

wanting to explore others' experiences. It includes over three hundred references, many from ground operations.

Mike Collinson

Encyclopaedia of Soil Science. Edited by R. Lal. New York: Marcel Dekker Inc. (2002), pp.1476, US\$395.00. ISBN 0-8243-0634-X. DOI: 10.1017/S0014479703341523

This book is appropriately American, being the largest in almost everything, (weight three kg, topical editors 46, contributors ca. 420, chapters ca. 360). It contains a huge mass of information organized alphabetically in short chapters of a few pages each. The contributors are of high quality, the main editor has extensive relevant experience, and the book is well and clearly produced, with plenty of tables but rather fewer figures. Most of the chapters are clearly written in a similar style, which indicates strong editing. The subjects range widely and include some from the verges of soil science.

Obviously the questions arise: Is this a useful volume? Is it good value at the massive price? That the short preface only states the importance of the subject it is assumed that the purpose of the book is obvious, presumably as a main reference in departmental science libraries. As such, it is an excellent starting point for a first look into the subject, or as a source of a few quick references for a grant application. It will be less good in an educational function because of the way in which subjects are fragmented into chapters written by separate authors, and organized alphabetically rather than logically. Thus there are 21 chapters whose titles starts with Erosion (for water), but Water Erosion is the 16th of these, whereas the principles of water erosion would normally come first. There are many ways to break up a subject, and by using this one some subjects may be overlooked, though this reviewer has not noticed any important cases. There are certainly instances of overlap or repetition between associated chapters, for example, under Desertification. Entry to a subject, therefore, may be easiest through the 23-page Index, which is reasonably comprehensive.

In sum, this is an enormous project that does credit to the editors. It is excellent for quickly covering the basics for virtually all subjects and, in most cases, there is much more in associated chapters. It is recommended for all soil science libraries.

Bernard Tinker

Books currently under review:

Coping with Climate Variability. The Use of Seasonal Climate Forecasts in Southern Africa. Edited by K. O'Brien and C. Vogel. Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate (2003), pp. 238, £55.00. ISBN 0-7546-1766-1.

The Forest Farms of Kandy and Other Gardens of Complete Design. By D. J. McConnell with K. A. E. Dharmapala, G. K. Upawansa and S. R. Attanayake. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Ltd (2003), pp. 535, £69.95. ISBN 0-7546-0958-8.

Weed Ecology in Natural and Agricultural Systems. By B. D. Booth, S. D. Murphy and C. J. Swanton. Wallingford, UK: CABI Publishing (2003), pp. 274, £35.00. ISBN 0-85199-528-4.

Weeds and Management on Arable Land. An Ecological Approach. By S. Hakanson. Wallingford, UK: CABI Publishing (2003), pp. 274, £55.00. ISBN 0-85199-651-5.

Indigenous Management of Wetlands. Experiences in Ethiopia. By A. B. Dixon. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Ltd (2003), pp. 243, £50.00. ISBN 0-7546-3044-7.

World Agriculture: Towards 2015/2030. Edited by G. Bruinsma. Rome: FAO and London: Earthscan (2003), pp. 304, £35.00 (paperback). ISBN 1-84407-007-7.

Plant Resources of South-East Asia. 17. Fibre Plants. Edited by M. Brink and R. P. Escobu. Leiden, The Netherlands: Backhuys Publishers (2003), pp. 456, Eu 120.00. ISBN 90-5782-129-X.

Readers may be interested to know about the following publications received but not reviewed because of their limited relevance to the majority of readers of *Experimental Agriculture*.

Biological Control in IPM Systems in Africa. Edited by P. Neuenschwander, C. Borgemeister and J. Langewald. Wallingford, UK: CABI Publishing (2003), pp. 448, £75.00. ISBN 0-85199-639-6.

- Agrobiodiversity Conservation On-Farm: Nepal's Contribution to a Scientific Basis for National Policy Recommendations.* Edited by D. Gauchan, B. R. Sthapit and D. I. Jarvis, Rome: IPGRI (2003), pp. 47, no price quoted. ISBN 92-9043-575-5.
- In Vitro *Collecting Techniques for Germplasm Conservation.* Edited by V. C. Pence, J. A. Sandoval, V. M. Villalosos and F. Engelmann. Rome: IPGRI (2003), pp. 100, no price quoted. ISBN 92-9043-534-8.
- On-farm Management of Agricultural Biodiversity in Vietnam.* Edited by H. D. Tuan, N. N. Hue, B. R. Sthapit and D. I. Jarvis. Rome: IPGRI (2003), pp. 135, no price quoted. ISBN 92-9043-561-6.