

# Thailand urged to explore edible insect market

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(AP)—Researchers say Thailand is showing the world how to respond to the global food crisis: by raising bugs for eating.

The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization released a study and handbook Tuesday on what they call 'six-legged livestock'—edible bugs and worms that can help meet global food demand that is expected to grow 60 percent by 2050. The agency says they provide a rich source of protein, vitamins and minerals.

The study was conducted in Thailand, where insects including crickets, [grasshoppers](#) and bamboo worms have long been a part of diets, especially in rural areas.

Entomologist Yupa Hanboonsong says about 200 [insect species](#) are eaten in Thailand. Cricket farming alone is already a \$30 million industry there, but only a few other species have been commercially marketed.

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