

investigations. To this end the Internet address of the data source, if available, is given and a companion web site with hyperlinks to some datasets is promised. The main depository for this type of book must be the reference section of libraries to which this reviewer's copy is destined.

Robert J. Moore

*Sustainable Poverty Reduction in Less-favoured Areas: Problems, Options and Strategies*. Edited by R. Ruben, J. Pender and A. Kuyvenhoven. Wallingford, UK: CAB International (2007), pp. 472, £85.00. ISBN 1-84593-277-3. doi:10.1017/S0014479708006923

Forty percent of the world's poorest people depend on agriculture in areas with 'fragile resource bases and/or limited access'. With the growing recognition that agriculture can reduce poverty, support economic growth and protect the environment, this book is a valuable presentation of research studies conducted in Africa, Latin America and South and East Asia.

The chapters cover development strategies; resource management options; livelihood and food security strategies; the essential roles of markets and institutions and strategies and policy priorities. It is a reference text and rich quarry of original data, analyses and conclusions. For the busy reader there is a helpful introductory chapter, which serves as an executive summary. There are useful abstracts at the beginning of each chapter.

The authors offer no easy solutions or panaceas, nor should they! The 'less-favoured areas' are and will continue be a challenge not only for those who live in them, but also for those in the development community who seek to improve the livelihoods of those who do. The options and opportunities will differ in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The overall message is that solutions lie in a combination of policies and technologies which must be locally based. Better policies and more able institutions have essential roles to play and greater use could be made of agroforestry, soil nutrient management, crop protection, better water management, increased use of livestock and pasture management, and crop improvement through seed, breeding and biotechnology. They conclude that more long-term research is needed.

Andrew Bennett

*Thin on the Ground. Land Resource Survey in British Overseas Territories*. By A. Young. Stanhope, UK: The Memoir Club (2007), pp. 230, £14.50 (paperback). ISBN 978-1-84104-175-9. doi:10.1017/S0014479708006935

This book is a comprehensive survey of the investigations into soil and land resources undertaken by members of Colonial Departments of Agriculture and later by members of the organisations that were created to provide help to the newly independent colonies. The early work of Colin Trapnell in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) is sympathetically reviewed. Hugh Bunting (lately Professor of Agricultural Botany at Reading University) described Trapnell as 'One of the giants who strode over Africa in yesteryear' and the author describes him (with Milne) as the 'greatest tropical field scientists of all time'. The Colonial Office got Trapnell to train 12 ecologists/soil scientists who later continued with similar work in East and West Africa. Trapnell also established a fund at Oxford University to train African ecologists and soil scientists: this fund is still active to this day.

Professor Young does not only detail the surveys undertaken and the organizations involved (the Land Resources Development Centre made 'the greatest contribution to geographical knowledge produced by the United Kingdom') – he also considers what use was made of the investigations and what were the benefits.

The scientific advances made in the field of resource surveys and development planning after the Second World War are also scrupulously reviewed. Over 80 scientists were consulted and the results ordered under the following headings: Setting the Task; Preparing the Ground; East Africa; West Africa; Biographical Interlude; Central and Southern Africa; Nyasaland-Malawi; The West Indies and Central America; South Asia; South-East Asia and the Pacific; Maps, Rocks, Climate, Plants and Land Use; Soil Erosion and Conservation; Retrospect: the Surveyors; and Retrospect: the Surveys.

This remarkable and valuable book is a key source of references (over 370 citations) for anyone concerned with third world development.

Martin Brunt

*For Listing only*

*Management of Nematode and Insect-Borne Plant Diseases*. Edited by G. Saxena and K. G. Mukerji. New York and London: The Haworth Press/Taylor and Francis Group (2007), pp. 290, US\$00.00. (paperback). ISBN 978-1-56022-135-7.