

**Listen and read.** TR: 2.7

# THE FARMS OF THE FUTURE ARE HERE

How much space do you need to grow 10,000 heads of lettuce a day? Not that much, surprisingly. In an indoor farm in Miyagi, Japan, farmers grow that much lettuce every day. They grow it in a building smaller than half a soccer field!

On this farm, farmers grow lettuce on shelves. The shelves can be up to 15 levels high! Special LED lights help the lettuce plants grow faster. In fact, the lettuce is ready to pick even sooner than on an outdoor farm. Another big advantage is that indoor farms don't use nearly as much water as outdoor farms.

On outdoor lettuce farms, there's usually a lot of food waste. Some plants are damaged or don't look good, so farmers can't sell them. Sometimes farmers have to throw away more than 30 percent of the lettuce they grow! On this indoor farm, they throw away less than three percent of the lettuce they grow.

<b>INDOOR Farm Facts</b>	<b>2,300 m<sup>2</sup></b> (25,000 sq ft.)
It only uses <b>1%</b> of the water an outdoor farm uses.	<b>17,500</b> LED LIGHTS
<b>10,000</b> HEADS OF LETTUCE A DAY	
LETTUCE GROWS <b>2.5x</b> FASTER THAN ON AN OUTDOOR FARM.	



Miyagi, Japan

## 2 Read. Match to make sentences.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. The indoor farm | a. less water than on outdoor farms.         |
| 2. Farmers grow    | b. is in Miyagi, Japan.                      |
| 3. The farm is     | c. grow lettuce on shelves.                  |
| 4. Farmers         | d. 10,000 heads of lettuce a day.            |
| 5. They use        | e. inside a building.                        |
| 6. The lettuce     | f. grows a lot faster than on outdoor farms. |

## 3 Read and discuss. Work in pairs. Check two good things about the indoor farm. Add two more.

- ☐ Farmers can grow more lettuce.
- ☐ Farmers have to use more water.
- ☐ There is a lot of food waste on the indoor farm.
- ☐ Lettuce grows faster.

## 4 Write questions. Imagine you're interviewing the owner of an indoor farm. Work in a small group to write five questions you'd like to ask. Use some of the words in the box.

buy   how   other vegetables   sell   what   when   who   why

Can you grow other vegetables on an indoor farm?

Who buys the lettuce from your farm?