

“Our food system and climate change are strongly linked to each other”

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Sea levels are gradually rising, natural catastrophes like wildfires, storms and floods occur more often. Climate change is a rapidly increasing problem for our environment and the whole planet. We strain our planet's resources not only because the population is growing fast, but also because generally the system of providing food for the world is going the wrong way. The cultivation, harvesting and shipping of food are not environmentally friendly.

Nowadays farming is mostly done in a large-scale industrial fashion, which means that pesticides, unnatural soils and monocultures are used. Pesticides can not only harm people but also insects like bees. Biodiversity means growing different kinds of produce on the same field, instead of planting only the same one. Having no biodiversity means that the plant deprives the soil of nutrients until nothing can grow there anymore, which eventually leads to many acres of abandoned land and lost farming space. In search of new fields, trees are being chopped in order to make way for planting.

Not rarely does it happen that vegetables or fruit are thrown away because of their less than perfect shape, small bruises or wrong sizes. Such harvests may be perfectly edible, but because of international standards in marketing and the pressures of competition among food chains out of the norm vegetables are sorted out and thrown onto heaping piles to rot.

The most serious problems leading to climate change are to be found in the shipping process. Long distance harvests are transported by airplanes or ships which emit a lot of carbon dioxide. Large amounts of plastic are used to ensure that the product is not damaged along the way. This leads to waste which is dumped on landfills and takes a long time to decompose.

All these factors concerning food production cause climate change. It is our responsibility to change our buying habits in order to help our planet.