Diets have changed in China — and so too has its top crop. Since 2011, the country has grown（grow）more corn than rice. Corn production has jumped nearly 125 percent over the past 25 years, while rice has increased only 7 percent.

A taste for meat is actually (actual) behind the change: An important part of its corn is used to feed chickens, pigs, and cattle. Another reason for corn’s rise: The government encourages farmers to grow corn instead of rice

to improve(improve) water quality. Corn uses less water than rice and creates less fertilizer(化肥) runoff. This switch has decreased pollution (pollute) in the country’s major lakes and reservoirs and made drinking water safer for people.zxxk

According to the World Bank, China accounts for about 30 percent of total global(globe) fertilizer consumption. The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture finds that between 2005 — when the government started(start) a soil-testing program that/which gives specific fertilizer recommendations to farmers — and 2011, fertilizer use dropped by 7.7 million tons. That prevented the emission(排放) of 51.8 million tons of carbon dioxide. China’s approach to protecting its environment while feeding(feed) its citizens ＂offers useful lessons for agriculture and food policymakers worldwide.＂ says the bank’s Juergen Voegele.