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The Conversion to Sustainable Agriculture: Principles, Processes and Practices. Edited by S. R. Gliessman and M. Rosemeyer. Boca Raton, FL, USA: CRC Press (2010), pp. 370, US\$89.95. ISBN 978-0-8493-1917-4.

This book establishes a framework for the conversion to sustainable agriculture based on a four-step conversion process encompassing not only changes in on-farm practice and philosophy but also a change in the relationship with consumers through the food system across the farm gate. Refreshingly, the book acknowledges the difficulties of both researching and putting into practice changes at the whole system level as opposed to alterations in individual farming practices. Of particular value is the discussion of what motivates practitioners to alter their agricultural systems; this goes beyond the usual discussion of finance and markets to address issues such as family values and community development. A series of case studies from around the world illustrates the wide range of social, political, environmental and economic drivers for change in farming systems, and gives some excellent examples of alterations in practice that are occurring and how these are being monitored. The choice of case studies illustrates how the principles of sustainable agriculture can be applied in both relatively industrial situations, e.g. strawberry production in California, but also in traditional small-scale agriculture, for example, in Mexico. This book will interest students and practitioners of organic agriculture but will also be of value to a much wider community concerned with reducing the dependence of agriculture on fossil fuels and the challenges of reconnecting agriculture and consumers.

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Bioenergy Development: Issues and Impacts for Poverty and Natural Resource Management. By E. Cushion, A. Whiteman and G. Dieterle. Washington DC: World Bank (2010), pp. 249, £25.95. ISBN 978-0-8213-7629-4.

Recently, there has been a strong resurgence of interest in bioenergy driven by factors such as higher oil price, mitigation of climate change and the belief that biofuels are less expensive than fossil fuel. This useful report examines the main issues and possible economic implications of this resurgence and assesses their potential impact on land use and the environment. Not surprisingly, the report does not claim to be definitive, given the controversial nature of some of the issues such as the impact of bioenergy on food prices, on forests, on biodiversity, on equity, etc.

The main conclusion of the book is that much about the future of bioenergy development remains unclear, and the climate change impact of bioenergy development uncertain. Food crops may continue to be primary feedstock for bioenergy in the future, and despite substantial investment in technology development to produce biofuels from non-food crops, this is not expected to be commercially viable in the medium-term future.

Given the high market demand for liquid biofuels and their multiple role, the development of bioenergy presents both opportunities and challenges for economic development and the environment. The report concludes that, for countries that plan to implement large-scale bioenergy production, it is crucial that land-use analyses be conducted by policy makers to examine the likely outcomes including trade-offs related to poverty, equity and the environment involved in choosing a bioenergy system. This is indeed a tall order, as such analyses are not easy to perform at the best of times.

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Future Bioenergy and Sustainable Land Use. By R. Schubert, H. J. Schellnhuber, N. Buchmann, A. Epiney, R. Grießhammer, M. Kulessa, D. Messner, S. Rahmstorf, J. Schmid. London and Sterling, VA: Earthscan (2010), pp. 365, £75.00. ISBN 978-1-84407-841-7.

Development of markets for modern bioenergy provides opportunities for climate and environmental policy, security of energy supply, and rural and economic development. It also poses risks due to competing issues in