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More than half a million could die as climate change impacts diet

New research shows global warming's effect on the quality of food available could kill more than 500,000 people a year around the world by 2050

Climate change could kill more than 500,000 people a year globally by 2050 by making their diets less healthy, according to new research published in *The Lancet*, a British medical newspaper.

The research is the first to show how the impacts of global warming could affect the quality of the diets available to people because fewer fruit and vegetables would be available as a result of climatic changes particularly in rich countries. Fruits and vegetables are vital in curbing heart diseases, strokes and diet-related cancers, leading the study to conclude that the health risks of climate change are serious.

Climate change is already judged by doctors as the greatest threat to health in the 21st century, due to floods, droughts and increased infectious diseases.

But cutting carbon emissions and improving education and the availability of fruit and vegetables would reduce the number of deaths and action to tackle climate change would have large-scale health benefits.

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