



Text Complexity Analysis of

Organic Fruit & Veggies Help Farmer-Mom Save Money and Forests in Bangladesh (*title*)

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Recommended Complexity Band: 9-10

Qualitative Measures

Meaning/Purpose: (*Briefly explain the levels of meaning (Literary Text) or purpose (Informational Text.)*) One of the purposes of the text is revealed in the article's title. One of the authors' central purposes is to explain how homestead farming practices have helped one family in Bangladesh to improve their lives while helping the environment at the same time. However, the authors also want to explain the bigger picture of USAIDs involvement in this country, as well as to describe the challenges of natural resource conservation and poverty reduction in this region.

Text Structure: (*Briefly describe the structure, organization, and other features of the text.*) The flow of ideas is organized in such a way as to allow the reader to make the necessary connections for comprehension as the authors move from point to point. However, the text is lengthy and there are no headings to break up the text into sections; this adds to the complexity of the text.

Language Features: (*Briefly describe the conventions and clarity of the language used in the text, including the complexity of the vocabulary and sentence structures.*) There are many complex sentence structures used, but the language is mostly conversational, and only a few non-literal expressions are used (e.g., "take pressure off the forests," "vegetables have skyrocketed," "escape poverty"). Some academic vocabulary (e.g. *cultivate, fringe, exploit, extraction, degradation*) is used, as well as a number of domain-specific vocabulary words (e.g. *organic, wetland, natural resources, topography, floodplain, flora, fauna, conservation, climate resilience, ecosystem, carbon emissions, greenhouse gas, climate change*).

Knowledge Demands: (*Briefly describe the knowledge demands the text requires of students.*) Students should have a basic understanding about the conservation of natural resources and the effect of dwindling forest habitats on local ecosystems, and on the global environment in general.

Text Description

Briefly describe the text: This text resource is intended to support reading in the content area. The text describes how people in Bangladesh are using homestead farming to provide for their families, while simultaneously contributing to preserving local forests. With the help of USAID, farmers are using higher-yielding seeds and cultivating crops using organic fertilizers and composting. The demand for food grown without pesticides and nourished by compost helps the homestead farmers to make enough money to improve their standard of living, while helping the environment at the same time.

Quantitative Measures

Complexity Band Level (provide range): Beyond 11-12

The text falls in the above grade bands according to a quantitative reading measure.

Considerations for Reader and Task

Below are factors to consider with respect to the reader and task.

Potential Challenges this Text Poses:

Some vocabulary specific to economics, fishing, and agriculture may need to be reviewed prior to students reading the text. Words or terms related to economics include the following: *international poverty line, market value, capitalized, maximize yields, premium price, maximize production, economic impact*. Words or terms related to fishing and agriculture include the following: *organic; homestead farming; harvest fish; livestock; cultivation techniques; composting; use of fertilizers, pesticides, and chemical preservatives; fish culture; duck rearing; higher-yielding seeds, vegetable cultivation*.

Recommended Placement

Briefly explain the recommended placement of the text in a particular grade band: Although the quantitative measure falls beyond the 11-12 grade band, the majority of the qualitative measures fall at the lower end of the complexity continuum. The text is written in largely conversational language, the authors' points are easy to follow, and the level of detail decreases the amount of background knowledge readers need to have to understand the text. There is much use of domain-specific vocabulary, but some of the words students will know from middle grades science courses. With these considerations in mind, this text is recommended for the 9-10 grade band.