

Insects Would Soon Become a Global Food

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. sight /sīt/ a thing that one sees or that can be seen.
Example: Robert was a familiar sight in the restaurant for many years.
2. livestock /'līv, stāk/ farm animals such as cows, sheep, with the exception of poultry that are kept or traded as a source of income.
Example: The country's major sources of income are grain, livestock and fruit.
3. unsustainable /,ənsə'stānəbəl/ not capable of being prolonged or continued
Example: His lifestyle is very unsustainable.
4. yuck /yək/ used to express strong distaste or disgust.
Example: A strange kid had asked his mother to make him sliced pickle on mayonnaise, yuck!
5. embrace /əm'brās/ to take or receive gladly or eagerly; accept willingly
Example: Besides traditional methods, artists are embracing new technology.



In the past decade, bugs have become a familiar **sight** on dinner tables. One reason for this is they are a great source of protein. Another reason is that people are concerned about the environment. Traditional **livestock** farming is harmful to the environment as it is generally **unsustainable**. Raising insects is much more environmentally friendly. One kilogram of insect protein needs about 10 percent of the feed, water and land used to produce the same amount of beef.

Experts say farming insects is better for the environment than raising livestock. A final reason we may have to eat insects is because of the rise in the world's population. By 2050 this is expected to be 9.8 billion, up from the current 7.7 billion.

The insect farming industry is growing quickly. There are hundreds of companies worldwide creating meals made from bugs. Many supermarkets around the world now stock food made from insects. There are vending machines in Tokyo, Japan where you can purchase a can of insect snacks. The menu includes dried tarantula and scorpions. However, not everyone is excited by the idea of insects as food.

An Israeli insect farmer, Dror Tamir, says there is a "**yuck** factor" to the thought of eating insects. He said people will get used to the idea and will find insects delicious. He said: "I am convinced it will soon be widely accepted, just like eating raw fish in sushi was **embraced**."

DISCUSSION

1. What do you think of the idea of insects as food?
2. How will eating insects help the planet?
3. Will insects become a familiar sight on your dinner table?
4. What do you think of the idea of insect burgers?
5. Would you eat food from insects if it didn't look like insects?
6. What do you think of the 'yuck factor' of eating insects?