, there was also restriction on the mobility of labour force within and among countries. This situation naturally bears the potential of disrupting food production and food supply chains which may bring along serious problems.

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers<sup>1</sup> constitute an important actor in agricultural production both in Turkey and in many other parts of the world. Their absence in production has twofold effect: agricultural workers, who are already suffering from poverty, get even poorer by losing an important means of subsistence and bottlenecks emerge in food supply in a way that affects many countries.

Indeed, Germany, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain in Europe and the United States emerged as countries experiencing this process in quite negative ways. So they took quick action and adopted various measures in order to suffer the minimum loss possible. Not only mentioned ones but almost all countries in the world are trying to cope up by adopting measures to reduce the impact of the pandemic on agricultural production.

As Turkey was leaving winter behind and agricultural activities were setting in various measures were introduced at central and local levels in relation to the participation of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to agricultural production processes accompanied by decisions to keep agricultural production going. These measures include rules applicable to travels and standards for temporary tent settlements<sup>2</sup> where agricultural workers stay along with programmes geared to monitoring the implications of these rules in practice.

As the Development Workshop Cooperative, we are trying to follow the global situation and

relevant activities taking place in Turkey. By underlining the need to focus on human health in the first place, we are also trying to support efforts to ensure that people reach safe and healthy food in favourable circumstances.

In the context of these activities, we have completed this rapid assessment work on how hazelnut harvesting which is an important part of crop farming in Turkey involving about 500,000 families may be affected by the pandemic and also on measures that must be taken at both local and national levels. With this assessment we want to support seasonal agricultural workers who take part in hazelnut harvesting, their children, hazelnut orchard owners, government agencies that are expected to take relevant measures to facilitate life and place public health at the centre, firms and professional organizations. We hope our people can take part in production processes while keeping in good health and both families concerned and country leave this rather difficult period behind with minimum damage.



**1 Seasonal migrant agricultural worker:** The person who leaves his/her permanent settlement place (province, district, village, neighbourhood) and travels to another place to earn income where he/she takes part in agricultural production process for at least a day, but not permanently engaged in this type of work.

**2 Temporary tent settlement:** It is the place of settlement in destinations of households engaged in seasonal migrant agricultural works where they stay for short or longer periods of time in tents made mostly of canvas, nylon and plastic or prefabricated shelters. These settlements are either compact or dispersed; they may be provided by government agencies in the context of a project or programme or made directly by workers themselves. Their locations may be near irrigation or drainage canals, streams, village pasturelands or roads.







# Executive Summary

Emerging first in China at the end of 2019 and then rapidly spreading to other parts of the world, the Covid-19 outbreak affected Turkey starting with March 2020 and measures taken as a part of control efforts led to halting and/or slowing down of economic activities and production in many sectors. Agriculture is one of the leading ones among these sectors. Agricultural activities in Turkey spread over a long period from the end of March to November and the sector employs hundreds and thousands of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in various crops. Decisions and measures designed to counter the outbreak have already started to affect production processes in different crops and locations where seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children are employed.

*The basic objective of the rapid assessment “Possible Effects of Coronavirus Outbreak on the Participation of Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Their Children to Hazelnut Harvesting and Relevant Measures” is to expose risks that seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children Face/may face in the context of the global Covid-19 pandemic as the most vulnerable and invisible layer of the society, how the present pandemic may affect production processes, and to contribute to the development of local, regional and national measures to minimize these risks particularly in the context of seasonal migrant agricultural workers who are expected to participate in hazelnut harvesting in August 2020. The assessment also seeks to investigate the possible effects of the outbreak on hazelnut harvesting.*

Four major instruments were employed in the assessment. Firstly, there was desk review of news and discussions in the world and in Turkey on possible effects of the pandemic on agricultural production and food supply chains. The process analysis which followed examined measures adopted in Turkey under

the Circular issued by the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Provincial Administrations on 3 April 2020 and local commission decisions taken in line with this Circular in the period April-May 2020 in provinces where there is tea and hazelnut production. Then there were the key actors/institutions platform to facilitate the tracing of the process and to confirm the implementation of measures adopted in various locations. The WhatsApp group consisting of 95 participants as representatives of different institutions that the Development Workshop Cooperative had established contacts during its earlier studies served as an important communication platform providing update information about relevant developments taking place, working of measures adopted and problems that arose.

As a part of this preliminary work, two survey instruments were designed as questionnaire and semi-structured interview form. The questionnaire was administrated to 50 agricultural intermediaries taking workers to hazelnut harvest and 50 hazelnut orchard owners who were selected from two administrative districts of each of the provinces of Düzce, Giresun, Ordu, Sakarya and Samsun which, according to TÜİK data, accounted for 80 per cent of total hazelnut production in Turkey. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with representatives from 31 institutions having different responsibilities at different stages of hazelnut production including relevant government agencies, farmer/producer unions, civil society organizations, private sector firms, chambers of agriculture and professional organizations.

In the period 16-30 May 2020 when the rapid assessment was conducted it was observed that all these actors were in a state of waiting in relation to what could happen in hazelnut harvesting under outbreak circumstances. There are four factors that play their roles this



The survey study was applied to 50 agricultural intermediaries who brought workers to the hazelnut harvest and 50 hazelnut garden owners selected from two districts of Düzce, Giresun, Ordu, Sakarya and Samsun provinces that realized 80% of the hazelnut production according to TURKSTAT data.

waiting period: **(a)** The fact that what was experienced in the period April-May 2020 in relation to the implementation of Covid-19 measures pointed out to some significant uncertainties, **(b)** the expectation emerging at the end of May 2010 that there will be gradual normalization in June and some measures that lead to uncertainties will be lifted, **(c)** the expectation that the effects of the outbreak will have vanished until harvesting that will start at the end of July, and **(d)** the fact that the Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Monitoring Commission, which was established under the Circular on Seasonal Agricultural Workers issued back in 2010 and amended in 2017 and used to take important decisions relating to hazelnut harvest, has not met yet.

Meanwhile, it was also found that hazelnut orchard owners and representatives from institutions involved in hazelnut harvest started at the end of April to closely follow developments taking place in tea harvest and to think about the possible effects of the outbreak on hazelnut harvest. It must also be noted that most of suggestions developed in this context were related to hazelnut harvest and problems of migrant agricultural workers including their families and children that had been stated for a long time. For example, while continuous access to safe water, access to bath and hot water in accommodation areas, toilet facilities, coverage of transportation costs and prevention of child labour may have gained more importance and become more visible in the context of efforts to prevent transmission the outbreak, they are actually essential needs not limited to the context of the disease. It is therefore expressed by different actors interviewed that interventions made in these areas in the context of disease prevention may serve as the ground for long-expected improvements.

For following up problems pointed out under the survey and ensuring that suggestions for solution are actually translated into sustained improvements there is need for regular data flow relating to the sector. Hazelnut production constitutes a commercially valuable agricultural production extending over a rather large area, involving different actors, owners of different orchard types and sizes and where yield may vary with respect to location and altitude. Regular collection of data relating to production and producers is necessary to understand the problems of the agricultural production and to respond to needs that derive from differences mentioned above. A data collection matrix of hazelnut garden owners was developed in the light of information gathered under the study to respond to this need (Annex 8). Annual data related to orchard owner typology, labour force needed and cost calculations to be collected by using this instrument will provide an important database making it possible to closely monitor the sector and introduce improvements.

To mention basic findings of the assessment we can list the following:

Firstly, measures taken against the Covid-19 outbreak, in particular travel restrictions and rules related to half capacity in transportation vehicles are known by all interviewees; but there are still uncertainties about exactly how they are to be implemented. It is stated that there will be difficulties in supplying required labour force if these rules are implemented including transportation costs that will inevitably rise, but with uncertainty about who is to cover these increased costs. Nevertheless, there is also the widespread opinion that since hazelnut-purchasing prices will be high this year cost implication of rules may not pose a significant problem. It is said that hazelnut output in Düzce and Sakarya provinces may fall

by half in case seasonal migrant agricultural workers cannot, partly or totally, take part in harvesting. For other provinces it is said that the traditional imece (collective work) practice may be re-introduced, otherwise absent orchard owners may take up their orchards with their families, there will be higher domestic labour force supply as a result of increased unemployment, and that nobody will leave hazelnut on trees since higher prices are expected this year. In short, there is a common belief that hazelnut will not remain on branches.

Hazelnut orchard owners and representatives from different organizations interviewed admit that there will be difficulties in the implementation of measures adopted against the Covid-19 outbreak, but also regard these measures as an opportunity to take different but mutually reinforcing steps ahead including: formal registration of intermediaries and workers they represent, better grasping the need for labour force that varies by years and geographical regions, reconsideration of costs involved, spread of some new techniques as mechanized harvesting and ground covering along with required investments and plot arrangements, and initiatives to ensure coordination between different actors with important places in hazelnut production.

In order to keep under control possible effects of measures against Covid-19 on crop farming, seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children, it is necessary to ensure the coordination of local institutions that are expected to develop solutions on the basis of central decision-making mechanisms in agricultural production and specific needs arising from production processes in different provinces. This structure will provide the ground for the leading actors of hazelnut production including agricultural intermediaries, orchard owners, big firms, local headmen, relevant

professional and civil society organizations to be in a rewarding communication.

It is a common concern expressed by different actors that implementation of Covid-19 measures will inevitably increase costs and families may turn to let their children work as a coping strategy in the face of altered circumstances. In fact, this is a global concern going beyond hazelnut production alone. On the other hand, studies suggest that the effect of unexpected changes in income on the incidence of child labour varies with respect to the type of labour force, mode of production and regional-cultural differences which make any universal generalization impossible.

Representatives from institutions interviewed state different opinions on this matter. Firstly, it is stated that it is not a preference but a must for families to travel with their children; the use of children as labourers would be inefficient for orchard owners anyway, but full control in this regard is not easy to achieve especially in cases where families stay at places close to orchards. If alternatives do not exist in places where worker families stay children may still enter in orchards for such things as carrying water, etc. though not as full workers. It is further stated that even if the cost increases are compensated for, all family members including children may work in case sufficient labour force cannot be supplied and the yield is high.

They say orchard owners attach importance to the presence of their own children in orchards since they see it as a way of acquiring knowledge and experience in this activity. Pointing out to stagnancy in construction and some other sectors, academics and civil society organizations (CSOs) speak about the possibility of larger participation by local workers and since employers avoid using child labour they maintain that the situation may not actually be



different than in earlier years. In all cases, it is said, official interventions and supervision will have its special importance while stressing the need for continuous information building.

When asked which actors can do what on possible effects of Covid-19 measures on hazelnut harvesting, agricultural intermediaries and orchard owners point out to the regulating and supervisory role governmental agencies which they refer to as the “State”. While expectations from private firms as to the cost of supply of some materials needed in implementing measures are stated, there was no opinion concerning CSOs. On their part, firms state that they are presently active in informing agricultural intermediaries and orchard owners and they are going to update their present training activities related to outbreak measures. Representatives from commercial firms say some problems of seasonal migrant agricultural workers may disappear when labour force supply and demand is managed in a planned way. They add government agencies may play a coordinating role in initiatives to this end, but required cooperation has not been ensured yet. CSOs say they have started their work in the context of their annual support will update their hygiene kits within the framework of measures adopted against the outbreak.

When the report was being prepared, it was announced that gradual normalization would start on 1 June 2020 with mention of some flexibility in rules related to travels, but without any clarification as to how these rules would be applied in the case of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. According to post-interviews conducted with target groups, the rule of “reducing the maximum number of passengers” in longer distance travels is still in effect, but not supervised as rigidly as it was at the beginning of the process. Meanwhile it

is stated by highest authorities that all initial measures would be made applicable again in case of a revival of the outbreak or a possible incoming of a second wave. It can therefore be considered that data collected on this agenda under the rapid assessment is important also as independent from outbreak circumstances. As a matter of fact, one of the basic themes that all parties agree is that problems faced by seasonal migrant agricultural workers as well as their families and children, which exist independent of outbreak environments, have now become much more visible in the context of measures taken against the disease. In this sense, the present report may be seen as an extension of earlier studies in hazelnut production conducted by the Development Workshop Cooperative and a contribution to efforts to give effect to required improvements.







# Introduction

Covid-19 first emerging in China in December, then spreading to other parts of the world and finally turning into a global pandemic in March 2020 also led to slow-downs and interruptions in transportation and production activities at global and local levels. How the pandemic could affect global food supply chains became one of their top-level agenda items for many countries during the past months of March and April. It is being discussed how trans-boundary seasonal migrant agricultural workers (Romania-Germany, Georgia-Turkey) as well as active seasonal migrant agricultural workers in individual countries can reach crop farming areas where they are needed and their safety in the context of keeping food supply chains work.

It is known that Turkey is a country where seasonal migrant agricultural workers move from place to place with their families and are employed at various stages of farming during the most parts of the year. Since its establishment in 2004, the Development Workshop Cooperative have conducted many studies on agricultural production processes and shared them with the public. In the field surveys conducted in 2019 with technical and financial support of UNICEF covering provinces of Adana, Bursa, Eskişehir, Manisa, Ankara and Konya it was found that migrant labour is needed throughout the year in Adana and from April to November in other provinces in almost all phases of crop farming.<sup>1</sup>

In the light of studies by the Development Workshop Cooperative it becomes clear that seasonal migrant agricultural workers constitute one of the poorest segments of society and they must be supported in accessing essential needs. The survey “Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak on Seasonal Migrant

# MEASURES

March 2020

25 March



Measures Taken in the Context of COVID-19 Control

28 March



Decision for the gathering of Pandemic Boards after Provincial Administration Boards in all Governorates

Giresun Governorate

Meeting on Covid-19 Measures in Crop Farming and Animal Husbandry  
Measures adopted for the continuation of agricultural production

03 April



City entry-exit measures and decision on age restriction



Coronavirus Measures/ Seasonal Agricultural Workers

05 April



Exceptions related to youth at age 18 to 20 who are subject to curfew

Giresun Governorate  
Provincial Public Health Council

Sakarya-Karasu District Governorate  
District Public Health Board

Sakarya Governorate  
Provincial Public Health Board

Ordu Governorate  
Provincial Public Health Board

Trabzon Governorate  
Provincial Public Health Board

Exemption from curfew for seasonal agricultural workers



15 April

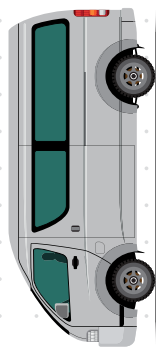
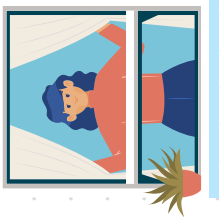
Sakarya Governorate  
Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board  
Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Board Meeting

18 April



Samsun Governorate  
Provincial Public Health Council





Partial lockdown to be applied  
in 31 provinces from April 30  
to May 3



28 April

May 2020

circular about curfew

07 May

New circular on city entry and exit  
measures in 81 provinces

A Circular on travel documents  
of tea farmers was sent to 81  
governorates

12 May

Circular on 'Summer Season  
Traffic Measures' sent to 81  
governorates

17 May

Circular on city entry-exit  
measures sent to 81 governorates

Lockdown to be applied in 81  
provinces from 24:00 hours on 22  
May 2020 to 24:00 hours on 26  
May 2020

**Samsun Governorate**  
Provincial Public Health Council  
**Agricultural Labour Mobility**

Traffic measures to be applied  
during Ramadan

**Sakarya Governorate**  
Provincial Public Health Board  
Seasonal Agricultural **Workers**

22 May

20 May

19 May



Agricultural Workers and their Children and on Crop Farming” completed in April 2020 with the support of ILO also shows that seasonal migrant agricultural workers are again among the groups most likely to be affected by the Covid-19 outbreak

Measures and practices adopted in the context of controlling Covid-19 affect seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children who have just started their south-to-north movement negatively in many respects including transportation, living and working conditions. Since seasonal migrant agricultural workers are given exemption from inter-province travels under some conditions, their geographical mobility is also an issue to be considered in combat against the outbreak. Turkey’s entry into the process of normalization starting from June 2020 does not mean full lifting of restrictions applied especially in the period during April and May. The authorities stated that restrictions will be reinstated in case normalization speeds up transmission or a second wave comes in.

In the light of developments taking place from April to May in 2020, the present study seeks to examine the effects Covid-19 related measures and practices as they are in the process of gradual normalization on labour force mobility that will start in July towards the time of hazelnut harvesting. According to data obtained from local authorities under an assessment made by the Development Workshop Cooperative for the ILO Office in Turkey in October 2019, some 40-50,000 seasonal migrant workers move to Ordu, Samsun and Düzce provinces for hazelnut harvest. Considering seasonal workers as well as migrant workers (from Georgia) mainly moving to Giresun for hazelnut harvest and others in Samsun, Trabzon and Zonguldak,

it can be said that 80-90,000 persons from out of these provinces take part in hazelnut harvesting. There is no information as to how many of these workers are actually employed. Further, since no worker will be coming from Georgia this year due to the travel restrictions against the Covid-19 related measures, the study gains further importance in understanding the impact of a unique factor on hazelnut production.

Focusing on hazelnut harvest, the rapid assessment consists of an analysis of travel, living and working conditions and wages of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children in outbreak environments and suggestions developed in this context.

## Objective

The major objective of the study is to identify possible risks that seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children as a highly vulnerable and invisible group may be exposed to during the covid-19 pandemic as well as to contribute to the development of suggestions at local, regional and national level to minimize these risks for seasonal migrant agricultural workers who will be participating to hazelnut harvesting in August 2020. In the same vein, the assessment also deals with possible labour losses in hazelnut harvest and its effects on daily life and harvest itself.

The study more specifically aims to:

- Conducting interviews with 50 agricultural intermediaries who take workers to hazelnut harvest from among some 300 included in the database of Development Workshop<sup>3</sup> to describe the present situation of seasonal migrant agricultural workers, how they are affected by the

outbreak, measures taken by themselves or others and level of awareness related to the outbreak.

- Identifying the impact of the outbreak on child labour in hazelnut harvest in the context of seasonal migrant labour.
- Analysing the outbreak situation with respect to working conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and work safety and health.
- Exposing, in the context of hazelnut harvest, probable destination provinces and migration routes of seasonal migrant agricultural workers..
- Identifying basic needs in locations where migrant workers gather with specific reference to the outbreak.
- Presenting measures taken and planned to be taken in relation to the disease by hazelnut orchard owners, firms, professional organizations, civil society organizations and relevant governmental agencies.
- Identifying areas of communication and action between hazelnut orchard owners, agricultural intermediaries and relevant governmental agencies in case of emergencies (i.e. in relation to food, hygiene materials, transportation, etc.).
- Identifying how hazelnut harvest may be affected depending on labour force mobility and developing solutions.

## Methodology and Sample

The study consisted of six major stages using different methodological tools and covering different target groups.

**1 Desk review:** Compiling and using within the overall framework of the research news and discussions in the world and in Turkey about the impact of the disease on agricultural production, measures taken in Turkey in this context and data obtained from relevant process analysis including the practicability of these measures.

**2 Key actor/institution platform:** The Development Workshop created a WhatsApp group of 95 participants as representatives of different institutions on the basis of relations it established through its activities so far. This communication platform provides significant and real-time information concerning developments in the study, working of measures adopted in various locations and emerging problems. As such, the platform contributed to the process by facilitating in several ways. Information obtained from this platform was taken into account in a way to contribute to the study.

**3 Agricultural intermediaries questionnaire:** Agricultural intermediaries with whom a questionnaire was administered (Annex 1) were selected from among 300 intermediaries included in the database that was created during earlier surveys by the Development Workshop with the contribution of institutions engaged in activities related to seasonal agricultural workers. In this database, there were 87 intermediaries taking workers to hazelnut harvest and 50 of them were selected for the questionnaire. These intermediaries were particularly those who are known

to take workers to hazelnut harvest in provinces covered by the study. Of agricultural intermediaries interviewed, 31 reside in Diyarbakır, 12 in Şanlıurfa, 3 in Mardin, 2 in Batman and the rest in Adana and Şırnak provinces. Three of these intermediaries were still interviewed given their previous experience although they said they would not take workers to hazelnut harvest this year.

#### 4 Hazelnut orchard owner questionnaire:

Hazelnut orchard owners as the second target group were interviewed by phone (Annex 2). In identifying this target group, 2019 TÜİK (Turkish Statistical Institute) data was used in selecting two districts with their substantial contribution from each of five leading hazelnut producing provinces in Turkey. Communication information was taken from 450 hazelnut orchard owners selected anonymously from the database of Ferrero Hazelnut Company according to plot sizes from respective provinces (Table 1).



Table 1

Number of civil society organizations asked for communication information by orchard size and at district level

Ordu .....>	Ünye	15	15	15	Fatsa	15	15	15	90
Samsun .....>	Çarşamba	15	15	15	Terme	15	15	15	90
Sakarya .....>	Karasu	15	15	15	Kocaali	15	15	15	90
Giresun .....>	Tirebolu	15	15	15	Bulancak	15	15	15	90
Düzce .....>	Akçakoca	15	15	15	Merkez	15	15	15	90

10-25 decarees	26-50 decarees	51 decarees and over
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The underlying characteristic of orchard owners whose communication information is taken is that they all employ seasonal migrant workers in hazelnut harvesting. Initially, 102 of orchard owners identified on province/district basis and by their orchard size were called and then telephone conversations were conducted from 26 to 30 March 2020 with 50 of these persons who agreed to be interviewed. These interviewees were randomly selected from among 450 orchard owners by taking into account the size of their plots. Given the purpose of the



102 of orchard owners were called and then telephone conversations were conducted from 26 to 30 March 2020 with 50 of these persons who agreed to be interviewed.

Table 2

Number of orchard owners interviewed by orchard size and at province level

Province	10-25 decares	26-50 decares	51-74 decares	75-99 decares	100 decares and over	Total
Ordu	5	3	3	1	5	17
Giresun	0	2	1	2	2	7
Samsun	1	4	2	2	2	11
Düzce	1	2	1	1	1	6
Sakarya	0	3	2	1	3	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>50</b>

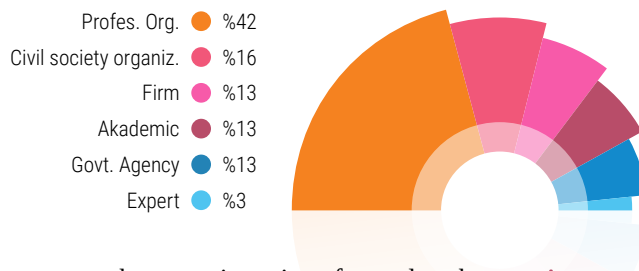
**Table 3**

Distribution of institution representatives interviewed by provinces (number)

Govt. Agency .....	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
Profes. Org. ....	0	1	2	0	3	2	5	13
Firm .....	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
Academic .....	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	4
Civil society organiz. ....	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	5
Expert .....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total .....	3	3	5	3	7	4	6	31
	Ankara	Düzce	Giresun	İstanbul	Ordu	Sakarya	Samsun	

**Chart 1**

Distribution of institution representatives interviewed (percentage)



survey, however, interviews focused on those with plots of 50 acres and over (Table 2).

**5. Institutional interviews:** In addition to these two fundamental groups interviewed on phone there were also in-depth interviews with 31 representatives from government agencies, farmers' unions, civil society organizations, private sector firms, chambers of agriculture and professional organizations in five provinces (Annex 3,4,5). These interviews mainly focused on representatives' opinions and expecta-

There were in-depth interviews with 31 institution employee and asked about on representatives' opinions and expectations related to the impact of the measures and practices against the Covid-19 outbreak on hazelnut harvest in their locations.

tions related to the impact of the measures and practices against the Covid-19 outbreak on hazelnut harvest in their locations. (Table 3, Chart 1).

**6. In-depth interviews with hazelnut orchard owners:** There were in-depth interviews with three hazelnut orchard owners with various plot sizes who employ seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest directly or through intermediaries.



Due to restrictions related to the outbreak rapid assessment was conducted in a short period of time from between May 10 to June 8, 2020 and by phone.

## Limitations

The study Possible Effects of Coronavirus Outbreak on the Participation of Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Their Children to Hazelnut Harvesting and Relevant Measures was carried out, as the title suggests, during the Covid-19 outbreak from between May 10 to June 8, 2020. This is the period when the effects of the outbreak were widespread and crisis measures were in place. The study therefore has many limitations. Since travel bans and restrictions were in effect during the study there was no other way but conducting the field study through phone conversations. Existing databases related to agricultural intermediaries and hazelnut orchard owners were used in identifying the target group which had its limitations. There was no possibility of face-to-face interviewing and it is known than online interview may bring along some problems in gaining the trust of target groups. Thus, data extracted from the target group must be approached by considering these limitations.

Apart from these, another limitation of the study derives from frequently changing measures as the outbreak goes on and steps taken towards normalization. Quick decisions taken in outbreak management may have their effects on the course of the study. This is another point to be kept in mind in relation to findings, evaluations and suggestions included in the report.



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2 [www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/Virus%20mu%20yoksulluk%20mu.pdf](http://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Raporlar/TURKCE/Virus%20mu%20yoksulluk%20mu.pdf)

3 **Agricultural intermediary:** It is a real or legal person supplying labour force to an agricultural employer as crop farming or harvesting time begins and providing jobs to job-seeking agricultural workers. An agricultural intermediary is often called as elçi or dayıbaşı in Turkey. They are persons bringi ömlöng employers and workers together in seasonal agricultural production processes and collecting a commission in return. They undertake important roles in organizing workers and providing for some of their needs. In some cases, agricultural intermediaries leave the task of monitoring and organizing the work of workers to their assistants known as çavuş. For legal status, agricultural intermediaries have to apply to the employment agency in any province and get a license.

# 1





# Agricultural Production In The Face Of Global Outbreak And Hazelnut Production

Becoming a global pandemic, the Covid-19 changed the course of everything that used to be “normal” and disturbed both production and consumption “normalcies” in every area for some time. As put by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) “*Food supply chain is a complex network comprising many factors including producers, consumers, agricultural and fishery inputs, processing and storing, transportation and marketing.*” Agriculture-food relations, supply chain in this context, and more specifically agricultural workers who make up almost the first link in this chain are deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and measures that accompanied it. Measures that affect free circulation of labour and goods, social distancing measures, calls for “*staying home*” or quarantine practices that are held compulsory in some countries placed enterprises and farmers and workers whose enterprise is “*land*” in a difficult position. Interruptions in global supply and demand links that accompany further deepened the economic crisis emerging in agriculture-food sector.

Given this almost all countries from European Union to Latin America, from Asia to Far East have introduced measures in many branches of agriculture at various levels and developed financial support schemes to protect agriculture-food sector from the adverse effects of the outbreak, minimize cuts in supply chain and ensure food security. These are mostly “rescue” and “compensation” packages in the form of direct support to agricultural enterprises and farmers. In the process of pandemic, following heightened concerns about food production, agricultural companies, big-small producers, packing and processing facilities the question “Who is working in these fields?” became a clear agenda item as it had never been before. Discussion around this question was followed by considerations about living and working conditions of agricultural labour

force. Seasonal migrant agricultural workers who are described as “most fragile and vulnerable part of labour force” by international organizations like FAO<sup>2</sup> and ILO<sup>3</sup>, in other words those working in fields and orchards as an answer to the question above, could not benefit adequately from these support schemes. It is because formal employment and “citizenship” or work permission in the case of migrant labour, social security number, etc. were preconditions for being eligible<sup>4</sup>.

Whichever crop or wherever location they are working, seasonal migrant agricultural workers and migrant workers were in the agenda throughout the outbreak first as the first link in complex food supply chain we mentioned earlier. The underlying factor is, the dependence of advanced countries in particular, to labour force from other countries. Measures adopted and restrictions imposed on travel as a result of Covid-19 affected the mobility of this labour force and particularly harvesting work negatively. This led countries like the US, Canada, Germany, France and United Kingdom to take measures to cover their labour force gap. While devising financial support schemes to keep agricultural production going these countries also made efforts to ensure that workers they need can travel and come in as they used to do. In a statement made at the end of March 2020, the EU Commission called on member states to cooperate in ensuring the easy and safe circulation of seasonal workers within the EU by reminding that “seasonal workers are of critical importance for agricultural sector in harvesting, planting and maintenance works especially in this season.” The EU countries made special efforts for both ensuring the arrival of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and mobilizing national labour force to close the gap in labour force.



The leading examples include “Feed the Nation”<sup>4</sup> and “Pick for Britain” launched by United Kingdom. With these campaigns, people who lost their jobs because of Covid-19 or in subsistence straggle for not receiving enough social support are encouraged to engage in temporary and seasonal agricultural works. A similar campaign was launched in France as “Grande Armée de l'agriculture”<sup>5</sup>. For a long time now both the US and Canada are dependent to workers from Central America and the Caribbean for their agricultural labour supply. Leaving aside migrants working without documentation and permission, both countries regulate this area with various migrant worker programmes. Shortage of labour supply similar to that experienced in the EU countries is a fact for these countries as well. By removing various bureaucratic stages in visa applications by migrant workers that she admits with H2-A visa, the US ensured uninterrupted inflow of workers.<sup>6</sup> However, in spite of the normalization tendencies observed in many

parts of the world, labour supply problem still persists especially in countries dependent to seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

A problem as important as the supply of labour is the working and living conditions of seasonal agricultural workers during the outbreak. Social distancing, personal hygiene, sanitation and disinfection in commonly used spaces, and personal protective equipment such as masks are among significant measures introduced against the disease. Working and living conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers are unsatisfactory in many countries including Turkey<sup>10,11,12,13</sup>. There is much more public talk about these conditions upon the pandemic. In this vein, measures adopted in relation to seasonal workers by Italy and the US was examined as the countries following Turkey in terms of their hazelnut output. According to 2018 statistics, Georgia and Azerbaijan are among the top five in hazelnut producing countries, but no information could be found about measures related to seasonal agricultural workers in general and in hazelnut harvest in particular in these two countries.

According to 2018 data, Italy comes after Turkey in terms of total hazelnut output. Piedmont, Lazio, Campania and Sicily are important hazelnut production areas in Italy. In continental Europe, Italy was the centre of the pandemic starting from March 2020. The Italian government tried to ensure continuance in agricultural activities in relation to the agriculture and food sector by declaring an economic support package of 100 million Euros as the first step.<sup>14</sup> Italy deeply felt the labour shortage together with the outbreak. While receiving about 300,000 seasonal migrant agricultural workers.<sup>15</sup> annually from Eastern Europe, Balkans and North African countries in particular, Italy could not reach the required level of

labour force after the closure of borders and worldwide travel restrictions. To overcome this problem, the Italian government tried to channel unemployed Italian citizens to agricultural works and on May 13, 2020 allowed undocumented migrants in the country to stay and work for a period of six months. It is estimated that about 200,000 of some 600,000 migrants in the country work in agriculture<sup>16</sup> in relation to works safety and health, the measures designed by the government together with relevant parties and declared on May 14 2020 provide the basis for agricultural works and enterprises. Measures mentioned include the following: social distancing of at least 1 meter; compulsory use of personal protective equipment during outdoor working when the distancing rule is inapplicable; periodic cleaning and disinfection of manually used tools, equipment and machines; availability of stations where workers can regularly wash their hands and keep to hand hygiene; provision of water, detergent, and hydro alcoholic gel for personal cleaning; regular temperature taking for workers; abiding the rule of 50% capacity in workers service busses; and compulsory mask wearing during transportation.<sup>19</sup> The earlier practice of 14 days long quarantine for workers coming from both other EU countries and from the Balkans and North Africa was lifted with the process of normalization.<sup>20</sup> In addition, the Piedmont regions, one of the important centres of hazelnut production, laun-



The Italian government on 13 May 2020 allowed undocumented migrants in the country to stay and work for a period of six months.







ched a programme to prevent the abuse and economic exploitation of seasonal working incoming, stop informal employment and provide humane working conditions for workers. As a part of the programme in it envisaged to provide mobile/modular shelters to workers near their working places to stop the spread of the virus by restricting mobility and to ensure minimum standards of sanitation.

According to 2018 data, the US is the fifth largest hazelnut producer in the world. The state of Oregon in the US accounts for more than 90 percent of this country's total hazelnut out and as such it is the "Black Sea region" of the US. 80 percent of this produce is exported.<sup>21</sup> Different from in Turkey, hazelnut in Oregon is mostly collected by using machinery which significantly reduces the need for labour force in hazelnut orchards of 280,000 decares according to 2018 data.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, any labour force shortage due to Covid-19 is not expected to affect hazelnut orchard owners and their enterprises much. Nevertheless the State of Oregon has recently released a general work safety and health guide for agricultural workers including seasonal migrant workers who are or will be working in the region including in hazelnut orchards.<sup>23</sup> As is the case in Italy, this guide too covers many issues including social distancing rules, cases where mask use is compulsory, personal hygiene and hand washing,

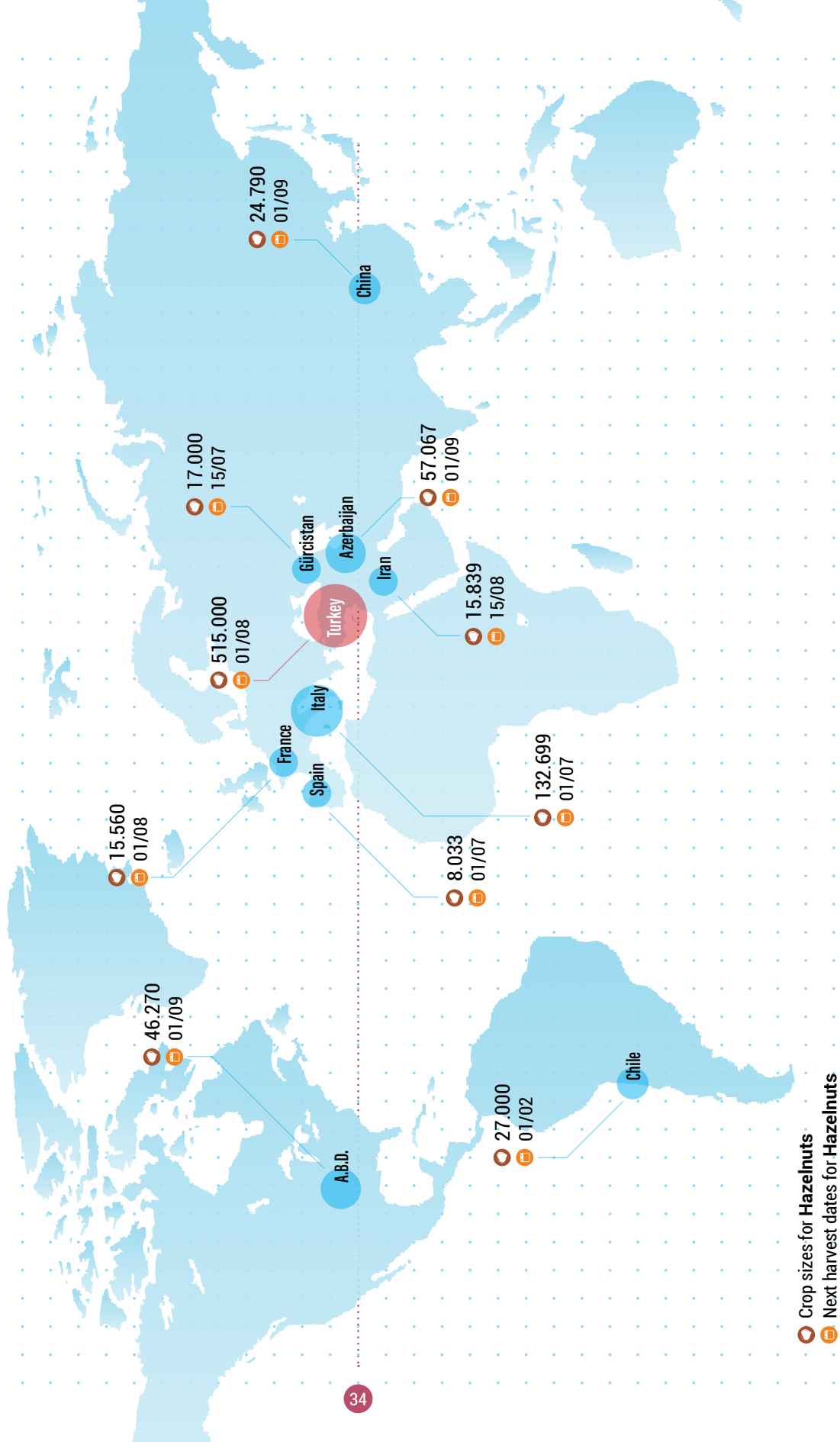
responsibilities of both employers and employees during the Covid-19 pandemic, and possibilities of healthcare and treatment. Meanwhile, the Governorate of Oregon announced a 30 million US dollars' worth support package to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 in agricultural enterprises and workers.<sup>24</sup> The package envisages distributing workers and farmers 1 million masks and about 18,000 litres of hand disinfectant. The package also includes a fund which will be used to pay workers for days spent in quarantine and capacity building training for workers in enterprises to strengthen Covid-19 combat efforts. An important part of the support fund is earmarked for the improvement of accommodation areas which is an important issue in terms of hygiene and social distancing for migrant workers in the US. More specifically the idea is to improve housing facilities provided to workers by agricultural enterprises and farmers as well as hotels and dorms where workers stay in a way to satisfy the rules and measures introduced by the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) including social distancing rules.



Different from in Turkey, hazelnut in Oregon is mostly collected by using machinery which significantly reduces the need for labour force in hazelnut orchards of 280,000 decares according to 2018 data

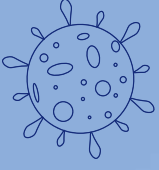
## Map 1

Major hazelnut producing countries in the world and dates of harvesting





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## Measures Adopted by Countries in their Food and Agriculture Sectors in the Context of Coronavirus Outbreak





## GERMANY

- Government announced some additional measures related to the employment of temporary agricultural workers both in the country and abroad. Agricultural workers who could earlier work only for 70 days without being registered with the social security system can now work for 115 days without paying tax. It was further announced that covered by short-term work allowance can work in farms until the end of October while retaining their allowances and that in case retired persons work temporarily in farms they will not be taxed for their "additional income" until the end of 2020. It was also provided that duration of work in farms may differ from the established practice throughout the pandemic
- According to another decision, in case farmers producing on rented land are not able to pay their rent landowner cannot unilaterally terminate lease contract until June 30th.

## TURKEY

- The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry stated that services in the e-agriculture platform will be improved to as to be more active.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry conducted the campaign "Life at home and fish on the table" from 3 to 5 April in order to exhaust fish stocks held by fish farms. The maximum price charged per kilogram of sea bream and bass by fish farms and supermarkets was 23-25 TL.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry sent its instructions to provincial directorates for the transportation of agricultural workers to crop fields with hygiene and protective materials and improvement of their sheltering conditions. It was also decided to conduct effective stock controls in fertilizer dealers in order to avoid problems in farmers' access to and distribution of inputs
- Rentals for treasury land allocated to 51,000 farmers due in months April, May and June were postponed for 6 months. Also, The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry made an agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Affairs for 2free allocation of some treasury land to farmers for 2020 summer season .
- Additional seed was supplied to farmers as grant.

## BANGLADESH

- The Federation of Farm Workers and Association of Women Farmers and Workers made a joint declaration calling on government to provide immediate income support to millions of informally employed workers and others in temporary jobs.

## LAOS

- The government called on farmers to produce more.

## THAILAND

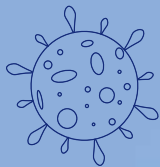
- The Government is preparing, particularly in relation to agricultural workers and fruit harvesters, to ensure fair competition in trade and to introduce arrangements to promote relations between farmers, traders and supermarkets.

## MALAYSIA

- Ananas farmers are encouraged to use social media as a marketing platform for sale enforce Goods and Services Price Legislation of goods and to avoid full dependence to wholesalers

## PHILIPPINES

- An online platform was created for direct sale of fresh fruit from producers to consumers ([homegrown-organics.myshopify.com/collections/all](https://homegrown-organics.myshopify.com/collections/all)).
- Farmers were given additional seeds as grant. There is call on urban dwellers with home yards to grow crops in their gardens.



## Measures Adopted by Countries in their Food and Agriculture Sectors in the Context of Coronavirus Outbreak

### USA

- The state of California announced 125 million US\$ aid fund for undocumented migrants mostly working in agriculture and affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.
- It was announced that the US plan to suspend migration movements to combat Covid-19 does not cover foreign agricultural workers.

### MEXICO

- Internet service was provided to enable fishing enterprises to engage in online procedures.
- Government announced that programmes and practices related to agricultural irrigation will not be affected by Covid-19 measures and it will be correct for farmers to concentrate on basic food crops (i.e. cereals).
- Mexico-centred International Fruit and Vegetable Alliance for the Promotion of Social Responsibility (AHIFORES) issued a protocol on the basis of measures identified by the Federal Government of Mexico and World Health Organization to protect agricultural workers from Covid-19

### PANAMA

- Government announced that the meat processing state enterprise will purchase extra livestock from enterprises having less than 50 animals to consolidate its stocks and to help smaller enterprises in mitigating the effects of the pandemic.

### ARGENTINA

- Deputies from the Frente de Todos coalition presently in power submitted a draft bill expanding the scope of urgent household income support programme for informal workers and self-employed so as to cover seasonal workers, refugees and asylum seekers as well.



## CANADA

- Government reactivated the agricultural employment programme carried out with Mexico. The programme envisages the employment of 27,000 Mexican temporary agricultural workers in Canada annually.

## JAPAN

- The Ministry of Agriculture announced financial support to persons who lost their jobs because of the pandemic to encourage these people to work in agricultural industries.

## ENGLAND

- A grant programme specific to food distributors was launched. Since all enterprises serving fast food and meals as well as accommodation places are closed, distributors whose networks have been disturbed and changed will use this grant to continue distribution without causing food waste. Further, by introducing flexibility to competition legislation, the government issued a circular making it possible for supermarkets to share their stock information, for markets to cooperate and for transportation vehicles to be used jointly by enterprises.
- The campaign "Pick for Britain" was launched to encourage local people to work in farms and crop fields.

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

- Coronavirus related losses were included in agricultural insurance policies.
- Goods produced by farmers cooperatives and their outputs are made public by the website of the Ministry of Agriculture throughout the pandemic.
- It is decided to promote "digital village" projects.
- Measures were taken for poultry (meat and eggs) and water products sectors to facilitate the sale of their products and to provide for their needs in inputs, logistics and transportation.
- Decisions were adopted for the improvement of social and economic state of migrant and regular agricultural workers, their employment by the public or private sector when their seasonal work is over and support their in-situ business start-ups or investments.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

- (Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) Central American countries created an online platform for exchanging information about agricultural production, agricultural and food stocks.

## BURKINA FASO

- Additional grants were declared for farmers to help them procure agricultural inputs and feed.

## SRI LANKA

- Government made an agreement with wholesalers to supply food directly to consumers throughout the curfew. The ministry introduced "urgent call, WhatsApp and e-mail line" to intervene in case of any problem in the production or trading of agricultural goods

## BRAZIL

- It is announced that the programme for free supply of agricultural products will continue



2





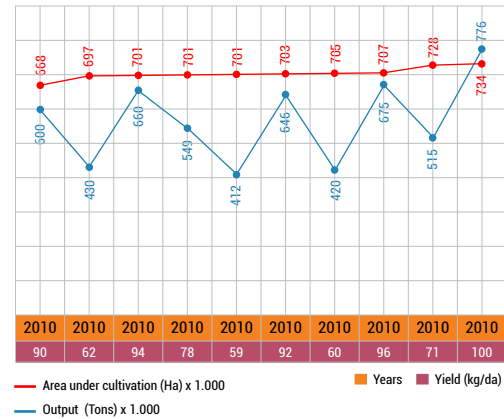
# Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Labour In Hazelnut Production And Harvesting In Turkey

## A Brief Evaluation of Hazelnut Production in Turkey

According to 2019 data of the Farmer Registry System (ÇKS) hazelnut is produced on about 734,000 hectares of land in Turkey (Chart 2). Of this land 60 per cent is in Eastern Black Sea Region, 19 per cent in Western Black Sea Region, and 20 per cent is in Eastern Marmara Region. Taking the average of 18 years, Turkey annually produces 563,000 tons of shelled hazelnut (Chart 2)

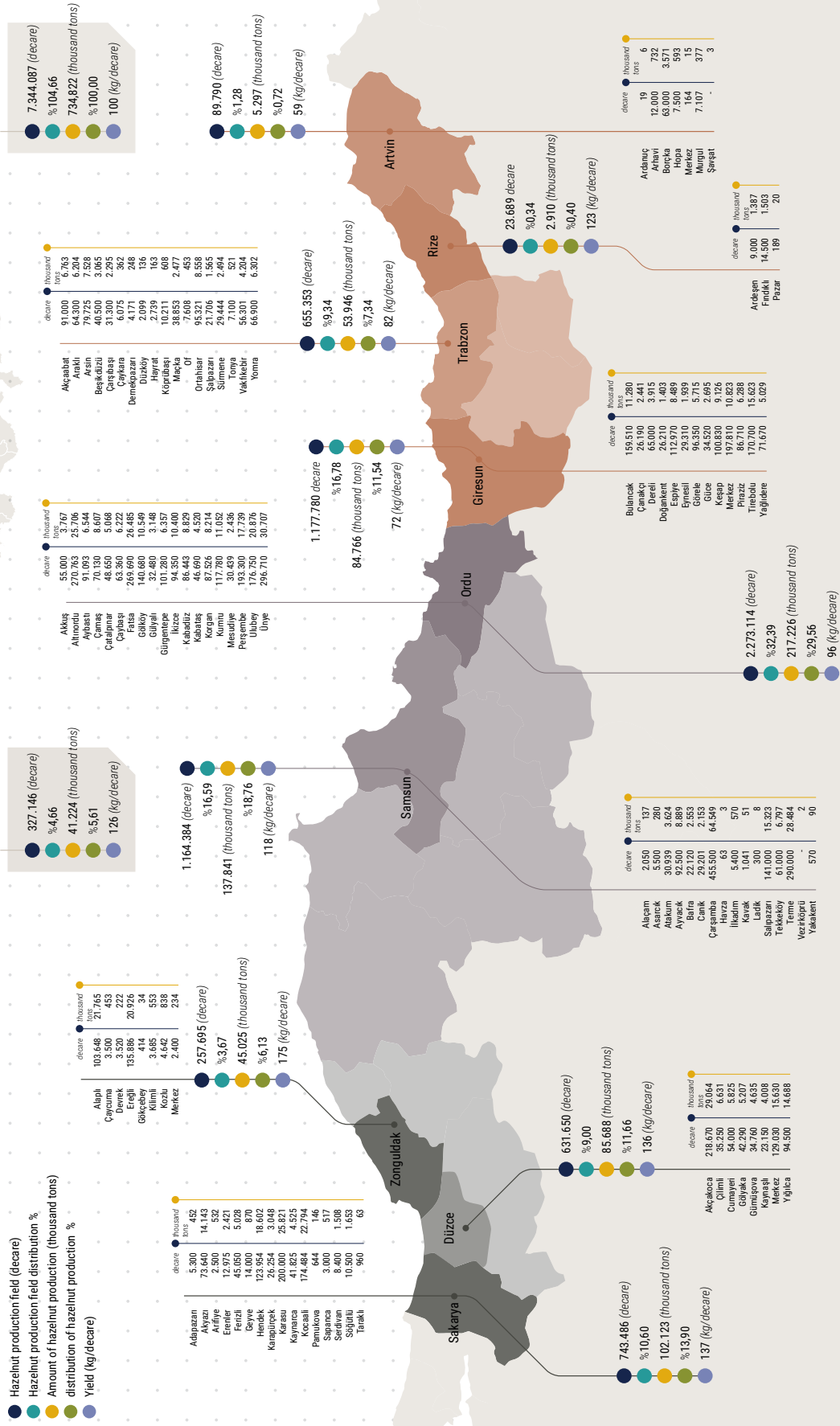
Chart 2

Hazelnut production areas in Turkey, output by years and yield per decare (2002-2019)<sup>1</sup>



The Law on Planning Hazelnut Production and Identification of Planting Areas took effect in 1983. While this law remains, the Council of Ministers occasionally took decisions expanding these areas. As a result, according to the Hazelnut Agricultural Sales Cooperatives Union data, hazelnut planting areas expanded by 124 per cent in Akçakoca, 107 per cent in Ordu, 13 per cent in Giresun, 48 per cent in Trabzon and by 72 per cent countrywide. It

Data related to hazelnut production areas and output in producing provinces (2019)<sup>3</sup>



is stated that especially in new planting areas intensified in Düzce and Sakarya the yield is higher than in aged hazelnut orchards in the eastern Black Sea region described as the real ecosystem for hazelnut.<sup>2</sup>

Hazelnut is produced in 39 provinces of Turkey. However, almost all commercially marketed hazelnut is produced in the provinces of Artvin, Düzce, Giresun, Ordu, Rize, Sakarya, Samsun, Trabzon and Zonguldak (Map 3).

Looking at nine provinces with largest production areas and highest output of shelled hazelnut in 2019, we see Ordu as the province with the largest production area (32.39 per cent) and highest output (29.56 per cent). For the same year, shelled hazelnut yield per decare is the highest in Zonguldak with 175 kg, followed by Sakarya with 137 kg (Map 3). The 2019 average per decare in these provinces is 105 kg.

## Hazelnut Supply Chain; From Orchard to Consumer

From a tree in an orchard to the consumer, one can speak of five major actors in hazelnut production; hazelnut orchard owners, local traders (greengrocers), crackers, processors (exporters) and brands producing finished products. (Chart 3)

**Hazelnut orchard owner:** There are about 500,000 market-oriented hazelnut farmers in Turkey registered with the farmer registry system.

**Trader (Greengrocer):** Hazelnut producers sell their produce to local traders known as manav (greengrocer). These people resell this produce purchased as paid in advance or on force account to either crackers or processors. In some cases, manavs make payments to ha-

zelnut orchard owners in advance and get the right of buying their produce. There are some relations that are established where crackers or processors work with the same manav all the time. It is estimated that there are 800 to 1,000 such manavs in Turkey.

**Crackers:** These people represent the third level in hazelnut supply process; in their enterprises they take hazelnut out of its shell and sift the produce according to size and quality. It is estimated that there are around 170 such enterprises in Turkey. There are some processors who are crackers at the same time. Crackers and processors are the most important financial supporters of manavs.

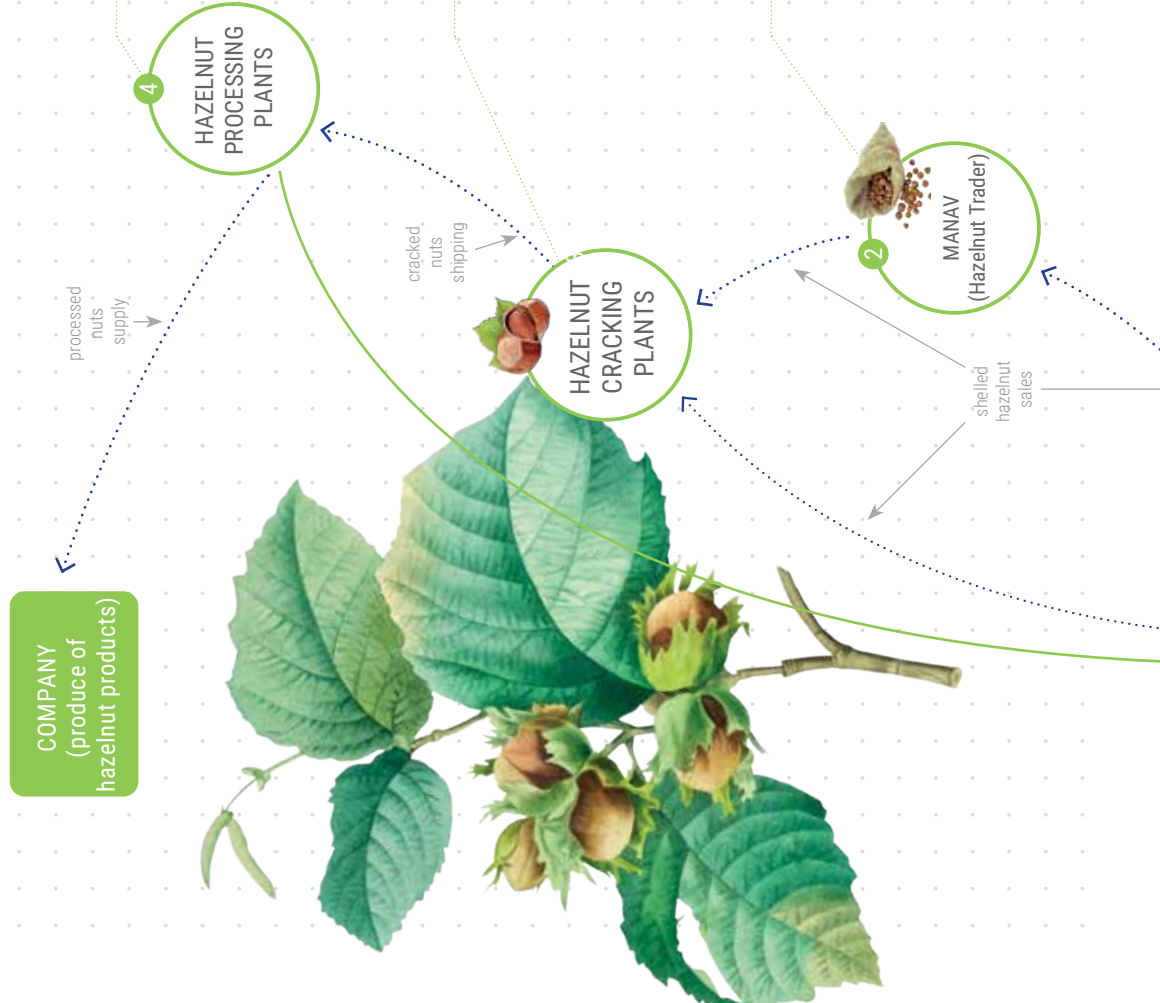
**Processors (Exporters):** These actors at the fourth level are engaged in more complex operation as roasting unshelled hazelnut coming from crackers, sifting by size, further braking depending on demand, producing hazelnut paste, de-oiling, etc. Hazelnut processed in these enterprises is sold to firms producing final products. There are 20-25 large-scale processors in Turkey and they are also exporters at the same time.

**Final good producers:** : This is the last link in the chain before the consumer. Hazelnut purchased from processors or exporters is used in preparing finished products that is presented to consumers. Hazelnut as such is mostly used in chocolate and confectionery products.

In addition to this supply chain, there are also tradesmen and brokers who globally market hazelnut products from different countries.

Chart 3

## HAZELNUT SUPPLY CHAIN FROM ORCHARDS TO CONSUMERS



### STAGE 4 HAZELNUT PROCESSING

Some hazelnut processing enterprises have their own cracking units. These enterprises buy their produce directly from farmers or greengrocers. Enterprises that concentrate on further processing only buy their inputs from cracker firms. It is said that there are about 50 hazelnut processing facilities in Turkey. These enterprises manage their processing operations in line with requests of hazelnut traders or final good producers. Some final good producers have their cracking and processing facilities both and they purchase shelled hazelnut directly from farmers or greengrocers. In these processing enterprises, workers are employed according to the capacity and annual work schedule of the facility concerned.

### STAGE 3 HAZELNUT CRACKING

Facilities cracking nuts operate usually from August to January to separate the fruit from its shell. They are located in hazelnut farming areas. During the process, collected and dried fruit is brought in sacks to cracking facilities directly by farmers or via greengrocers and after being discharged from sacks transferred to storages by what is known as z elevator. It was then cracked and de-shelled in mills. Hazelnut cracking enterprises employ temporary workers in this process

### STAGE 2 GREENGROCCERS AS INTERMEDIATE TRADERS IN HAZELNUT

After drying, hazelnut is stored in sacks. orchard owners who want to sell their produce in ready cash or deposit it for payment at the market price of the time the account is to be cleared have three options with respect to buyers. (a) greengrocers known as local hazelnut traders, (b) owners of hazelnut cracking plants, (c) owners of enterprises that both crack and process hazelnut. Greengrocers who buy hazelnut store it with their own means. They sell it to other parties that have either cracking plants or both cracking and processing facilities. Greengrocers need workers for both loading and storing when they purchase hazelnut. They usually employ workers on daily wage basis. It is said there are about 2,000 such greengrocers in Black Sea region.





## STAGE 1 HAZELNUT PRODUCTION

Hazelnut is produced by about 400,000 orchard owners with their registration to the farmer system. Having the status of small producer, these farmers are engaged in care and maintenance, medication, fertilization and harvesting works that spread over the year. There are 1,000 hazelnut orchard covered by the project in Düzce, Sakarya and Ordu provinces.



### EMPLOYMENT IN HAZELNUT PRODUCTION

There are five types of labour involved in hazelnut production

5

4

3

2

1

Hazelnut harvested by seasonal migrant agricultural workers

Hazelnut harvested by local workers

Hazelnut harvested by foreign migrant workers

Hazelnut harvested by sharecroppers

Hazelnut harvested by household/family, close relative labour

## FINDIK ÜRETİM SÜRECİNİN AYLARA GÖRE ADIMLARI

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<p>The female flowers (catkins), which will in turn grow to become hazelnut clusters, start to appear. To get a high yield, the catkins should pollinate without being affected by the cold; they should be protected against frost. Pesticides are administered to combat against pests such as the Oystershell Scale and the Pear Blight Beetle.</p>	<p>The catkins become mature and male flowers begin to pollinate. Fermented fertiliser - the pollinated catkins - is administered to feed and to get a good product. The mites and cocoons are picked by hand to stop damage by the hazel gall mite and the moths which spent the winter in their cocoons.</p>	<p>The air and soil warm and nature begins to awaken; plant nutrients (fertiliser) are given to the soil. The pesticides are administered to combat against hazel gall mites and other pests such as weevils. Precautions are taken against last spring frosts and branches which were damaged in winter are cleaned.</p>	<p>The combat against the hazel gall mite, moth and green shield bug is carried out. Nitrogenous fertilising ends, but if the fertilising time has passed, it can also be used in this month.</p>	<p>As it is the period when all creatures wake from hibernation and the hazelnut clusters begin to develop its fruit, this is the month when the hazelnut pests start to become active. Combating against the nut weevil is carried out in this month, when the fruits are the size of a lentil.</p>	<p>Herbicides are administered toward the end of this month to control weeds or foreign plants such as nettles or blackberry. Insecticides are administered against the European Fruit Lecanium and the Pear Blight Beetle.</p>	<p>If there is a drought, irrigation is necessary to ensure the hazelnut fruit is well developed and does not fall from the branch. Before the harvest, weeding, re-pair of tools and equipment, preparation of the threshing location is carried out and pesticides are administered if there is a high concentration of the green shield bug nymph.</p>	<p>Hazelnuts are harvested manually from the hazel trees or by collecting hazelnuts which were shaken to the ground. After the harvest, threshing and storage processes are carried out.</p>	<p>In places where threshing is delayed, the product must be well protected from the autumn rains. Once the hazelnut harvest is completed, moth control is carried out.</p>	<p>The product is sold. The tasks of pruning, removing dry branches and winter fertilisation begins, as preparation for next year. Pesticide for control of may beetle larvae is applied in these months.</p>	<p>Removal of dry branches. Completing the winter fertilisation task (phosphorous) in places not yet carried out. Lirring depending on the pH level of the soil.</p>	<p>Lirring is carried out (if not already done). Maintenance of the orchard and trenches are carried out. Terraces are made to protect and increase the productivity of the soil, water and fertiliser. Aged hedges are pruned. The trunks of the hazel trees are thinned. Training and capacity building activities are carried out.</p>

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Labor.

This material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Labor, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the United States Government.

## Seasonal Agricultural Labour in Hazelnut Harvest

Hazelnut production is mostly by the orchard owner himself or, in some cases, by other local people through sharecropping. When production is by orchard owners, there are three types of labour in harvesting works (Chart 4)

**a. Unpaid family worker:** These are members or relatives of a family take part in hazelnut harvest as owners or sharecroppers of the orchard without receiving any pecuniary return for their work. In hazelnut production, neighbours and relatives may also be helping and this type of labour is also in the same category (unpaid).

**b. Local agricultural worker:** It is the person who takes part in hazelnut production for economic returns; working an orchard in his own province, district, village or neighbourhood during daytime and returning to his permanent home in the evening.

**c. Seasonal migrant agricultural worker:** It is the person who leaves his permanent residence (in a province, district, village or neighbourhood) and travels to another place for earning wage by taking part in hazelnut production for at least a day, not permanently but temporary employed in this job.



Chart 4

## Worker typologies in hazelnut harvesting

1

### Unpaid Family Labour

Labour expended in one's own orchard and/or crop field also for one's own crop without any remuneration.

2

### Local Worker

Worker who takes part in agricultural production process to earn income, works in crop fields or orchards in his/her province, district, village and neighbourhood during the day, returns to his/her habitual residence after work and rarely stays overnight at his/her place of work.



**Agricultural intermediary:** This is the real or legal person who acts as an intermediary to recruit workers for agricultural employers in seasons or harvesting times when they need it and to provide jobs to job seeking agricultural workers. Agricultural intermediaries are called as "elçi" or "dayıbaşı". They undertake important roles in seasonal agricultural production processes by bringing employers and workers together, receiving fee and commission in return, and providing for daily needs of workers during the term of their employment. To operate legally, these persons have to apply to the Labour Directorate of the province concerned and get an official certificate.

**"Çavuş":** Observable in some worker groups, while working together with others, the 'çavuş' is the person who takes care of problems faced by workers and acts as a leader managing his group. He usually receives double wage.

**Sack man:** This is the worker who places collected hazelnut in sacks and sews up the open part of sacks.

**Yemekçi (cook):** This is the person who remains at the gathering place after workers have gone to their work and prepares dinner for workers to come in after day's work.

**Muleteer/carrier:** This is the person who carries collected hazelnut from orchards to harvesting place and from there to the storage facility.

3

### Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker

It is used to describe a person who leaves his/her place of residence (province, district, village, neighbourhood) and travels to another place to obtain economic income, and participates, for at least one day, to agricultural production processes in this new place without permanently doing that job. Worker families who leave their places of residence stay at the place they move to for a period of time.

While seasonal migrant agricultural workers mostly work with an agricultural intermediary, there are also some among them who work without the mediation of intermediaries given their own efforts and contacts. Seasonal migrant agricultural workers are divided into two groups.

3.1

### Foreign Migrant Worker

Foreign migrant workers are agricultural workers who experience the process of migration in seasonal temporary works by travelling from one country to another. In hazelnut harvest, for example, there have been Georgian and Azeri workers and more recently there are also others from Syria and Afghanistan.

3.2

### Domestic Migrant Worker

Domestic migrant worker is the worker who takes part in inter-provincial migration process in the same country and repeats this mobility in different seasons in line with agricultural employment possibilities as a citizen of the country concerned.



3





# Covid-19 Virus Outbreak Measures Concerning Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers In Turkey

The Covid-19 outbreak starting in China in December 2019 first reached the borders of the European Union (EU) towards the end of February, then spread to the US and Canada and finally turned into a global health crisis. During the early months of this process countries pursued different combat strategies. Debates about this issue still continue with a view to a possible second wave in coming fall.

Like many other countries, Turkey tried to develop a strategy of her own which is neither full quarantine as in New Zealand nor full herd immunity like the case in Sweden. Significant steps in this regard started to be taken in mid-March. The Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Higher Education Board (YÖK) announced on 12 March 2020 that formal education and higher education were suspended for three weeks to start on 16 March 2020. A week later, it was decided to continue with distance education. Besides, the YÖK first postponed university admittance tests (YKS) to 25-26 July 2020 and then brought earlier to 28 June 2020

The countrywide “**Stay Home**” campaign was started on 18 March 2020 to curb the spread of the disease. Upon a presidential order, inter-city bus traffic was made subject to the special permission of governorates starting from 17:00 hours on 28 March 2020. The relevant arrangements were delegated to Travel Permission Boards formed under province and district governorates. With these measures in place, there emerged significant uncertainties about how population groups working in some sectors are supposed to act.

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers are among these groups and it is now under discussion how they can travel at the beginning of crop farming season and sustainability of farming in their absence. At the beginning, their inter-provincial travel was subject to

permission to be granted by the Travel Permission Board which was then transferred to provincial/district agriculture and forestry directorates. As reflected in the media there was initial chaos in procedures for getting this permission issued.

In line with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Coronavirus Science Board and in order to enhance the effectiveness of decisions taken to combat the Covid-19 outbreak, and under the instructions of the Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Provincial Administrations No.89780865-153-E.6202 dated 03 April 2020 on coronavirus measures and seasonal agricultural workers, it was decided to set up “Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Boards” under province governorates. The membership in these boards encompasses provincial directorates of agriculture and forestry, health, Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD) and migration, representatives of security, local governments and chambers of agriculture.

As presented in Chart 5 there are institutions and commissions at three levels where measures are taken for and support extended to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in the Covid-19 outbreak:

**(i)** At national level, related decisions are taken under the Presidency of Turkey by the coordination of four ministries and upon advices of Coronavirus Science Board.

**(ii)** At province level these decisions are announced and implemented by provincial travel, pandemic and public health boards under governorates and the Seasonal Agricultural Labour Force Planning and Coordination Commission intervenes in issues related to ways these decisions find reflection in agricultural production. Provincial Directorates in Health, Agriculture and Forestry, Family, Labour and

Social Services support the enforcement of these decisions in their respective mandates.

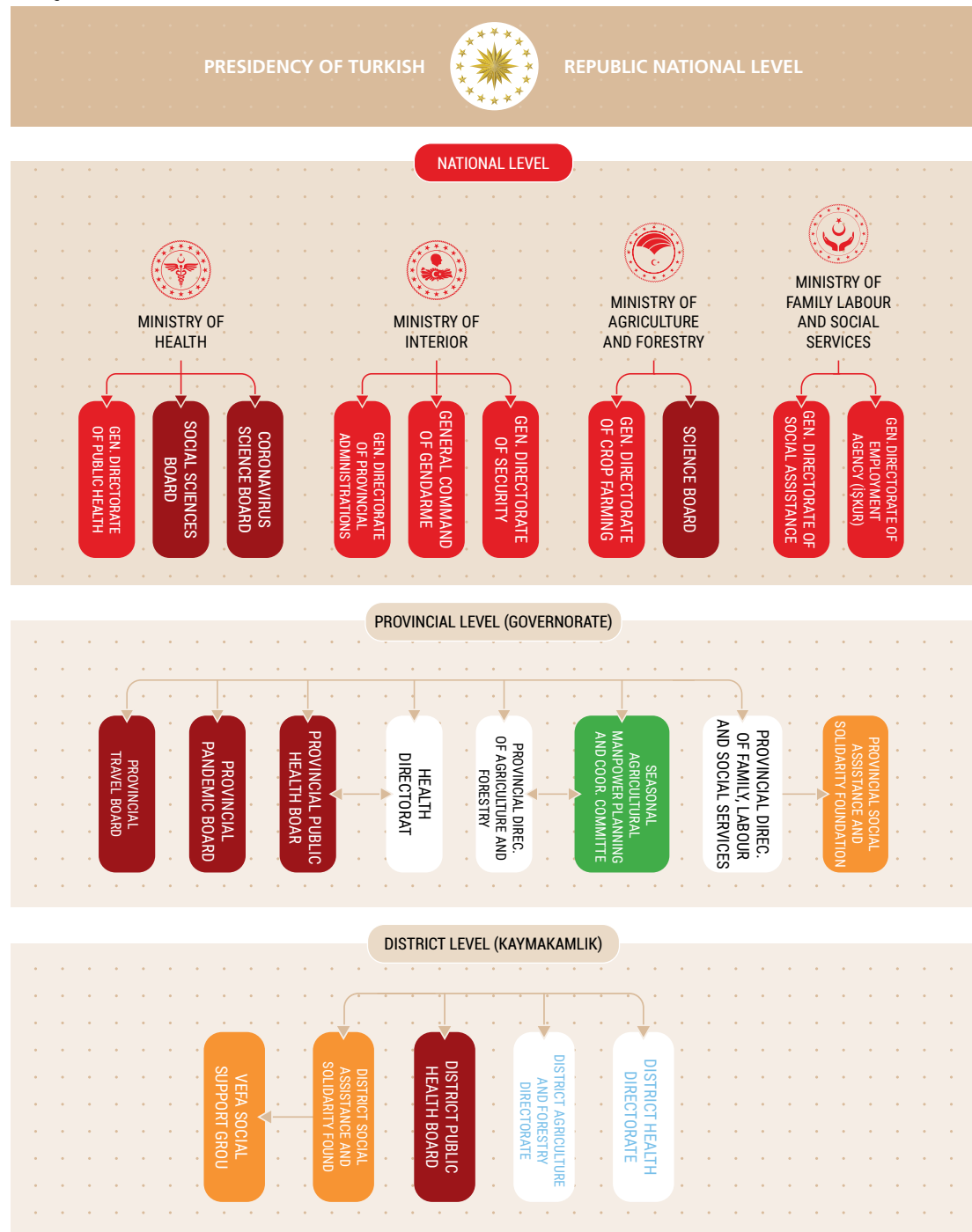
**(iii)** At district level District Directorates of Health, Agriculture and Forestry and District Public Health Board are in charge of ensuring local implementation of decisions coming from province level and take decisions at local-district level.

As Turkey took decisions for gradual normalization with 1 June 2020 many measures that had been taken before were lifted with the announcement that the process of normalization will proceed step by step. Relevant to agricultural production and the movement of seasonal migrant agricultural workers, age-based curfew and travel restrictions were either lifted or mitigated accompanied by some travel precautions to be applicable to all. However, in case of any unexpected event or a possible second wave in the disease it is possible to re-introduce some measures that will have their direct implications for agricultural production. Therefore, focusing on tea harvest in Black Sea Region through April and May together with measures taken by province governorates in the context of the outbreak is important to grasp the process and take hints for hazelnut harvest that will follow. This part also includes measures already taken for hazelnut production.

Following the Ministry of Interior Circular dated 3 April 2020 on Seasonal Agricultural Workers commissions were established in provinces where agricultural activities require significant numbers of seasonal workers. Under the chair of a deputy governor, these commissions included Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Director, Provincial Health Director, Provincial AFAD Director, Provincial Migration Affairs Director, representatives from the security, local governments and chambers of agriculture.

Chart 5

Institutions and commissions adopting measures for and extending support to seasonal migrant agricultural workers during the Covid-19 outbreak<sup>1</sup>



Along with this circular, discussions started in Black Sea region provinces, the centre of tea and hazelnut production, how measures taken against the Covid-19 outbreak will be implemented while “keeping agricultural production going.” On 9 April 2020, a commission was established in Giresun under the governorate with the participation of relevant government agencies and professional chambers.<sup>3</sup> The commission announced that it would first try to ensure that labour force needed to keep agricultural production going is supplied by the own means and labour force of the province. In case local labour force proves insufficient, the first try will be to recruit local workers from neighbouring provinces and then, if necessary, seasonal migrant agricultural workers will be considered. In this case, labour supply will be from other provinces with the permission of the governorates of origin provinces. The decision is that when hazelnut harvest season comes only workers from Şanlıurfa and Adıyaman will be admitted to Giresun. On 15 April 2020, the board meeting under the Governorate decided to recruit needed labour force only from the provinces of Batman, Diyarbakır, Mardin and Şanlıurfa and on the condition that they are qualified.<sup>4</sup>

Another community that is interested in travel restrictions is “absentee” hazelnut orchard owners. People in this community reside in places other than where hazelnut is produced, they cannot get necessary documents issued since titles of their plots are held by their parents above age 65 and barred by inter-provincial travel restrictions. This situation leads to uncertainty as to pre-harvest operations such as fertilizing, weeding, clearing, etc. In fact, the president of an Agricultural Chamber in Ordu province says they have established teams in the district as early as April 10th to complete fertilizing and similar

works of orchard owners who cannot travel and be present in their orchards.<sup>5</sup>

Starting from May 2020 there were plenty of talk and news in the media that there will be labour force shortage in hazelnut harvest in provinces of Giresun, Ordu, Rize and Trabzon.<sup>6</sup> Ordu Branch of the Chamber of Agricultural Engineers stated that due to uncertainties about this issue hazelnut orchard owners started to frequently apply to the chamber about the way of harvesting by using ground net/cover.<sup>7</sup> The Ordu Head of Georgian Association of International Foreign Investors suggested the application of quick Covid-19 tests in border crossings in order to avoid any labour shortage problem.<sup>8</sup>

Against this environment of uncertainties, the Mayor of Ordu Metropolitan Municipality announced on 20 May 2020 that they launched the project “Fındık Dalda, Aklın İşçide Kalmasın” “Not letting hazelnut remain on its branch and not getting worried about labour supply) saying “With the platform we create we give start to the period of win-win for both orchard owners and workers”. Under the project whose applications started on 1 June 2020, the objective is to match labour demand and supply in Ordu province. On May 28, 2020 the Chamber of Agriculture in Ordu İkizce said they were receiving high demand for labour force since Georgian workers could not come for tea harvesting and while local people suffering economic losses because of outbreak were moving to tea harvesting but without sufficient labour supply. The president of the chamber added that people of Rize origin living in İstanbul applied for information to work in tea harvesting and these applications would make significance in case necessary measures are taken. Remarking that problems faced in tea harvest would be seen in hazelnut harvest as well, he said:



## FINDIK HASADI İÇİN DIŞARIDAN İŞÇİ GELMELİ



Çayda olduğu gibi fındıkta da işçi sorunu yaşanacak diye endişe taşıdıklarını kaydeden İkiçze Ziraat Odası Başkanı Hasan Çalık, "Güneydoğu'dan mutlaka işçi gelmesi gerekiyor. Eğer bu işçiler gelmez ise fındık toplayacak işçilerin günlüğü 400-450 liraya çıkar." dedi.

ÇAY HASADINI İKİÇZELİLER YAPIYOR  
İkiçze Ziraat Odası Başkanı Hasan Çalık, Gürcü işçilerin girişine izin verilmeyince Rize'den çay toplamak için yoğun işçi talebi aldıkları gibi korona yüzünden ekonomik kayba giren insanların da çay toplamaya önceki yıllara nazaran yoğun ilgi gösterdiğini söyledi.

"There is absolute need for workers from the Southeast. If they don't wages of harvesting workers will jump up... Workers must come but not coronavirus. So parties of workers coming in must be examined by medical teams and these examinations must be repeated in specific intervals." <sup>14</sup>

While these preparations are being made, there is still news about difficulties faced by "absentee landowners" in travelling to places where they have their plots. For example, the Executive Director of the Black Sea Union of Hazelnut Product Exporters made a statement on April 21, 2020 saying there are many farmers who could not travel to their orchards because of travel restrictions and measures are needed to avoid any adverse effect of this on production. The Düzce Chamber of Agriculture stressed on April 27, 2020 the absolute necessity of incoming workers to sustain hazelnut production and asked for necessary preparations. The Governor of Giresun made a similar statement on May 6, 2020 expressing

## Giresun İl Pandemi Kurulu yaklaşan çay hasadı ve fındık tarımını değerlendirdi

Giresun Valisi Harun Sarıfakıoğlu başkanlığında toplanan İl Pandemi Kurulu'nda Giresun'un içinde bulunduğu son durum görüşüldü.



Giresun Valisi Harun Sarıfakıoğlu, çay ve fındık üretiminde Korona virüs sürecinin etkilerini en aza indirebilmek için bir araya gelindiğini belirterek "Özellikle çay üretiminde yer alan üreticilerimiz, müstahsillerimiz ağırlıklı İstanbul da ikamet ediyorlar. İstanbul da bildiğimiz gibi pandeminin en yoğun yaşandığı illerden biridir. O nedenle ya gelmemeleri için gerekli önlemler alınacaktır, ya da Sağlık Bakanlığın, Bilim Kurulu toplantıları sonrası alınacak kararlara bağlı olarak sadece bir kişinin temsilen gelmesini arzu ediyoruz.

worries not only about workers' arrival but absentee producers as well:

"Our tea farmers in particular mostly reside in İstanbul. And we all know that it is one of the most critical provinces in terms of the spread of the disease. So there will either be measures to prevent their travel or one representative will be allowed to come depending on decisions to be taken by the Science Board of the Ministry of Health. We think about solving the problem of shortage here by working with district governorates and civil society organizations. We hope this problem will be solved until hazelnut harvesting time." <sup>15</sup>

Meanwhile discussions have already started as of the end of April 2020 on possible output and price of hazelnut this year. An economist analysing hazelnut said the following in a statement made on 24 April 2020:

"In the last harvest, the opening price for hazelnut was 16 TL/kg. On 15 October 2019 the

*Agricultural Crops Office started to purchase hazelnut at 17 TL. Presently the price of hazelnut per kilo is 25 TL. Due to incidence of frost as a result of global climate change the yield is expected to be low in the coming harvest, so the price may climb higher. Another factor is that because of on-going Covid-19 pandemic hazelnut farmers in Italy cannot attend to their orchards”<sup>16</sup>*

Below is another statement from a member of the Union of Agricultural Chambers on 28 April 2020:

*“Human immune system must be kept strong to protect from coronavirus. There is now demand for hazelnut in countries where virus transmission is high...”*

The representative added that the price of hazelnut in markets fluctuate around 25 TL. In his statement made on 5 May 2020 the president of Ünye Chamber of Agriculture said the output will not be high this year due to outbreak and the price will not fall below 20 TL.17

In May 2020 with the start of labour migration there was news about the implementation of measures taken. In Bafra District of Samsun, arriving seasonal migrant agricultural workers were given training in Covi-19 outbreak on 6 May 2020 by teams from Bafra District Directorates of Health and Agriculture under the coordination of Samsun Governorate; also, infants and children accompanying workers were immunized and given general health examinations.<sup>17</sup> Again in Bafra District 6-7 May 2020:

*“Control of accommodation areas of seasonal workers covered 78 workers from Viranşehir district of Şanlıurfa now in Şeyhören neighbourhood; 7 from Eyyubiye district of Şanlıurfa now in İkiştepe neighbourhood; and 8 other workers from Şereflikoşhisar district of*

### Corona virüs Türk fındığına yaradı

Türkiye'nin üretim kaleminde çok önemli bir yere sahip olan fındığın fiyatı serbest piyasada 25 lirayı buldu.



Dünya fındık üretim alanlarının yüzde 75'ini elinde bulunduran Türkiye, bu ürünün ihracatında da dünya lideri konumunda bulunuyor. Doğu Karadeniz Bölgesi'nin en önemli bitkisel ürünlerinden olan fındıkta Türkiye, yılda ortalama 500 thousand tons üretim yaparak iç piyasalarda da son dönemlerde hareketlilik yaşanıyor. Corona virüs dolayısıyla evlerine çekilen insanların kuru yemişlere taleplerinin artmasının ardından, fındık fiyatında da hareketlenme yaşandı. Kabuklu fındığın kilosu serbest piyasada 25 lirayı gördü.

Fındık Analisti Ekonomist Bilal Can Yahşi yaptığı açıklamada, “Bölgemizde fındık ekonomik olarak çok önemli bir üründür. Özellikle Samsun, Ordu ve Giresun bölgesinde en önemli gelir kaynağı fındıktır. Geçtiğimiz hasat döneminde fındık 16 TL'den fiyat açmıştı. Bununla birlikte 15 Ekim tarihinde Türkiye Toprak Mahsulleri Ofisi üreticinin fındığını 17 TL'den satın almaya başlamıştı. Şu anda fındık fiyatı 25 TL'yi buldu. Dünya üzerindeki iklimsel değişimlerden kaynaklı don olaylarının olması nedeniyle üнімüzdeki hasat döneminde fındığın az olacağı düşünülmekte, bu nedenle fındık fiyatlarında artış gözlendi. Bununla birlikte İtalya ve dünyadaki diğer fındık üreticisi olan ülkelerde 2019 yılında fındığın az olması Türkiye'deki fındık talebini arttırdı. Ayrıca içinde bulunduğumuz covid-19 salgını nedeniyle İtalya'da fındık üreticileri tarlalarıyla ilgilenememekte. Bu da gelecek sezondaki fındık için olumsuzluğa neden olacak” dedi.

### Corona virüs salgınında satışa artan fındığın fiyatı yükseldi

Corona virüs salgını nedeniyle uygulanan sokağa çıkma yasaklarında kuru yemiş tüketimi artınca iç ve dış piyasada fındık satışları da arttı. Toprak Mahsulleri Ofisi'nin (TMO) ekim ayında üreticiye 17 lira ödediği kabuklu fındığın kilogram fiyatı 25 liraya kadar yükselirken, ihracat oranları da 2'ye katlandı. Türkiye Ziraat Odaları Birliği (TZOB) Yönetim Kurulu üyesi Arslan Soydan, “Corona virüsün çok yaygın olduğu ülkelerde şu an fındığa talep var” dedi.



Corona virüs tedbirleri kapsamında uygulanan sokağa çıkma yasaklarında kuru yemiş olan talep artınca iç ve dış piyasada fındık satışları arttı. TMO'nun geçen yılın Ekim ayında üreticiye 17 lira ödediği kabuklu fındığın kilogram fiyatı 25 liraya yükseldi. Karadeniz Fındık Mamulleri ve İhracatçıları Birliği verilerine göre, 1 Eylül 2019 ile 19 April 2020 döneminde, standart natürel iç fındığın 100 kilogramı ortalama 677 dolardan işlem gördü. Bu dönemde 266 bin 339 ton fındık ihracatı karşılığında 1 milyar 758 milyon 533 bin dolar gelir elde edildi.

Ankara in Gaziosmanpaşa neighbourhood. Temperatures of these workers were taken; they were given information about cleanliness and hygiene; measures they should observe against the disease while working and in social environments and use of masks and gloves.” \*The governorate of Samsun and district governorate of Çarşamba distributed on 22 May 2020 masks supplied under the Circular No. 2017/6 on Seasonal Agricultural Workers.

It was reported on 27 May 2020 that there is large-scale mobility to Rize, Trabzon, Artvin and Giresun provinces with the start of tea harvest; 7,800 Covid-19 tests were applied in Rize to tea orchard owners coming from other provinces; 4,500 of these tests were concluded and 10 persons were identified as infected. It was stated that these news raise worries among orchard owners about the incoming hazelnut harvest. On 31 May 2020 it was announced that persons at age 65 and over would be exempt from curfew if they are working outside. On the same date Ordu President of the union Türk Sağlık-Sen said:

“We first want to have persons to come to Ordu to be tested for Covid-19 on the province border. You know 15 persons among those from Istanbul going to Rize for tea harvest were found infected. Those who will come for hazelnut must be first tested and then allowed in.”

The headline of this online news was “Don’t come to Ordu without getting your test.”

Decisions taken during meetings held from April to May under governorates overlap with news appearing in the media. The earliest of these meetings was held in Rize discussing how labour force needed in tea harvest could be supplied since Artvin-Sarp Border gate was closed and making the following recommendation:

Gazeteniz  
Olsun.com

ANA SAYFA GAZETELER EŞ YOKOLAR YAZARLAR  
EKONOMİ SİYASET DÜNYA SPOR MAGAZİN EĞİTİM SAĞLIK

### Mevsimlik İşçilere Virüs Eğitimi

Bafra’da mevsimlik tarım işçilerine kovit-19 tedbirleri anlatıldı.

SAMSUN HABER 09 May 2020 Cumartesi 10:31



Tüm Dünya’yı etkisi altına alan Koronavirüs (Covid-19) salgınının tarımsal üretime olan olumsuz etkisinin en az seviyede tutulması, gıda üretim ve tedarik zincirinin korunmasını amaçla, Bafra’da çalışmakta olan mevsimlik tarım işçileri ile çiftçilere, tarımsal üretim sırasında (toprak işleme, ekim, dikim, gübreleme, çapalama, ilaçlama v.b.) sosyal mesafenin korunması, maske ve eldiven kullanımı, kişisel hijyen sağlanması, konaklama yerlerindeki yatma düzeni ve sosyal izolasyon mesafeleri, bulundukları alanlarda gerekli hijyen (su, wc, banyo) şartlarının sağlanması ve ulaşımını sırasında uyulması gereken konular hakkında Bafra İlçe Tarım ve Orman Müdürlüğüne gerekli bilgilendirmeler yapıldı.

Bu kapsamda, Bafra Kaymaklığına mevsimlik ve yerel tarım işçilerine tarımsal üretim sırasında eğitim verilmesi için İlçe Tarım ve Orman Müdürlüğünden 5 ziraat mühendisi, İlçe Sağlık Müdürlüğünden 1 doktor, 2 diğ hekim ve 1 ebe görevlendirildi.

KÜLTÜRÜN İZİNİ  
HİZİN KAZANCI  
ORDU OLAY  
GÜNDEM ASAYİŞ EKONOMİ SİYASET EĞİTİM SPOR TEKNİKLER YAŞAM  
HABERLER > EKONOMİ > HİNDİ HİNDİ HİNDİ HİNDİ HİNDİ HİNDİ HİNDİ  
31-05-2020 15:28

### TEST OLMADAN ORDU’YA GELME HEMŞEHRİM

TEST YAPILMADAN  
ORDU’YA  
GİRMESİNLER

Gurbetçiler üzerinden yeniden korona virüs dalgası yaşanan Ordu’da Ordu Valiliği’ne fındık toplamak için gelecek gurbetçilerin ve işçilerin korona virüs testi yapılmadan şehre girişine izin verilmemesi gerektiği açıklandı.

Ordu Valisi Sedar Yavuz, Ordu’da sıfırlana korona vakalarının İstanbul ve Kocaeli’nden gelen gurbetçiler yüzünden yeniden 10’lu rakamlara çıktığını açıkladı. Yaklaşan fındık sezonu ve seyahat yasağının kalkması Ordu’da gurbetçi endişesine neden oldu. Sağlık sendikaları ise yaklaşan tehlikeye dikkat çekerek acı sonuçlarla karşılaşılması için korona virüs testi yaptırmayan hiç kimsenin Ordu’ya giriş yapmasına izin verilmemesi gerektiğini açıkladı.

*"For correct equilibrium in labour market under the principles of free market it is recommended for radical solution the formation of organized alternative labour force and Chambers of Agriculture presenting a common alternative..."*

Decisions specified by the Ministry of Interior circular were discussed at province level in a meeting organized by the Governorate of Giresun on 3 April 2020. The most important outcome of this meeting was:

*"Control of accommodation areas of seasonal workers covered 78 workers from Viranşehir district of Şanlıurfa now in Şeyhören neighbourhood; 7 from Eyyubiye district of Şanlıurfa now in İkiztepe neighbourhood; and 8 other workers from Şereflikoçhisar district of Ankara in Gaziosmanpaşa neighbourhood. Temperatures of these workers were taken; they were given information about cleanliness and hygiene; measures they should observe against the disease while working and in social environments and use of masks and gloves."*<sup>18</sup>

*"The first principle is trying to ensure that labour force needed to keep agricultural production going is supplied by the own means and labour force of the province. In case local labour force proves insufficient, the first try will be to recruit local workers from neighbouring provinces and then, if necessary, seasonal migrant agricultural workers will be considered. In this case, labour supply will be from other provinces with the permission of the governorates of origin provinces."*

So in case there is need for outside labour, only workers from Adıyaman and Şanlıurfa provinces will be admitted and on the condition that they are supplied by licensed intermediaries. This clarity will also simplify bureaucratic formalities in getting "travel permission" issued.

Following this meeting the decision taken by Giresun Province Public Health Council was announced on 5 April 2020 and the following addition was made to the Ministry of Interior circular dated 3 April 2020:



*"Travel permissions shall be used so as to be limited to normal passenger capacity in private cars and so as not to exceed half the normal passenger capacity of vehicles with maximum 20 passenger capacity and D2 transportation document."*

After meetings of Provincial Public Health Boards in Düzce, Giresun, Ordu, Sakarya and Trabzon on April 5-6, 2020 measures were announced "to slow down the spread of the disease and virus transmission by reducing social mobility". Following this date, measures related to agricultural production were announced weekly in the context of general weekend curfews.

For example, Provincial Public Health Boards under Trabzon, Sakarya and Samsun Governorates announced exemption to curfew to be imposed on 10-12 April 2020 as "those who will be working in harvesting of crops and animal products with the risk of going bad." A week after, the governorates of Düzce, Rize, Sakarya, Samsun and Trabzon expanded exceptions foreseen by Provincial Public Health Boards as follows:



*"Farmers engaged in animal husbandry and crop farming and other farmers who have to go out for force majeure are allowed to carry out their crop farming and animal breeding activities only after getting their relevant documents from District/Province Agriculture and Forestry Directorates which will be issued following their registration checks"*

*"Farmers registered with the systems of*



*the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their first-degree relatives are allowed to move out to continue their crop farming and animal husbandry activities upon their submission of relevant documents”*

*“Farmers registered with the systems of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their first-degree relatives are allowed to move out even if under restriction in order to continue their crop farming activities upon their submission of relevant documents.”*

As far as crop farming is concerned different decisions could be observed in provinces where harvesting time was coming closer. Tea harvesting comes before hazelnut, and among decisions taken by Rize Public Health Council on 15 April 2020 the following items in the context of “reducing social movement” are noteworthy:



*“All citizens arriving in our province until 30 April 2020 will remain in absolute isolation for a period of 14 days together with families they have stayed with if any.”*

*“No citizen who has not completed his isolation period shall be allowed to go out including for tea harvest purposes. Essential needs of families in isolation including food, etc. will be provided for by local neighbourhoods or Vefa Social Support Groups.”*

In Düzce, Rize, Sakarya, Samsun and Trabzon provinces, Provincial Public Health Boards meeting on 19-21 April 2020 took decision about persons who will be exempt from curfew to be applied on 22-26 April 2020, though with some variations. For example, while in decisions taken in Sakarya and Trabzon declares,



*“Those carrying out activities such as sowing-planting, irrigation-medication which are necessary for the continuation of agricultural production”*

as exempt from restrictions, in Samsun requests for horse-breeding are made conditional,



*“To the approval of Province/District Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry”*

Samsun also decided to describe, in the context of migrant agricultural worker mobility, provinces that workers depart as “origin” and others where they will contribute to agricultural production as “destination.” It is stated that agricultural workers,



*“Will be sent from origin to destination provinces by mass transportation means (by observing half capacity rules in vehicles) after applying necessary health controls.”*

Meanwhile, the following decision was also taken (on the condition that farmer registry document is submitted):



*“Owners of enterprises of food, agriculture and animal husbandry within the boundaries of our province (including those under age 20 and over age 65) as well as persons they employ can continue their activities on the condition that they adopt relevant hygiene measures (mask, glove, work clothes) and observe the rule of 50 percent capacity in means of transportation during their travels.”*

In Rize, what is called as “all parties of the sector”, namely Pandemic Boards, ÇAYKUR, Stock Exchange, chambers of agriculture, relevant government agencies, association of neighbour headmen, CSOs and Producers gathered to decide on measures to be taken aga-

inst Covid-19 and announced:



*“To be limited to May harvest for the time being, tea farmers who are presently out of the provinces of Rize, Trabzon, Artvin and Giresun will not be allowed to travel to these provinces”*

and



*“All activities related to tea harvest have to be planned on the basis of available labour force within these provinces”*

*“Farmers not allowed to these provinces will organize tea harvest through persons who are in these provinces and they are in contact with” ,*

*“And other farmers who do not have means to do what is said above will be presented alternatives by Vefa Social Support together with the stakeholders of the sector.”*

The Public Health Boards in Düzce, Giresun, Ordu, Sakarya and Samsun governorates took similar decisions for curfews of 30 April-3 May 2020 for ensuring “continuity in agricultural production.” Among these provinces, Ordu specified activities in some detail:



*“Fertilizing and agricultural spraying activities in hazelnut and kiwi orchards; planting and sowing activities in corn, potato, strawberry and vegetable farming; planting, fertilizing and irrigation activities in greenhouse farming...”*

For these activities to take place,



*““Agencies and employees marketing agricultural inputs (planting, saplings, seed, agricultural medicine, etc.) needed by farmers are exempt from cur-*

*few.”*

Starting from this date, not only those directly engaged in agricultural activities but also others providing inputs and materials to these activities were allowed to go out in Giresun, Ordu and Samsun provinces.



*“Persons engaged in sowing-planting, irrigation-medication, fertilization and other activities in agricultural and stock-breeding enterprises (including fisheries and poultry farms) necessary for continuing agricultural production and others coming in from neighbouring towns for the same activities are exempt from curfew”*

Provincial Public Health Boards of Ordu, Sakarya, Samsun and Trabzon governorates adopted similar decisions for the curfew to be introduced on 08-10 May 2020. The decision taken by authorities in Ordu for the continuation of agricultural production listing crops such as hazelnut, kiwi, corn, potato, strawberry and vegetables was adopted by Giresun a week after:



*“Submitting information and documents verifying their producer status, farmers (including those under age 20 and over age 65) are allowed to travel from their residences to working areas and back.”*

In Samsun:



*“During the restriction period and considering rain-dependent agricultural activities, enterprises marketing inputs such as agricultural chemicals, seeds, saplings, fertilizers, etc. will remain open; enterprises to remain open during restrictions will be determined, according to needs, by drawing lot by province or district governorates”*

The Ministry of Interior issued a circular on 13 May 2020 sent to governorates of 81 provinces. This circular stated that in case they have their travel permission document, farmers with registration to ÇAYKUR presently residing in or will be passing from one or more of the provinces of Ankara, Balıkesir, Bursa, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Manisa, Sakarya, Samsun, Van and Zonguldak where there are travel restrictions may travel starting from 19 May 2020. The same circular said related travel documents can be obtained starting from 14 May 2020 by applying to the Ministry of Interior in electronic environment and through Alo 199 Vefa Support Line.

The Sakarya Governorate Public Health Board discussed on 20 May 2020 the following issues:

*“It is important to keep agricultural production and supply chain going during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure food security. Seasonal agricultural workers have their important role in this process. The issues to discuss are, therefore, how these workers should travel from their present provinces to others, what measures should be taken in this travel, the state of agricultural workers and stock-breeding activities.”*

The Presidency declared that travel restrictions will be lifted as of 1 June 2020, people can travel by getting the HES code (Life Fits in Home), but travels have to be made by observing the rules introduced by the ministry. Children under age can travel as accompanied by their parents and people over age 65 can travel to other provinces by getting their travel permissions.

Taking a look at discussions made in April-May 2020 when the outbreak was high and rising as well as measures taken, it is said that

travel restrictions may be reintroduced in July and August if cases increase again. And these are the months when hazelnut harvest will be directly affected by travel restrictions.

Restrictions and rules introduced in inter-province travels constitute an important variable for hazelnut harvest from two respects. Firstly, in relation to the presence of needed labour force:

**(a)** Travel by persons above age 65 present a special difficulty given the present restrictions and need to get a special permission issued,

**(b)** Due to “half capacity ” of actual number of passengers in a vehicle associated costs will increase and it is not yet certain who will cover these costs.

Meanwhile, considering high demand for labour in hazelnut harvest, it becomes clear that these restrictions will pose a serious difficulty to “absentee producers.” Given difficulties in their travel as well as increased costs, hazelnut farming as a secondary source of income for these people may turn into a rather exhausting engagement and its possible consequences are hard to foresee. Under these circumstances it may be a solution that labour force needed in hazelnut harvest is met locally with the participation to harvest of local people who are in economic difficulty as a result of outbreak measures. However, wages of local agricultural workers which are already higher than seasonal migrant agricultural workers may further increase in case local people are mobilized for work.

Meanwhile, it is also said by officials that hazelnut yield will be lower this year and prices will rise given the increasing global demand which can be a factor offsetting rising production costs. It may be noted in passing that or-



chard owners with favourable topography are planning to use ground cover as a method of harvest in order to reduce their labour force need.

Given special exemptions introduced in April-May to keep agricultural production going, it can be said that labour force needed in hazelnut harvest will be available even if inter-provincial travel restrictions are applied again. Nevertheless, it is a point of concern that the mobility of both seasonal migrant agricultural workers and “absentee producers” may trigger the transmission of Covid-19. The re-appearance of the outbreak in some districts and provinces may lead to a situation affecting harvest. To avoid this, it is important to apply regular health controls and follow-up work in both interprovincial travels and in working areas.



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## A sample Provincial Public Health Board decision that can be used in hazelnut harvest

### GENERAL MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN TEA HARVEST IN RİZE PROVINCE FOR THE YEAR 2020 IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

The Provincial Public Health Council met on 15 April 2020 as chaired by Governor Kemal Çeber:

In the context of combat against Covid-19 the countrywide principle to observe is “reducing social movement.” Applying this principle to tea harvest, it is essential that people remain where they are, having some jobs done by others and not travelling to Rize unless absolutely necessary. Notwithstanding these, the following are relevant to those who will come to our province by getting official permission:

#### A Decisions Relating to Producers to Come from other Provinces for Tea Harvest:

- 1 Incomers must have their travel permission document that they obtained from the authorities of their origin province at a date no later than 30 April 2020. Village and neighbourhood headmen at their destination points have to report the list of these incomers to province/district directorates of agriculture and forestry.
- 2 All citizens arriving Rize until 30 April 2020 will remain in absolute isolation for 14 days together with household members they have stayed with if any.
- 3 Without completing this isolation period, no citizen will be allowed to go out including for tea harvest. Essential needs like food, etc. during the isolation period will be provided by relevant headmen/Vefa Social Support Groups. With their heavier work burden in this period, these groups will be strengthened.
- 4 Families whose communication information was taken before will be regularly called by Province/District Health Directorates, District Governorates, etc.
- 5 Citizens violating the 14 days long isolation period will be immediately reported to lines 155 and 156.
- 6 Smooth conduct of isolation period will be mainly under the responsibility of village and neighbourhood headmen and judicial and administrative penalties will be applicable to those who are found to have abused their duty and responsibility.
- 7 If there are incomers for tea harvest after 30 April 2020, administrative fine amounting to 3,180 TL will be applied to these persons and others concerned who failed to report them. Further, these persons will be kept in isolation for 14 days upon their identification.
- 8 Persons who have their sharecroppers are forbidden to enter the province at any date. Others to come from other places for sharecropping must have entered the province until 30 April 2020 and they are also subject to 14 days long isolation. Violation of these rules will also be subject to administrative fine of 3,180TL and those coming in despite having their sharecropper in the province will remain in absolute isolation for 14 days.

#### B Decisions Relating to Seasonal Workers to be employed in Tea Harvest:

- 1 Considering surplus labour force in the province during the Covid-19 outbreak firstly local labour force will be mobilized for tea harvesting. Province/District Chambers of Agriculture are authorized on the name of farmers to bring in tea harvest workers from other places. Labour supply organizations other than this are forbidden.
- 2 Chambers of Agriculture will bring in workers by mass transportation means and by observing the rules mentioned in relevant circulars. Before starting out, workers will be medically examined and those with indi-

cations of infection will not be allowed to travel. After arriving our province, the allocation of these workers to demanding farmers will be made by chambers of agriculture.

- 3 Once arrived, all needs of these workers will be provided by employing families and materials and items will be delivered in line with rules of social isolation. In no way these persons can be any place other than their accommodation and working areas. This covers tea purchasing spots and tea factories as well. In case tea harvest activities end before 14 days; the employer will immediately inform the organizing chamber through neighbourhood/village headman and workers concerned will be transferred to another demanding employer in a way to maintain their isolation or sent out of the province. This change in location will be reported to units in district governorates or to health directorates in provinces.
- 4 During the isolation period of 14 days these persons will not be allowed to carry tea out of agricultural land and to work in trucks, vans and other vehicles.
- 5 For 14 days, neither these workers will be allowed to gather with workers employed by other families. This responsibility is assumed to be accepted by both workers and their employers. Any violation will be reported by sensitive citizens to relevant authorities.
- 6 Workers, intermediaries, headmen, farmer organizations and employers who violate these rules will be subject to penal sanctions and will not be allowed to work or to employ others during the pandemic. In case of any flu suggesting indications (high temperature, cough, difficulty in breathing, etc.) the worker and/or employer will immediately report the case by using the line 112. For those showing no indications these restrictions will be lifted after 14 days leaving their place to normal isolation rules.
- 7 Starting with the 14 days long period, the names of incoming workers and their employers, their addresses and communication information will be reported to monitoring teams established in advance by Provincial Health Directorate and District Governorates for health status monitoring purposes. These teams will daily keep in touch with employers to closely follow the process. Security forces will be in patrol work in villages and neighbourhoods where there is tea harvest to control the situation.
- 8 Workers to market tea at tea purchasing spots during the 14-day period must have been brought in before 30 April 2020. These workers are subject to general rules and without completing the isolation period no person will be allowed to be present at tea purchasing spots.
- 9 Adequate amounts of hand disinfectants will be available at all places, public or private, where there is tea marketing. Given the possibility of crowding at such places it is necessary for purchasing parties to distribute masks and observe social distancing.
- 10 Tea factories, cooperatives and private firms who need workers from out of province for tea loading and transporting activities must have brought them in before 30 April 2020. The absolute isolation period of 14 days for these workers, appropriate transportation and suitable shelter conditions will be provided by the organizations bringing workers.

Special Measures Have been Taken for Approaching Tea Harvest in the Region Including our Province (21 April 2020) Measures at country and local levels to combat the pandemic continue.





### **Sample decision taken in relation to measures to be adopted in hazelnut harvest: Rize Governorate**

There was need to adopt special measures in our region including the province for approaching tea harvest season. After consulting to all parties of the sector at local level (Pandemic Boards, Stock Exchange, ÇAYKUR, Chambers of Agriculture, relevant governmental agencies, associations of local headmen, CSOs, Farmers, etc.) following decisions were taken and reported to our government ministries.

- In the light of instructions by relevant ministries and suggestions made by existing boards some decisions were taken for the completion of tea harvest, which is important for local economy, without prejudice to existing combat measures.
- Fundamental elements of combat include isolation and keeping citizens where they are. There is the risk of transmission from provinces to provinces and travel bans and restrictions are still effective in 31 provinces. Given this and for the time being farmers from provinces other than Rize, Trabzon, Artvin and Giresun will not be allowed to travel to these provinces for tea harvesting as a measure limited to the harvest of May this year.
- All activities related to tea harvest have to be planned on the basis of labour force already available and to be mobilized within these provinces.
- Farmers who cannot travel to mentioned provinces should have their harvesting through persons they are in contact with in these provinces.
- Others who do not have the means mentioned above should develop alternative solutions together with Vefa Social Support to be formed together with stakeholders in the sector for the completion of May harvesting.

4



# Rapid Assessment Findings

## Agricultural Intermediaries

The Development Workshop Cooperative had its agricultural intermediary database covering 300 intermediaries as updated before the study. 87 of these persons were reached and 50 of them accepted to be interviewed. Out of 50, 3 intermediaries said they could not take part in hazelnut harvest this year and consequently their interviews were limited to past years.

86 per cent of agricultural intermediaries reside in Diyarbakır (31) and Şanlıurfa (12). Others are from provinces of Mardin (3), Batman (2), Adana (1) and Şırnak (1). 62 per cent of intermediaries interviewed say they will be participating to hazelnut harvest this year whereas 3 intermediaries responded negatively.

When asked about the reason for this, the agricultural intermediaries who responded negatively to this question mentioned their worries about the Covid-19 outbreak. An intermediary said he does not want to go to Düzce province since it is close to İstanbul as a province deeply affected by the outbreak and to Zonguldak included in curfew provinces in addition to 31 metropolitan provinces. The existing accommodation and working conditions around hazelnut harvest were also mentioned as reasons for giving it up this year. An intermediary stated the following:



*“I was there last year, but it was quite hard for us. There were problems in accommodation, water supply and electricity. We were treated as second class citizens. We were in Düzce last year. This year we shall not go out for hazelnut. We think about going to Manisa for tomato harvest. It is not certain yet, but our plans are presently in this way.”*



Agricultural intermediaries who have not made up their mind yet are concerned about the outbreak while pointing out to travel costs that will be higher as a result of measures taken:



*“It is not certain yet due to passenger restrictions. We pay 2,000 TL to go and 2,000 TL to come back, making 4,000 TL. We used to go with 16-17 workers each year and now it is only 7-8. We don’t know what to do if we can’t find a solution to this travel expenses. If orchard owners do not cover this cost it is too difficult. I think I won’t be going this year.”*



*“Travel cost is very expensive; many will not be able to go. Zonguldak is quite risky and many would not want to go there. But we don’t know how things will be if virus transmission stops until that time. It will be fine if travel costs are covered by the state and containers are allocated for temporary accommodation. Otherwise there are too many tents in a limited space and they are too close to each other. Employers can do nothing; it must be the state...”*

Permanent places of residence or origin provinces of workers that intermediaries find jobs for are as follows: (33-73 per cent of total), Şanlıurfa (13), Şırnak (6), Mardin (5), Batman (5) and Siirt (1). It appears here that the working of seasonal agricultural labour force supply mechanism and associated geographical mobility of workers is organized by agricultural intermediaries who have their regional ties with these workers. Another point is that some seasonal migrant agricultural workers from Mardin and Batman work with agricultural intermediaries from Diyarbakır.

When asked about the number of workers they are responsible for, agricultural intermediaries say although they usually work with those they know, they may not be the same workers every year. They could give only estimates when asked about the number of workers they organized in 2019. Since they have only recently started to make plans, they cannot give definite numbers for 2020 and added that the planning for hazelnut harvest will start in June 2020. Agricultural intermediaries visit provinces before harvest or communicate with employers they have worked with earlier to figure out possible demand for labour and act accordingly. According to figures given by 47 out of 50 intermediaries, these people mediate for about 6,300 workers, 2,800 men and 3,700 women. This means, on average, one intermediary is responsible for 136 workers. Many intermediaries say that there are more women than men taking part in hazelnut harvest which is consistent with the findings of earlier surveys. One intermediary says the following:



*“The number of workers changes every year depending on crop yield. There are more workers if hazelnut yield is high and vice versa. I don’t know what will be the case this year. I talk to orchard owners and they say, for example, black hazelnut will yield low this year. Maybe there will not be much workers going this year. I normally have 200-250 workers. I divide them into groups in Düzce. I call orchard owners before harvest and they call me. Earlier we used to travel and talk to them, but now we have our phones. They tell me how many workers they need and I make a list. Then I find çavuş . I tell each how many workers I am going to bring. I know these people, çavuş, and I don’t work with somebody I don’t know. There are 12-20 in each group. It can be no less than 12, because*

there must be 1 çavuş and 1 cook both of who will not work. It does not exceed 20, because there may be problems in finding places for accommodation. Çavuş organizes workers; in general women outnumber men; it is mainly because males may go somewhere else for some other works like construction for instance. Last year jobs were scarce in construction and men too joined hazelnut harvest.”

Only 4 of agricultural intermediaries planning to take part in hazelnut harvest this year say there will be no worker under age 18 in their groups as foreseen by law. All others (43 intermediaries) say, on the other hand, that children under age 18 can actually do everything done by adults. Making a calculation on the basis of responses given, it can be said that agricultural intermediaries interviewed are preparing to travel for hazelnut harvest with about 1,200 persons under age 18 whose average age is 14.6 years.

Some agricultural intermediaries say the following about this issue:

“Now you close your home and set out, nobody to take care of children, so they come along. Neither is there anybody to give care when you reach your destination. They go to orchards at age 12-13; they go even if they don’t work there.”

“All workers are in the age interval 16-20. 60 per cent are younger than 18.”

“All workers are in the age interval 14-22, half of them are younger than 18.”

“All under age 15 are children. It is a shame to make them work. But others above 15 do work... What else would they do anyway?”



“They say it is forbidden to employ age 14 in orchards. But a 14 years old child collects more hazelnut than another at age 16. This is something that must be corrected.”

Table 4

Provinces that agricultural intermediaries consider operating in for hazelnut harvest

Ordu	21	30,9
Giresun	11	16,2
Samsun	5	7,4
Sakarya	11	16,2
Düzce	17	25,0
Zonguldak	3	4,4

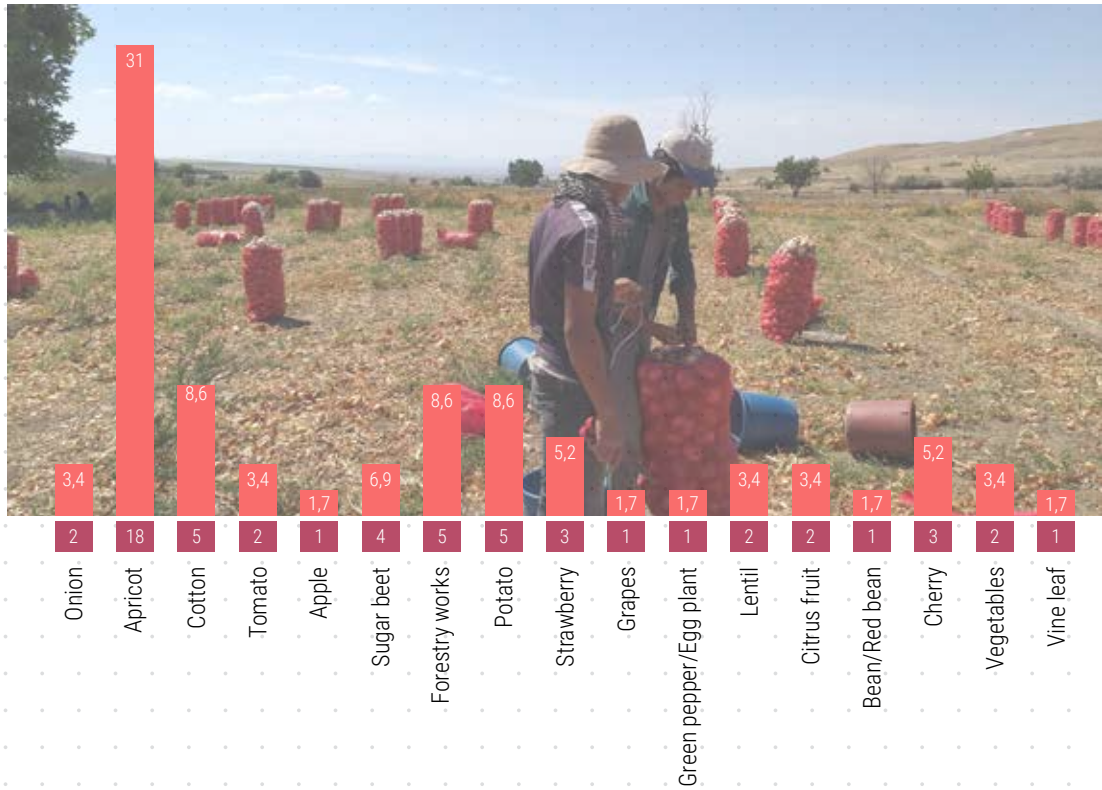
■ No ■ Distrib (%)

16 out of 50 agricultural intermediaries say they will be in more than one province for hazelnut harvest this year while others will work only in one province. Ordu and Düzce are the provinces that are most frequently referred to (Table 4). 78 per cent of intermediaries (39) will go to these provinces in August for hazelnut and the rest 811) in July. In some cases, the date of starting travel for harvest is considered as the time when work starts while in others starting dates change since harvest starts at different dates in different regions. In the case of hazelnut, it can be said that the starting date is at the end of July and beginning of August.

Agricultural intermediaries other than those who say they organize workers for hazelnut only were asked about crops and months of work in a year. According to responses, the mobility of migrant agricultural workers mostly starts in April and continues until the

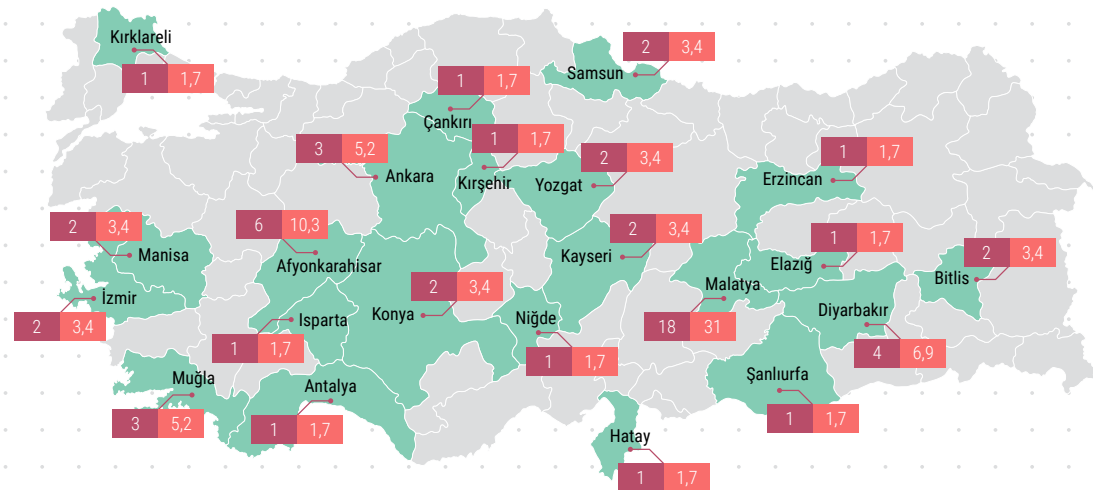
Chart 6

Crops that agricultural intermediaries provide seasonal migrant agricultural workers for during the year



Map 4


Provinces where agricultural intermediaries operate within the year





end of October. In this period, workers travel to 27 provinces for 19 different crops including hazelnut. 15 of agricultural intermediaries say they organize workers for hazelnut only (Map 4).

## Employment Status before Hazelnut

Only 13 of agricultural intermediaries interviewed said workers under their organization already started working in the period May 17-23, 2020 when the survey carried out. Of these intermediaries, 11 secured travel permission in the context of Covid-19 measures and 2 did not undergo any travel permission procedure since they had sent their workers to other provinces before the start of the outbreak. Agricultural intermediaries state the following about travel documents:

 *“One has to get permission. We did. It is not so troublesome, but it still took a week. We first went to the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and made our application. Then, the orchard owner in our destination point sent his request. After that we had our health examinations in a health facility and they gave us a document. We set out with our documents. There were controls along our way, but we were not fined for anything. We travelled with eleven vehicles; normally it would be less than that. There were around 8 persons in a vehicle, but there is no problem if 3-5 of them are children. That is also what they told us in the Agriculture Directorate.”*

 *“We had no problem, but somebody I know was fined; they had all those involved pay the fine.”*

 *“There were all kinds of control on our way. Our temperatures were taken. I was*

*fined once by violating some rule. I said I was illiterate and no information about rules. They applied a fine of 320 TL”*



*“Getting permission is not so difficult but takes some time. We first filled a form at Provincial Agriculture Directorate and the plant operating in Afyon sent a note. Then we were at the health facility with all workers for medical examination. We set out with our documents from the Agriculture Directorate and Health Facility. We faced no problem in controls on our way.”*

8 out of 11 agricultural intermediaries say they are involved in the extension of various services to their workers in the context of Covid-19 including information, health check-ups and distribution of hygiene kits. It is understood that these are provided by Province/District Agriculture Directorates and various public health institutions. Agricultural intermediaries interviewed say there is no Covid-19 positive person among their workers. Though not giving figures, 6 intermediaries say there are workers who gave up this year's work because of Covid-19 outbreak. There are 7 intermediaries saying they have lost some of their business connections following measures of combat against the disease;



*“I lost few jobs. An orchard owner called and said they would not hire workers this year for lack of accommodation place and expectation of low yield...”*



*“We were in Antalya in April this year. They cancelled the work and sent us back upon the outbreak.”*



*“We would be going to Afyon, but we could not since we could not fix a place to stay”*



*“We could not go to pick cherry; we could not afford extra cost of travel to Afyon.”*





*“We had planned to go to Hatay for potato. But they said there was no water in the place we would stay. So, we were afraid of getting the disease and decided not to go”*

A large majority of agricultural intermediaries who have not started their preparations yet say there is yet no question coming from their workers about this year’s travel programme. This may be considered as normal since, at that time, there were still two months to hazelnut harvesting season. Agricultural intermediaries who communicate with their workers say the most important point this year will be higher transportation costs to be incurred as a result of Covid-19 measures and particularly passenger capacity reductions known as “half capacity”. Other important agenda items for workers include whether there will be sufficient jobs this year and how their children will join them. Further, some intermediaries say their workers raise some demands about working and accommodation conditions during the pandemic;



*“People were afraid at first, but now it is getting normal. Some even started to say ‘We’ll be going again...”*



*“They call us on issues related to travel and transportation costs. It was normally 120 TL per person, but now it is 240 TL for just going there. This extra burden falls upon us and we don’t know how to manage it. In Konya it is orchard owners who cover transportation costs; we stay there long, but this is not the case in hazelnut. In hazelnut there are orchards where you work for only one day and for 10 days in others. In works of this duration orchard owners do not want to pay for transportation.”*



*“Workers want to learn whether there will be work or not. They are mostly people from my close environment,*

*persons I know. We frequently talk and they ask questions whether there will be work this year. Nobody is afraid of the disease; because we all have to work”*



*“They say what if my child gets the disease. What if it happens to us? What if our village is put in quarantine? They talk about the cost of travelling. It is OK if we can work for 2-3 months, but if it is only for 30 days, travel costs become a serious burden. They may not go this year because of this.”*



*“We remained home for two months during the outbreak;family members keep asking when we are going out for work and make our living”*

## Present State in Relation to Hazelnut Harvest

Half of agricultural intermediaries interviewed (23) say they have already made an agreement with a hazelnut orchard owner on harvest while the remaining (24) say they will start talking about this in June after the Ramadan Feast (Table 5).

Table 5


Agreement with orchard owners


I reached agreement with the orchard owner	23	48,9
I have yet not agreed with the orchard owner	24	51,1
Total	47	100


■ No ■ Distribution (%)


In the survey there was no intermediary who takes workers to hazelnut harvest without first making an oral agreement with orchard owners. Agricultural intermediaries interviewed


say they usually work with orchard owners they know for some time and once they go there with workers they will not face any problem in finding jobs as a result of their reasonably long period of an acquaintance.

 “We have been talking with orchard owners but no agreement yet. We are working here in the same area for twenty years now and finding job is no problem.”


 “I’ll call the orchard owner and talk to him as harvest time gets closer. We have been going to the same place for the last 20 years and all know each other.”

 “I have been going to the same place for the last 17 years, but employees I make agreement with change. I make the agreement first and then take workers. Otherwise workers may return without anything and it will be a serious blow for them.”


 “We go to same villages and also work with same employers whenever possible. Employers may differ in some cases, but we have ties and we know each other.”


 “As harvesting time gets closer I’ll go and make an agreement. We are working with same employers for 19 years. There will be no problem in finding jobs.”


Almost all agricultural intermediaries are informed about measures relating to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in the context of combat against the outbreak. Some agricultural intermediaries are also experienced about these measures since they worked in other fields during the outbreak before hazelnut harvest time:

 “Minibuses have passenger capacity of 16-18, but half of this number will be boarded this year as a result of mea-

sures. We are supposed to apply to the agriculture directorate to give the identities of workers and the employer will send a request from his side. I suppose we have to go and apply to the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture.”

 “I know about measures. I know about the maximum number of passengers in a vehicle, need for travel permit, use of masks, etc.”

 “We are informed, because we travelled during this period. There are measures like half capacity use I vehicles, travel permit, health control, mask use...”

 “I heard about required distance between tents and to board maximum 8 persons in a minibus”

## Transportation Status of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers

Minibuses known in Turkey as transit or “servis” are the most commonly used vehicles by migrant agricultural workers in their transportation. Only 1 interviewed intermediary said workers used bus for transportation in 2019. Similarly, another intermediary said he was thinking about using bus this year. These vehicles have passenger capacity of 14-16; intermediaries accept boarding more than these numbers in order to reduce travel cost per worker although they know it is not a safe way;


 “18-20 are on board... it is 22 in some cases. Since there are not enough seats, they lay mattress. I don’t even mention children. What we are doing is not right, but we have to do this to reduce cost per passenger.”

Table 6

Who covers transportation costs?

I do and then collect it from workers →	10	21,3
Workers pay →	35	74,5
Orchard owners pay →	1	2,1
Shared by workers and orchard owners →	1	2,1
Total →	47	100

■ No ■ Distribution (%)

Transportation cost is an important issue in seasonal migrant agricultural works; but it is also known that practices in this regard may vary by regions. When asked, a large majority of agricultural intermediaries (35 respondents, 75%) say “worker pays”. 10 intermediaries say first they pay and then collect this amount from workers. There is one intermediary saying that the orchard owner is the party paying transportation cost while another one points to cost-sharing by the employer and employee (Table 6). Some agricultural intermediaries say, there are some employees, though not so common, who add 5 TL to daily wage as a way of compensation of travel costs. It is said that there will be no shortage of minibuses this year given the early closure of schools, but vehicles will be used more frequently due to the half capacity rule.



“There will be no shortage of minibuses. But if schools open when hazelnut harvest ends there may be shortage in return since many minuses start student transportation.”



“We may face some trouble in finding minibuses in returning since schools are open.”



“Minibuses are ready in our case; many people have bought it...”

Almost all parties say interprovincial transportation costs will be higher as a result of Covid-19 measures. According to minibuses drivers carrying seasonal migrant agricultural workers to hazelnut growing provinces, transportation of workers from Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır and Mardin provinces to Ordu, Giresun and Samsun boarded 15 to 25 passengers on a minibus and charged 2,000 or 2,500 TL per vehicle depending on the number of passengers. The cost of renting a minibus to travel from the same provinces mentioned above to Düzce and Sakarya was 3,000 to 3,500 TL. They say, in 2020 on the other hand, they can take only 7-8 passengers due to measures. This means about the double of what used to be paid last year for those travelling with 15 passengers in a minibus and triple of the cost for those with 25 passengers.

In the year 2019, for example, assuming 15 persons from Mardin, Diyarbakır or Şanlıurfa travelling to Ordu for hazelnut harvest on a minibus, single direction cost per passenger was 133 TL (2000 TL / 15 passengers), but now, in 2020, it will be 250 TL (2000 TL / 8 passengers). If 25 persons travelled last year on a minibus, cost per passenger was 100 TL (2500 TL / 25 passengers); this year it will be 250 TL (2000 TL / 8 passengers). Similarly, last year it was 200 TL per passenger to travel from Şanlıurfa to Sakarya 3000 TL / 15 passengers, it will be 375 TL this year (3500 TL / 8 passengers). Assuming that the number of passengers was 25 last year, the cost per passenger was 140 TL (3500 TL / 25 passengers) jumping up to 375 TL this year (3000 TL / 8 passengers).



## Costs incurred in the arrival of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to their working fields

The impact of Covid-19 outbreak measures on seasonal agricultural production can be examined within the framework of discussions in the media in April-May 2020 and decisions taken by Provincial Public Health Boards in provinces where there is hazelnut harvest. We see that seasonal migrant agricultural workers are accorded various exemptions in their interprovincial travel for ensuring the "continuation of agricultural production." However;

- (a) there were serious uncertainties in early weeks about how to obtain travel permit documents,
- (b) it was not clear who would cover the extra cost of travel inevitably created by the rule of "half capacity" in transportation.

Although travel restrictions were lifted as of June 1, 2020, the rule of half capacity in transportation vehicles was still in effect, at least on paper, when this study was conducted. This is a point important for all actors to crop farming and have its significant share in data collected.

Agricultural intermediaries interviewed say the following concerning the transportation dimension of the issue:



*"I wish it can be as it used to be. Let me take my workers there and they apply controls. Let me take 15 workers there. This will satisfy all parties, but I don't think it will be like this."*



*"Travel costs must be borne by orchard owners. They do that in Malatya, but not in Ordu and Giresun."*



*"Workers must be supported if measures are to be complied with. Workers are already poor; don't ask them what they cannot afford. If something is absolutely necessary, then there must be support..."*



*"Support is needed for these measures to be implemented. At least there may be contribution to transportation costs. The cost of travel is now doubled. If no support is given, the total wage of the worker for the first 10 days of work will directly go to meals and transportation. There remains 20 days...It is not worth it. So transportation costs may be covered or vehicle may be allocated."*



*"Support is needed as I said. Prices went up. There must be a solution and there may be state support. Orchard owners too are in difficulty and it is irrational to place the whole financial burden upon them. Actually nobody knows what to do now..."*



*"There must be support. Since harvest is not long in hazelnut it is difficult for orchard owners to pay for transportation. But the case is different in Malatya when apricot is concerned. Orchard owners cover cost increases there and this should be done by the state in hazelnut."*

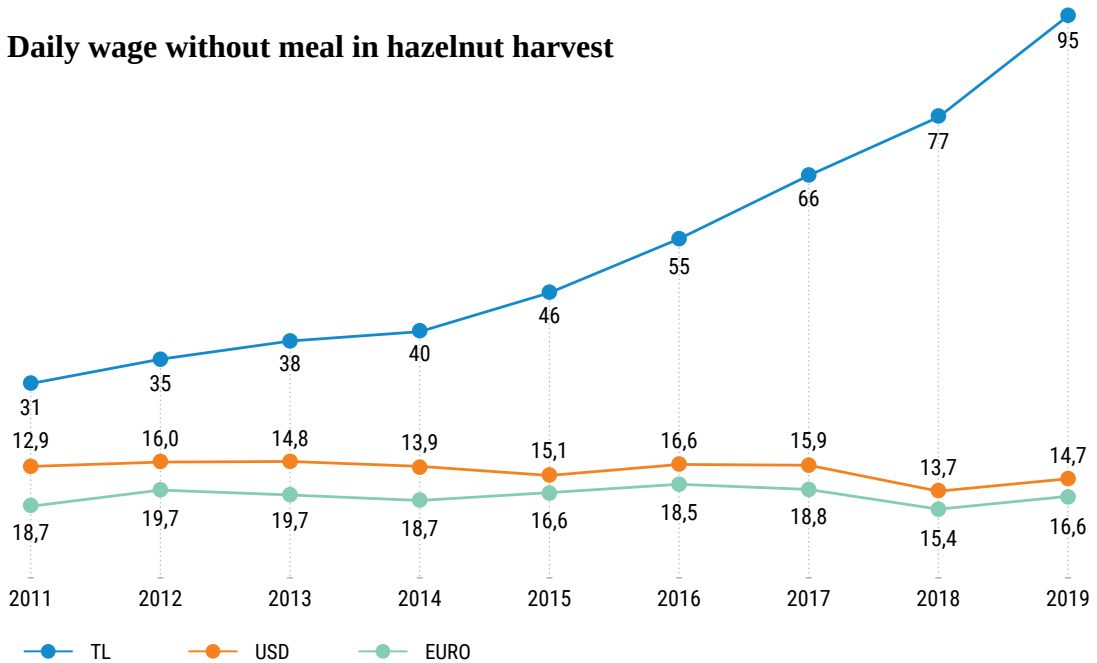


Chart 7

Daily wage rate without meal in hazelnut harvest as announced by the relevant commission (2011-2019)



Daily wage without meal in hazelnut harvest



## Labour Wage Expectations for 2020 Hazelnut Harvest Season

Wages in hazelnut harvest are determined in June by Seasonal Agricultural Workers Monitoring Commissions under governorates established according to the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Circular No. 2017/6. In hazelnut, daily wage is determined by dividing minimum gross wage by 30 and declaring this as daily wage including or excluding meals. In the period 2011-2019 daily wages correspond to 1/30 of gross minimum wage (Chart 7).

Estimates were made on year 2020 hazelnut harvest considering increased transportation and some other costs as a result of measures against Covid-19. Agricultural intermediaries say, for the year 2019, daily wage was 70 TL as the floor and 100 TL as the ceiling, giving the average of 87 TL. The projection for 2020 is within the range 90 – 130 TL, giving the average as 103 TL (Table 7).

Table 7

Daily wage rate without meal in hazelnut harvest as announced by the relevant commission (2011-2019)

Düzce .....	84,33	101,42
Giresun .....	92,20	108,00
Ordu .....	89,53	104,71
Sakarya .....	85,86	103,57
Samsun .....	83,25	98,75
Zonguldak .....	85,00	99,00

■ Average daily wage without meal in 2019 (TL)  
■ Average daily wage estimate without meal for 2020 (TL)

During interviews agricultural intermediaries pointed out to wage differentials between local agricultural workers and seasonal migrant agricultural workers;

“Local workers are paid higher than out workers. They paid 120 TL to local workers...”

“If the worker is to pay for travel expenses the wage must be 115- 120 TL. The majority of our workers are university students”

“They pay 100 TL to local workers who work from 08:00 to 17:00 while we work from 07:00 to 19:00.”

## Needs Related to Accommodation Areas

85 per cent of (40) agricultural intermediaries interviewed stay in houses, barracks or annexes existing in hazelnut orchards throughout the harvesting period<sup>3</sup>, 6 intermediaries stay in temporary tent settlements<sup>4</sup> and 1 intermediary stays in container/METİP area.<sup>5</sup> Since there may be travels to different places for harvesting within a year, accommodation facilities may differ too.

Agricultural intermediaries were presented a list of needs relating to their accommodation conditions in which they could mark more than one option and they specified 117 such needs (Table 8). Covid-19 measures such as cleaning materials and physical distancing were the most frequently specified needs. Others coincide with needs that were identified in earlier studies.

“Each orchard owner has some accommodation areas near their residence that is allocated to workers. Some are good and others are bad. There may be

Table 8

Needs in accommodation areas

Cleaning materials	32	27,4
Physical distance (preventing congestion)	21	17,9
Bathing	21	17,9
Continuous supply of safe drinking water	14	12,0
Toilet	11	9,4
Food support	5	4,3
Sewage	4	3,4
Uninterrupted power supply	4	3,4
Cleaning and disinfection (against the outbreak)	3	2,6
Waste collection	2	1,7

■ Prevalence ■ Distribution (%)

such spaces with their kitchen, toilet and bath. There may be tents too, but we don't supply workers to those with tents. 20-25 persons stay in the same place, males are in one room and females are in other. Virus related needs add upon older ones. They cannot provide something new in this. So we'll accept and go, saying 'dead is dead and those alive are with us.' I am going there for 28 years now and they could not fix a room for me, how can they provide for workers? There is need for washing machine, we still wash manually. 5 per cent of houses have solar energy panels for heating water, but they don't work. Bathing is a problem, no running hot water... Cooks heat water before workers arrive and at most 5 workers can take a bath."



"We stay in a tent settlement in Hendek-Düzce and in farmers' houses in Düzce-centre. They allocated houses in

Ordu. In Terme and Çarşamba districts of Samsun 80 per cent of workers stay in tent settlements. Some places are mixed; there are both houses and tents. If we stay in farmer's place we don't pay rent. In tent settlements I pay first and then we settle it with workers. In some cases, there are tender hearted employers extending monetary support."



"In each house a specific team stays. No less than 12 in a team, it may be as high as 20 in some cases. If the house is too congested we can set up our tents outside. A house with 3-4 rooms will provide easy stay for at least 15 workers"



"15-16 workers stay in a house. In normal conditions we could manage it, but what will happen this year during the outbreak? They say 3-4 persons in a room. So we either set up tents out or authorities will show us places to stay. Bosses will experience this trouble."



*“Orchard owners want to grab as many workers as possible, so they don’t care overcrowded accommodation of workers. We must be careful about gathering places, we are against it. All workers must stay in houses allocated by orchard owners in rotation. Otherwise it will be problematic. Tent is no solution; it is essential to providing places with electricity and running water. But these spaces must not be too compact because of higher virus transmission risk. We want workers to be divided with respect to orchard owners and to work in different places for shorter periods of time.”*



*“We are backward in almost all respects when you say agricultural works and workers. We are backward in such essential needs as water, electricity, toilet, etc. The state has no interest in this issue. We connect places of stay with water and electricity networks. The headman (mukhtar) just shows us a space for tent settlement and that is all. You travel once, but you stay where you go for three months, this is important. It is important to have some facilities in these places so you can at least take a shower after coming back from work.”*

Agricultural intermediaries say it is under the responsibility of orchard owners to respond to the needs of workers; but there is need for the support, coordination and supervision of governmental agencies. The state, they say, will have an important role to play in the present outbreak conditions when hazelnut orchard owners prove to be short in implementing measures and supplying necessary materials. The fact that workers staying in houses or annex buildings allocated by employers do not pay for water and electricity whereas others staying in tent settlements have to pay for these was stated as another problem related to accommodation.

## Needs Related to Working Areas

Agricultural intermediaries were presented a list of needs relating to their working areas in which they could mark more than one option and they specified 113 such needs (Table 9). When asked in the context of Covid-19 measures, the leading needs are “toilet” and “protective equipment”. Besides stating their needs, agricultural intermediaries complained about their daily working hours that are longer than working hours of local agricultural workers. It is already established in earlier surveys that

Table 9

Needs in working areas

Toilet .....	40	35,4
Protective equipment (mask, gloves, etc.) .....	34	30,1
Clean, continuous and sufficient drinking water .....	17	15,0
Cleaning/hygiene materials .....	17	15,0
Suitable means of transportation .....	3	2,7
Suitable environments for breaks and lunches .....	2	1,8

■ Prevalence ■ Distribution (%)



seasonal migrant agricultural workers are expected to work 11-12 hours a day for having the harvest completed as soon as possible. In spite of these long and tiring hours of work, intermediaries say, workers cannot take bath after the end of their workday.



*“It is better if transportation costs are covered by the state. And provision of containers will be fine too. There are too many tents in a small space and almost no distance in-between. Employers cannot do anything about it, the state must. There must be assistance to meet the needs of workers. Wages of workers and commission of intermediaries must be separate. Employers and heads of agricultural chambers act randomly; we raise objections but don't know where to apply. For example we say there is no signature by the governor on this document, but they don't heed. The district governorate does not see us as counterpart in such issues. Daily working hours are not defined, there are cases where workers work 12 hours. Living conditions, meals, etc. are all bad.”*

Another important point about working areas is how people go to these places from where they stay. Agricultural intermediaries were given a list of multiple options on this issue. According to responses, tractor is the most commonly used means of transport in this respect followed by minibus, workers' own cars and automobile which together make up 68 per cent of responses (Table 10).

**Table 10**

Ways in reaching the orchard

Tractor	27	26,5
Minibus (servis)	21	20,6
Workers' private cars	1	1,0
Automobile	9	8,8
Patpat <sup>6</sup>	6	5,9
Van	4	3,9
By walking	34	33,3

■ Prevalence ■ Percentage (%)

Before their planned travel, agricultural intermediaries were called and asked if they were informed about Covid-19 measures to which 28 per cent said there was no authority or institution informing them. Of agricultural intermediaries who are informed, a half says they have been informed by hazelnut processing firms or orchard owners. When the question is posed as multiple choice there are agricultural intermediaries saying they have been informed by both firms and orchard owners. Another part of intermediaries say they were called and asked various questions by İŞKUR and Province/District Directorates of Agriculture (Table 11).

**Table 11**

Direct calling of intermediaries for information supply

Firms	17	32,1
Orchard owners	15	28,3
No	15	28,3
Other	6	11,3

■ Prevalence ■ Percentage (%)

## Overall Findings Relating to Hazelnut Orchard Owners

The second target group covered by the survey is hazelnut orchard owners. It was explained in detail in the part “Survey Methodology and Sample” how 50 hazelnut orchard owners were reached as interviewees. This part evaluates phone-based interviews conducted with hazelnut orchard owners as the most important

actor in hazelnut production. Firstly, the province-based distribution of hazelnut orchard owners was as follows on the basis of sample selected with respect to amount of hazelnut production: Ordu (32 per cent), Samsun (20 per cent), Sakarya (18 per cent), Giresun (14 per cent), Düzce (12 per cent) and İstanbul with “absentee producers” (4 per cent). The province-based distribution of hazelnut orchards owned by interviewees is as follows:

Chart 8

Distribution of orchard owners interviewed by provinces (percentage)

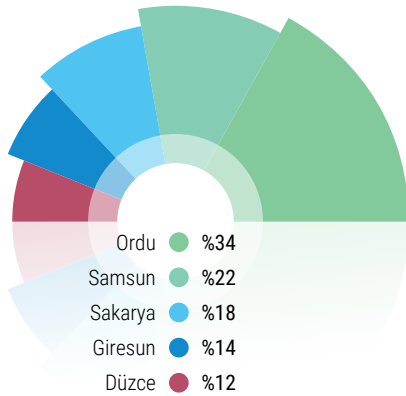


Chart 9

Labouring types preferred by orchard owners

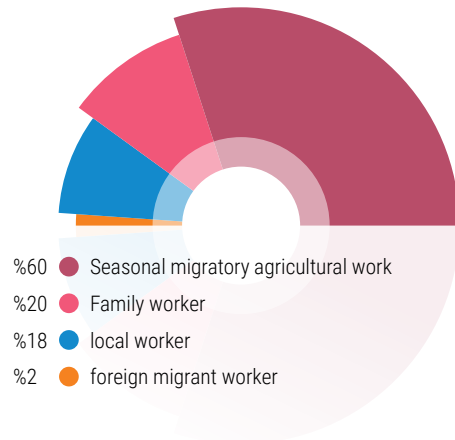
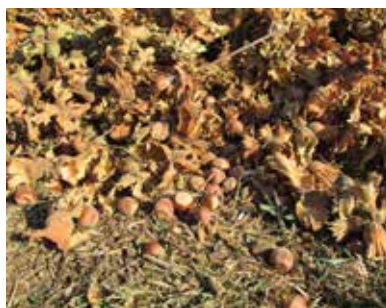


Table 12

Average age of orchard owners interviewed, orchard size and 2019 hazelnut yield



Ordu	54	72,29	10.464	144
Giresun	53	104	13.142	126
Samsun	50	62	10.972	176
Düzce	54	60	13.750	229
Sakarya	59	89	20.633	229
Genel ortalama	54	76	13.176	173

- Average Age
- Average Orchard Size (decares)
- Average output of unshelled Hazelnut in 2019 (kg)
- Yield per acre in unshelled hazelnut in 2019 (kg)

Ordu (34 per cent), Samsun (22 per cent), Sakarya (18 per cent), Giresun (14 per cent) and Düzce (12 per cent). The district-based distribution of interviewed orchard owners was again by the amount of produce: Fatsa (20 per cent), Ünye (14 per cent), Çarşamba (12 per cent) and Terme (10 per cent) which together room in more than half of all orchard owners interviewed (Chart 8).

The distribution of hazelnut orchard owners by age, plot size and average output in the year 2019 confirms the observation that “orchard owners are getting older” as stated during interviews. While the average yield per acre is 173 kilogram, significant differences between provinces in this respect must be noted (Table 12).

While a high proportion (60 per cent) of orchard owners say they prefer seasonal migrant workers, the weight of family labour is 20 per cent and local labour is 18 per cent (Chart 9).

More than one choice was offered when types of labour preferred were asked at province level. There were 84 responses to this question by orchard owners. According to the distribution of these responses, seasonal agricultural labour is the most preferred type in all provin-

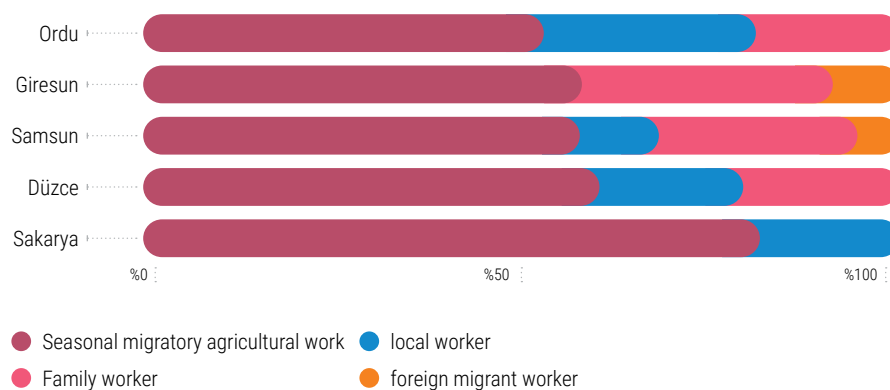
ces. The very limited participation of foreign migrant workers to hazelnut harvest is an outcome consistent with earlier studies. According to orchard owners these are Georgian and Azeri workers. Unpaid family labour is preferred relatively more in Ordu, Giresun and Samsun than in other provinces. In Sakarya, there is no mention of unpaid family labour in hazelnut harvesting. It appears that local workers are preferred in pre-harvest preparation works. These data show there is use of different types of labour depending on the season and type of work to be done (Chart 10).

## Working Hours and Wages of Seasonal Agricultural Workers

Interviewed hazelnut orchard owners say they employed 884 workers in hazelnut harvesting season of 2019 and paid 13,040 wages on daily basis. According to this information workers worked in harvesting for 13.5 days on average. Average working days by provinces are as follows: Sakarya: 18.7, Giresun: 16.9, Ordu: 11.8, Düzce: 11.5 and Samsun: 10.9. The average daily wage of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in the same year was 87.5 TL (Map 5).

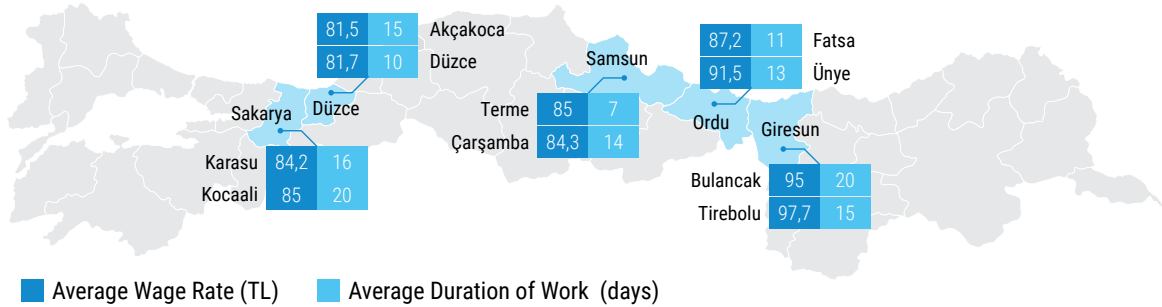
Chart 10

Types of labour orchard owners use during harvesting time by provinces



## Map 5

District-based daily wage rates (TL) for seasonal agricultural workers and average duration of employment (in days)



In commission meetings arranging for working and accommodation conditions held in July 2019 it was decided, in relation to hazelnut harvest, to set the daily wage as 85 TL when meals are served by the employer and 95 TL if workers have their own meals. In interviews conducted in Giresun and Ordu It is stated that in some cases wages may be higher than what is officially declared. It is also known that in some provinces 5 or 10 TL may be added as a contribution to transportation costs. Meanwhile the location of the orchards may also be a factor affecting wage rate. For example wage paid in orchards located at

Table 13

Daily wage rates in hazelnut harvest in 2019 and expected rate for 2020 (TL)

Giresun	97	104
Ordu	89	106
Sakarya	85	101
Samsun	85	96
Düzce	82	95

■ Daily wage paid in 2019 (TL)

■ Daily wage expected for 2020 (TL)



higher altitudes and on steep terrain is higher than in others where harvest is physically easier. Interviews suggest that daily wage rate is in the range 70 TL as the lowest and 115 TL as the highest. The number of workers needed in harvesting season may change according to prospective yield. An academic interviewed says this variation may be up to 30 per cent. Consequently, hazelnut orchard owners say they remain undecided about the number of workers needed before having some estimate of expected yield. While interviews were being made about possible wage rates in 2020 there were still uncertainties about travel restrictions and thus only a half of orchard owners could make projection which suggests the daily wage of 99.6 TL (Table 13).

## Agricultural Intermediaries and Relations with Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers

58 per cent of hazelnut orchard owners interviewed (29 persons) work with an intermediary during harvest time while others have their direct contact and communication with workers (Chart 11). Though few, this group also includes some who agree with and employ workers who have originally come for some relatives or friends in the same village. This last group neither applies to intermediaries nor directly looks for workers. It is observed that the need for agricultural intermediaries becomes more pressing when large number of workers is needed.



*"I make agreement with workers I have in contact with earlier and I pick with them. I do this with workers of friends and relatives, so accommodation is no more a problem."*



*"I remove the intermediary in-between, it is problematic otherwise. I have been in contact with the same çavuş for years. Since there is no intermediary, I cover transportation costs."*



*"We are acquainted as families for 20-25 years; there is no need to pay any çavuş."*

It is known that hazelnut orchard owners who recruit workers through agricultural intermediaries develop a regular relationship over years. Indeed, more than half (28) of hazelnut orchard owners interviewed say they are keen about working every year with the same intermediaries they know.



*"We are working with the same intermediary for 4 years now, I knew him before."*



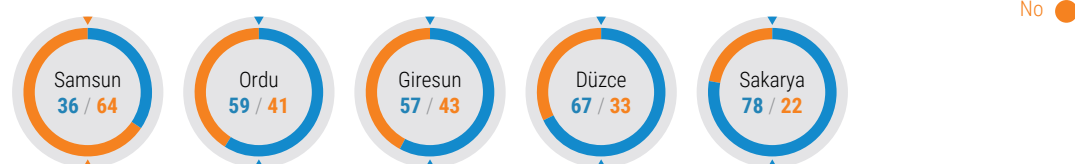
*"I have been working with the same dayıbaşı for longer than 10 years, they come from Urfa."*



*"Working with the same intermediary we are in constant contact. We know each other. They call us before harvest; we negotiate and have an agreement."*

Chart 11

Proportion of orchard owners finding their workers through agricultural intermediaries (percentage)





*“There is a dayıbaşı coming and going for long time; he brings his wider family from Urfa. Three families come in every year.”*

The commission that agricultural intermediaries collect is one of the issues disputed in the employment of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. While the Regulation on Employment Mediation in Agriculture says this commission is to be collected from the employer the practice is not so clear. Orchard owners working with intermediaries say they do not pay any commission directly to these persons, just make their wage payments to workers. This means agricultural intermediaries collect their commission from the wages of workers and thus wage rates are actually even lower than gross minimum wage. Neither in provincial commission decisions is there any provision concerning the commission of intermediaries and from whom it should be collected. It is known that the intermediary is given two extra wages a day in case he assigns a çavuş to supervise workers.

After having developed some affinity and built trust with, hazelnut orchard owners may directly contact workers and employ them without the intermediary. They say “Why pay a commission?” in such cases. 3 orchard owners interviewed say they additionally pay two daily wages to intermediaries as commission.

## Accommodation, Essential Needs and Transportation

Workers employed by 13 of hazelnut orchard owners interviewed stay in tents set up in orchards or in the village. There were only 2 orchard owners who temporarily rent a place for their workers while the rest allocate various types of shelters to workers including houses, barracks, annex buildings etc. According to in-


formation obtained from interviews tent settlements are most commonly used in Samsun. In cases where accommodation is provided by hazelnut orchard owners, utilities such as electricity and water are also covered. It must be noted that there are some orchard owners extending food and fuel support to their workers. After settling in accommodation places, various methods are used to reach working areas depending on distance. Half of orchard owners say it is just a walking distance. As distances get longer, orchard owners’ private cars or tractors are used. However, orchard owners say it is prohibited to use tractors for this purpose and there are occasions when they get caught. A large majority of orchard owners interviewed (72 per cent) say they incur no cost in interprovincial travel of workers and this cost is borne by intermediaries or workers or both. In Giresun and Sakarya provinces it is observed that travel costs of incoming workers are covered by orchard owners; only for one direction.

## Outbreak, Planning and Thoughts for the Hazelnut Harvest in 2020


28 out of 50 orchard owners interviewed say they have talked to either agricultural intermediaries (14 orchard owners) or workers they worked with and knew before (14 orchard owners) for the coming harvest time. Though there is no definite arrangement yet, these contacts indicate that orchard owners have started their work for the harvest. They say their decision about the number of workers to employ will be at the end of June or early in July. There are 22 orchard owners who have yet not taken any initiative in this regard. 3 of these farmers say they are presently undecided as a result of expected cost increase in travel and requirement for travel permission. There are


2 farmers saying they will do it with family members and local workers this year. Meanwhile almost all orchard owners have questions about how measures against Covid-19 will be implemented.

The general expectation is that there will be no problem in having workers from out of province/district though less than in earlier years. To cover the shortage they will turn to local workers who are paid higher and therefore production costs will be higher this year. 72 per cent of orchard owners interviewed (36) think costs of production will definitely increase if Covid-19 measures are implemented. They add costs of pre-harvest orchard works have already increased.


 *"We have to cover it in any case. You incur costs even when you don't take the yield since there are things like cleaning and medication. There are years in which we are at loss. This virus thing has already started to increase costs. Local worker wants 140-150 TL to clear the orchard."*


Orchard owners state that besides increased travel costs and use of local labour, supply of such materials as masks, gloves and disinfectants to be used in living and working areas may also affect costs of production. Almost all orchard owners interviewed are convinced that it is important to comply with measures taken in this respect.


 *"There may be problems because of this virus. If no worker comes here from Mardin, local workers will ask for 150 TL and there are not enough local workers anyway."*


 *"I think the outbreak will bring along problems if it goes like this. Borders and roads are already closed. No Geo-*

*rgian will be able to come. In this case there will be higher demand for local workers and their wages will go up."*

 *"Fewer workers coming from without increased the wages of local workers. There are sayings that daily wage rate for locals will be 160 TL this year. I talked to my workers and they said this. Apart from this, if workers from other provinces come they will ask for their transportation costs. This will increase costs and the situation of farmers will be problematic."*

 *"It is yet not certain whether they will be coming this year because of the virus. Costs will rise since there will be fewer passengers on minibuses. The daily wage may rise."*

 *"This cost may fall upon us, but I am not sure. Costs will increase too if we turn dependent to local workers since they are more job-selective and ask for higher pay."*


 *"We'll be working with local workers if others cannot come and this will increase wages. It will also be a cost item if we are to supply masks and gloves, but we'll do it if necessary."*


## Opinions on Decisions Taken in Relation to Outbreak


Hazelnut orchard owners were also asked to what extent they were aware of measures taken against Covid-19 starting from April 2020. An overwhelming majority of orchard owners (94 per cent) were aware of such measures as restrictions on interprovincial travel and taking special permission for such travels. They knew well, for example, there is the rule of "half capacity" in means of transportation where it is


required to board only half of total passenger capacity. However, only 39 per cent of orchard owners are aware of measures to be taken in working areas. Of these measures, the most frequently mentioned one is about social distancing. It is observed that large majority of orchard owners providing accommodation facilities to their workers have yet not developed any solution on how to avoid congestion in using certain facilities. They think it will be difficult to fully implement all measures envisaged. The easiest solution coming to mind in this respect is to keep adequate distance between tents to be set up in orchards. The issue that orchard owners are informed the least is how to provide transportation from accommodation areas to working areas by observing relevant rules. The exception is the case of orchard owners who say their workers can easily walk from places they stay to places they work.

Interviews suggest that orchard owners are somewhat informed about decisions taken, but still in need of information about ways of enforcement. 62 per cent of orchard owners say they are capable of doing what is required with respect to the enforcement of measures.


 *"I'll provide all needed from masks to gloves and I'll be a pioneer in these things. My wife is a nurse and will be of great help. I'll do all that is needed and the rest depends on workers. In transportation too I'll pay more, rent a bigger vehicle or use two vehicles instead of one. I'll cover all these and widen the place they stay this year."*


 *"I'll arrange their accommodation areas; this year fewer people will be staying in the same place. Maybe we set up a tent outside. I'll supply masks and gloves..."*


 *"We do whatever the law says. We supply masks, gloves and cologne."*


 *"If they cannot come, I can find nobody to do it and we'll be ruined; so, whatever is required we will do it in some way..."*

When orchard owners were asked about the possibility of virus transmission by migrant agricultural workers coming from other provinces almost a half (24) said they had worries about this possibility, 14 thought this mobility would partly have its risks and 12 stated no worry. 27 orchard owners mention the risk of arriving workers having contact with local people while 15 orchard owners state there will be no problem if nothing goes wrong during workers' travel to their destination points. Only 9 orchard owners say this situation may pose a risk. Whatever their risk perceptions are, all orchard owners say it is necessary to adopt measures and it is important to use masks and comply with social distancing. Further, according to some orchard owners limiting social contact and relations between workers and orchard owners will also help in minimizing risks.

 *"You have to keep the distance. I think there will be no problem if we can do it. No problem if we take all necessary measures."*

 *"Of course we are disturbed. We are disturbed even when simply going out to streets. If workers come we'll be together with them all day long. This is something worrying naturally."*

 *"There are worries of course; we shall keep the distance this year. They stay in a place apart from us anyway and we'll take care while in the orchard."*

 *"I am not worried too much. We do not remain close to them in normal times anyway. If they come this year they will be out in the orchard and I don't think there will be any problem."*





*"I am following developments since the start of the outbreak. Workers keep coming and going in onion and potato harvest. Because there is some need here. Controls are being made and workers are on their way, no problem for them. They will be coming here too and no problem. They will be controlled many times until they reach here. I mean if they have virus, they will be kept in some province before arriving here. So we are not disturbed about it. It is only with others to come from abroad. I think everything will be normal in September."*



*"I am not worried since our places are separate. We won't be working together in the orchard anyway. Places of staying, eating, etc. are all separate..."*



*"People suspect each other and this may be a problem. We talk to them and they say they are living in their villages where there is no outbreak, but of course you cannot be sure."*



*"I won't get close to them anyway. They said let's send them by train, but I said no. I said there may be a big bus if necessary and I'll cover its cost, just to make sure that there is no disease. I talked to the headman; we'll have a post at the entrance of the village to take temperatures of incomers. I won't let them out to public places, I'll provide for all their needs, cigarettes and so on..."*

## Machinery Use and New İçin Techniques in Harvesting

Orchard owners were also asked about their ideas concerning the use of machinery and some other techniques in harvesting given the possibility of labour shortage. It appears that all orchard owners are informed about hazelnut picking machine and use of net/tulle on the ground under trees. But only 22 per cent of orchard owners (11) say they are planning to use these techniques in future (6 for machinery, 5 for net). The remaining says their orchards are not fit for using these techniques.



*"I know these methods, but I don't think about using them. The topography must be suitable for these methods to be applied. It must be relatively smooth and not steep. Apart from this, these methods did not work so well. Hazelnut harvesting machines are not strong. Also, the orchard must be clean for these methods and you have to hire 8-10 workers to keep it clean."*



*"Yes, I know these methods. They can be used in Western Black Sea region, topography is more suitable there. I may be using one of these methods in future. Last year I picked hazelnut from the ground two times, so we too are shifting to these methods."*



*"Land structure must be suitable. Apart from that, these methods too require labour; may be lesser and for a shorter period of time, but labour is still needed. The orchard must be well taken care of if you want to reap the benefits of these methods. Ground-level must be clear and there must be pruning. There is need for labourers to use the machine and bring the produce together."*

*There may be a difference, but we have accustomed to our conventional ways. There is need for some time to pass before we start using these methods.”*



*“There are 120 households in our village and 90 per cent are engaged in hazelnut harvest. But there is none using machinery. I don’t know how efficient it is. But it may be in future. I haven’t seen anybody using machinery. It sounds more logical to wait for their fall and then pick, but it may be difficult since orchards are dispersed.”*

## Expectations from Government Agencies and Firms

Hazelnut orchard owners say they have no expectation from governmental agencies in relation to harvesting during the pandemic. This attitude derives from the experience that for long years they kept conveying their problems to these agencies without any result. Relevant problems in this context include agricultural support schemes and management of the process of purchase after harvest. Apart from these structural problems, expectations related to the outbreak focus on supply of labour force needed and supervision of measures adopted.

Orchard owners’ expectations from firms are even lower. 33 per cent of responding 43 orchard owners plainly stated “I have no expectation.” It is true that big firms in particular extend technical and agricultural support to hazelnut harvest; but the main expectation is related to price fixing during the period of hazelnut selling-purchasing. Also, as gathered from interviews there is yet no information given by firms to orchard owners concerning work related to working and accommodation conditions during the pandemic.



*“Workers may be taken in quarantine before they come. There may be a monitoring system like the one that Ordu Metropolitan Municipality has now. This way we face no problem in finding workers while keeping safe in terms of health.”*



*“Seasonal migrant agricultural workers must be tested.”*



*“It is quite difficult to make plans since hazelnut prices continuously change. If prices do not fall, then we won’t place workers in difficulty. If they fall, it will be bad for all parties. What the government and private sector must do is to keep hazelnut prices fixed.”*





*“Province-District Agriculture Directorates and Chambers of Agriculture must check workers one by one. They must also supervise what facilities are provided to workers by employers who hire them. Unfortunately, these things do not exist, each employer hires randomly and on subjective grounds. If a farmer can afford hiring workers then he should be providing other facilities too. If there are sanctions to farmers too every party will have to comply with rules. Then there will be no need for separate arrangements in cases like disease outbreak.”*





*“Chambers of Agriculture have no effect except collecting fees and issuing some documents. The The Hazelnut Agricultural Sales Cooperatives Union is the same. Yet, these institutions must extend support in medication, mechanization, and employment of workers. Now we have health related problems and they must give support in this is-*


sue too. Each group of workers may be examined 15 days prior to their start of travel. The same must be applicable to farmers. They may infect us, but there is also the possibility that we infect them.”


 “We cannot easily collect our produce if there are no seasonal workers. Because, there is no young local population; they left their villages and we cannot find people to work. The state may supply container for accommodation which we can rent. We cannot do it without seasonal workers, they are our companions. The state has its margin of profit from hazelnut; it gains too, so it must do something.”


 “The critical point is workers. The state may organize labour force. It may support their transportation, may apply health controls by coming 10-15 days earlier to orchards. In our location, however, we have not seen governmental agencies doing something so far.”


 “Our position will be difficult if it is left to firms. The The Hazelnut Agricultural Sales Cooperatives Union must phase in at that point while the state takes the lead. Otherwise, hazelnut traders have so far never pleased farmers.”

 “Our fate is in fact in the hands of two or three firms having their grip on hazelnut. There is no sense in expecting things from these firms. The state must encourage firms to have them provide for some needs.”

 “Firms think only about the produce. Their concern is neither the worker nor the farmer. Hazelnut is a largely exportable product. It has to be supported more.”

 “Troubles can be reduced by sharing. If we face problems because of outbreak we of course expect it to be shared. Eventually there is the factory if we are and none if we are not”

 “Firms must stay close and inform workers. They must listen to us; listen to engineers, give workers gloves instead of hats, for example.”

 “We may perhaps cover extra costs if they keep hazelnut prices higher this year. There are some big firms involved; they can distribute protective masks and gloves and give support to workers. They make profit out of this business, so they have to make their contribution too...”


## Institutional Interviews


The final group interviewed was the institutions that undertake various responsibilities at different stages of hazelnut production. The list of institutions reached is given with details in the part “Survey Methodology and Sample”. This part evaluates interviews conducted with institutions.


The Circular no. 2010/6 on Improving Working and Social Life of Seasonal Migrant Workers published in the official Gazette no. 27531 dated March 26, 2010 was renewed in 2017 as “Circular on Seasonal Agricultural Workers”. As required by this circular, province/district level “Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Monitoring Commissions” were set up in places where there is large-scale hazelnut harvest. In their respective localities these commissions bring together institutions having their responsibilities in relation to seasonal labour mobility such as provincial directorates of Health, National Education and


Agriculture and Forestry, Chamber of Agriculture and Gendarmerie and take decisions before harvest time on working and accommodation areas that also include wage rates to be applied. These commissions did not yet hold their meeting when the present study was being conducted and Chambers of Agriculture were in a period of waiting for decisions to be taken about living and working conditions.


Many important issues from wage rates to sound management of labour force and from hazelnut harvesting times to the age of children working in orchards will be decided on by these meetings. The fact that not having these meetings yet reflected on responses given by Chambers of Agriculture interviewed, who say the ways of implementing measures will be made clear in these meetings. The representatives of chambers of agriculture described the situation by making statements like:

 *“We shall determine the cost per kilogram according to hazelnut on its branch. It is yet too early to talk about these matters”*

 *“We shall be acting in line with decisions taken by the district governorate, but these decisions are not taken yet.”*

 *“DSince there is still time for the season dayıbaşı did not bring workers yet. So no decision is taken yet, but it will take place soon, within 15-20 days we think...”*

 *“We have the Agricultural Workers Monitoring Board and Chambers of Agriculture are represented there. They closely follow relevant developments; opinions of various parties will be taken if there are problems in the process.”*

 *“The commission will discuss issues like toilet, bath, water supply, firewo-*

*od and other needs. Last year the most essential needs were discussed. The disease will be the first item to discuss in the first meeting of the commission. Necessary procurement will be made by the district governorate and municipality. Things will be in line with what we think since it is our duty to consider both the worker and the farmer.” yi hem işçiyi düşünmek bizim işimiz”*

In interviews there were only two districts in Samsun where it was stated that issues such as what needs to be done in the face of Covid-19 outbreak and matters relating to accommodation areas were discussed at district level. But they added that ultimate decisions on these issues would be taken in commission meetings. This means that uncertainties related to the ways of implementing measures during the harvest time still persist.

Meanwhile it is known that large firms as important actors in the process follow it carefully with their social workers. These field personnel remain in constant communication with both agricultural intermediaries and workers and hazelnut orchard owners before and during the harvest period and engage in field work to collect data about the process. The main objective of this work is to strike a balance between labour force supply and demand and introduce some improvements for seasonal migrant agricultural workers, their families and children. According to information given during interviews activities carried out by firms in “normal times” include the following: Training of agricultural intermediaries and counselling in their applications to get license; operation of support and consultancy lines; restoration of idle village schools so as to serve to seasonal migrant agricultural workers for their housing and children’s education; activities to ensure the extension of METİP areas; dissemination of hygiene kits and mobile toilets.



At present firms seem to be in a period of waiting. Decisions taken by government authorities are followed, questions coming through support and counselling line are responded to and there are regular contacts with agricultural intermediaries and hazelnut orchard owners exchanging views about how this year's harvest may take place:



*"I think positively since there is yet some time. I mean there is time for necessary preparations and manage the process. It is difficult for me to say what direct effects it will have on hazelnut production or make some projections. It is yet not clear whether workers will come or not."*



*"We look for governmental agencies. We hear that the Directorate of Agriculture distributed masks to workers, but the government has no specific work in provinces where we purchase hazelnut. They think there is still some time. We are continuously in contact with the government, but we have had yet no joint initiative in relation to Covid-19. As firms we get together once in two weeks under an association roof and evaluate the situation. We exchange information. We are trying to learn what is going on not only in hazelnut but in other crops as well since these workers will be coming from various places and crops."*



*"May overall observation is that it is yet early and everybody is waiting. There is time to harvesting season. We have to make quick decisions in the period ahead. Governmental agencies, firms are observing, following events as they develop. They have to act according to measures after the feast."*


Institutions interviewed say there were some meetings in Ordu and Sakarya organized by governmental agencies, but at present there is no information reaching them how harvesting activities are to be arranged during the outbreak leaving aside some announcements made by governorates. So institutions have yet not started any special work this year but are working on plans how their standard annual activities can be updated given the outbreak. For example, initiatives that have already been given start include the insertion of anti Covid-19 measures into education programmes organized for the children of migrant workers; preparation of informative posters and brochures on this issue and their dissemination in villages; and counselling services especially in issues related to travel permits. Further, there are plans to include masks and disinfectants in hygiene kits distributed each year and initiatives to mobilize relevant governmental agencies (province and district governorates, Province/District Directorates of Agriculture) about measures to be adopted.


It is stated that governmental agencies are yet not engaged in specific activities since there is still time to harvest. The main expectation of firms from these agencies is to provide for needs in METİP spaces and introduce new such spaces though they do not expect any development in this respect within the coming few months. Provinces where there are METİP spaces say they prepare their action plans related to these spaces until February each year and send these plans to the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services. It is further stated that distribution of hygiene materials and services in sanitation and safety are not included in the relevant regulation and therefore in province action plans. Provinces ask for the inclusion of these materials and services together with requi-

red financial resources and for the possibility of using public land and facilities for starting new METİP spaces by lifting the condition that such spaces can be created only on land belonging to the Treasury. During institutional interviews it is stated that the METİP budget requested from the centre will be sent to provinces by June 2020.

## Period of Waiting before Hazelnut Harvest


Agricultural intermediaries, orchard owners and representatives of institutions interviewed during the survey were all in a state of waiting how the outbreak may affect hazelnut harvest. Representatives from the Chamber of Agriculture who are orchard owners themselves said there were uncertainties in many issues:

 *“Will people coming from other provinces comply with social distancing rule? 3 workers pick hazelnut in an orchard, 12 persons may stay in the same room. We don’t know what the state will allow. They use the same bed, but not travel in the same vehicle?”*

 *“There may be 14 days of quarantine; we are informed about this, but we don’t know how it will happen.”*

Another representative we interviewed in Samsun says they started to receive many telephone calls from hazelnut orchard owners living elsewhere asking what they are supposed to do if they want to come during the Ramadan feast for pre-harvest preparations. An important difficulty in this respect is to get travel permission on the basis of land ownership since almost all titles are registered with parents and family elders now over age 65. The problem could be solved when hazelnut orchard owners sent letters of attorney to

their younger family members during which Chambers of Agriculture was quite occupied in helping farmers and their relatives.


 *“Nobody has any idea! We cannot see the next day. Maybe farmers will have to sell whatever they can collect on their own. Their temperatures will be taken before they enter orchards, if somebody turns out to be positive, this means no worker will ever come again. Nobody will employ any. Then grandparents will come and take care of orchards as relatives work. Farmers are concerned about this situation. We don’t know how workers are; we don’t have any contact with...”*

It is stated that when travel restrictions were first announced there was intensive work for “absentee” landowners and others living at district centres with their orchards in villages who were 65 + years old and some exemptions could be secured for farmers and workers with the efforts of Union of Turkish Chambers of Agriculture (TZOB). The resulting situation is in conformity with exemptions introduced in provinces of hazelnut production as a result of decisions taken in April and May for “maintaining agricultural production.”

A representative from a provincial Chamber of Agriculture says it is too difficult to say anything definitive about the implementation of outbreak measures given that there are difficulties faced even in the follow-up of conditions that must be in place for good farming practices. Another representative says they have discussed these issues in May and there are still discussions on how to keep incoming workers away from congestion, ensuring their stay in orchards and regular health controls.

Meanwhile, seasonal migrant agricultural workers are not the only group that is mobi-


le for hazelnut harvest. There is also what is called “absentee farmers” who normally live elsewhere but move to their hometowns during the hazelnut harvest season for their plots of different size and it is also a question how these people will travel.


 *“There are many telephone calls. There were farmers who wanted to come for preparations during the feast. There is no problem if they are registered with the chamber or District Directorate of Agriculture. But there is this problem: Title deeds are mostly held by fathers and mothers who are above age 65. Their children take care of affairs and they could finally get relevant documents through warrants.”*

Firms interviewed too said they were receiving questions from agricultural intermediaries about travel restrictions and from farmers about possible wage rates in the coming season.


## Opinions on Cost Implications of Travel Restrictions

The most important point in relation to travel restrictions is about how these restrictions may affect reaching the region and orchards. Representatives from Chambers of Agriculture say there is yet no arrangement on how increased costs will be covered and consequently workers may ask orchard owners to cover these extra costs:


 *“Earlier there were 27 passengers travelling in the same minibus. This year this number of people has to use two minibuses. The payment to minibuses will therefore be 500 TL instead of 300 TL. Some of this extra cost will be covered by the orchard owner.”*

 *“This extra cost will fall upon the farmer if it goes like this. If workers come with their own means they will say their cost is higher and thus ask for higher wages.”*


It is known that in hazelnut harvest some big orchard owners cover full or one-direction transport costs of their workers. It is therefore considered that increased transportation costs deriving from travel restrictions will fall directly upon orchard owners. A representative said:

 *“It reflects upon farmers. Daily wage rate was 80 TL last year; it will not be less than 150 TL this year.”*

As to the solution of the problem, another representative points out to the need for intervention by the state:

 *“The state must be ready to subsidize fuel if necessary. As it supports us, it must support workers too.”*

Another one says the private sector too must contribute:

 *“Since we all gain from this crop, traders must make their contribution too. If they add 1 TL to the price this issue is solved between the worker and employer without turning into a problem.”*

*The institutions we interviewed too stated opinions that were supportive of what was said by the Chambers of Agriculture. It was stated by different institutions that measures are explicitly announced in decisions taken at province/district level, but it is still unclear who will take up the financial burden, which necessitates some regulatory intervention by the government. This regulatory role*

of the government was also stressed by pointing out to the fact that agricultural intermediaries have their significant initiative in covering travel costs and payment of wages and there may be problems in how they use that initiative in these extraordinary circumstances.



*“There are messages and questions coming to our support/complaint line on this issue. We are in contact with various institutions, but we don’t have any clear solution for the time being. We keep following. The government may phase in. We are in contact with relevant parties to develop different types of cooperation. Farmers need labour and they have to assume responsibility. For example in some villages, relatives working with same workers tend to share their transportation costs. We are trying to encourage and motivate them to such initiatives. Not all of them, but some farmers share the cost of transportation. We help intermediaries who call our support line and seek advice. Apart from this, we keep informing intermediaries with whom we have our contacts through SMS or by calling directly.”*



*“Agricultural intermediaries are complaining much about this issue. They say there were 20 workers coming in a minibus, but it will be 10 this year... so what shall we do? There will be application to the ministry on this. We have done nothing for the time being. I can say orchard owners too will do nothing, give no support...”*



*“Costs will fall upon workers, not dayıbaşı or orchard owners. Working here is a matter of survival for these*

*workers and they will necessarily bear the cost; I mean they need money and they have no alternative other than coming here at any cost. Farmers will cut down the number of workers. Orchard owners will pay their credit card debt in September with their hazelnut money.”*

Interviews suggest that there is consensus that implementation of travel restrictions will inevitably increase costs while opinions diverge when it comes to the party who should cover these extra costs.

Another area where Covid-19 measures will have their bearing on is working and accommodation areas. A representative from the Chamber of Agriculture says when working order in orchards is arranged in line with physical distancing work will take longer and wages to be paid will therefore increase. A representative from a civil society organization state that women will be affected more from this situation. It is further stated that Covid-19 measures relating to seasonal workers will bring along significant cost increases in such daily works as cooking and cleaning mostly undertaken by women. It is not clear who will provide for these needs, but there is a common demand for a kind of supervision to ensure the fair and balanced distribution of this extra burden to parties involved.

## Understanding the Need for Labour Force

Chambers of Agriculture interviewed were also asked about labour force needs in their districts. It can be inferred from their responses that this need for labour force from without has several reasons including persons who used to be hazelnut producers once later adopting professional occupations through





### Waiting for harvest despite all difficulties: costs

Representatives from the Chamber of Agriculture state that the yield in hazelnut may be low this year and demand for it may be higher due to the outbreak; since this situation will have its direct bearing on the price of hazelnut, there will not be much problem in covering increased labour costs.

Representatives from the Chamber of Agriculture adopt a basic approach in cost calculations. Harvesting itself is the most important cost item. For other works that must be done before and after harvest, either orchard owner himself takes care of these or employs local workers. A representative says different employment strategies may be used in hazelnut harvest:



"Hazelnut harvest is done by paying 120 TL daily to local workers. A mower can get as much as 350 TL. Orchard owner can earn nothing if he does not undertake some of these works."

For example, it is stated that there is large output of hazelnut in some districts of the Eastern Black Sea region and consequently there is much need for seasonal migrant workers. Assuming that Georgian workers do not come for hazelnut harvest this year, this need for workers from other parts of the country will be more pressing. Since hazelnut farming is a secondary business for small orchard owners including "absentee farmers" in the first place the main motivation of farmers is to have the harvest completed in shortest time possible. Different than harvesting in tea which does not derive from the crop itself, this urgency makes the need for temporary workers more important. A representative who is also a farmer himself says "In normal conditions harvesting in an orchard of 25 acres means 50-60 daily wages." Assuming that workers gather in teams of 10, harvesting in an orchard of this size will take 5-6 days.

Given this, it is possible to say that "absentee" farmers or other orchard owners having their primary occupation other than farming can complete harvesting in their orchards during their 15 days long annual leave.

education and training or their move from the region to other places for settling and local labour force shifting to other occupations or forms of employment like construction. Topography is also a factor determining the need for labour force. It is also observed that representatives from chambers speak cautiously about the number of seasonal workers coming from out of province. A representative explains the situation,



*“Each finds his workers himself. Altogether they add up to 15-20,000 but what is recorded in security office documents is much less than this.”*

Another representative says the following about his district:



*“They regularly come each year from Şanlıurfa in particular. With dayı as their leader, they come as five tribes. Each with 50 members, we can say 250 in total.”*

One representative says there are about 10,000 migrant agricultural workers coming to their district:



*“We arrange meeting of farmers and dayıbaşı to make sure that incomers do not remain without job here”*

Meanwhile it is observed that regions may differ with respect to their labour force. A firm manager explains this as follows:



*“There are local and Georgian workers for Giresun and Trabzon in particular. Georgian workers actually come for tea, but the third round of harvest in tea coincides with hazelnut and so they also work in hazelnut harvest. In Giresun-Trabzon area there is not much migrant workers from South-eastern Anatolia, they are concentrated*

*mostly in Ordu-Samsun area. There are regional differences in labour use; eastern and Western Black Sea Regions for example differ in this respect. Here, a working family comes and goes for a long period of time and after a certain point they need no intermediary. Actually there is no intensive labour migration from the eastern part of the country. Arriving in a village, workers work for all orchard owners there and it is for 1 month.”*


It appears while working in tea and hazelnut harvesting in Eastern Black Sea Region workers from Georgia are considered as qualified in many respects and so they are also employed in works other than harvesting. Seasonal migrant workers are needed most in Western Black Sea Region provinces of Düzce and Sakarya where sufficient labour cannot be secured locally. Meanwhile hazelnut orchard owners' preferences for labour input may vary with respect to cost and cultural affinity. While the bulk of labour needed in harvest time comes from seasonal migrant agricultural workers as the least costly source, Georgian and local workers are preferred for pre and post-harvest works. Accommodation is not a cost item to be considered when local workers are employed while in other cases where same spaces will be shared with workers the preference is for Georgians since they travel without their children and their “culture is not so distant”.

## What if Workers do not Come


After talking about the need for seasonal migrant workers, representatives were posed the question “How does it affect hazelnut output in case workers from out of the province/district cannot come due to measures taken against Covid-19?” There were different respon-




ses by regions on this issue. For example, a representative of the chamber of agriculture in eastern Black Sea made the following projection for the present year:

 *“We believe that restrictions will be lifted until season comes. There is medication and fertilization before harvest. That period is about to end. Everyone has his friends and close ones in the village. If nobody comes, every family will pick their hazelnut or have it picked. Giresun is doing its own harvest for 700 years. There may be 10-20 per cent loss, but it is picked, it may take 40 days instead of 15, but it is picked.”*

Comparing hazelnut to tea, another representative says hazelnut farmer is luckier with respect to harvest in that the period of harvest and storing may be longer in case there is no rain and thus production may continue even when there are no workers from out of the province. Another Chamber representative say the price of hazelnut is expected to be high this season and in spite of some difficulties and delays:

 *“Nobody would let hazelnut remain on branch; the farmer goes in and picks it if there is no other way.”*

Representatives from Central Black Sea Region also think that higher price is important, but note that longer the period of haves harder would it be for “absentee producers”:

 *“If the price is good hazelnut is absolutely picked even if no worker comes. What is lost actually is time. There are many from this region now working in other distant places, they may return for a time and pick their families’ hazelnut. Orchard owners with their means store the produce and others sell it as soon as possible; so all parties want harvest to be finished soon.”*





There is another Agricultural Chamber representative who thinks that harvest will be largely completed through such ways as local solidarity, having sharecroppers or use of machinery by those with land suitable for it:



*“There is a group of local workers here. I cannot say they will be fixing all, but villages may help each other in harvest time. What is problematic is orchards on mountainous terrain. Others with smother plots will pick their produce anyway, by hiring machinery if necessary.”*

An Agricultural Chamber representative from the Western Black Sea region describes three typologies of hazelnut orchard owners in his region:



*“Those coming from cities want to finish harvest work as soon as possible and return. These people raise hazelnut in their orchards and go back. There is some thinking “I can’t gain if I use workers and it takes too long if I do it myself. There are some other rural people living in their home villages while their grown-up children are in cities. These elderly people have their orchards of 10-15 acres; they cannot collect them because of their old age but neither do they want to let alien workers in. They think these workers would damage the orchard if they do not supervise. So friends and relatives harvest their produce. There are some people having their engagements other than hazelnut. They cannot do it with their family members and cannot find local workers. Yes, these people will lose if no worker comes, but in any case their produce will not remain in the orchard, some other way will be found.”*



The same representative says hazelnut's dropping down from its branch is waited for harvesting, and after finishing their job, orchard owners may move to their neighbour's orchard to help them in their harvest which will make it possible to complete the harvest through local cooperation.

There was only one representative from the Chamber of Agriculture stating negative opinion on this. This representative says there are about 12,000 seasonal workers coming in, farmers are worried about this year in this respect and half of total annual produce which is 60,000 tons may remain on trees. When asked whether this problem can be solved by local cooperation and solidarity as stated in other regions the representative said their province is a "small Turkey" stressing that social composition is Düzce is different and much varied than in other provinces producing hazelnut and different communities would not enter into each other's orchard.

When asked about presently closed state of Georgia-Sarp border gate many representatives said there was no foreign labour force in their area anyway. It appears that workers from Georgia are employed in limited numbers mostly in mountain villages and in qualified works like pruning.

The question how hazelnut production may be affected in case no worker from out of province/district can come due to Covid-19 measures was also posed to institutions other than Chambers of Agriculture. Representatives from firms say agricultural intermediaries they are in contact with have serious complaints about uncertainties in workers' travel possibilities. While there is no definitive projection how this situation could affect labour mobility, many parties expect no serious problem thinking that local labour could easily cover this gap. A representative, for example, says the traditional "imece" may come back:



*"İmece (kind of co-op farming) may again come to the fore. Family labour may be mobilized more effectively. It is a short season anyway. It is a time that many are in their villages. Household members or relatives living in other places may come and help. A farmer, for example had told me: 'I do it in three days with workers and in six days with my family members, but I do it this or that way.'"*

Another representative pointed out to what happened in tea before hazelnut:



*"Ever farmer collected his tea, nobody left his produce out in the field. So will it be happen in hazelnut too. Plots are not so large anyway. It will take 5 days on their own while it would be 3 days with workers, but it will eventually be collected."*

It is an idea commonly shared by representatives of commercial firms that since hazelnut is a shelled crop as different from tea there is some flexibility in spreading its harvest over time:



*"Hazelnut will not remain on its branch unless there is a big catastrophe. It will be harvested in a month. If it has fallen to ground, it can stay there for a month in its shell. It is not like tomato which will go bad after a short period of time."*

Another firm representative thinks need for labour force will be balanced as a result of layoffs during the outbreak:



*"There are some who were laid off. There are many of them in Giresun. It is definite that these persons will take part in hazelnut harvest. Local people here know how it is. This is also true for Sakarya."*

The same representative says they will be suggesting this as a good practice by the campaign “Neither hazelnut should remain on its branch nor your mind should on workers” announced by the Ordu Municipality on 20 May 2020. There was only one firm representative saying local labour force will fall short in no worker comes from without, this may lead to serious problems particularly in Western Black Sea Region and alternative solutions could respond only to a small part of actual need for labour force.

One of the CSOs interviewed pointed out to some practices in İzmir saying in case local governments undertake responsibility local labour supply can be easily matched with demand to cover the gap. A trade union representative say the practice of harvesting varies by altitude such as coastal, middle and high altitudes which offers opportunities for imece type labour organization.

An academic interviewed agrees with this general framework and adds people in different generations from the region will go to their hometowns in summer instead of staying in big urban centres following the quarantine and unemployment in construction sector will create a special labour supply which, together, can solve the “labour shortage” problem. Another academic thinks family labour including relatives from other provinces will be used more, local labour will be taking part in the process, imece will be practised and as a result “hazelnut will not remain on its branch.”

Despite this optimistic thinking, representatives from different institutions say important problems may emerge in hazelnut production districts of provinces such as Düzce, Samsun, Sakarya and in case seasonal migrant workers do not or cannot come. Negative possibilities mentioned during these interviews include rising labour costs as a result of competition for

limited labour supply, violations of some rights during work and increase in child labour in the face of increased costs.

## New Methods in Harvesting: Machinery and Ground Cover

Given the possibility of labour shortage as a result of the pandemic, mechanisation is mentioned as an alternative way. A representative says big farmers have already started using machinery, but for cost-effectiveness this use requires orchards larger than 50 acres.

When asked about these alternatives it is said recently there have been experiments with machinery or using nets as ground cover in collecting hazelnut, but there are some natural barriers to the spread of these new methods. Both of these methods have their costs. Some representatives say there is need for a period of five years for these methods to be efficient for owners of smaller orchards. Also, there must be throughout ground cleaning for the use of net laying which is a new cost item in itself. All interviewees agree that topography alone is the most important barrier to the use of these methods:



*“These methods vary according to topography of orchards. There are flat plots and it is possible there. In Ordu, orchards are mostly on slopes. Natural conditions do not allow certain practices. It may be useful in reducing costs, but you can’t do it everywhere. They can reduce costs by thoroughly cleaning orchards and making hazelnut fall on ground.”*

A representative from the Chamber of Agriculture says:



*“If the orchard is too dense with trees machine cannot enter. If entry and exit*

*paths are too narrow it is a problem for the machine. And orchards may be too dispersed; one acre here, three acres there. Machinery does not make much sense in such cases.”*

Given this, there are attempts to make new orchards suitable for machine use



*“The topography of our orchards is not fit for nets or machine harvesting. There are farmers adopting these methods, but not everyone can use these. You also need hands to use machinery. In Italy they pick up in rows, but it is not possible here. There may be some here but not all will use these methods. Our orchards are old-style. So we are supervising the establishment of new orchards to ensure that they are fit for using machinery.”*

A representative from a Chamber of Agriculture in Western Black Sea Region says some farmers are after new methods:



*““They keep developing and trying new methods. There is some using nets and others with their blowing machines. Some farmers use haymakers in harvesting and there are others bringing in some parts to try to make a harvesting machine without engine. So needs drive attempts to invention, I am not sure if they can succeed.”*

Representatives from other institutions speak about similar means and restrictions about mechanization. A firm representative summarizes the case as follows:



*“It is costly and not practical. The ground must be smooth, clean and without stones. There is no young generation engaged in farming, they won't bother. A hazelnut grower is not like any*

*ordinary farmer; it is good if he visits his orchard couple of times in a year. They invented a machine like a broom. But there must be reasonable path leading to the orchard and the ground must be smooth for this. A farmer in Sakarya was using it. He says you must really take care of your orchard for this machine to be usable. Net is costly. They don't do it for an orchard of 10 acres. These available methods are not very effective. Our farmers are over-hasty; do not wait for hazelnut to fall.”*

It appears that there are three major obstacles to the use of some new methods like machinery and net:

- (a) Hazelnut farmers are aging and do not think about using new methods so long as they can do it with conventional methods,
- (b) Topography, splitting of orchards in smaller plots as a result of inheritance and traditional orchard order are the factors that do not allow the use of new methods,
- (c) Farmers who consider using new methods still have some reservations to how and when they will be able to reap the benefits of their investment.


A representative from an institution says new techniques may be widely adopted in case sales or village development cooperatives extend mechanization support to orchards fit for their use.


## Child Labour in Hazelnut Harvesting

A common concern expressed by different actors is that the implementation of measures against the Covid-19 outbreak will inevitably increase costs and seasonal migrant worker fa-


milies will let their children work as a coping strategy under these changing circumstances. This concern is not limited to hazelnut harvest and a specific region but constitutes a global agenda. For example, the International Cacao Initiative released a report in April 2020 containing a literature survey on how unexpected income changes in seasonal agricultural labour may affect the incidence of child labour. The report covering the examination of 400 publications of studies conducted in 50 countries concludes that while falling income may have its greater effect, income increase as a result of overvaluation of a specific crop may also trigger child labour. Attention is also drawn that the possible effect of income changes on child labour may vary with respect to labour type, mode of production and regional cultural differences which precludes any universal generalization.


Hence, the survey compiled opinions from representatives of different institutions. Representatives from chambers of agriculture say seasonal migrant agricultural worker families travel with their children not as a result of a preference but necessity. It would not be something desired by orchard owners to employ children in their orchards but especially in cases where workers stay in places close to orchards it is not easy to ensure full control on this issue.

 *“Let’s take a look at its human dimension. Would these families travel all the way to Düzce to pick hazelnut if they are not in need? The man has his 14 years old child and cannot leave him back; he too has to earn money. We could not overcome this problem yet. If all family members work in the same orchard their control becomes easier.”*


 *“For the last couple of years there is some work on combating child labour.*


*We are represented in the commissions under the Governorate. We keep warning farmers and workers about this issue. There are suitable places for children in gathering and accommodation areas allocated by our governorates. I don’t think there will be any specific victimization this year. But extra costs will emerge if they come during this Corona pandemic, we’ll see.”*

 *“There can be no child worker in hazelnut orchards. If I can get no returns from that child, neither can I from his mother. I don’t pay him.”*


 *“Child labour does not actually reduce costs. An adult can pick up 100 kg of hazelnut in a work day, but a child cannot do it. A child has to spend longer time, does not know how to do it or may start playing. Nobody wants this to happen.”*

There are two representatives who regard any instance when the child is in the orchard as labour;

 *“You can’t teach it to a person at age 25. I don’t mean letting the child work as others, let him work for 2-3 hours, but of course he must not carry heavy sacks.”*

 *“My child has to be in the orchard. He’ll be learning it at very early ages. Measures must be taken. Now there are playgrounds in accommodation areas, if we can keep children there then there will be no problem.”*

Asked about his opinion, a firm representative said:

 *“Child labour will become more common. If incoming workers are not suffi-*



cient, all family members will be working in orchards. A child does not have to pick hazelnut, maybe will fetch and supply water to others who are working. The children of farming families will not be a problem. Some children take it as a game of some kind. So I leave these children aside. But the children of workers coming from elsewhere will work. There is no way to avoid this. We are talking with families. We are telling them 'Here, you have your 13-14 years old child and we built a school here, so send him to school, he'll have his meals there too.' But still families think it is better if their children work."

There is another firm representative sharing this opinion:



"My biggest worry is the possibility of increase in the incidence of child labour. It looks like the yield in hazelnut will be good this year. Weather conditions in the Black Sea region are quite unstable and people try to finish harvesting in shortest time possible. I don't think they will face bottlenecks in seasonal labour supply. Workers, on the other hand, say they used to come to earn 600 TL, let's say, but earn only 300 TL this year. Children, in this case, may join their parents' work. In farmer households there is not much children anyway. The average age is quite high. I don't think there will be child labour from farmer families."



Fotoğraf Kalkınma Atölyesi arşivinden...

Representatives from international organizations too share the same concerns. Efforts made in earlier years could lead to the tendency of not bringing children along. This year, however, there is switch to distance education and there will not be summer schools. Since they have no means of computer and internet, children of workers may appear in orchards more this year. The trade union representative too says given limited availability of labour, the practice of picking hazelnut from ground may be more common and this may lead to a rise in child labour. A CSO representative reminds some past harvests when high yield encouraged the use of child labour. In all cases, a correlation is established between families' move to orchards and incidence of child labour. Meanwhile, representatives from academic institutions and CSOs point to unemployment caused by stagnancy in construction and some other sectors and unwillingness of orchard owners to let children work say there will not be any worrying situation about child labour. In all cases, however, it is stressed that public will and supervision is essential and information building activities in this regard must continue. All these suggest that it is important this year to keep an eye on child labour.

## What Would/Should Measures be and Who Can/ Must Do What?

When asked who can do what for avoiding possible problems in the context of measures taken against Covid-19 outbreak responses given reflect different perspectives. Representatives from Chambers of Agriculture make reference to meetings of Seasonal Agricultural Workers Monitoring Boards and say they have undertaken various responsibilities in ensuring the implementation and supervision of decisions adopted by these boards. They add they can give trainings to workers

and employers about the outbreak this year as an additional activity. A representative from a Chamber of Agriculture say municipalities in different parts of Turkey have started to implement various programmes to support agricultural production; adding that there is no such initiative in their region, the representative stresses the role of local governments as a key actor. Another representative says the state must introduce licensed storing to protect hazelnut producers against free market fluctuations.

When asked whether firms will have their role in this issue representatives say they must consider the state of farmers particularly in fixing prices:



*"Every party should do his work. Hazelnut must be sold for the value it has. The farmer must not be driven away from the beginning. The price was declared as 17.5 TL at the beginning of the season last year but it fell to 13.5 TL in September. It is 27 TL today. 100 per cent fluctuation in a given season is not normal. If it is sold at 13.5 TL farmer does not take care of his orchard. Then all parties lose. There must be some sustainability."*

The opinion of another representative on this issue is as follows:



*"Do firms have to do something? I think they must. I was once engaged in farming. Price uncertainty is a factor that makes farmers confused. What will be the price of my produce this year? Will it cover costs or not? He must know the price in advance. The farmers must know in advance whether it is worth going to the orchard. For example if you say hazelnut is 8 TL, no absentee orchard owner will come."*

Two representatives said firms can support efforts by the state to improve living conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and also help in the provision of such materials as glove, mask and disinfectant that are essential during the outbreak.

Representatives from firms who are presently in the field say orchard owners are informed about the outbreak, have worries about virus transmission by incoming workers and will therefore act responsibly in relation to measures. A representative of a firm says although there are differences between provinces/districts in terms of endowment Province/District Agricultural Directorates are a part of the process, take the issue seriously, but there may be some difficulties in inspection because of personnel shortage. It was observed that some firms were in communication with local headmen to match labour supply with demand and to plan for accommodation before harvesting time.

A firm representative stressing the need to consider different habits of incoming workers in regard to accommodation expresses his opinion as follows:



*“Accommodation is the biggest issue as I said. We have our METIP area here in Giresun. The ISKUR got a budget and arranged this area. But there is nobody permanently staying there since there is no worker inflow from the southeast. So this place is used temporarily. Dayıbaşı brings workers in, they stay there for few days and then go out to orchards. When their work is finished, they keep staying there until another work. If no new job, they return home. What forced us to this restoration work was actually problems faced in tent settlements. Zonguldak is somewhat more coordinated. It is mostly people from*

*Urfa who stay in tent settlements and they do know how stay in such places. But people from Diyarbakır and Mardin in Sakarya-Karasu are not so experienced. They are not so accustomed to migrant life and if you don't give them a roof they are just helpless.”*

Further, there is consensus on a range of measures including the following: Adding masks to hygiene materials distributed every year; update of measures against the Covid-19 outbreak; information building through existing SMS lines; informing orchard owners; information building in the field by employing half-time social workers during harvest; and continuing with trainings... It is also stated that there are some other important matters in the context of measures in METIP areas including reducing accommodation capacity and responding to needs such as provision of safety and cleaning personnel and procurement of fuel and hygiene materials which are not included in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Circular No. 2017/6. It is said firms can support efforts for this purpose if no additional fund is allocated. While a firm representative says they are aware of the accommodation problem and can supply tents, a CSO points out to the need for the AFAD to act as a guide in these matters.



*“First of all you must prepare well for the harvest. Firms must follow circulars carefully in this process. There must be talks with orchard owners in advance. We talk with 1-15 orchard owners in a day. At the same time workers and agricultural intermediaries must be informed to ensure that when they arrive to the region they understand that circumstances are now different from the last year. We keep doing these things as usual within the framework of our social work, but we*

*added the pandemic this year. We talk about this disease and ways of protecting from. We tell them what to do in their personal hygiene. We are telling these to both farmers and workers.”*



*“The needs are the same as usual: safe drinking water and hygiene materials...Living spaces that are not congested... We were already telling these before the Covid-19 outbreak. The outbreak has brought along some specific measures, but the essence is the same.”*



*“We work closely with district directorates of agriculture. We already had our work for the renewal of workers’ houses. Agriculture directorates will conduct inspections on accommodation conditions before workers arrive. And we’ll be assessing the situation upon their arrival. But it is too difficult to change some conditions at once. The existing system, for example, is not fit for social distancing. Farmers’ attitude will be a determining factor in steps to be taken in this field. Temporary tent settlements have a little share in accommodation in our region, but it may be different this year due to various factors.”*

When representatives from institutions are asked what can be done, firms and CSOs, aware of existing problems, say they are engaged in activities in such fields as fair working conditions, education and health through various forms of cooperation. They say they plan to continue these activities during the outbreak with necessary updates and also trying to raise funds for materials needed in these activities.

There are two main suggestions as to what needs to be done:

(a) Collecting data related to current state of affairs over actors such as headmen and agricultural intermediaries who know where they stand,

(b) On the basis of these data planning about what is needed and acting in coordination with all actors where autonomous initiatives can be taken depending on local needs.

The hazelnut orchard owner data collection matrix developed on the basis of issues raised during interviews may be used to reach these objectives.

Reminded of the concept of imece (cooperative work) in the context of labour needs, a representative said all works need to be performed in the context of an “institutional imece.”



*“The government side must be mobilized on this issue. But it is a long process. What is essential now is to ensure the healthy traffic of workers and we are working to ensure that workers take their personal measures. Our information building work will be in this direction. Information focusing on, for example, what points they must pay attention during their travel, in their living spaces, etc. and which agencies they must apply to in case of any need.”*



*“We suggest firms in the supply chain to enter into communication with agricultural intermediaries for information. We help them get prepared. Firms can create annex budgets. We have them get engaged in infrastructure works. We now have a working group preparing an information guide specific to hazelnut. We bring firms together and do it collectively.”*



*“We are available as a source of information on almost everything from how to*



*start their travel to what they are supposed to do in places they arrive, and about emergency call line 112. We covered issues like how to protect from the virus, negotiating with bus firms to reduce travel costs, etc. We gave them information on such matters and there were intermediaries using this in practice.”*



*“There must be coordination at local level accompanied by instructions. In particular, there is need to organize travels complying with rules. We suggest that companies too should contribute to these efforts. There are some bodies/commissions in provinces and these must be made more use of. There must be mechanisms to share the burden. tent settlement areas, vacant spaces must be provided. There is also need for protective equipment, hygiene and food support.”*



*“A data bank must be created and there must be autonomous work at province/district level. Prioritized provinces/districts must develop their own implementation plans. Bulancak district in Giresun province, for example, must develop its own solution. There must be province and district level action plans. The outbreak may repeat itself and solutions must be accordingly. Planning will make solutions easier. And there must be planning at central level too.”*

## **New Opportunities that May Emerge as a Result of the Pandemic**

It was noted in interviews conducted that Covid-19 outbreak circumstances may have some positive effects on long waged efforts to improve the living and working conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers, the-

ir families and children in the context of hazelnut harvest. It is pointed out to the possibility of higher hazelnut prices this year which may mitigate the effects of higher costs and some further improvements may be possible in the context of outbreak measures. A CSO representative interviewed remarked that in fact all actors involved favour improvements in problematic situations, but still there is no all-encompassing approach since quite different situations may emerge in hazelnut harvest as a result of a wide range of variables. It is considered that it is possible to take some steps ahead on issues where there is consensus in the context of outbreak measures.

A firm representative expresses his opinion on this issue as follows:



*“I think positive on this issue. There are some problems omitted or waiting for solution for long years, which are mostly related to working and living conditions, the recent outbreak may serve as an opportunity to introduce improvements and solutions quickly. So we must make good use of this opportunity. For example, ensuring the registration of all agricultural intermediaries and their supervision...Meanwhile it is also a positive development that governmental agencies will now supervise and assess conditions in workers’ accommodation conditions. So these agencies will be spending more time in the field. Farmers too may understand better the role of their workers and undertake further responsibilities. I don’t know what may happen in relation to the management of orchards, but today farmers are spending more time in their orchards given current mobility restrictions. This may have its positive implications.”*

It is also stated that as a result of travel restrictions and rules about travel permission agricultural intermediaries can no more “tuck in workers”; it will be possible to record labour mobility more regularly and contract-based relations between farmers and intermediaries may become a norm. To overcome existing uncertainties, the government will be more open to cooperation with both civil society and private sector which will increase civil society’s capacity to be influential on decisions and policies. For example, the availability of safe water and sanitary toilets has so far been considered as the most pressing needs of seasonal workers; it has now become an issue in official circulars in the context of hygiene measures and also included in decisions taken by provincial governorates. Representatives from some firms say now they expect government support to their projects on these issues. CSO representatives too state their expectations on improvements in Access to health services by seasonal agricultural workers and their families. It is also stated that these initiatives and practices triggered by the outbreak may support and pave the way for further improvements.

It is stated that farmers now taking their responsibilities related to orchards more seriously may be another positive outcome of this process. Younger generations may develop an interest in orchards and “discover hazelnut” and as the present generation of farmers is getting older new models may come out as to the future of hazelnut production supported by concrete suggestions.



1 Çadır: Tent settlement (or tent camp area, staying place or living environment) are shelters along main or side roads, irrigation or drainage canals where nomadic communities or seasonal agricultural workers live in cloth or plastic material tents; these camps may be either compact or dispersed on various parts of a plain (Development Workshop, 2018).

2 Çavuş: Çavuş is the on behalf on of agricultural intermediary supervising the work of people in fields and orchards on the name of the intermediary. In some regions agricultural intermediary is used as same with çavuş or dayıbaşı. Operating in different provinces or in different districts within the same province and having too many workers, some intermediaries use çavuş to organize and supervise workers in their work.

3 Annexes: A part, building or addition to a given building which have their different functions. They are out of the main building but also adjacent to it.

4 Temporary tent settlement (or tent camp, accommodation area, living space): These are places where household engaged in seasonal migrant agricultural works stay, which are mainly tents made of fabric, canvas or plastic or prefabricated shelters for short or longer stays. Agricultural workers may initiate such settlements on their own either as compact or dispersed or may be allocated to workers by government agencies under a programme or project. They are mostly located along roads, streams and irrigation canal, rural pasturelands etc.

5 Denotes temporary accommodation areas allocated in provinces under the Prime Ministerial Circular No. 2017/6 on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers.

6 Patpat: It is a vehicle known by this name due to the sound of its engine. It is used in almost every part of Turkey and in the Black Sea region it is used by orchard owners to reach their plots and carry materials with.

7 International Cocoa Initiative, the Effects of Income Changes on Child Labour: A review of Evidence from Smallholder Agriculture. April 2020.



## Decisions Taken by Giresun Governorate Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Monitoring Board

The commission set up to fix daily wages payable to workers (workers, cooks, sack carriers, muleteers, haymaker operators) met on July 4, 2019 as chaired by Deputy Governor Hamdi Üncü.

The following decisions were taken in the meeting:

1- Under article 71 of the law no. 4857 no child will be employed for wage in migrant and temporary agricultural works except family works. Those who violate this provision will be made subject to administrative fine of 2,292.00 TL for the year 2019. It will also be announced to the public through the means of media that elderly and sick persons cannot be employed in hazelnut harvesting.

2- For the hazelnut harvesting season of 2019, relevant governmental agencies, agricultural intermediaries, employers and seasonal workers are required to strictly comply with the provisions of the Prime Ministerial Circular no. 2017/6 titled "Seasonal Agricultural Workers" and published in the Official Gazette no. 30043, dated 19.04.2017.

3- 2Those who meet the criteria for being employed in hazelnut harvest works in will be paid without any distinction as to age and gender;

Daily 85 TL in case the meal is served by the orchard owner,

Daily 95 TL in case workers provide for their meals,

4-Those who will carry collected produce in sacks will be paid;

Daily 105 TL in case the meal is served by the orchard owner,

Daily 115 TL in case workers provide for their meals,

5-Cooks employed during the harvest season will be paid daily 95 TL each,

6-For haymaker operation;

200 TL will be paid per ton/hour,

0.20 TL will be paid per kg,

7- 0.60 TL will be paid to workers who pick up hazelnut from ground on kilogram basis,

8-In hazelnut haymakers;

Machine owners will take measures to minimize hazelnut cracking,

Machines causing excessive cracking will not be allowed to operate,

9-Residual emerging on roads and road sides after the use of machinery will not be left there and those who leave such material on roads and road sides will be subject to sanctions for damaging public property and causing environmental pollution. Municipalities and local headmen are in charge of conducting necessary supervision.

10-Workers will be transported from their accommodation areas to orchards by vehicles convenient for passengers (bus, minibus, automobile, etc.)

11-Payments will be made to workers without delay upon the completion of work,

12-Orchard owners will not make any payment as "travel expenses" to agricultural intermediaries who bring in workers,

13-Village headmen and employers (orchard owners) will take necessary measures related to work safety and health and report workers with any health problem to the closest health facility,

14-Under the identity declaration law no. 1774, employers will report identity information of workers they employ to Agriculture Directorate, İŞKUR Province Directorate and nearest security offices through local headmen,

15-Local headmen will register those coming from abroad for hazelnut harvest to Foreigner Registration Records,

16-Employers and local headmen will immediately intervene in events and acts disturbing public order and report such cases to nearest security offices,

17-Under article 13 titled "work permit exemption" of the International Labour Force Law no. 6735 Georgian national can work as seasonal agricultural workers in Black Sea Region (Samsun, Ordu, Giresun, Trabzon, Rize and Artvin provinces). It will be announced that Georgian nationals are allowed to work for a period not exceeding 90 days with exemption documents to be issued by District Governorates.

18-The commission on duty has determined the minimum wage payable to hazelnut workers in Giresun province as well as other related responsibilities and wages and responsibilities other than these will not be considered as valid

19-The commission fixed wages payable to workers in hazelnut harvest by taking into account the weekly working hours as set by the Labour Code No. 4857.



5





# Overall Evaluation

Upon the global spread of Covid-19 outbreak, various measures, including international and domestic travel restrictions and social distancing, have been adopted all over the world. These measures brought along an important question about how global and national processes of production are to be sustained. One question in this regard is the maintenance of food supply chain where seasonal migrant workers make up an important link. International organizations like FAO and ILO as well as civil society organizations in different countries working on these issues have made various calls related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers which they consider important but also the most fragile link in the chain. Developments taking place in this context in the world and in Turkey are discussed in detail in relevant parts of the present report.

In the light of experiences of April and May 2020, the present study seeks to investigate the possible effects of measures against Covid-19, following transition to “gradual normalization”, on labour mobility that will emerge in July 2020 as hazelnut harvest season comes closer. Hazelnut is one of the leading crops in Turkey in terms of international trade and Düzce, Giresun, Ordu, Sakarya and Samsun provinces together account for 80 per cent of total hazelnut produce in Turkey. Given this, interviews were conducted with the major target groups as agricultural intermediaries and hazelnut orchard owners and with representatives of organizations having their roles and responsibilities at different stages of production. A general framework for discussion can be derived from information and data available in these interviews.

During April and May 2020, as harvesting season for many crops is coming closer, the need to “keep agricultural production going” made it necessary to introduce exemptions and flexibilities in relation to measures adopted as a part of combat against Covid-19 with reference to “regional characteristics and agricultural cycle.” Seasonal migrant agricultural workers were the community most frequently mentioned when there is discussion about exemptions. Taking hazelnut harvest as a specific case, we can say there is a period of waiting in the second half of May 2020 when the study was conducted. Discussions about tea harvesting that started earlier were closely followed, but there were still uncertainties about how hazelnut harvest could be organized and how measures will be implemented since the meetings of the Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Monitoring Commission were yet not held.

After the completion of the field survey, “gradual normalization” started from June 1, 2020 on; as a part of the process travel restrictions were lifted while “half capacity rules” in travels continued. Meanwhile, top-level authorities declared that measures lifted may be re-introduced in case of an upsurge or “second wave.” Hence, data collected on this agenda as a part of the survey maintain its importance.

As stated in the introduction part of the report, there were three basic levels of interview for this rapid assessment as agricultural intermediaries, hazelnut orchard owners and representatives from relevant institutions and, when deemed necessary, data collected were confirmed with through follow-up interviews. Data collected from three different groups will be evaluated in comparative terms by themes in

this part. First of all, it must be established that hazelnut harvest is a multi-actor process. Further there are differences in labour force needs and strategic to provide for these needs on the basis of local/regional characteristics and producer types. In order to assess these determinants interpedently, this study suggest a data collection matrix provided as annex.

We said hazelnut production is a multi-actor process. Orchard owners, local traders (greengrocer), crackers, processors, exporters, etc. have their roles in the process extending from orchards to factories and consumer markets. The continuance of this process and supply chain is expected to take place within borders drawn and supervised by the government. Seasonal migrant agricultural labour has its major role in the harvesting part of the process.

Seasonal migrant labour started to gain weight in hazelnut production with the 1980s. During these years, there was large-scale migration from villages to city centres as a result of various factors including split of orchards to smaller plots, acquisition of other occupations thorough education and emergence of sectors like construction promising higher returns. These developments created a need for labour force which could not be met locally. So, required labour force was recruited from less developed regions of Turkey and partly from Georgia with the opening of borders in 1989. Another consequence was the emergence of “absentee farmers”, who already emigrated to metropolitan areas and doing their professional jobs, prefer to keep small and/or split orchards engaged in hazelnut production as a source of secondary income on the premise “ancestral land must not be sold out.” This typology transfers works to be done before and after harvest to

local workers through acquaintances, take leave from their primary job during harvest time, go back to their orchards titled to their parents and employ seasonal migrant agricultural workers to finish harvesting as soon as possible. It is stated during interviews that seasonal migrant labour is demanded mostly by these absentee farmers.

Meanwhile, some characteristics of hazelnut as a crop also facilitate this relative flexibility. Indeed, in interviews hazelnut was characterized as a crop whose annual circuit is completed in five steps by requiring “less attention” by its farmers. The harvesting time may differ in eastern and western parts of Black Sea Region depending on altitude. This spreading of harvest over time makes seasonal migrant agricultural labour employable from the end of July up to early September. Additionally, collection of hazelnuts as a shelled crop does not require any urgent action as in the case of tea and labour force arriving in an area may spread their harvesting work overtime by working in orchards one after the other. Given these flexibilities, small farmers in particular can make use of family labour, local workers and, in some occasions, Georgians who are considered as having some qualifications in some pre and post-harvest works like pruning, fertilization and ground cleaning. This introduces a balance to labour cost which is the biggest cost item in hazelnut farming. Hence, in hazelnut production there is a hierarchy according to the cost of types of labour used.

At this point it must be stressed that seasonal migrant agricultural workers take part in the process as a cheaper source of labour for which the demand is driven not by the nature of the crop but type of farmer in the context of

completing the harvest in shortest time possible. The presence of many problems in this production derives partly from this fact and it is known that these problems existed before the present Covid-19 outbreak. Hence, the findings of the present study should not be considered as pertaining only to the outbreak environment given the problems of the production which are long standing.

The ways of implementing general measures adopted against the Covid-19 outbreak in the case of seasonal labour mobility were specified by the Circular dated 3 April 2020 issued by the General Directorate of Provincial Administrations of the Ministry of Interior. This Circular was then made public via district and province governorates, district and province directorates of agriculture and chambers of agriculture. It was an important point to investigate in the study whether agricultural intermediaries and hazelnut orchard owners were aware of these measures. Agricultural intermediaries have worries for their workers in the context of accommodation conditions and hazelnut orchard owners have their worries about themselves and their family members given the labour mobility. However, orchard owners think there will be no problem after arrival if their travel process is free of problems. Agricultural intermediaries say they face various difficulties in accommodation in normal times too and they are not informed sufficiently about how Covid-19 measures are to be implemented. This mood of waiting can also be seen in statements made by representatives from institutions. Governmental agencies and private firms follow decision taken, but do not state any definite opinion before harvest about how it will go. In this context both agricultural intermediaries and “absentee farmers” are said



to frequently visit helplines of Agricultural Chambers and firms about procedures related to travel permission documents.

While it is accepted by all that rules related to travel restrictions and half capacity in means of transportation will have their bearing on production costs there is still uncertainty as to who will cover these extra costs. Agricultural intermediaries say transportation costs are borne by workers and some orchard owners pay additional 5 TL to daily wage as cost-sharing. It is stated that in Giresun and Sakarya provinces orchard owners cover only travel costs for arrival, not going back. Agricultural intermediaries say it may be difficult to find means for returning since the end of harvest season coincides with the opening of schools (i.e. school service busses).

Expectations of agricultural intermediaries for daily wage rate in 2020 harvest range from 90 TL to 130 TL, the average of which points to 100 TL. Intermediaries consider daily wage rate lower than local workers as a form of discrimination and add their workers work longer hours than local workers. Orchard owners are hesitant in projecting wages for 2020 harvest as a result of increased travel costs. Estimates made by 25 persons interviewed vary from 95 TL to 106 TL, giving the average as 99.6 TL. It is not clear what percentage of daily wage intermediaries collect from workers' wages as their commission. Some representatives from institutions think this uncertainty may be to the detriment of workers given the outbreak conditions.

When the contribution of other actors is asked, agricultural intermediaries say they expect assistance from governmental agencies to which they refer as "state" while hazelnut orchard

owners say their expectations concerning fluctuating hazelnut prices are not met and they have no special expectation from governmental agencies and private firms.

There is also discussion on mechanization and/or use of nets in hazelnut harvest in case sufficient labour input cannot be secured due to the outbreak. It is stated that hazelnut orchard owners have some initiatives for such new methods in recent years, but no substantial change to this direction is expected due to fact factors of new investment costs and topography of orchards. Representatives from institutions too think that although they expect no radical switch to new methods as a result of the outbreak, there may still be some important improvements in issues related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families including children in the context of outbreak measures.

The majority of hazelnut orchard owners and institutions say they expect no problem this year in the arrival of seasonal migrant agricultural workers from other places though there may be some decrease in the number of workers coming in. With the exception of Düzce and Sakarya provinces both parties believe no crop will remain on trees referring to the practice of *imece*. They justify this conviction by mentioning possibly higher hazelnut prices this year, availability of labour as a result of higher unemployment in the region after the outbreak and the possibility of spreading harvest over time since it is a shelled crop. It is further stated that instead of waiting for a spontaneous balance in labour force needs it is necessary to take some relevant measures in advance.



## Portrait of a hazelnut farmer...



Özer Akbaşlı is 56 years old man from Giresun. As a member of a family engaged in hazelnut production for 400 years he is closely interested in social, political, economic and historical processes of this cultivation. This close interest can be observed in various duties he has undertaken so far: Heading coordination boards of Giresun Chamber of Agriculture for 13 years; executive board membership in National Hazelnut Council for six years; hazelnut commission membership in the Union of Chambers of Agriculture for eight years and representative in hazelnut cost accounting commission for six years. In his various mandates he travelled to all 35 countries that produce hazelnut and conducted examinations on various issues like different types of cultivation and hazelnut tree. He started cooperation with hazelnut growers cooperatives in countries like France, Spain and Italy. Turkey hosted Hazelnut Council meetings first in 1935, and then in 1955 and 2002; in the last of these meetings he was the head of the hosting committee. For four years he was an executive committee member of Soya Oil Corporation, an affiliate of The Hazelnut Agricultural Sales Cooperatives Union which started producing hazelnut oil for the first time in the 1990s. Akbaşlı also launched a library where he collected books and studies on the history of hazelnut production from the 19th century up to our time. He was the coordinator of the "Smiling Child Project" for eliminating child labour in hazelnut production which lasted 4 years. Akbaşlı shared his experience from all these activities and posts in many national and international occasions. He is extending counselling services private firms active in Turkey and to commissions and companies in such foreign countries as the US, Azerbaijan and Georgia.



Özer Akbaşlı has 110 decares of land in Giresun province where he manages "Akbaş Hazelnut Farm"; deducing paths and other unused parts; there is net 95 decares of land where he grows Giresun type round and oily hazelnut. The yield per decare is from 120 to 200 kg. Another characteristic of the farm is that it presents a model in protecting the living and working conditions of workers and providing various facilities.

Özer Akbaşlı says seasonal migrant agricultural workers started to appear in hazelnut harvest after the 1980s. Earlier, production was based on local seasonal labour; starting from the early 1990s, there were first workers from Adıyaman, Batman and Şanlıurfa and then, upon the opening of borders in 1989, from Georgia participating to hazelnut harvesting. This need emerged as a result of split of land due to inheritance after which hazelnut revenue fell short of keeping some families in their places and acceleration of education-driven migration.



*"The family had four children and their 40 decares of land could support family subsistence until 1990. Children grew up, moved to some occupations and left the village. The parents were left alone. Their children could not have their leave to come back to their parents' orchard. So, starting with the 1990s need for labour from without emerged for hazelnut harvest. Secondly, the plot of 40 decares was split into four upon the death of the father and each child not living in the village now had 10 de-*

*cares of hazelnut orchard. Within the last thirty years there was large scale migration from hazelnut provinces to city centres, other provinces of Turkey and abroad. But as a result of the history of the region, the importance of hazelnut as a crop that brings in extra income, orchards were not sold out. So emerged the typology known as 'absentee farmers'."*

With the participation of new actors to hazelnut harvesting some new issues emerged including forms of employment, services that must be available in accommodation and working areas and needs of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Özer Akbaşlı says in lands of specific size there must be spaces and facilities for personal hygiene, toilets, dining places and spaces for leisure time activities. Akbaşlı believes that better conditions in working and accommodation increase labour productivity:



*"Now, my workers wake up at 6 in the morning; wash up and have their self-service breakfast with porcelain plates. They are in the orchard around 7 and they start picking up around 7:30. There is 10 minutes of short break at the end of each hour worked. All have their water to drink. At noon they travel to their accommodation areas on vehicles allocated and have their lunch prepared by our cook. Lunch break is for one hour. All workers go there, wash their hands and have their lunch. They return to work at 13:00 hours and come back again in the evening to have their dinner. Coming from hazelnut orchard, everybody changes and takes a shower. Their laundry is washed in washing machine. Then they have their teas, crack sunflower seeds and watch TV. They play some games too. They go to bed around 22:00 the latest in their rooms for four. All have their mobile phones and internet connection."*

Özer Akbaşlı says hazelnut production costs will increase this year as a result of Covid-19 epidemic, but hazelnut farmers are still lucky relative to other farmers since market prices will also be higher. He adds that the present situation must be considered as an opportunity to find sustained solutions to existing problems with parties coming together and launch joint initiatives with the participation of municipalities.



6



# Suggestions Relating To Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Who Will Take Part In Hazelnut Harvest During The Virus Outbreak

In the second half of May 2020 when this rapid assessment was made, the parties were still waiting to see the effects of the outbreak. Although “gradual normalization” started as of 1 June 2020 with travel restrictions largely lifted there were still uncertainties about how these flexibilities would affect the mobility of seasonal migrant labour. It was announced by authorities, however, that partially mitigated measures would be re-introduced in case of a second wave of the disease. Meanwhile, although 13 guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Health for ministries related to trades that they are in charge of, there is yet none related to those engaged in agricultural production.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, comments and findings related to travel restrictions most frequently expressed by different participants were maintained in the “Suggestions” part of the report. It must be stressed here that the point that is strongly and commonly mentioned by intermediaries, orchard owners and institutions is that the problems of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest do not emanate from the recent Covid-19 outbreak. Indeed, measures that are stated as necessary against the outbreak in April-May 2020 actually coincide with needs that have been stressed for years in relation to working and accommodation conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Another point commonly agreed upon by different groups is that steps taken during the outbreak in relation to working and accommodation conditions of workers will contribute to long-term improvements in the solution of existing problems. Nevertheless, it must be kept in mind that problems that become visible with the Covid-19 outbreak cannot be solved at once. The outbreak must become a fresh starting point for the so-

lution of these problems in medium and longer terms and lay the ground for joint efforts by the parties for more concrete outcomes.

It is observed that regular data collection is critical in ensuring sustained solutions and improvements. This regular data collection must consider different actors involved including different types of orchard owners, different plot sizes and different modes of harvesting with respect to area and altitude in a rather wide geography. For this purpose, a hazelnut orchard owner data collection matrix was prepared in the light of information collected in the study (ANNEX-8). With data annually collected for orchard owner typology by using this matrix, there will be an important database for monitoring the sector and introducing necessary improvements.

### **Cooperation and Coordination in Ensuring Easy Access to Information and Supervision of On-going Practices**

- As stated in the section discussing outbreak-related developments taking place in Turkey, Seasonal Agricultural Workers Coordination Boards were established under governorates in some provinces on the basis of a circular issued by the Ministry of Interior on April 3, 2020 concerning the ways of implementing Covid-19 measures in agricultural production. These boards are expected to take decisions that also pertain to seasonal migrant agricultural workers and to work in cooperation with Provincial Public Health Boards under Health Directorates and Provincial Pandemic Boards under governorates. However, star-

ting from mid-April there were serious uncertainties relating to the travel possibilities and permissions of “absentee farmers” and seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

- Measures adopted in provinces with tea and hazelnut production in the period April-May 2020 were examined as a part of rapid assessment and it was observed that various exemptions were introduced to restrictions in these areas as harvest time came closer.
- During interviews, it was found that some orchard owners were living elsewhere, even abroad, and engaged in occupations other than farming; titles of their plots back in their hometowns or villages are held by their parents and they faced difficulties in getting travel permission. These permissions could be secured through warrants of attorney upon the initiative of chambers of agriculture. It was further found that similar difficulties are also faced by agricultural intermediaries who are assisted by hazelnut processing firms and others producing final goods.
- It is observed that Chambers of Agriculture, hazelnut firms, agricultural intermediaries and orchard owners all have their concerns about how measures related to travel as well as in working and accommodation areas are to be implemented in practice.
- Meanwhile, the mobility of seasonal migrant agricultural workers is a source of worry for both workers and orchard owners. For example, some agricultural intermediaries say workers have their hesitations about going to Zonguldak (included in curfew together with 30 metropolitan pro-

vinces) and Düzce and Sakarya (for their proximity to İstanbul).

- In spite of all these uncertainties, there is still need for channels to provide correct information endowed with information concerning differences at local level. Such an information channel will also serve an important function in coordinating the work of different actors.
- It must be noted that it is important to ensure two-directional flow in these channels rather than one channel where parties are merely notified by centrally taken decisions.
- It may be considered to set up WhatsApp communication groups at province/district level to inform different actors taking part in hazelnut production. Since agricultural intermediaries presently communicate with hazelnut orchard owners and local headmen to estimate labour demand and plan for travels, orchard owners try to obtain information on specific issues from chambers of agriculture and firms and local headmen convey decisions taken at governorate level to their localities, such a communication platform will be important to ensure that information held by specific actors is shared by all.
- During interviews it was frequently stressed that supervision is needed not only in interprovincial travels but also in places where seasonal migrant agricultural workers stay and work in their destination districts/provinces.
- Supply of correct information by Agriculture and Forestry Province/District Directorates, İŞKUR Provincial Directorates,

Province/District Health Directorates, METİP province offices and Chambers of Agriculture in provinces receiving intensive labour migration will also facilitate the participation of local security forces to the process for purposes of enforcement.

- Such coordination that will be created for ensuring information flow and supervision of measures as open to the participation of different actors at local level will also be functional after the pandemic in introducing improvements in many fields including matching of supply and demand.

## Organization of Intercity and Urban Travel

- It was a serious uncertainty for both hazelnut orchard owners and seasonal migrant agricultural workers how people at age under 20 and over 65 could be able to travel given their lockdown. Then, with decisions taken in April and May substantial exemptions were introduced. By 1 June 2020, the requirement of interprovincial travel permit was lifted as a part of gradual normalization process while there are still uncertainties how the half capacity rule in transportation is to be implemented.
- Due to travel restrictions introduced in April-May 2020 and uncertainties still going on about half capacity rules in vehicles transportation costs are expected to rise with implications on production costs.
- Although it is said in many cases that accommodation and working areas are close to each other at walking distances, workers will have to travel from tent settlements to orchards, to different districts of the same



province or to neighbouring provinces. It is still not clear how these travels will be organized. There is need to introduce rules about this issue and determine how related costs are to be covered.

- Hazelnut harvest season coincides with the period in which remedial education is delivered either in schools or online. Irrespective of the present outbreak, this poses some difficulties to workers in organizing their return to home. It is yet unclear how things go this year given the outbreak conditions.
- All these uncertainties leave workers in hesitation as to taking part in hazelnut harvest. At present there is need to come up with a solution how increased costs will be covered and to extent cash support to intermediaries and workers for transportation.
- The coordination mechanism mentioned above may assume important functions in regulating transportation both during the outbreak and after.

## Improvements in working areas

- Agricultural intermediaries and hazelnut orchard owners must be informed how distancing measures will be followed in working areas. Given hazelnut as the issue, distances between trees may be too short and there must be solutions particularly on keeping this distance in orchards located in high altitude and/or inclined places. Agricultural intermediaries and workers must be informed about these solutions before harvest.

- Health teams must regularly visit working areas and conduct inspections related to the delivery of health services needed and implementation of measures.
- Firms' active participation to work safety and health measures must be ensured. Firms' participation to efforts to ensure transportation to working areas, provision of bath and toilet facilities, supply of safe water, nutrition and hygiene materials is important. Firms may also develop a common plan to ensure the mobilization of orchard owners in these issues.
- In hazelnut orchards, suitable spaces must be allocated to workers for meals and resting which must also be large enough for observing the rule of physical distancing.
- Seasonal migrant agricultural workers must be given priority in providing personal protective equipment and this equipment must be distributed free to workers by orchard owners, chambers of agriculture, traders and governmental agencies.

## Improvements in accommodation areas

- Interviews suggest that in most cases; houses, barracks and building existing in orchards are used for workers' accommodation. Alternatives include temporary tent settlements and METIP areas. In this context, problematic areas and orchards can be identified in the light of data obtained by firms in their social work and efforts can be made to provide alternative workers' accommodation facilities to workers. For example, public buildings presently vacant can be used for this purpose.



- In all cases, agricultural intermediaries and hazelnut orchard owners must be informed about how personal distancing rule is to be implemented. Besides face-to-face information building there may be informative materials like posters and brochures to be widely disseminated. Preparations can be made to mobilize government support in this issue.
- Prior to hazelnut harvest camping sites must be visited to identify needed materials and services.
- The Red Crescent, AFAD, private firms and civil society organizations must provide free additional tent support to ensure social distancing in cases where workers stay in buildings, barracks or annexes in orchards.
- Throughout the harvesting period, there must be regular inspections to check how measures are being implemented. Social workers in firms may have a leading role in this. There may also be mobile teams at province/district level to do the same with the participation of personnel from both public and private sectors.
- Number, age intervals, people aged 65+, those with chronic diseases and pregnant women to stay in workers' accommodation areas must be identified and recorded. Data obtained must be applied on a map to be given to the government body in the district and each district must develop an emergency plan in this context.
- Supply of safe and adequate water without cuts is one of the most pressing needs for seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

This gained a special importance given the outbreak. This need must be urgently met particularly with the support of local governments.

- There must be support in supplying materials that may be needed in workers' accommodation areas including soap, cologne, tissue, hygienic pad, diaper etc. The importance of washing hands is frequently stressed in this process. Large bins with taps may be placed in both orchards and staying places for hand washing. These bins may also be used to inform workers with visual materials placed on.
- Costs of electricity and water used in houses, barracks or annexes in orchards are covered by orchard owners. These costs must be covered also for all seasonal migrant agricultural workers staying in tent settlements out of METIP spaces.
- It is stressed that healthy nutrition is important in combatting the outbreak. Families must be supported by providing spaces

and means where they can make their meals and also food support. Families must also be provided cooking units.

- Facilities such as bath, hot water and toilet must be available for ensuring personal care and hygiene after working hours considering that the season is summer. These facilities must be regularly disinfected and relevant materials must be supplied.
- Regular waste collection and disinfection must be ensured in camping spaces.
- There must be informative panels on Covid-19 outbreak in camping sites which must also include communication information of places to apply in case there is any need.
- In camping sites or in their vicinity there must be spaces and facilities to respond to needs of children.
- During interviews some institutional representatives mentioned the possibility of higher incidence of child labour as a ba-



lancing strategy against increasing costs triggered by the pandemic. Given this possibility, there must be information building and supervision activities in camping and workers' accommodation areas. Monitoring the participation of children in production process specifically gains importance for this year.

- Temporary tent settlements must be regularly visited together with regular health check-ups. Besides, to be supplied by orchard owners, simple thermometers can be used by team leaders to take the temperature of workers on daily basis. It is therefore important to inform both orchard owners and working team leaders about the indications of the disease.
- There must be emergency quarantine spaces close to settlements and workers' accommodation areas against possible cases of transmission.
- There must be necessary infrastructure to take the place under quarantine if any case of Covid-19 is detected while extending necessary health and food support.

### **Support package for seasonal migrant agricultural workers engaged in crop farming and their families**

- The implementation of measures against Covid-19 will have their bearing on costs of production. Some institutional representatives interviewed say the price of hazelnut is expected to be quite high this year and this high price will positively mitigate the situation for farmers. Nevertheless, a series of in-kind and in-cash support sche-

mes must be considered to keep seasonal migrant agricultural workers and families protected against negative effects of cost increase.

- In this context, there must be work on needs assessment and resource utilization to follow production process in provinces.
- Throughout the outbreak, support schemes like the Red Crescent Card which is presently available for Syrians under temporary protection can be considered for seasonal migrant worker families who are citizens of Turkey.
- Those who will be eligible for such support schemes may be determined by the board suggested at local scale in coordination with orchard owners, agricultural intermediaries and the Chambers of Agriculture.



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# Annex



# 1 Agricultural Intermediary Questionnaire

## Possible Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' and their Children's Participation to Hazelnut Harvest and Measures that Need to be Taken

### Rapid Assessment

#### AGRICULTURAL INTERMEDIARY QUESTIONNAIRE

Hello, my name is..... I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to support the social and economic development process of Turkey. We are working on adults engaged in seasonal agriculture and child labour. Presently we are engaged in work to expose the effects of the recent Covid-19 outbreak on workers you employ in Hazelnut harvest.

All responses you give will be kept confidential and not shared directly with anyone else. There will be no association between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to his work is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to stop the interview any time you want to. There will be no return to participation either in kind or in cash. Yet, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to preparations and efforts waged to protect seasonal migrant agricultural workers in Hazelnut harvest from the virus and to keep them in good health. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

#### Do you accept being interviewed?

- 1 Respondent accepts to be interviewed.
- 2 Respondent does not accept to be interviewed.
- 3 Respondent does not work in this process due to Covid-19 outbreak.

In case any problem or question during or after interview you can call the Development Workshop on 541-457 31 90.

QUESTIONNAIRE NO : .....

Name-Last name: .....

#### Are you going to work in Hazelnut harvesting this year?

- 1 Yes    2 No    99 I don't know/not certain yet

(To be asked to those saying No or "I don't know") Given that you did go last year what are the reasons for not going this year?

.....

NOTE: Continue with those responding "YES" and "NOT CERTAIN YET."

## A AGRICULTURAL INTERMEDIARY PROFILE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1 Age : .....

2 Sex : 1 Male 2 Female

3 Where are you from? ? (permanent residence): .....

4 From which province(s) will your workers for Hazelnut start out?

1 Diyarbakır 4 Siirt

7 Adıyaman 2 Şanlıurfa

5 Batman 8 Adana

5 What specific works do you perform in Hazelnut harvest?

1 Cleaning 2 Medication

3 Harvesting 98 Other

6 How many workers do you have to work in Hazelnut harvesting?

(if there is reference to family on average how many members work in a family)

..... workers

(A6.1) Number of male workers : .....

(A6.1) Number of female workers : .....

7 Number of persons travelling with you .....

8 Are there any children under age 18 working?

1 Yes 2 No

If yes,

9 How many children? .....

10 At what age do they start working? .....

11 Which specific works do they perform in Hazelnut harvest? .....

12 Which province(s) will you move to work in Hazelnut harvest this year?

.....

13 When do you plan to depart

.....

#### 14 Seasonal mobility

14.1 Time	14.2 Province	14.3 Crop	14.4 Work
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			

#### 15 Are you and your workers working now?

*(specify where did you come from and when, work/crop/place)*

*(if NOT WORKING continue with Question 22)*

.....  
If presently WORKING

#### 16 Did you get permission before setting off for these works?

1 Yes      2 No

#### 17 What do you think about permission procedures?

#### 18 How were the conditions during your travel? (control/ ticket/ stopping for controls/ number of passengers)

#### 19 Is there any service extended to you in the district/province you are working after the outbreak?

1 Yes

2 No (If no, continue with question 22)

If yes,

#### 20 Which services were delivered? (More than one option can be chosen)

1 Information building

2 Support in terms of cleaning materials and hygiene kits



- 3 Food support
- 4 Cash support
- 5 Transportation (*vehicle allocation, coverage of transportation costs, etc.*)
- 6 Accommodation (*tent, site allocation, toilet, bath, electricity, etc.*)
- 7 Health examinations
- 98 Other .....

**21 (Services) delivered by which institutions? (More than one option can be chosen)**

- 1 Village and neighbourhood headmen
- 2 Municipality
- 3 Landowners
- 4 Tradesmen
- 5 Firms
- 6 Chambers of agriculture
- 7 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation
- 8 Health institutions
- 9 Government (province and district governorates)
- 10 Security forces (police, gendarme)
- 11 Civil society organizations (associations, foundations, humanitarian organizations, etc.)
- 98 Other .....

**B QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

**22 Are there persons affected by the virus in worker families you are responsible for?**

- 1 Yes (22.1 Number.....)      2 No      99 I don't know/ I am not sure

**23 If yes, how is their condition now?**

.....

**24 Have there been/are there workers who do not want to work because of the disease?**

- 1 Yes (24.1 No.....)      2 No      99 I don't know/ I am not sure

**25 What do you workers ask you the most in relation to the virus/outbreak? What are the themes that they are most curious about?**

.....

**26 In this process did you have any engagement cancelled because of the disease?**

1 Evet      2 Hayır

**(26.1) If yes, please specify .....**

### **C Hazelnut HARVEST EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

**27 To be present in Hazelnut harvest this year,**

- 1 I made an arrangement with the landowner
- 2 I have yet not made any agreement with the landowner
- 3 I am moving without any prior agreement

**28 If has made an agreement with the landowner, for how many years have you been working with the same landowner?**

.....

**29 If moving out without any agreement, how do you find job?**

.....

### **D TRANSPORTATION, COSTS AND WAGES**

**30 Are you informed about travel /transportation measures adopted against the virus/outbreak (number of passengers, distance between passengers, hygiene in the means of transportation, health controls and breaks on the way, etc.)? (NOTE: those who are travelling for some other purposes may specify these above)**

.....

**31 You and your workers, how did you arrange your inter-provincial travel for Hazelnut harvest last year and how will you do it this year?**

	(31.1) 2019	(31.2) 2020
1 Workers' private vehicles	.....	.....
2 Minibus (service)	.....	.....
3 Bus	.....	.....
4 Train	.....	.....
98 Other	.....	.....

**32 Who pays transportation costs?**

- 1 I pay and then collect it from workers
- 2 Worker pays
- 3 Landowner pays
- 4 Worker and landowner shares
- 98 Other .....

**33 Are there problems you face in finding vehicles/services? (*fee, condition of vehicles, competency of drivers, etc.*)**

.....

**34 In your opinion what can/must be done to ensure that transportation is in compliance with measures taken?**

.....

**35 What was the daily wage without meal in the 2019 Hazelnut harvest? ..... TL**

**36 What is your estimation for the daily wage rate in the 2020 Hazelnut harvest? ..... TL**

**E NEEDS AND PROBLEM AREAS**

**37 Where do you stay in places you go for Hazelnut harvesting?**

- 1 Tent/ METİP site
- 2 Temporary tent settlement
- 3 Annex facilities of the landowner
- 4 Tent in the orchard of the landowner
- 5 Rented house
- 6 Container/ METİP site
- 7 Social facilities, etc
- 98 Other .....

**38 What could be your OUTBREAK-RELATED needs in the space where your workers STAY?**

- 1 Food support
- 2 Adequate and safe water supply
- 3 Cleaning materials
- 4 Sewage network
- 5 Uninterrupted power supply

- 6 Environmental medication (against the disease)
- 7 Waste collection
- 8 *Personal/physical distance (avoiding congestion)*
- 9 Toilet
- 10 Bath
- 98 Other .....

**39 Who do you think must provide for these needs?**

.....

**40 Who pays the bills in the place you stay?**

	(40.1) Electricity	(40.2) Water
1 I pay	.....	.....
2 Employer pays	.....	.....
3 Worker pays	.....	.....
4 Nobody pays	.....	.....
5 Employer and employee pay together	.....	.....
98 Other	.....	.....

**41 What are your outbreak-related needs in Hazelnut orchards that your workers are going to work?**  
(MORE THAN ONE OPTION CAN BE CHOSEN)

1 Safe and adequate drinking water supply	(...)
2 Cleaning/hygiene items	(...)
3 Toilet	(...)
4 Appropriate means of transportation	(...)
5 Information building	(...)
6 Decent environments in breaks and lunches	(...)
7 Protective equipment (mask, gloves, etc.)	(...)
98 Other	(...)
99 I don't know	(...)

**42 Who do you think must provide for these needs**

.....



**43 How will you provide transportation from the camping site to the Hazelnut orchard? (MORE THAN ONE OPTION CAN BE CHOSEN)**

1 Workers by their own vehicles

2 Minibus (service)

3 Tractor

4 By walking

5 Van

6 Patpat

7 Automobile

98 Other

99 Not certain/I don't know

**44 Which problems do you think you will be facing in places you will go for Hazelnut harvest (in the context of Covid-19 outbreak)?**

.....

**45 What are your expectations from the Hazelnut orchard owner in this process? In what ways they must be helping you?**

.....

**46 What are your expectations from government agencies in this process? In what ways they must be helping you?**

.....

**47 Did they call to inform you about Hazelnut harvest? (MORE THAN ONE OPTION MAY BE CHOSEN)**

1 No

2 Landowners

3 3 Firms

4 Associations/Foundations

98 Other .....

**48 If yes, what kind of information was given?**

**Thanks!**

## 2 Orchard Owner Questionnaire

### Possible Effects of Covid-19 on Hazelnut Farmers and Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers in Hazelnut Harvest

#### Orchard Owner Questionnaire

Hello, my name is..... I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to support the social and economic development process of Turkey. Presently we are working on possible effects of coronavirus on hazelnut farmers, seasonal agricultural workers and their families.

All responses you give will be kept confidential and not shared directly with anyone else. There will be no association between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to his work is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to stop the interview any time you want to. There will be no return to participation either in kind or in cash. Yet, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to preparations and efforts waged to protect seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest from the virus and to keep them in good health. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

#### Do you accept being interviewed?

- 1 Participant accepts being interviewed.
- 2 Participant does not accept being interviewed.

#### Do you think about working with migrant agricultural workers in the 2020 harvesting season?

- 1 Yes      2 No (Find out the reason and end the interview )      3 I don't know/uncertain

*In case any problem or question during or after interview you can call the Development Workshop on 541-457 31 90.*

Questionnaire No : .....

#### A Hazelnut ORCHARD OWNER PROFILE

- 1 Name-last name : .....
- 2 Province : .....
- 3 Province/district where orchard is : .....
- 4 Age : .....
- 5 Total size of hazelnut orchard : ..... decares

*(Note: The orchard owner is expected to declare the total size of orchard where hazelnut will be harvested this year)*

- 6 How many plots does the orchard have? ..... plots
- 7 Total output of unshelled hazelnut in 2019: ..... kg
- 8 What kind of labour do you employ in hazelnut harvest? *(More than one option may be chosen)*
- 1 Seasonal migrant agricultural worker
  - 2 Foreign migrant worker (not Syrians)
  - 3 Local worker
  - 4 Family labour
  - 98 Other .....

*If working with foreign migrant workers;*

- 9 What are you planning to do if foreign migrant workers (Georgians) cannot come in for hazelnut harvest this year due to Covid-19 measures?

.....

.....

## B WAGES AND WAYS OF FINDING WORKERS

- 10 How many SMAW (seasonal migrant agricultural workers) do you employ during harvest and what is the total payroll?

	Number of Workers	Total Payroll	Daily Wage
2019			
2020			

- 11 Do you find your seasonal migrant workers for hazelnut harvest through agricultural intermediaries?

1 Yes      2 No

- 12 If no, how do you find workers for harvesting?

.....

- 13 If yes, how do you find/work with intermediaries?

.....

- 14 How much TL did you pay as commission to agricultural intermediaries you worked with in 2019 *(over daily wage for each worker)*

..... TL

I do not pay commission, I just pay daily wages of my workers to the intermediary.

**15 Do you work with the same workers every year?**

1 Yes, I am keen about it.

2 No, it does not make much difference.

**C FACILITIES FOR WORKERS**

**16 What facilities did you provide to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in terms of their working and living spaces in 2019?**

Items needed	16.3. Provided by the landowner	16.4. Provided in half/partly	16.5. Cost (TL)
16.1 Accommodation facilities Separate house House for rent Sheds/building annexes Tent materials Space for tent settlement Other .....			
16.2 Basic needs Electricity Water Fuel wood Food support Other .....			
16.3 To the work field by Tractor Pat pat Service minibus Automobile Other .....			
16.4 Transportation costs for workers coming from out of province.			

**D. FARMER TENDENCIES DURING THE PANDEMIC**

**17 Did you arrange for your seasonal migrant workers for the 2020 harvest?**

1 Yes      2 No

**18 If yes, how?**

1 Through the intermediary

2 I directly talked to workers I worked with earlier

3 I am going to use the workers of my acquaintances

98 Other .....



**19 If no, what are you planning to do for this year's harvest?** (INTERVIEWER: More than one option can be chosen)

1 I am going to use family labour

2 I am going to use local workers

3 When migrant workers arrive I go and fix it

4 I have no arrangement yet, I'll see what can be done

5 I don't know/ no idea

98 Other .....

**20 Do you have any information about recently preferred harvesting methods such as net/ground cover and/or harvesting machine?** (NOTE: To be asked to landowners who have yet not made any harvesting arrangement with SMAW and local workers)

**21 Which method are you planning to use?**

1 Net/ground cover (covering the ground to cut the contact of fallen nuts with soil)

2 Hazelnut harvesting machine

**22 Why?**

**23 Do you think the participation of seasonal migrant workers to hazelnut harvesting will be problematic because of measures adopted?**

1 Yes      2 No

**24 If yes, what kind of problems do you think will arise?**

**25 Some measures are taken to prevent the further spread of the outbreak that also involves the living and working conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Are you informed about these measures?**

1 Measures that must be adopted in the process of arriving to the province concerned

2 Measures pertaining to hygiene rules and social distance that must be observed in camping sites of seasonal migrant agricultural workers

3 Measures that must be taken while workers travel to their working places

4 Measures pertaining to hygiene rules and social distance that must be observed in working environments

98 Other .....

**26 Do you think measures taken by authorities to prevent the further spread of the disease will affect you in terms of cost?**

1 Yes      2 No

**27 If you think this situation will bring along some extra costs how do you plan to cope up with it?**

.....

**28 Do you think about providing for the needs of seasonal workers that will arise as a result of measures that are taken (i.e. transportation, mask, disinfectants, etc.)?**

1 Yes      2 No      99 I don't know/I am not sure

**29 If yes, what will you do in practice?**

.....

#### **E. OPINIONS AND EXPECTATIONS OF HAZELNUT PRODUCERS ON THE OUTBREAK**

**30 Do you have concerns that seasonal migrant agricultural workers may transmit the virus to you, your family or habitat during this process?**

.....

**31 Similarly do you have concerns that you or your environment may transmit the virus to seasonal migrant agricultural workers arriving in your province/district?**

.....

**32 As a hazelnut producer what are your expectations from authorities in relation to the outbreak?**

.....

**33 As a hazelnut producer what are your expectations from commercial firms in relation to the outbreak?**

.....

**THANKS!**

### 3 Public Institutional Interview Form

#### Possible Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' and their Children's Participation to Hazelnut Harvest and Measures that Need to be Taken

##### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL INTERVIEW FORM

Hello, my name is..... I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to support the social and economic development process of Turkey. We are working on adults engaged in seasonal agriculture and child labour. Presently our purpose is to explore the effects of the recent outbreak on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families who will be arriving to your province/district.

All responses you give will be kept confidential and not shared directly with anyone else. There will be no association between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to his work is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to stop the interview any time you want to. There will be no return to participation either in kind or in cash. Yet, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to preparations and efforts waged to protect seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest from the virus and to keep them in good health. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

##### Interview questions

Interviewee : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / 05 / 2020

Interviewer : \_\_\_\_\_

Institution name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution contact details:

Tel : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence address : \_\_\_\_\_

1 Is there any data available related to seasonal migrant agricultural workers arriving in your province?

1. Yes

2. No

- 2 If yes, what is the approximate number of seasonal migrant workers arriving in your province/district in 2019?

Province : \_\_\_\_\_ persons

District : \_\_\_\_\_ persons

- 3 What is the overall situation in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest? In normal circumstances – before the outbreak- what kinds of needs were there and how they were provided for? In 2019, approximately how many SMAW moved in? What is the present need?
- 4 What do you think about measures adopted in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers to arrive in your province/district for hazelnut harvest?
- 5 What are the institutions engaged in work related to the working and living conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers during Covid-19 outbreak and what are they doing now? (Information building, health examinations, transportation measures, accommodation, etc.) What are these institutions planning to do in near future?

Practice	Institution/work done
Interprovincial travel	
Travel permit (collecting requests from farmers and other relevant procedures)	
In relation to moving from accommodation areas to working places	
Accommodation (site allocation, provision of tents, infrastructure in tent settlements)	
Hygiene in working environments (safe water supply and the like)	
Food support in working environments (lunch)	
Food support in living environments	
Provision of masks and disinfectants	
Informing people about the outbreak	
Other	

6. What are you doing/can do in this regard as an institution?

Interprovincial travel	
Travel permit (collecting requests from farmers and other relevant procedures)	
In relation to moving from accommodation areas to working places	
Accommodation (site allocation, provision of tents, infrastructure in tent settlements)	
Hygiene in working environments (safe water supply and the like)	



Food support in working environments (lunch)	
Food support in living environments	
Provision of masks and disinfectants	
Informing people about the outbreak	
Other	

7. In case seasonal migrant agricultural workers expected to arrive in your province/district cannot do it or only in limited numbers how do you think this labour force gap can be covered and what is your plan for it?
8. How will measures against the outbreak affect costs? How any cost increase can be covered? Presently, is there any planning/discussion about this issue?
9. Can you evaluate this situation from the angle of orchard owners? Do orchard owners have and plan or request related to this issue?
10. How do you think the process of normalization will affect hazelnut harvesting proves?
11. In your opinion, how hazelnut harvest will be affected in case Georgian workers do not come in this time?
12. How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect the incidence of child labour? Can you say something relative to the previous year?
13. Given the outbreak, what do you think about farmers using different methods of harvesting like harvesting and laying net/ground cover?

## 4 Firm Interview Form

### Possible Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' and their Children's Participation to Hazelnut Harvest and Measures that Need to be Taken

#### FIRM INTERVIEW FORM

Hello, my name is..... I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to support the social and economic development process of Turkey. We are working on adults engaged in seasonal agriculture and child labour. Presently we are engaged in work to expose the effects of the recent Covid-19 outbreak on workers you employ.

All responses you give will be kept confidential and not shared directly with anyone else. There will be no association between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to his work is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to stop the interview any time you want to. There will be no return to participation either in kind or in cash. Yet, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to preparations and efforts waged to protect seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest from the virus and to keep them in good health. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

#### Interview questions

Interviewee : ..... Date: ..... / 05 / 2020

Interviewer : .....

Firm name : .....

#### Firm contact details:

Tel : .....

E-mail : .....

Correspondence address : .....

- 1 What is the overall situation in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in provinces where you purchase hazelnut? In normal circumstances – before the outbreak- what kinds of needs were there and how they were provided for? In 2019, approximately how many SMAW moved in and what is the present need?
- 2 As the firm ..... what kind of activities you have in normal circumstances in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest?

- 3 How do you think the outbreak will affect hazelnut production?
- 4 Have you started any preparation work for possible effects of the outbreak in provinces where you purchase hazelnut?
  - a *If yes:* In provinces where you purchase hazelnut which institutions are active and what kind of work they are doing?
  - b *If no:* In your opinion what are the most important things that must be done in relation to the outbreak in provinces where you purchase hazelnut?
- 5 As a firm what are you doing/can do in the process of Covid-19 in relation to working and living conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to participate to hazelnut harvest (i.e. information building, health examinations, measures in transportation, accommodation, etc.)?

<b>Interprovincial travel</b>	
Travel permit (collecting requests from farmers and other relevant procedures)	
In relation to moving from accommodation areas to working places	
Accommodation (site allocation, provision of tents, infrastructure in tent settlements)	
Hygiene in working environments (safe water supply and the like)	
Food support in working environments (lunch)	
Food support in living environments	
Provision of masks and disinfectants	
Informing people about the outbreak	
Other	

- 6 How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect costs? How increased costs can be covered? Presently, is there and plan/discussion about possible increase in costs?
- 7 Given measures against the outbreak and resultant situation, what can government agencies, firms, nutcrackers, greengrocers and orchard owners do?
8. Were seasonal migrant agricultural workers and/or hazelnut orchard owners informed about the outbreak? Is it being done or planned? If yes, who is doing/planning it? If no, why it was not done or planned for?
9. Are there seasonal migrant agricultural workers/agricultural intermediaries that you are in contact/communication with in relation to hazelnut harvest? If yes, how many? Why do you keep in contact with?
10. When you are communicating with, what is their most common request from you?
11. How do you think the process of normalization will affect hazelnut harvesting?

12. In case seasonal migrant agricultural workers expected to work in hazelnut harvest cannot move to these provinces move only in limited numbers how do you think this labour force gap can be covered? What is your plan in this regard?
13. In case workers from Georgia do not come in this year what do you think its effect will be on hazelnut harvest?
14. Given the outbreak, what do you think about farmers using different methods of harvesting like harvesting and laying net/ground cover?
15. Can measures against the outbreak be an opportunity for a more efficient organization of hazelnut harvest? (Formal registration of intermediaries, introduction of new methods, sustainable family farming, sustainable agricultural practices, use of relevant technologies, investment)
16. How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect the incidence of child labour? Can you say something relative to the previous year?



## 5 Civil Society Organization Interview Form

### **Possible Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' and their Children's Participation to Hazelnut Harvest and Measures that Need to be Taken**

#### **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION INTERVIEW FORM**

Hello, my name is..... I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to support the social and economic development process of Turkey. We are working on adults engaged in seasonal agriculture and child labour. Presently our purpose is to explore the effects of the recent outbreak on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families who will be arriving to your province/district.

All responses you give will be kept confidential and not shared directly with anyone else. There will be no association between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to his work is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to stop the interview any time you want to. There will be no return to participation either in kind or in cash. Yet, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to preparations and efforts waged to protect seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest from the virus and to keep them in good health. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

#### **Interview questions**

Interviewee : ..... Tarih: ..... / 05 / 2020

Interviewer : .....

Name of civil society organization : .....

#### **Civil society organization contact details:**

Tel : .....

E-mail : .....

Correspondence address : .....

- 1 What is the overall situation in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest in regions where you are active? In normal circumstances – before the outbreak- what kinds of needs were there and how they were provided for? In 2019, how many SMAW had moved in and what is needed now?

- 2 What kind of activities are you carrying out in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers? (i.e. training, humanitarian aid, research, lobbying, advocacy, health services, KKE support, legal support, certification, supervision, etc.)
- 3 Are there seasonal migrant agricultural workers/agricultural intermediaries that you are in contact/communication with in relation to hazelnut harvest? If yes, how many? Why do you keep in contact with?
- 4 When you are in communication, what are their most frequent demands?
- 5 Do you have some new initiatives for seasonal migrant agricultural workers to come in for hazelnut harvest as Covid-19 outbreak is going on?
- 6 What do you think about measures adopted in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers moving to hazelnut harvest regions for harvesting?
- 7 Which organizations/institutions doing what in relation to the working and accommodation conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers expected to come in for hazelnut harvest (information building, health examinations, measures related to transportation, accommodation, etc.)? What are the plans of these actors for the near future?

Practice	Institution/work done
Interprovincial travel	
Travel permit (collecting requests from farmers and other relevant procedures)	
In relation to moving from accommodation areas to working places	
Accommodation (site allocation, provision of tents, infrastructure in tent settlements)	
Hygiene in working environments (safe water supply and the like)	
Food support in working environments (lunch)	
Food support in living environments	
Provision of masks and disinfectants	
Informing people about the outbreak	
Other	

- 8 In your opinion, what else can government agencies, firms, civil society organizations, agricultural chambers, etc. can/must do in this regard?
- 9 In case seasonal migrant agricultural workers expected to arrive in hazelnut harvest regions cannot do it or only in limited numbers how do you think this labour force gap can be covered?
- 10 How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect costs in hazelnut harvest? Presently is there and plan/discussion about possible increase in costs?
- 11 How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect the incidence of child labour? Can you say something relative to the previous year?
- 12 Given the outbreak, what do you think about farmers using different methods of harvesting like harvesting

and laying net/ground cover?

- 13 Can measures against the outbreak be an opportunity for a more efficient organization of hazelnut harvest? (Formal registration of intermediaries, introduction of new methods, sustainable family farming, sustainable agricultural practices, use of relevant technologies, investment)

## 6 Academics Interview Form

### Possible Impact of The Covid-19 Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' and their Children's Participation to Hazelnut Harvest and Measures that Need to be Taken

#### ACADEMICS INTERVIEW FORM

Hello, my name is..... I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to support the social and economic development process of Turkey. We are working on adults engaged in seasonal agriculture and child labour. Presently our purpose is to explore the effects of the recent outbreak on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families who will be arriving to your province/district.

All responses you give will be kept confidential and not shared directly with anyone else. There will be no association between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to his work is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to stop the interview any time you want to. There will be no return to participation either in kind or in cash. Yet, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to preparations and efforts waged to protect seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest from the virus and to keep them in good health. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

#### Interview questions

Interviewee : ..... Date: ..... / 05 / 2020

Interviewer : .....

Name of the academic : .....

#### Academic contact details

Tel : .....

E-mail : .....

Correspondence address : .....

- 1 What is the overall situation in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest? In normal circumstances – before the outbreak- what kinds of needs were there and how they were provided for? In 2019, approximately how many SMAW moved to hazelnut harvest regions?

- 2 What do you think about measures adopted in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers moving to hazelnut harvest regions for harvesting?
- 3 During the Covid-19 outbreak, which agencies/units are engaged in measures related to the accommodation and working conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest (information building, health examinations, transportation measures, accommodation, etc.)? What are their plans for the near future?

Practice	Institution/work done
Interprovincial travel	
Travel permit (collecting requests from farmers and other relevant procedures)	
In relation to moving from accommodation areas to working places	
Accommodation (site allocation, provision of tents, infrastructure in tent settlements)	
Hygiene in working environments (safe water supply and the like)	
Food support in working environments (lunch)	
Food support in living environments	
Provision of masks and disinfectants	
Informing people about the outbreak	
Other	

- 4 In your opinion, what else government agencies, firms, civil society organizations, agricultural chamber, etc. can/must do in these matters?
- 5 In case seasonal migrant agricultural workers expected to arrive in these provinces for hazelnut harvest cannot do it or only in limited numbers how do you think this labour force gap can be covered?
- 6 How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect costs in hazelnut harvest? Presently is there and plan/discussion about possible increase in costs?
- 7 How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect the incidence of child labour? Can you say something relative to the previous year?
- 8 Can measures against the outbreak be an opportunity for a more efficient organization of hazelnut harvest? (Formal registration of intermediaries, introduction of new methods, sustainable family farming, sustainable agricultural practices, use of relevant technologies, investment)
- 9 Given the outbreak, what do you think about farmers using different methods of harvesting like harvesting and laying net/ground cover?

## 7 Chamber of Agriculture Agencies Interview Form

### Possible Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' and their Children's Participation to Hazelnut Harvest and Measures that Need to be Taken

#### CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE AGENCIES INTERVIEW FORM

Hello, my name is..... I am calling from the Development Workshop Cooperative. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative established to support the social and economic development process of Turkey. We are working on adults engaged in seasonal agriculture and child labour. Presently our purpose is to explore the effects of the recent outbreak on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families who will be arriving to your province/district.

All responses you give will be kept confidential and not shared directly with anyone else. There will be no association between your personal information and responses you have given. Participation to his work is fully on voluntary basis. You are free to stop the interview any time you want to. There will be no return to participation either in kind or in cash. Yet, your participation and sharing of your information and experience will contribute to preparations and efforts waged to protect seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest from the virus and to keep them in good health. The interview will take about 30 minutes.

#### Interview questions

Interviewee : ..... Tarih: ..... / 05 / 2020

Interviewer : .....

Name of the institution : .....

#### Institution contact details

Tel : .....

E-mail : .....

Correspondence address : .....

- 1 What is the overall situation in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in hazelnut harvest in your province/district? In normal circumstances – before the outbreak- what kinds of needs were there and how they were provided for? In 2019, how many SMAW moved in your region? What is your present need?
- 2 As Chamber of Agriculture, what do you do specifically in relation to seasonal migrant agricultural workers in normal conditions?
- 3 In your opinion what will be the effect of the outbreak on hazelnut harvest?



- 4 Is there any preparation given start against the possible effects of the outbreak in your province/district?
- 5 If it started, what kinds of work are carried out by which institutions in your province/district?
- 6 If not started yet, what do you think about the most important things that must be acted upon against the outbreak in your province/district?
- 7 As the local chamber of agriculture, what are you doing/can do in relation to the working and living conditions seasonal migrant agricultural workers during the Covid-19 outbreak (i.e. information building, health examinations, measures related to transportation, accommodation, etc.)?

<b>Interprovincial travel</b>	
Travel permit (collecting requests from farmers and other relevant procedures)	
In relation to moving from accommodation/camping to working places	
Accommodation (site allocation, provision of tents, infrastructure in tent settlements)	
Hygiene in working environments (safe water supply and the like)	
Food support in working environments (lunch)	
Food support in living environments	
Provision of masks and disinfectants	
Informing people about the outbreak	
Other	

- 8 What can be done if reaching orchards by using patpat is forbidden?
- 9 How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect costs in hazelnut harvest? Presently is there and plan/discussion about possible increase in costs?
- 10 Given measures against the outbreak and resultant situation, what can the relevant actors can do including government agencies and firms (i.e. producers: Ferrero, Nestle; exporters: Balsu, Olam Gıda, Gürsoylar, Yavuz Gıda, nutcrackers, greengrocers, orchard owners)?
- 11 Is there any activity for informing seasonal migrant agricultural workers and/or farmers about the outbreak? Is there any plan for this? If yes, who is doing it?
- 12 How do you think the “process of normalization” will affect hazelnut harvesting activities?
- 13 In case seasonal agricultural workers expected to arrive in your province/district cannot do it or only in limited numbers how do you think this labour force gap can be covered and what is your plan for it?
- 14 Given the outbreak, what do you think about farmers using different methods of harvesting like harvesting and laying net/ground cover?
- 15 What do you think about its impact on hazelnut harvest in case Georgian workers do not come in this time?
- 16 How do you think measures adopted against the outbreak will affect the incidence of child labour? Can you say something relative to the previous year?
- 17 Given the outbreak, what do you think about farmers using different methods of harvesting like harvesting and laying net/ground cover?

## 8 Hazelnut Orchard Owner Data Collection Matrix

		Total size of hazelnut orchard		
		Small (0-15 decare)	Medium (16-30 decare)	Large (31 and more)
Total size of hazelnut orchard	Decare			
Province/district where orchard is	province / district / village (where the orchard is located)			
Orchard Owner living province	Village / neighborhood			
	province / district			
	Other city			
	Other country			
Income	Just hazelnut harvest			
	Other incomes			
Orchard altitude	Coast (0250 meter)			
	Medium (250-500 meter)			
	High (500 ve üstü metre)			
Orchard land	Sloping land			
	Flat land			
How many plots does the orchard have?	1 Plot			
	1-2 Plots			
	A lot plots			

Harvesting methods such as net/ground cover and/or harvesting machine	Not using			
	The orchard is not suitable			
	Tried and abandoned			
	Using net/netting			
	Using hazelnut harvest machine			
What kind of labour do you employ in hazelnut harvest? (More than one option may be chosen)	Family Labour			
	Local Worker			
	Foreign migrant worker (not Syrians)			
	Seasonal migrant agricultural worker			
Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers works	Only work other than harvest			
	for both of them			
	Only harvest			
	Change for every season			
Relationship of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Worker with their works	Long term (five years or more)			
	Through agricultural intermediary			
	Through neighbor			
	Directly with the workers			
Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Worker and wage status	Daily Wage			
	More than daily wage			
	per kilo			
	Yes			
intercity transportation cost of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Worker	only a part			
	No			

To the work field by	Service minibus				
	Automobile				
	Tractor				
	Pat Pat				
	Other...				
Accommodation facilities	House				
	Tent				
	Sheds/building annexes				
	Yes				
Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Worker covers the electricity expenses for the accommodation	Partially				
	No				
	Yes				
Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Worker covers the water expenses for the accommodation	Partially				
	No				
	Yes				
Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Worker covers the meal expenses	Partially				
	No				
	Yes				
Institutions receiving support for hazelnut production	province / district AGRICULTURE AGENCIES				
	CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE AGENCIES				
	NGO				
	Hazelnut Firm				







KALKINMA  
ATÖLYESİ



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