

Viewpoint: Plants are ‘carbon sequestration factories’. It’s time to capitalize on their natural ability to address climate change

Could plants be created that have higher rates of photosynthesis to improve growth and yield?

The short answer is yes.

Increasing the ability of a plant to photosynthesize increases yield or growth. This has already been proven in soybean research conducted in the United States where soybeans were genetically modified to have higher rates of photosynthesis. These varieties had higher plant biomass, ranging from 14 to 21 percent.

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The discoveries from this research could have far-reaching impacts. The application of similar technology to other food crops beyond soybeans could increase yields of all the commonly consumed crops, fruits and vegetables. An increased yield could also mean that the genetically modified varieties may result in greater amounts of carbon sequestered.

Of course, this needs further investigation and will depend on the crop type, but it could have environmental benefits.

If this technology was bred into staple crop varieties of food insecure countries, the higher yields could have significant beneficial impacts on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of reducing poverty, ending hunger and ensuring human health.

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Depending on what the research findings are, the crop type, and the nation, these crops could be a few years to a few decades away. Consumer acceptance will play a role in the success of this technology’s development and adoption. If this is something you think is of value, let your politicians know.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here**](#)