

## Meat, dairy and rice production will bust 1.5C climate target, shows study

### Level 1: Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

- a. How much meat do you eat in one week? Do you think you can reduce how much meat you eat to save the planet? Why? Give reasons for your answer.

#### 2 Key words

- a. Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

decrease  
methane

global warming  
safe

green  
scientist

increase  
study

lower

1. The problem that causes the temperature of the earth to go up is \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a gas with no colour or smell that is used as fuel.
  3. When something grows in size, amount, or number, it has an \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. A person trained in science is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. A research project that examines a problem or subject is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. When something can become less or go down in value, it can \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. A type of energy that does not harm the environment is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  8. When you reduce something in number or amount, you \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  9. Something that is \_\_\_\_\_ does not involve much risk.
- b. Choose three of the words from task A and write personalised sentences.

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- 1 Gases from food will push the world past 1.5C of global warming unless we make fewer high-methane foods. This increase is mostly caused by meat, dairy (milk, yoghurt, cheese etc.) and rice.
- 2 Scientists have done a study. They say that, without change, there will be at least 0.7C of global warming from food by the end of the century, and there has already been a 1C rise. This means food can make the temperature go above 1.5C.
- 3 75 per cent of this heat comes from high-methane foods, such as cows and rice fields. However, the scientists said the temperature could decrease by 55 per cent if we eat less meat, help cows make less gas, and use green energy.
- 4 The future temperature could be much hotter because people may eat more meat. It may go up by 70 per cent by 2050.
- 5 Catherine Ivanovich, at Columbia University, US, said methane is a big part of this change. If we continue to make food in the same way, we will not lower the temperature. It is essential to reduce the amount of these gases in the air. The scientists checked 94 types of food. This showed that making food the way we do today means a rise of 0.7C to 0.9C by 2100.
- 6 Because the temperature went up more than 1C by 2021, the scientists said that more warming from making food is enough to exceed 1.5C. This means that the climate's future isn't safe without changes.
- 7 If people ate red meat only once a week, as the Harvard Medical School says, the temperature could decrease by 0.2C. This means people eating less meat in rich countries but could mean people eating more meat in some poorer countries.
- 8 Changing what cows eat could reduce the temperature by 0.2C, and changing to green energy could reduce the temperature by 0.15C. Ivanovich said that, in the future, they might be able to change even more.
- 9 Professor Pete Smith at the University of Aberdeen, UK, said that, in 2021, they saw that 57 per cent of gases from food comes from animal farms, which shows how important it is to make changes. However, only a third of the world's countries have included farming in their climate plans.

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#### 3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. What will make the temperature go up by 0.7 degrees Celsius?
2. What three types of food make the temperature go up the most?
3. With no change, how much hotter will it be by the end of the century?
4. How much of the heat comes from high-methane foods?
5. What three things could decrease the temperature by 55 per cent?
6. How many types of food did scientists check?
7. By 2100, how much will the temperature increase if we continue making food the way we do today?
8. How often should a person eat red meat in one week?
9. What percentage of these gases come from animal farms?
10. What proportion of countries included farming in their climate plans?

#### 4 Key language

a. Complete the table with the correct forms of the adjectives from the article. The adjectives in the right column are comparative adjectives.

1. few	
2.	cleaner
3. hot	
4.	bigger
5.	safer
6.	richer
7. poor	

b. Complete the sentences with some of the comparative adjectives above.

1. The temperature is usually \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer.
2. Without a job, you will be much \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This farm has five fields. It is \_\_\_\_\_ than that one.
4. Will you feel \_\_\_\_\_ with a security camera outside?
5. Thank you for washing the car. It is much \_\_\_\_\_ now.

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#### 5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- “Eating meat once a week is enough.”
- “Science will fix all our problems.”
- “More countries should change their farming plans.”

#### 6 In your own words

- a. Use an internet search engine to find more information about the gases that increase the earth’s temperature. What are they? Where do they come from?
- b. Report your findings to the class.