

Chile declared additional agricultural emergency due to water shortage, covering 5 regions.

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On 3 September 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile declared an agricultural emergency from water shortages in another 9 communities in the central region of Maule, after announcing the same earlier in the regions of Coquimbo, Valparaíso, O'Higgins, and Región Metropolitana, covering a total of 5 regions.

The central part of Chile is experiencing the most severe drought in 60 years, with 70% of the precipitation deficit. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture has declared agricultural emergency in the regions of Coquimbo, Valparaíso, O'Higgins and Región Metropolitana. Recently, Chile declared an additional emergency to cover parts of the Maule region, which makes a total of 5 regions.

Mr. Alfonso Vargas, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, said that the local government in the Maule region has set a budget of 830 million Chilean pesos, or more than 1.1 million USD to cope with this emergency. He also said that the government is ready to continue helping other areas in Chile that are experiencing the same problem.

Mr. Pablo Milad, Mayor of Maule region, said that the situation will be monitored every 15 days in each community and the Regional Committee of Agricultural Emergency of Maule (Comisión Regional de Emergencia Agrícola del Maule) will assess the situation and inform the government to make decisions on announcing additional emergencies to cover other areas within the region.

The 9 affected communities in the latest emergency announcement comprise of 2,008 farmers, most of whom are working on small-scale sheep farms, 44,377 animals such as sheep, cow, goat and horse, and also another 226 beekeepers and a total of 14,325 hives.

Source: <https://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/amplian-a-cinco-las-regiones-chilenas-en-emergencia-agricola-por-escasez-hidrica/20000013-4056096>