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# Bitter harvest: Indonesia volcano damages crops, forces thousands to flee

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Indonesia's Mount Sinabung volcano spews pyroclastic smoke in Medan, Sumatra, on Nov. 14, 2013.

**By David R Arnott, NBC News**

Indonesian farmers continued to harvest their crops Thursday even as a volcano erupted less than two and a half miles away, coating their fields in ash.

Up to 4,300 residents have been evacuated from five villages in North Sumatra due to the eruptions of Mount Sinabung, according to Getty Images. The volcano has been spewing ash and lava 2.5 miles into the sky.

[The Jakarta Globe](#) reported that tens of thousands of hectares of farmland had been affected, with losses to farmers expected to amount to millions of dollars.



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A farmer examines his tomato crop.



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Tomatoes covered in ash from Mount Sinabung.

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Villagers harvest potatoes in a field less than four kilometers from Mount Sinabung.

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People sit on a truck as their village in Karo district is evacuated.

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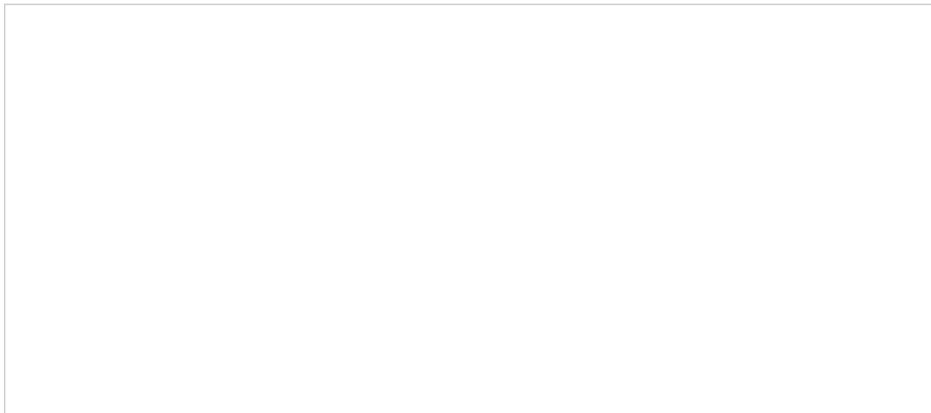
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