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今日科学聚焦

Feeding the World

让全世界人都吃饱

PETER WINKLER (美) 著

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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Table for Ten

Four new babies—hungry and thirsty—are born every second. Earth has six billion people today and may have ten billion by 2050. Can we feed them all?

The question is simple, but the answer isn't. Part of the problem is money. Some people have enough to buy food. Others don't. Part of the problem is politics¹. Some countries work hard to feed their people. Others don't. Part of the problem is organization² and transportation³. Sometimes food gets to those who need it. Other times it doesn't.

In this book, we'll look at the scientific issues⁴ that arise⁵ from feeding a hungry world. Biologists, chemists⁶, and other experts⁷ are exploring⁸ new ways to grow more food. Their research⁹ has led¹⁰ to big discoveries¹¹—and big questions.

1. politics	<i>n.</i>	政治	7. expert	<i>n.</i>	专家
2. organization	<i>n.</i>	组织	8. explore	<i>v.</i>	探索
3. transportation	<i>n.</i>	运输	9. research	<i>n.</i>	研究
4. issue	<i>n.</i>	问题; 议题	10. lead	<i>v.</i>	导致
5. arise	<i>v.</i>	(由……)引起	11. discovery	<i>n.</i>	发现
6. chemist	<i>n.</i>	化学家	12. Bangladesh		孟加拉国



Children at a food kitchen in Bangladesh¹²

Billion

百亿人的餐桌





1. Madagascar

马达加斯加

2. harvest

v.

收割

A farmer in Madagascar¹ harvests² rice.

How Well Are We Doing?

Good News

- Humans¹ produce more food than ever before. If it were divided² equally³, everyone would have enough.
- There are only about half as many underfed⁴ people today as there were in 1970.
- Better seeds⁵, machines, fertilizers⁶, and pesticides⁷ have hugely increased⁸ the amount⁹ of food farmers can grow.

Bad News

- Every day roughly¹⁰ 800 million people don't get enough to eat. About 200 million are hungry children.
- Some farmers can't afford¹¹ the new seeds, machines, and chemicals¹² that create¹³ larger crops.
- Modern farming, like any new way of doing things, may pose¹⁴ risks¹⁵ to human health and the environment¹⁶.
- Farmers and other food producers must consider¹⁷ the benefits¹⁸ and costs of new technologies¹⁹.



A farmer in Nebraska²⁰ fills a truck with corn²¹.

1. human	n.	人类
2. divide	v.	分配
3. equally	adv.	平均地
4. underfed	adj.	吃不饱的
5. seed	n.	种子
6. fertilizer	n.	化肥
7. pesticide	n.	杀虫剂, 农药

8. increase	v.	增加
9. amount	n.	数量
10. roughly	adv.	大概
11. afford	v.	买得起
12. chemical	n.	化学(制)品
13. create	v.	创造
14. pose	v.	造成
15. risk	n.	危险
16. environment	n.	环境
17. consider	v.	考虑
18. benefit	n.	益处, 帮助
19. technology	n.	技术
20. Nebraska		内布拉斯加州
21. corn	n.	玉米



Science Helps Farmers Grow More Food

科学帮助农民生产更多的粮食

This Farm Is a Factory 这个农场是工厂



Bob Sakata

Bob Sakata says he runs¹ a “small family farm.” But his business is really more like a factory. And like most factories, the Sakata farm keeps trying to increase

produce v. 生产 n. 农产品
production n. 产量 生产 产物
product n. 产品 产物

production. Each year Sakata sells 60 million pounds⁶ of food that later appears⁷ in supermarkets across the United States. He'd like to raise⁸ even more.

production 种植

“The only way you can stay in business as a farmer is to boost⁹ your yield¹⁰ (the amount grown) and reduce¹¹ your costs,” says Sakata. And that's exactly what he does. In 1945 Sakata produced 200 sacks¹² of onions per acre. Today he harvests 800 sacks from the same amount of land.

1. run	v.	经营	7. appear	v.	出现
2. production	n.	产量	8. raise	v.	种植
3. Colorado		科罗拉多州	9. boost	v.	提高
4. acre	n.	英亩	10. yield	n.	产量
5. onion	n.	洋葱	11. reduce	v.	减少
6. pound	n.	磅	12. sack	n.	大袋; 袋



Fields of cabbage (green) and corn



High Tech, High Cost

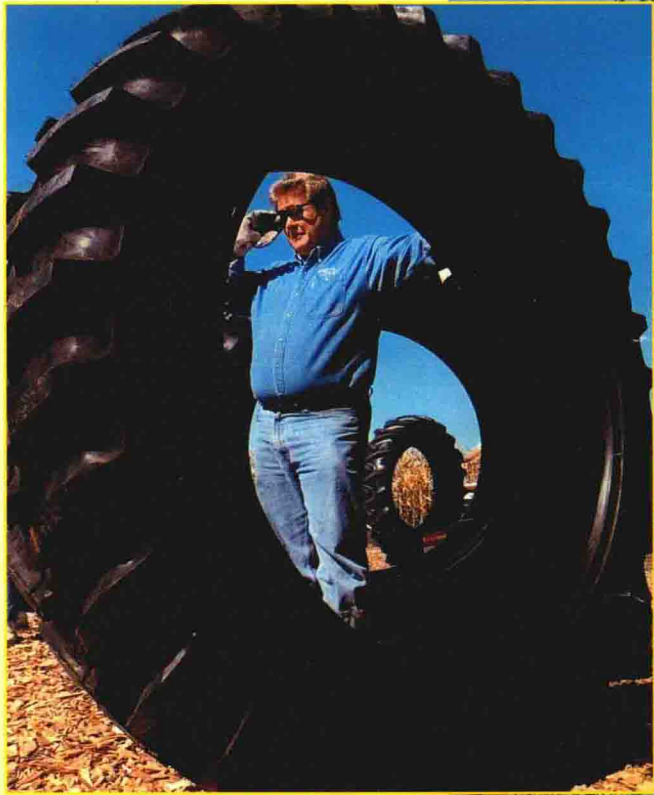
科技. 工艺.

How do science and technology help farmers like Bob Sakata raise more food? One important way is by inventing new machines that are better and faster than the old ones. For example, Sakata owns two giant¹ machines that pick corn. The machines gently² pluck³ each ear⁴ from the stalk⁵ and then bundle⁶ the ears together. Each machine can pick 240,000 ears⁷ of corn in a single⁸ day.

耳穗

Modern farm machinery is amazing⁸, but so is its cost. The price tag⁹ for just one of Sakata's corn-pickers is \$160,000. Then there's the fuel¹⁰ to run the machines. And don't forget repairs. Fixing¹¹ a single flat tire can cost nearly \$1,000. High-tech machines can be a great help to farmers—if they can afford the high cost.

The giant tires used on some farm vehicles¹² are very expensive.



1. giant	<i>adj.</i>	巨大的
2. gently	<i>adv.</i>	轻轻地
3. pluck	<i>v.</i>	采; 摘
4. ear	<i>n.</i>	穗
5. stalk	<i>n.</i>	秆
6. bundle	<i>v.</i>	归拢
7. single	<i>adj.</i>	一个的
8. amazing	<i>adj.</i>	惊人的
9. price tag		<口>价格
10. fuel	<i>n.</i>	燃料
11. fix	<i>v.</i>	修理
12. vehicle	<i>n.</i>	车辆

This farm machine cuts down corn plants and harvests the ears.





A farmer adds pesticides to a tank⁷.

Green Science

Bob Sakata and other modern farmers also get help from biologists and chemists. Scientists have created plants that grow faster and produce more food. Some of these varieties¹ produce better onions or sweeter corn. Some can withstand² colder winters or warmer summers.

Scientists have also developed powerful³ fertilizers to help plants grow. At the same time, pesticides can protect crops from⁴ insects⁵ and other enemies. These innovations⁶ have helped humans raise more food than ever before.

1. variety	<i>n.</i>	品种
2. withstand	<i>v.</i>	经受
3. powerful	<i>adj.</i>	效力大的
4. protect...from		保护……以防
5. insect	<i>n.</i>	昆虫
6. innovation	<i>n.</i>	创新
7. tank	<i>n.</i>	箱、罐(贮放液体的大容器)