

FURTHER READING

AGROECOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

Norman Uphoff (ed.). 2001. London (UK): Earthscan. 328 pages. ISBN: 1 85383 857 8 (paperback); 1 85383 856 X (hardback).

Agroecological Innovations presents a groundbreaking collection of innovative, successful and diverse approaches to agricultural development. Documented in 12 case studies, these approaches draw upon greater knowledge, skill and labour input, rather than on larger, unsustainable capital expenditure, and are shown to increase yield substantially, sometimes doubling or tripling output. This volume presents both key concepts and operational means for reorienting agricultural efforts towards more environment-friendly and socially desirable approaches to the pressing problem of food security in the developed as well as developing world. It is a vital guide and resource for professionals and policy-makers involved in agriculture and food production as well as an important text for academics and researchers. To order:

Earthscan:

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ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING: MYTH AND REALITY

Soil Association (2001)

Organic Food and Farming: Myth and Reality counters the myths spread by the opponents of organic food and farming. The booklet examines some of the key issues around organic food and its production. It takes up the challenge of answering the critics—critics who range from public relations companies defending agribusiness to the heads of national food authorities and some academics. It exposes the misleading and erroneous statements made against organic food, and provides the facts that prove them wrong. In particular, 6 areas are examined: health, food poisoning, damage to the environment, price of organic produce, world food problem, care of animals. The report, jointly published by the Soil Association and Sustain, is endorsed by 36 public interest groups ranging from the National Federation of Women's Institutes to WWF-UK. The document can also be downloaded for free from the internet as a Pdf-file. Go to the soil association website www.soilassociation.org.uk follow: [shop/books](#) etc/Soil association publications/Organic Food and Farming: Myth and Reality.

THE FAITH GARDEN MODULE

Yilma Getachew (1996) In: The Urban Farmer series, No 1. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The publication is more of a training manual targeting training of trainers on urban agriculture in the Ethiopia setting. It is aimed at introducing urban agriculture techniques that are categorised under organic production, natural fertilisation and pest control, and water harvesting techniques together with rearing small livestock in an integrated manner. The first issue from the series describes the FAITH garden module where using 15m² of land space, a family can be self-sufficient in micro-nutrition rich food and as the same time recycles all of the household generated organic waste in the process of producing food. The manual is the first of the anticipated 15 issues to be published in the future.

THE ORIGINS OF THE ORGANIC MOVEMENT

Philip Conford. 2002. Edinburgh (Scotland, UK): Floris Books. 287 pages. ISBN 0-86315-336-4.

Genetically modified crops, BSE, Aftosis, salmonella in chicken or chemical residues on food have caused and still do cause concern about the way food is produced. The public is being assured that foodstuffs from industrial modes of production cannot possibly be a health risk: an astonishingly optimistic assumption, unlikely to allay consumer scepticism. That is why organic production receives more and more attention from Governments, scientists, retailers and producers. The author, concerned about such a simplistic view, states however that the organic movement tends to offer its methods as an antidote to those problems. He sees that the principles of organic production can sound negative, based solely on rejection. However, Conford's book gives another view: profound explanations about the basic principles behind the organic concept. He presents the most important dimensions of organic food production in twelve chapters. Starting with a well-underpinned discussion about the drive for efficiency, he comes to the reasons why organic production came into being. Naturalness, health, logical agriculture and even spirituality were important reasons for creating the organic concept. Conford shows how each part of the world developed its own approach of such reasons. He beautifully demonstrates that organic production is successful and brings his information across in a clear, sober, complete and reliable manner. This book should be read by everybody wanting to know more about organic food production, whether that is for reasons of history, state-of-the-art or simply to gain a better understanding. To order: contact Floris Books at 15 Harrison Gardens, Edinburgh, Scotland (by Eric Goewie)

WORLD MARKETS FOR ORGANIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF ORGANIC HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS

FAO/ITC/CTA. 2001. 317 pp. CTA number 1055.

This is a solid guide, which explains almost all that an interested trader, exporter or producer needs to know. What are the requirements for producing and exporting organic products to major markets? What are the characteristics of the individual markets of countries in the EU, in the USA or Japan? Who certifies what, which labels mean what, what is local competition? Etcetera. Detailed country profiles and case studies of production and exports from countries like Argentina, Chile, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Papua New Guinea and Zambia are given. This publication is based on a study commissioned by FAO, CTA and the International Trade Centre (comprising UNCTAD and WTO). It gives a huge amount of useful facts (by CTA).

NEW BOOKS

REVIEW OF URBAN AND PERI-URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS AND LIVELIHOODS IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Beacon Mbiba (ed.). 2002. Urban and Peri-urban Research Network (Peri-NET). London, UK: South Bank University.

This reader is a compilation of work in progress by members of the Peri-NET in East and Southern Africa. Peri-NET aims to link and enhance young scholars on intellectual capacity-building in African institutions and producing knowledge for use by, and in partnership with, local authorities, governments and communities. The reader consists of six papers, drawing from experiences from Uganda, Zambia, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Some of this work has been presented and discussed at the Regional Workshop on “The Political Economy of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in East and Southern Africa” held in Harare, Zimbabwe, February 2001.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE

William M Lafferty (ed.). 2001. London (UK): Earthscan Publications Ltd.

This book presents detailed research into the participation and involvement of local communities in 11 European countries. Overviews of implementation in each country are accompanied by comparative analysis of positive and negative changes to date. Useful examples of best practice case studies are provided, and crucial barriers to achieving sustainability highlighted. This most broad-based and systematic study of LA21 ever produced offers important lessons and suggestions for the future which will be invaluable in preparations for the forthcoming “Earth Summit 2002” to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY: TECHNOLOGY AS POTENTIAL CATALYST FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT - EXPERIENCES IN EINDHOVEN, HELSINKI, MANCHESTER, MARSEILLES AND THE HAGUE

L van den Berg and W van Winden (eds). 2002. EURICUR Series. Ashgate, UK: European Institute for Comparative Urban Research. 140 pages. ISBN 0 7546 1880 3.

By examining and comparing the mentioned five European cities, this book sheds light on the impact of ICT on urban development and considers the consequences for urban management. The case studies show how cities use these new technologies to improve the delivery of municipal services to increase civil participation and local democracy, to help their citizens and businesses make the shift to the information society, but also to fight the potential digital divide. New insights are given in the discussion of economic, social and accessibility issues. The contents consist of four main parts: Introduction and Context; ICT and the City; Conclusions and Synthesis; and the Case Studies. The book can be ordered by e-mail from: jetherington@ashgatepub.co.uk.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

Jorge E Hardoy, Diana Mitlin and David Satterthwaite. 2001. London: Earthscan Publications, Ltd. 464 pages. ISBN 1853837 199 (paperback).

This updated and much expanded edition of the classic *Environmental problems in Third World Cities* describes environmental problems and their effect on human health, local ecosystems and global cycles. It points to the political causes that underpin many of these problems – including ineffective, unaccountable governments, and aid agencies’ reluctance to work with the urban poor. It also highlights innovative solutions. In their analysis, the authors show that cities can meet sustainable development goals. There are practical, afford-

able solutions to their environmental problems, but most of these depend on more competent and accountable city governments and on more support for low-income households and their organisations. The book also outlines the changes needed from international aid agencies to support this. Order from Earthscan: www.earthscan.co.uk

ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON LIVELIHOODS, AGRICULTURE AND AIR POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE IN URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AREAS IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

Neela Mukherjee. 2001. Hampshire (UK): Ashgate Publishing Limited.

This book provides a ‘synthesis’ picture of development, urbanisation and pollution in India, based on field research undertaken in the agricultural belts of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Unlike previous studies, it presents the perspectives of the farmers themselves on the role of agriculture, the impact of air pollution on health, quality of life and the effectiveness of the existing support networks available to them. Using field studies of direct relevance to development practitioners, agencies, NGOs, environmentalists, policy-makers and researchers, it captures the views of the complete spectrum of social groups to provide the most comprehensive and balanced analysis of one of the key issues facing India today. The findings highlight the pivotal role agriculture plays in societal and cultural issues such as gender roles, health and food security as well as the traditional concepts of livelihood, employment and income.

HOMESTEAD FOOD PRODUCTION - A STRATEGY TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION AND POVERTY

Helen Keller International/Asia-Pacific. 2001. Jakarta (Indonesia): Helen Keller International.

This publication highlights the extensive work of HKI and of individuals working with HKI in the area of food-based approaches and the efforts to identify their different impacts. First the current knowledge on food-based approaches and their impact on nutritional status, health and development is reviewed, with an emphasis on Homestead food production and social marketing of vitamin A-rich foods. These issues are discussed in the context of HKI’s food-based programmes in the Asia-Pacific region. Following are key articles that have brought food-based approaches such as homestead food production into the mainstream of scientific and programmatic discussion. These articles highlight the extensive work conducted by HKI in Bangladesh, the important findings about the bio-availability of vitamin A from fruits and vegetables, and social marketing in Indonesia, and experiences in evaluating food-based programme approaches.