

## **Egg shortages across the globe**

*By 3D Jessie Lok & Cyrus Li*

**Jessie:** Good morning principal, teachers and fellow students. I'm Jessie.

**Cyrus:** I'm Cyrus. Both of us are from 3D.

**Jessie:** As many of you may have noticed, there has been news about the shortages of eggs across the globe. Although the impact of it is not really serious in Hong Kong, we can still figure out that the variety of eggs is shrinking in local grocery stores.

**Cyrus:** You're right. One of the stores in Luk Yeung used to sell Japanese eggs. Now, it seems that the supply side in Japan is unstable. Customers are now faced with empty shelves.



**Jessie:** Egg farmers said laying hens tend to produce less eggs in extreme climates. Not only hens, actually, cows will also suffer. They will produce less milk. In the foreseeable future, a shortage of dairy products may also occur if extreme weather persists.

**Cyrus:** Extreme temperatures will be one of the factors affecting the food production. Besides what you have mentioned, the outbreak of bird flu is another cause. The rampant spread of the virus will also increase the cost of production.

**Jessie:** Right, the virus has been detected around the world, including Japan, Canada and Europe, and it now seems to be more "host-adapted".



"It's bird flu, but luckily we've caught it early."

**Cyrus:** What do you mean?

**Jessie:** It means the virus can infect its host without killing it. Wild birds and migratory birds can spread the bird flu to chickens easily. Egg farmers need to build stronger gates and spray disinfectant more regularly in order to protect the chickens from being infected with the virus. They are really walking on eggshells!

**Cyrus:** Yes, the egg farmers are being very careful not to do anything wrong on their farms or they will suffer a great loss. The shortage of eggs will definitely create ripple effects on other food productions in the world. I hope the shortage of eggs can be eased soon. That's the end for our sharing. Thank you.

