

Is vegetarianism the key to the sustainability of our planet?

I would argue that vegetarianism or veganism is the key to the sustainability of our planet.

According to The Economist, beef emits 31 times more CO₂ per calorie than tofu does. Livestock rearing contributes to global warming both through the methane gases the animals produce, and also because trees are cut down to make pastures for the animals.

Agriculture and forestry make up about 25% of greenhouse gas emissions. Livestock rearing contributes to global warming both through the methane gas the animals produce, but also via deforestation to expand pastures.

It is vital for humans to change our habits in order to preserve the environment we live in and make sure it is habitable for future generations.

In Western countries, great strides have been made towards the creation of realistic, animal-free meat like the Impossible Burger. Asia is also joining the race to create faux meats without animal products for local tastes with companies like Hong Kong's OmniFoods making the OmniMeat pork substitute and Japan's Next Meats creating animal-free yakiniku. I believe these types of products will gain in popularity as we search for ways to lower carbon emissions.

Large food companies in Japan like Ajinomoto, Kirin Holdings, and others also believe in these types of products and have helped Daiz, a Kumamoto-based startup working on faux soybean meats (although not all their products are vegetarian), reach 1.85 billion yen in their series B funding round. I look forward to seeing what innovations emerge in the future.

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