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Documentaries & Factual – Human/Social Interest

Space Farmers

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GPS, solar cells, Velcro and even baby formula are just some of the inventions space exploration has provided us. Now, Man's mission to go deeper into space has inspired further innovations in producing the food we eat. From the genesis of space food at NASA, to groundbreaking technology in Finland today, which creates protein out of air, scientists have been racing to reshape food production on Earth. Researchers examine how plants react to space conditions in Austria, the Netherlands, Israel and Thailand to grow the next superfood in harsh conditions on Earth. Meanwhile, in Singapore, microalgae grown in bioreactors for space shuttles could be applied in cities, even deserts. Space Farmers will make agriculture on space possible and the growing of food on Earth much more sustainable.

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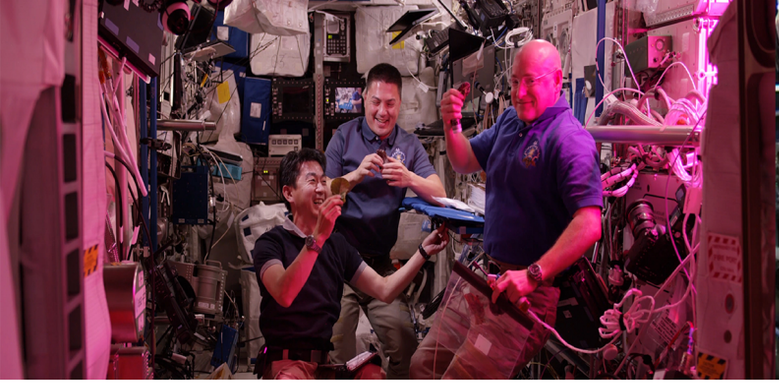

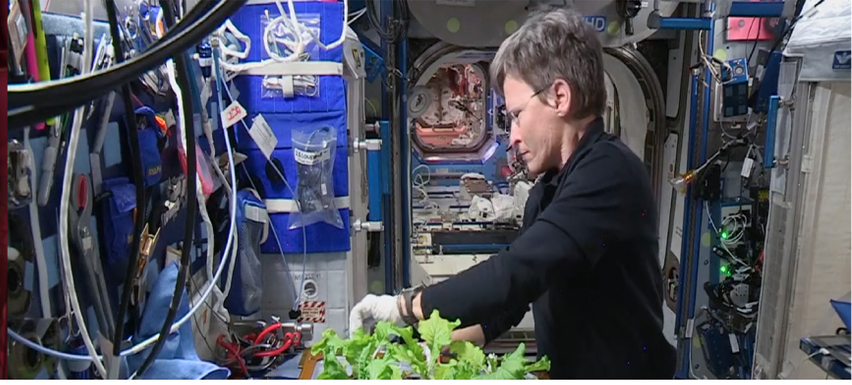

Episode 1 – Food's New Frontiers

Space foods, initially created just for astronauts, has now facilitated a revolution in agricultural and alternative food production. This revolution is changing the way we think about producing food in the future. In Finland, protein-rich foods are produced from thin air, making food production possible in a variety of environments, including deserts, cities, and even outer space. Scientists in the United States are working to make mushroom cultivation more sustainable, while in Austria, seeds are exposed to space radiation to improve their yield when grown back on Earth. A start-up in Singapore is using space technology to enhance the security of livestock herds, and at NUS, a team has developed a remarkable hydrogel that makes crop cultivation more water-efficient.

Episode 2 – To Grow Beyond Planet Earth

How will research to live in space in the future benefit us on Earth today? In the Netherlands, we meet a team of researchers working with Martian and Lunar soil to grow crops and mealworms as food. In Thailand, scientists test the effects of varying gravity on the next superfood - watermeal. Meanwhile, an astounding transformation of agriculture is underway in Australia, with crop cultivation methods increasing output by 100%. With a cultivated beef firm in Israel racing to grow meat in space and a Singaporean company using microalgae to produce protein-rich foods, we learn how less is more for food production. Inspired by the similarity between disaster areas and outer space, a Japanese entrepreneur creates jellies to provide nutrition to earthquake victims and astronauts. As the space industry in Singapore grows, collaborations between countries and students' interests in outer space deepen, leading to a transformation in space-for-humanity research.

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