

# 2030 forecast: fried cricket for lunch

[theday.co.uk/2030-forecast-fried-cricket-for-lunch-4](https://theday.co.uk/2030-forecast-fried-cricket-for-lunch-4) 10 January 2025



**Food for thought:** Insects offer a variety of tastes and textures depending on how they are prepared, and have been described as having a similar flavour to chicken, prawn and crab.

**Will we learn to adapt? Scientists believe that the environmental impact of what we eat could rise by between 50% and 90% by 2050. The solution is lying right at our feet.**

## What's happening?

An estimated two billion people regularly eat some of the more than 1,000 species of edible insects. The market for edible bugs is booming, with experts predicting it will expand in size to \$6.3bn (£5.1bn) by 2030.

Eating creepy crawlies is becoming normal even in places where it is far from traditional: research has shown that 42% of British consumers are willing to try adding them to their plates.

## Find out more

Our food drives a third of global **greenhouse emissions**. As forests burn, droughts ravage populations and floods submerge cities, our diets need a revolution. Bugs could solve the problem.

We use 80% of the world's farmland for raising and feeding livestock, even though meat only makes up 18% of global calorie consumption.

## Some people say

*"The most environmentally friendly product is the one you didn't buy."*

**Joshua Becker (1974 – ), American author and philanthropist**

*What do you think?*

Insect protein uses less carbon, less water, less land and less labour than regular animal protein, and eating insects could also help to end world hunger. Insects can be farmed in almost any climate with very limited resources. They are packed with nutrients and less susceptible than many crops to changes in climate or pest damage.

## Will we learn to adapt?

### Some say

Yes! Around one quarter of the world already eats eco-friendly bugs and pests. They are nutritionally valuable, tasty and abundant.

### Others think

No! The edible insect industry is neither glamorous nor popular enough to attract the investment it needs to be fully developed.

## Six steps to discovery

### 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - Have you ever eaten an insect? Would you be willing to eat more insects to save the planet?

### 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: What are the worst foods to eat from an environmental perspective?

### 3. Investigate

**What are the facts?** - The average person in the UK creates 3 tonnes of carbon per year from consuming food and drink. Design a carbon neutral diet.

**4. Construct**

**What is your point of view?** - Imagine that you are founding a start-up to help people pursue a more environmentally friendly diet. What would your company do? What would its motto be?

**5. Express**

**What do others believe?** - In small groups, design a school lunch that will be served to students in 2040. Think about how to create a nutritionally balanced and climate-friendly plate.

**6. Reflect**

**What might happen next?** - It is 2050, and there are huge food shortages crippling the world; 40% of the world population is starving. Write a story or poem about this new world and what it feels like to live under these conditions.

## Glossary

**Greenhouse Emissions** - The release of gases into the atmosphere that trap heat from the Sun, contributing to climate change.