



Horizon Europe Brokerage Event  
Cluster 6 Calls 2025  
Warsaw, 27 May 2025

## SafeNut Integrated Solutions for Food Safety in Hazelnut Production

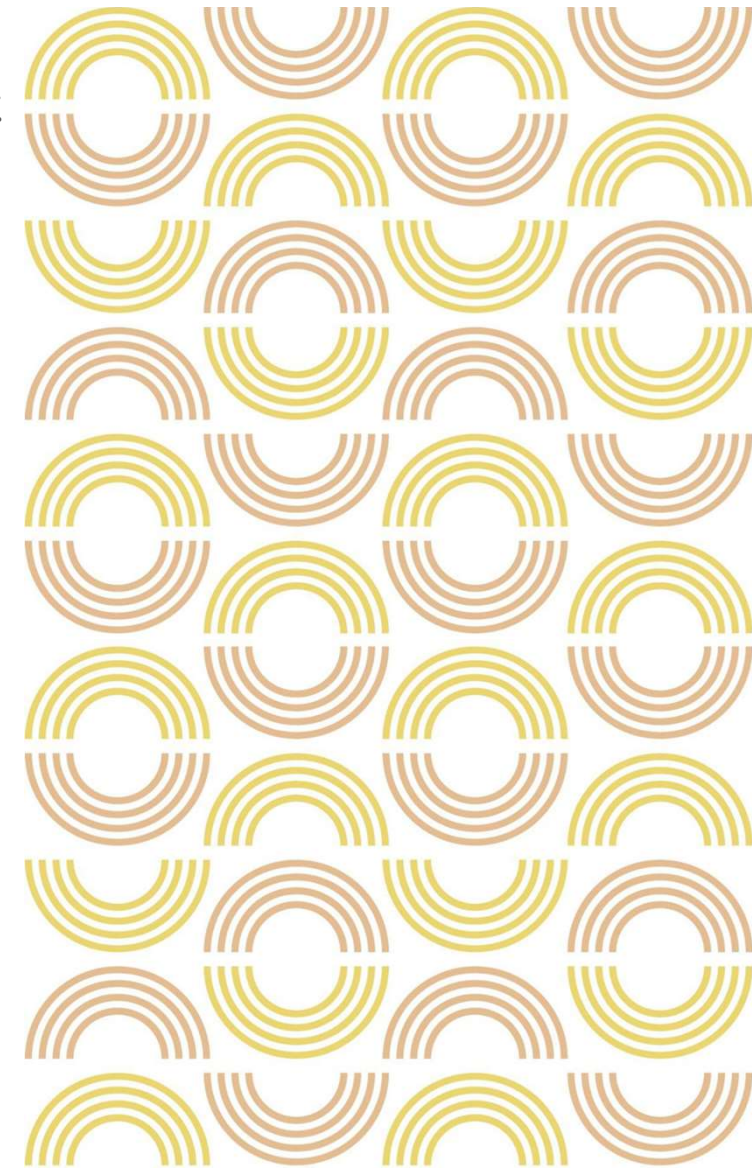
Cem Mutlu Türkseven

Giresun Governorship



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, under Grant Agreement No 101059839

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.





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**Farm2Fork19:** Innovating for on-farm post-harvest operations, storage and transformation of crops into food and non-food products

**SafeNut: Integrated Solutions for Food Safety in Hazelnut Production**



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## SafeNut: Integrated Solutions for Food Safety in Hazelnut Production

Hazelnuts represent a major agricultural commodity worldwide, with approximately 1 million hectares of land dedicated to hazelnut farming globally, and annual production exceeding **1.1 million tons**. Turkey alone accounts for around **70%** of global hazelnut production.

Hazelnuts are extensively utilized in food (especially chocolate and confectionery products), cosmetic industries, and pharmaceuticals. The EU market imports nearly 400,000 tons annually, making food safety compliance critically important.



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## SafeNut: Integrated Solutions for Food Safety in Hazelnut Production

Hazelnut production consistently faces challenges related to contamination from aflatoxins, carcinogenic mycotoxins produced by fungi (*Aspergillus* spp.). Approximately 10% to 15% of annual hazelnut exports are rejected or downgraded due to aflatoxin contamination, causing significant economic losses.

Improper and excessive pesticide use is common due to lack of farmer training, resulting in health hazards and difficulty complying with strict EU regulations on pesticide residues. Recent reports indicate that up to 20% of hazelnut samples exceed allowable pesticide limits, negatively impacting export opportunities.



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## SafeNut: Integrated Solutions for Food Safety in Hazelnut Production

Current agricultural practices and monitoring systems in hazelnut farming regions are inadequate. There is a critical need for integrated solutions combining biological, technological, and educational approaches to address these pressing food safety challenges comprehensively.



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## Giresun Governorship

- Giresun Governorship is a regional public authority with extensive expertise in hazelnut agriculture, food safety standards, and rural development.
- Deep knowledge in regulatory compliance with EU food safety and quality standards.
- Experience in organizing large-scale farmer training programs, coordinating regional agricultural strategies, and facilitating stakeholder engagement.





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## Giresun Governorship

- Hazelnut Maintenance Technician Training Project (2025): Ecological production, rural employment, SOGEP-funded.
- AI and Technology Roadmap for Hazelnut Farming (2024): Implemented advanced technology and AI applications in agriculture, funded by DOKA.
- CORYLUS Project (2024): Cross-border collaboration between Türkiye and Georgia on sustainable hazelnut ecosystems.



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## Giresun Governorship

- Giresun Governorship will act as the coordinator for this project, bringing regional and sector-specific expertise to manage the consortium and ensure alignment with Horizon Europe's objectives.
- **Research institutions/universities:** Specializing in food safety, mycotoxin analysis, and biological control methodologies.
- **SMEs/Agri-tech companies:** Providing digital solutions for precision agriculture, remote sensing technologies, and traceability systems.
- **Agricultural cooperatives:** Experienced in farmer training, dissemination of GAP, and effective stakeholder engagement.





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Thank You