the Millenium Development Goals to which the region committed itself at the meeting of heads of state and governments in Maputo in July 2003, in order to meet the increasing food demand.

The book is recommended for reading by all agricultural practitioners especially policy makers and staff and students at institutions of higher learning.

Richard S. Musangi

Food is Different. Why We Must Get the WTO Out of Agriculture. By P. M. Rosset. London and New York: Zed Books (2006), pp.163, £9.99. ISBN 1-84277-755-6. doi:10.1017/S0014479707005510

The tenor of this book is struck by its forthright title, *Food is Different*, as well as by the attributions of the author, Dr Peter Rosset – 'food rights activist, agro-ecologist and rural development specialist' (in that order) and his base location – Chiapas, Mexico. Readers in any doubt that this may be anything more than a polemic need only turn to the manifestos from farmer organizations which occupy the last 44 pages of this 140-page text (there are also 22 pages of notes and an index): two of them are authored by the romantically-named La Via Campesina; one is a 'food sovereignty statement'; while another attempts to reform the EU Common Agricultural Policy to be 'legitimate, sustainable and supportive' – this at a time when even Private Eye's (a well-known British satirical magazine) farming correspondent characterizes the latest achievement of the decoupled CAP as paying non-farmers not to farm.

The book's political purpose is to plead to remove agriculture from the WTO (which some will consider perverse since for three decades of its existence, the WTO's predecessor, the GATT, would not touch agricultural trade at all) and to rant rather conventionally about globalization and liberalization, though there are some good explanations of agricultural trade negotiations and the power-play involved. The alternative seems to be a return to subsistence farming – quaint, but, in equally quaint words 'that won't butter any parsnips' and the book ends by failing to convince the reader after all, that food is significantly different from other traded goods in the twenty-first century.

Adrian P. Hewitt

Microbial Biotechnology in Agriculture and Aquaculture. Volume 2. Edited by R. C. Ray. Enfield, NH, USA: Science Publishers (2006), pp. 569, £60.20. ISBN 1-57808-443-1. doi:10.1017/S0014479707005522

Fifteen diverse chapters, on the benefits and potential benefits of microbial biotechnology might at first induce thought of fear and flight in the general reader. But persevere and you may well be rewarded with knowledge and insights of a field of study that is increasingly relevant, though often more intractable than some of its gung-ho proponents insist. The writing and presentation are in general clear and informative. Indeed, the authors and editor have probably taken pains to make complicated topics approachable. Neither is the content purely molecular or biotechnological: some authors range over ethical, regulatory and agronomic issues. A recurring feature of the conclusions to chapters is that progress towards a practical result (such as increased nitrogen fixation, use of microbes to release phosphorus, degradation of pesticides) is generally much slower than was the acquisition of knowledge of how to manipulate the relevant molecular processes. The increased complexity that arises when modified plants and microbes are combined in a community, food web or ecosystem seems sufficient in many instances to put a brake on progress. The range of applications is so wide that this is probably a book for the library, to be referred to by individuals according to their particular interests. Reproduction of some of the photographs is poor. Given the range and diversity of content, readers will have their quibbles. One of mine occurs on page 65 where the author contends the answers to a set of complex questions on GM crops 'can be given in the near future'. I suggest it will take longer. Quibbles aside, there is much of value here.

G. R. Squire

Integrated Nutrient Management for Sustainable Crop Production. Edited by M. S. Aulakh and C. A. Grant. Binghamton, NY, USA: Haworth Food and Agricultural Products Press (2007), pp. 647, US$179.00. ISBN 1-56022-304-9. doi:10.1017/S0014479707005534

This book aims to present a global view of the past, present and future use of integrated nutrient management (INM) strategies in agricultural systems. It is extremely timely as there is a worldwide recognition that societies need to optimize the use of nutrients in agriculture in order to ensure sustainable food production, preserve livelihoods and reduce pollution. It also provides an excellent synthesis of current knowledge in an edited