PLANT BASED DIET BENEFITS ENVIRONMENT

PLANT BASED DIET BENEFITS ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANTLY, OFFERING A POWERFUL SOLUTION TO SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME. AS GLOBAL AWARENESS AROUND CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESOURCE DEPLETION GROWS, MORE INDIVIDUALS ARE EXPLORING DIETARY SHIFTS THAT ALIGN WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. THIS ARTICLE DELVES INTO THE MULTIFACETED ADVANTAGES OF ADOPTING A PLANT-BASED LIFESTYLE, EXPLORING ITS PROFOUND IMPACT ON LAND USE, WATER CONSUMPTION, GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, AND BIODIVERSITY. UNDERSTANDING THESE BENEFITS EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO A HEALTHIER PLANET.

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVE FOR PLANT-BASED DIETS

The relationship between food production and environmental degradation is undeniable. Animal agriculture, in particular, is a major contributor to a wide array of ecological issues, from deforestation to water pollution. Shifting towards a plant-based diet is not merely a personal health choice; it is a powerful act of environmental stewardship. This dietary approach fundamentally alters the demands placed upon our planet's finite resources, offering a more sustainable path forward for food security and ecological balance.

EXPLORING THE PLANT-BASED DIET BENEFITS ENVIRONMENT IN TANGIBLE WAYS REQUIRES A DEEP DIVE INTO THE VARIOUS SYSTEMS IMPACTED BY OUR FOOD CHOICES. FROM THE AIR WE BREATHE TO THE WATER WE DRINK AND THE LAND WE INHABIT, THE CHOICES WE MAKE AT THE DINNER TABLE RESONATE ACROSS ECOSYSTEMS. THIS SECTION WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE SCALE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF DIFFERENT FOOD SYSTEMS.

REDUCED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

One of the most significant plant based diet benefits environment is the substantial reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The livestock sector is a leading source of these emissions, contributing to global warming through various pathways. Methane, a potent GHG, is produced by ruminant animals during digestion. Nitrous oxide, another powerful GHG, is released from manure and fertilizers used in animal feed production.

METHANE EMISSIONS FROM LIVESTOCK

ENTERIC FERMENTATION, THE DIGESTIVE PROCESS IN CATTLE, SHEEP, AND GOATS, IS A PRIMARY SOURCE OF METHANE. THESE ANIMALS RELEASE LARGE QUANTITIES OF METHANE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE OVERALL GHG BURDEN. PLANT-BASED FOODS, IN CONTRAST, PRODUCE MINIMAL TO NO METHANE DURING THEIR PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PHASES.

NITROUS OXIDE FROM AGRICULTURE

THE PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL FEED, OFTEN INVOLVING EXTENSIVE USE OF SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS, LEADS TO THE RELEASE OF

NITROUS OXIDE. FURTHERMORE, THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL WASTE, THROUGH MANURE STORAGE AND APPLICATION, ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO NITROUS OXIDE EMISSIONS. REDUCING RELIANCE ON ANIMAL AGRICULTURE DIRECTLY CURTAILS THE NEED FOR THESE EMISSION-INTENSIVE PRACTICES.

CARBON DIOXIDE FROM LAND USE CHANGE

THE EXPANSION OF LAND FOR GRAZING AND FEED CROP CULTIVATION IS A MAJOR DRIVER OF DEFORESTATION. FORESTS ACT AS CRUCIAL CARBON SINKS, ABSORBING ATMOSPHERIC CARBON DIOXIDE. WHEN FORESTS ARE CLEARED, THIS STORED CARBON IS RELEASED BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, EXACERBATING CLIMATE CHANGE. A PLANT-BASED FOOD SYSTEM REQUIRES SIGNIFICANTLY LESS LAND, THUS MITIGATING THE NEED FOR SUCH DESTRUCTIVE LAND-USE CHANGES AND PRESERVING VITAL CARBON SINKS.

LAND USE EFFICIENCY AND PRESERVATION

The sheer amount of land required for animal agriculture is staggering, making efficient land use a critical component of the plant based diet benefits environment. Vast tracts of land are utilized for grazing livestock, as well as for growing crops specifically to feed these animals. This often leads to habitat destruction and a reduction in land available for other essential purposes.

FOOTPRINT OF MEAT PRODUCTION

PRODUCING MEAT, DAIRY, AND EGGS IS INHERENTLY LAND-INTENSIVE. A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ARABLE LAND GLOBALLY IS DEDICATED TO GROWING FEED FOR LIVESTOCK. ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT ANIMAL AGRICULTURE OCCUPIES A SUBSTANTIAL PERCENTAGE OF THE EARTH'S AGRICULTURAL LAND, YET IT PRODUCES A RELATIVELY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE WORLD'S CALORIES. THIS INEFFICIENCY HIGHLIGHTS THE POTENTIAL FOR A PLANT-BASED DIET TO FREE UP LAND RESOURCES.

THE IMPACT OF FEED CROPS

The cultivation of crops like corn, soy, and alfalfa for animal feed contributes to land degradation through monoculture farming practices, soil erosion, and the overuse of pesticides and fertilizers. Shifting to plant-based diets reduces the demand for these feed crops, allowing for more sustainable land management practices and the potential for reforestation and rewilding efforts.

BENEFITS FOR HABITAT RESTORATION

By decreasing the demand for land dedicated to animal agriculture, a plant-based diet can contribute to the preservation and restoration of natural habitats. This includes forests, grasslands, and wetlands, which are vital for biodiversity and ecosystem services such as clean air and water. The plant based diet benefits environment by allowing these critical ecosystems to thrive.

WATER CONSERVATION THROUGH PLANT-BASED EATING

WATER IS A PRECIOUS RESOURCE, AND ITS CONSUMPTION IN FOOD PRODUCTION IS A MAJOR GLOBAL CONCERN. THE PLANT

BASED DIET BENEFITS ENVIRONMENT THROUGH A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER WATER FOOTPRINT COMPARED TO DIETS RICH IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS. THE PRODUCTION OF MEAT, DAIRY, AND EGGS REQUIRES VAST AMOUNTS OF WATER, OFTEN FAR EXCEEDING THE WATER NEEDED FOR PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVES.

WATER INTENSITY OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

THE WATER REQUIRED TO PRODUCE ANIMAL PRODUCTS ENCOMPASSES DRINKING WATER FOR THE ANIMALS, WATER FOR CLEANING FACILITIES, AND, MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, THE WATER NEEDED TO IRRIGATE CROPS GROWN FOR FEED. FOR INSTANCE, PRODUCING A KILOGRAM OF BEEF CAN REQUIRE THOUSANDS OF LITERS OF WATER, A FIGURE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN THAT FOR MOST PLANT-BASED PROTEIN SOURCES.

IRRIGATION DEMANDS FOR FEED CROPS

AS MENTIONED EARLIER, A LARGE PROPORTION OF AGRICULTURAL WATER USE IS DEDICATED TO GROWING FEED CROPS. THIS IRRIGATION PLACES IMMENSE PRESSURE ON FRESHWATER SOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID REGIONS. REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR FEED CROPS BY ADOPTING A PLANT-BASED DIET DIRECTLY ALLEVIATES THIS STRAIN ON WATER RESOURCES.

COMPARISON WITH PLANT-BASED ALTERNATIVES

In Stark contrast, the water footprint of plant-based foods like legumes, grains, fruits, and vegetables is considerably lower. While plant cultivation still requires water, the overall consumption is far more efficient. This makes plant-based diets a crucial strategy for water conservation and ensuring water security for communities and ecosystems.

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

THE EXPANSION OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE IS A PRIMARY DRIVER OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS, IMPACTING ECOSYSTEMS WORLDWIDE.
THE PLANT BASED DIET BENEFITS ENVIRONMENT BY MITIGATING THESE PRESSURES AND SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND RESILIENCE OF NATURAL SYSTEMS.

HABITAT DESTRUCTION AND FRAGMENTATION

THE CLEARING OF FORESTS AND OTHER NATURAL LANDSCAPES FOR GRAZING AND FEED PRODUCTION LEADS TO THE DIRECT DESTRUCTION OF HABITATS. THIS FRAGMENTATION OF ECOSYSTEMS ISOLATES WILDLIFE POPULATIONS, MAKING THEM MORE VULNERABLE TO EXTINCTION. REDUCING THE LAND FOOTPRINT OF OUR FOOD SYSTEMS IS ESSENTIAL FOR PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY.

POLLUTION FROM ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Animal waste, from large-scale farming operations, can pollute waterways with excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. This can lead to eutrophication, causing algal blooms that deplete oxygen and kill aquatic life, devastating local ecosystems. Runoff from fields where feed crops are grown also contributes to water pollution.

IMPACT ON WILDLIFE

THE ENCROACHMENT OF AGRICULTURE INTO NATURAL AREAS DIRECTLY DISPLACES WILDLIFE. FURTHERMORE, THE INTENSIVE FARMING PRACTICES ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL AGRICULTURE CAN LEAD TO THE DECLINE OF POLLINATOR POPULATIONS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS THAT ARE CRUCIAL FOR ECOSYSTEM BALANCE. A SHIFT TO PLANT-BASED DIETS CAN HELP REDUCE THESE PRESSURES AND ALLOW WILDLIFE POPULATIONS TO RECOVER.

THE FUTURE OF FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As we look towards the future, the choices we make about our food systems will be paramount in determining the health of our planet. The compelling evidence supporting the plant based diet benefits environment positions it as a cornerstone of sustainable living. Embracing more plant-forward eating patterns is not just a trend; it is a necessary evolution in how we nourish ourselves and care for the Earth.

THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ADOPTING PLANT-BASED DIETS CAN LEAD TO TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE. IT CAN DRIVE INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, REDUCE PRESSURE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE FOOD FUTURE FOR ALL. THE POWER TO MAKE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LIES, IN PART, ON OUR PLATES.

FAQ

Q: HOW MUCH DOES A PLANT-BASED DIET REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COMPARED TO A STANDARD DIET?

A: Numerous studies indicate that a plant-based diet can reduce an individual's dietary carbon footprint by 50% or more, with some estimates suggesting even higher reductions, primarily due to the significantly lower emissions associated with plant food production compared to animal agriculture.

Q: WHAT IS THE PRIMARY REASON ANIMAL AGRICULTURE CONSUMES SO MUCH LAND?

A: The primary reason is the vast amount of land required for both grazing livestock and cultivating feed crops. A significant portion of global agricultural land is dedicated to producing feed for animals, rather than directly feeding humans.

Q: HOW DOES EATING A PLANT-BASED DIET HELP CONSERVE WATER?

A: Plant-based diets require significantly less water because the production of plant foods is generally much more water-efficient than the production of animal products. This is largely due to the water needed for animals to drink, maintain their health, and especially the vast quantities of water needed to irrigate the feed crops they consume.

Q: CAN ADOPTING A PLANT-BASED DIET TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR BIODIVERSITY?

A: YES, ADOPTING A PLANT-BASED DIET CAN MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE FOR BIODIVERSITY. BY REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR LAND USED IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE, IT HELPS TO PREVENT HABITAT DESTRUCTION AND FRAGMENTATION, PRESERVES NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS, AND LESSENS POLLUTION OF WATERWAYS, ALL OF WHICH ARE CRITICAL FOR SUPPORTING DIVERSE PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE.

Q: ARE ALL PLANT-BASED FOODS EQUALLY BENEFICIAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

A: WHILE MOST PLANT-BASED FOODS HAVE A LOWER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THAN ANIMAL PRODUCTS, THE EXACT IMPACT CAN VARY BASED ON FACTORS LIKE FARMING METHODS, TRANSPORTATION, AND PROCESSING. HOWEVER, THE OVERALL TREND SHOWS A CONSISTENT AND SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT FROM PLANT-CENTRIC DIETS COMPARED TO DIETS HIGH IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS.

Q: WHAT ARE THE MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF REDUCING MEAT CONSUMPTION?

A: THE MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF REDUCING MEAT CONSUMPTION INCLUDE A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (METHANE, NITROUS OXIDE, AND CARBON DIOXIDE FROM LAND-USE CHANGE), A REDUCTION IN LAND AND WATER USE, AND A POSITIVE IMPACT ON BIODIVERSITY BY ALLEVIATING PRESSURE ON NATURAL HABITATS AND REDUCING POLLUTION.

Plant Based Diet Benefits Environment

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plant based diet benefits environment: *Plant Based Nutrition* Tessa Kwan, AI, 2025-03-14 Plant-Based Nutrition offers a comprehensive guide to adopting a plant-based diet for better health and weight management. It explores the core principles, distinguishing it from veganism and vegetarianism while emphasizing essential nutrients. The book highlights how plant-based eating can promote weight loss through fiber and lower calorie density. Did you know that plant-based diets can significantly reduce the risk of chronic diseases like heart disease and type 2 diabetes by reducing inflammation and improving blood sugar control? The book progresses logically, starting with fundamental concepts and historical context, then delving into meal planning and recipes. It addresses the sustainability of plant-based diets, offering solutions for long-term adherence and providing practical tools like meal plans and shopping lists. The emphasis is on creating a balanced dietary pattern, making it a valuable resource for those seeking a healthy lifestyle and healthcare professionals.

plant based diet benefits environment: Engineering Plant-Based Food Systems Sangeeta Prakash, Bhesh Bhandari, Claire Gaiani, 2022-11-16 Engineering Plant-Based Food Systems provides a comprehensive, in-depth understanding on the technologies used to create quality plant-based foods. This title helps researchers and food processors gain an understanding of the diverse aspects of plant-based foods, with a focus to meet the current consumers' demand of alternatives to animal products. This is a one-stop source that provides maximum information related to plant-based foods to food science researchers, food engineers and food processing/manufacturers. This book will enhance their understanding of plant-based protein sources, their application, product manufacturing, and bioavailability. In recent years, the emphasis on minimizing environmental footprints (climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity) and human health issues related to animal source food intakes has shifted the attention of researchers, dietitians and health professionals from animal-based diets to diets rich in plant-based foods (legumes, nuts, seeds). - Explores the plant sources available for extraction of proteins, the various extraction methods and the quality and functionality of the extracted proteins - Describes existing plant-based foods such as beverages, yogurts, spreads, fermented foods and meats - Provides information related to various plant based functional components such as polyphenols, phytosterols, aromatics and essential oils, etc.

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plant based diet benefits environment: Plant-Based Meal Prep Stephanie Tornatore, Adam Bannon, 2019-10-29 Go plant-based with Steph and Adam, YouTube's most popular meal preppers. Eating a plant-based diet--one that embraces veggies and ditches the meat, eggs, and dairy--is one of the easiest ways to improve your health. Whether you're ready to go entirely vegan or just want to incorporate more plant-based meals into your diet, Steph and Adam will show you how to plan and prep ahead, so your meals are ready to go when you're ready to eat. Flexible meal plans include all your favorite foods and flavors, from mac and cheese to mashed potatoes, all made with plant-based, whole-food ingredients. * Over 60 plant-based recipes for breakfasts, mains, snacks, and desserts * Get-started guide walks you through the basics of plant-based eating * Soy-free, grain-free, and paleo-friendly tags make it easy to find recipes that fit your diet * Flexible build-a-meal strategies let you choose your favorite flavors * Easy-to-follow meal plans take the guesswork out of what to make * Nutritional information for every recipe to help manage macros and achieve diet goals.

plant based diet benefits environment: Plant-Based Diets for Succulence and Sustainability Kathleen May Kevany, 2019-08-15 This collection takes an interdisciplinary look at how the transformation towards plant-based diets is becoming more culturally acceptable. economically accessible, technically available and politically viable. We offer strategies for achieving sustainable food systems without having to forgo succulence, sensuality and sacredness of food. Shifting food systems is one of humanity's biggest challenges and greatest opportunities. This book explores adaptable and health-promoting plant-based diets, which by their nature can support nourishing environmental, social, ethical, political, and economic outcomes. In this book, detailed descriptions are provided of what constitutes a healthy plant-based diet and active lifestyle. Readers are invited to engage with a community of practitioners delving more deeply into strategies for transitioning societies to greater succulence and sustainability. Throughout the first section of the book, environmental challenges and opportunities for reversing climate change are highlighted as our most urgent action. The focus then turns to global food systems and the intersections that are undermining human and animal health. The final section offers preventative approaches and encourages reorienting systems of law, economics and education to exemplify integrity, coordination, coherence and compassion. This book will be of interest to students and academics, as well as policy professionals in all fields engaging with complex issues and systems analyses. It will be of value to those working in health services, policy development, agriculture, economic

development, and social change as it provides steps to enhance well-being, pathways to increase jobs in the green economy, and practical ideas to reverse greenhouse gas emissions. It may also be a superb guide for individuals and families looking to become vibrant eaters and leaders.

plant based diet benefits environment: TOLC Exam Reading Comprehension Mizanur Rahman, 2024-07-28 This essential preparation guide is designed to help you excel in your TOLC exam. With numerous model tests and practical exercises, this book enhances your reading ability and boosts comprehension skills effectively. The initial chapters provide a thorough overview of answering strategies, passage types, and methods for eliminating incorrect choices, all illustrated with concise examples. These foundational techniques are crucial for mastering the TOLC exam. Each model test includes brief explanations of the correct answers and specifies the location of each answer within the passage. This feature helps you quickly identify and understand the relevant information, making your preparation more efficient. The guide covers a diverse range of passages on topics such as health, sports, science and technology, history, and culture. Engaging with these varied subjects will expand your vocabulary across different fields and improve your overall reading proficiency. By working through this comprehensive guide, you will gain the insights and skills necessary to approach the TOLC exam with confidence and achieve success.

plant based diet benefits environment: The Plant-Based Lifestyle: How to Thrive on a **Vegan or Vegetarian Diet** Jens Belner, ☐ Want to feel healthier, more energized, and make a difference in the world—without giving up delicious food? Whether you're curious about plant-based eating, transitioning to a vegetarian or vegan diet, or looking to optimize your nutrition, The Plant-Based Lifestyle is your complete, science-backed guide to thriving on a plant-powered diet. Inside this must-read book, you'll discover: ☐ The essential nutrients you need—and how to get them all from plants [] Meal planning made easy—simple strategies for balanced, delicious, plant-based meals ☐ Mouthwatering whole-food recipes—packed with flavor and nutrients for every meal ☐ How to navigate social situations while staying true to your plant-based choices ☐ The truth about food labels—what to look for and what to avoid

☐ The connection between plant-based eating and long-term health \sqcap Sustainable eating habits—how plant-based choices can help the environment \sqcap Global plant-based cuisines—explore delicious flavors from around the world ☐ Why This Book? Unlike restrictive diets or fad trends, this book helps you embrace a plant-based lifestyle in a way that works for YOU. Whether you want to go fully vegan, vegetarian, or just eat more plant-based meals, you'll get the tools, tips, and recipes to make it effortless—and enjoyable! ☐ Take charge of your health, nourish your body, and make a positive impact on the planet.

plant based diet benefits environment: Global Food Systems, Diets, and Nutrition Jessica Fanzo, Claire Davis, 2021-06-05 Ensuring optimal diets and nutrition for the global population is a grand challenge fraught with many contentious issues. To achieve food security for all and protect health, we need functional, equitable, and sustainable food systems. Food systems are highly complex networks of individuals and institutions that depend on governance and policy leadership. This book explains how interconnected food systems and policies affect diets and nutrition in high, middle-, and low-income countries. In tandem with food policy, food systems determine the availability, affordability, and nutritional quality of the food supply, which influences the diets that people are willing and able to consume. Readers will become familiar with both domestic and international food policy processes and actors, and they will be able to critically analyze and debate how policy and science affect diet and nutrition outcomes.

Performance on a Vegan Diet Ciro Irmici, 2024-07-23 Plant-Based Sports Nutrition: Maximizing Performance on a Vegan Diet Are you an athlete looking to optimize your performance through plant-based nutrition? Plant-Based Sports Nutrition: Maximizing Performance on a Vegan Diet is your ultimate guide to achieving peak athletic performance while embracing a vegan lifestyle. This comprehensive book delves into the essentials of plant-based nutrition, offering practical strategies for meal planning, nutrient timing, and overcoming common challenges faced by vegan athletes. Discover the science-backed benefits of a plant-based diet, from enhanced endurance and quicker

recovery times to improved overall health. Learn from the success stories of elite vegan athletes like Scott Jurek, Venus Williams, and Patrik Baboumian, and gain insights into how they fuel their bodies for success. With detailed chapters on high-performance foods, superfoods, and power-packed snacks, you'll have all the tools you need to create balanced, nutrient-dense meals that support your athletic goals. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just starting your journey, this book provides the guidance and inspiration to thrive on a plant-based diet. Join the growing community of vegan athletes who are maximizing their potential and making a positive impact on their health and the environment. Equip yourself with the knowledge and practical tips to succeed, and experience the transformative power of plant-based sports nutrition.

plant based diet benefits environment: Veganism: The Power of Plant-Based Eating. Plant Magic Алексей Сабадырь, 2024-01-10 This is a guide to harmony with nature, to understanding the power of plant products and their impact on your health and the world around you. The book will explore the impact of veganism on physical and emotional well-being, providing you with not only knowledge, but also inspiration. Let's open the doors together to a green future for your health and well-being! Ridero and the author of the book are not responsible for the information provided. Please contact your healthcare provider.

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plant based diet benefits environment: Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2023-04-25 Diverse foods derived from livestock production systems, including grazing and pastoralist systems, and from the hunting of wild animals, provide high-quality proteins, important fatty acids and various vitamins and minerals – contributing to healthy diets for improved

nutrition and health. Livestock species are adapted to a wide range of environments, including areas that are unsuitable for crop production. Globally, more than a billion people depend on livestock value chains for their livelihoods. Small-scale livestock farmers and pastoralists make up a large proportion of livestock producers. Well integrated livestock production increases the resilience of small-scale farming systems. Livestock also provide other important ecosystem services in landscape management, provide energy and help to improve soil fertility. Rangeland or grassland ecosystems occupy some 40 percent of the world's terrestrial area. Livestock keepers raise grazing animals to transform grassland vegetation into food. Challenges related to high resource utilization and pollution, food-feed competition, greenhouse-gas emissions, antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare as well as zoonotic and food-borne diseases, accessibility and affordability need to be solved if agrifood systems are to become more sustainable. FAO's Committee on Agriculture requested a comprehensive, science- and evidence-based global assessment of the contribution of livestock to food security, sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets, considering environmental, economic and social sustainability. The assessment consists of four component documents. This first component document provides a holistic analysis of the contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes over the course of people's lives.

plant based diet benefits environment: Going Vegan to Save the Planet Montoya E Whitehead, 2025-10-01 Animal agriculture is one of the biggest drivers of climate change - yet it's often left out of the conversation. From methane-belching cattle to the toxic waste of pig farms. From deforestation for feed crops to the oceans choked by fish farming, this book uncovers the hidden environmental cost of what's on our plates. Sector by sector - poultry, fish, beef, pork, dairy and leather - the book lays out how the industry is damaging our planet. How animal agriculture fuels global warming, destroys ecosystems, and pollutes our air, water, and soil. The case is made, with hard evidence, that going vegan is the single most powerful action any one of us can take to slow - or even help stop - the climate crisis. Urgent, accessible, and unflinching, Going Vegan to Save the Planet connects the dots between diet and survival, showing how our everyday choices can reshape the future.

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