Plant Health in a CHANGING CLIMATE

Plant diseases are among the biggest threats to food security and quality.

The changing climate impacts plant health, making our crops and forests more susceptible to diseases.

Scientists are using models to predict how plant health is affected by prolonged droughts and floods, increased temperatures, and unexpected freezes.

Scientists rely heavily on seed banks and plant biodiversity to develop crops that can withstand extreme weather conditions.

Plant scientists are developing several strategies to improve plant health in the face of climate change, including the promotion of symbiotic microbes, novel resistance mechanisms, and sustainable crop rotations.

Climate change affects plant viruses

- Viral diseases are the second most common type of disease in plants, causing annual losses of $30 billion and affecting food production around the world.
- Insects account for 64% of the transmission and dispersal of plant viruses. Changes in the environment affect insect reproduction and distribution, influencing the occurrence of plant viral diseases.
- Warmer temperatures increase silverleaf whitefly populations causing an increase in tomato yellow leaf curl virus in tomato crops worldwide.

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