

Brazil's food-deficit population hits record high, Pakistan suffers from water shortages, and mango harvest fails

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Pakistan is in the mango season, but this years production is expected to be reduced by 50% due to high temperature and water shortages. Other crops such as lemons and red peppers have also been hit hard. Some experts worry that the deterioration of the situation may lead to famine. Another South American country, Brazil, the proportion of the population who cannot afford food will rise to 36% in 2021. Although it is a large food-producing country, its food security will exceed the world average for the first time, and the proportion of the poor has also surged to 75%, which is almost the same as that of Africa. Zimbabwe equals. The world is in the grip of a food crisis, and American companies have developed an automatic tractor that is expected to increase crop yields and is expected to come out this fall.

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One by one plump mangoes hang high on the tree, and it is the annual harvest season. The farmers are working hard, but this years harvest may not be ideal.

GUL HASSAN, a mango orchard contractor: "Immature fruit needs water to help it grow to the right size. If there is not enough water, the mango will naturally not grow well, which means we will bear the loss. Sindh does not have it at all. water."

In the past month, Pakistan has been threatened by extreme heat waves. Before summer, the temperature in some southern cities has exceeded 50 degrees Celsius! Amid the heat and water shortages, the Agricultural Association estimates that this years mango production will be cut in half from 1.8 million tonnes.

FAIZ MOHAMMAD BHUTTO, a mango wholesaler: "This year, the production of mangoes has decreased by about 50%. This is due to the lack of water. The farmers are suffering, as are the traders."

Pakistan is the fifth largest mango producer in the world, and it is not just mangoes that have been hit hard at the moment, but also lemons and red peppers.

Farmer Salim: Three years ago, Kunri (a small town in southern Pakistan) produced 80% of the countrys red peppers, but this year there is less than 20% left. "

As far as the eye can see, the waterways are dry, farmers are complaining, and drinking water for humans and animals has become a big problem.

Environmental expert Rafiul Haq: "The situation is so bad that people have no water to drink. Why? Because the river system is completely empty."

It's just that I'm afraid that such a climate will only become more common in the future; according to research and analysis in India, "early and long-term" heat waves that affected a wide range of areas in the past were very rare, and would only happen once in a century, but as warming intensifies, The frequency of such extreme heatwaves will increase 30-fold.

Arpita Mondal, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Technology: "I think the scientific evidence now overwhelmingly concludes that under climate change, such events will become more frequent, more intense, and undoubtedly dangerous. signs."

The heatwave that has hit Pakistan and India this year has killed at least 90 people, and experts fear that Pakistans nearly 230 million people could face starvation if the situation continues to deteriorate.

Environmental expert Rafiul Haq: "Weve been hearing people talk about famine, were just out of the Covid-19 pandemic, and if we had another famine now, it would be devastating."

On the other hand, in Brazil, South America, many people are taking to the streets because of starvation; according to the latest statistics, the proportion of domestic unaffordable food increased from 30% in 2019 to 36% last year, which is the first time that food security exceeds the world average; The proportion of poor people has also skyrocketed from 20% to 75%, almost the same level as Zimbabwe in Africa.

MARCELO NERI, Director of the Social Policy Center of THE GETULIO VARGAS Foundation: "The number of women and children in poverty has increased a lot, so those who carry the future are in a very vulnerable situation, even though Brazil is a big food producer and the worlds farm, But there are many who find themselves short of food."

The new crown pandemic, extreme weather and the Ukraine-Russian war have plunged the world into a food crisis. A US agricultural equipment manufacturer has developed an automatic tractor for farming to help farmers reduce production costs.

JULIAN SANCHEZ, vice president of technology at the agricultural equipment manufacturer: "Farmers are trying to grow food to feed the world and feed a growing population, but they are also trying to do it in the most efficient way possible."

The machine can automatically plough the field to prepare for planting, and it can also rely on built-in cameras and sensors to collect big data useful for next years planting, effectively improving production efficiency.

RON HECK, FARMER: "If we can save on input costs, or the expense of operating equipment, fuel, and get the job done faster and more efficiently, thats a win-win situation."

At present, the price of this machine is 500,000 US dollars, nearly 15 million Taiwan dollars, and it is expected to come out in the fall. The combination of agriculture and technology seems unstoppable, and traditional agriculture is also actively finding a way out.