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Singapore-based university develops device that can communicate with plants

Singapore's [Nanyang Technological University](#) (NTU) announced that it has developed a device that can deliver electrical signals to and from plants, paving way for advancements in related technology.



The research team at Nanyang Technological University / Photo credit: NTU

The NTU research team believes that developing the ability to measure the electrical signals of plants could have useful applications including plant-based robots that can help to pick up fragile objects or developing food security via the early disease detection among crops.

“Climate change is threatening food security around the world. By monitoring the plants’ electrical signals, we may be able to detect possible distress signals and abnormalities,” said Chen Xiaodong, President’s Chair professor in materials science and engineering at NTU. He is also the lead author of the study.

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The newly developed technology may also be used in agriculture to catch diseases before full-blown symptoms such as yellowed leaves appear on the crops.