



## SEEDS THAT GIVE: PARTICIPATORY PLANT BREEDING

2003. Ronnie Vernooy. IDRC ISBN 1-55250-014-4. paperback 100 pp. Also available in Spanish and French. IDRC, Ottawa, Canada. Tel: (613) 236-6163. Fax: (613) 563-2476. Web: <http://www.idrc.ca/seeds>

This book, published by IDRC, contributes to the discussion on farmers' experimentation and the important contribution it makes to sustainable development. Local plant breeding is the answer to genetic erosion, and counteracts the increase in vulnerability of crops, for instance, to diseases and climate changes. Today, less than three percent of the 250,000 plant varieties available to agriculture are in use. A mere 12 species provide three-quarters of the world's plant-based food. For many of the small-scale farmers on marginal lands the cost of these high-yielding seeds, the necessary fertiliser, and other inputs is prohibitive. Instead they continue to experiment with local seed varieties, selecting and sharing those that will continue to produce even under adverse conditions, also in urban areas. Seeds that give is part of IDRC's "In Focus" book series. It reviews 10 years of IDRC support for participatory plant breeding research around the world.

Complementing the book are six case studies from the developing world and a thematic web site: [www.idrc.ca/seeds](http://www.idrc.ca/seeds).



## USE OF WASTEWATER IN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE.

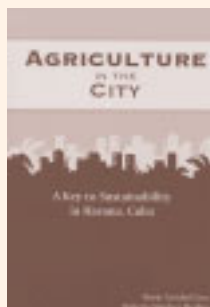
Country Studies from Bolivia, Ghana and Tunisia. 2003. Wageningen University. The Netherlands. Bolivia: ISBN 90-6754-705-0; Ghana: ISBN 90-6754-704-2; Tunisia: ISBN 90-6754-703-4.

The research described in these three documents, is part of the Water for Food and Ecosystems Programme, funded by the Netherlands Government. The documents can be downloaded as pdf files from [www.dow.wau.nl/iwe](http://www.dow.wau.nl/iwe); More information: Frans Huibers: [frans.huibers@wur.nl](mailto:frans.huibers@wur.nl)

## AGRICULTURE IN THE CITY, A KEY TO SUSTAINABILITY IN HAVANA, CUBA.

2003. María Caridad Cruz and Roberto Sánchez Medina. IDRC. Published in 2001 in Spanish and printed in English by Ian Randle Publishers and IDRC.

This book presents the results of a three-year research project on the history and state of urban agriculture in Havana, Cuba, and the long-term potential for urban agriculture in the local economy of two areas in Havana, as part of municipal environmental management. The book will be of interest to a wide audience, including municipal authorities and local action groups.



## ACCESS TO LAND BY THE URBAN POOR

2002. Angel, S. et al (seven experts). 48 pages, paperback, US\$ 15.00, ISBN 1-55844-152-2. Available at [www.lincolnst.edu](http://www.lincolnst.edu)

Cities in developing nations worldwide face the problems of progress and poverty because of constraints in access to land. Latin American cities offer clear evidence that pervasive and persistent informality in land markets is both an effect of and a major contributing factor to urban poverty. The cost of being informal is often much higher than the cost of being formal, particularly when considering access to serviced land and urban amenities. Seven researchers and consultants experienced with developing and implementing land and housing policies in the third world contributed to this discussion.



## LEASING PUBLIC LAND

2003. Bourassa, Steven and Yu-Hung Hong (editors). 2003, 320 pages, paperback, US\$ 20.00, ISBN 1-55844-155-7. Available at [www.lincolnst.edu](http://www.lincolnst.edu)

Leasing public land has been advocated as a viable land tenure option for former socialist countries and other transitional economies. However, the debate about land tenure has been influenced more by ideology and preconceptions than by lessons drawn from careful study of existing leasehold systems. This new publication offers a thorough examination of existing public leasehold systems from around the world and presents insightful recommendations for the future role of such systems. Various issues and concepts of public leasehold are introduced and discussed, followed by two groups of case studies of international leasehold systems, organised into a framework for understanding the policy-making implications.



## VACANT LAND IN LATIN AMERICAN CITIES

Clichevsky, N. et al (eight experts). 2002, in Spanish, 144 pages, paperback, US\$ 15.00 ISBN 1-55844-149-2 Available at [www.lincolnst.edu](http://www.lincolnst.edu)

Vacant urban land is the product of many combined factors, including the functioning of land markets, the actions of private agents and the policies of public agents; and it poses an important challenge for the government and policy makers of Latin America. Vacant lots located on the urban fringes and in central and interstitial areas have been a determining factor in the growth patterns of cities in the region. This book, written in Spanish, identifies the many problems related to vacant urban land in five key cities: Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Lima, Quito and San Salvador.

## FAO OFFERS FREE OR LOW-COST ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE ONLINE

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture, (AGORA), an online clearinghouse of approximately 400 journals in the fields of agriculture, biology, and related environmental and social sciences. With this website, FAO plans to increase the quality and effectiveness of agricultural education and research by providing wider access to published information. For more information, visit <http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom/news/2003/23019-en.html>