

Important issues include the need for further and rapid technical progress, the requirements to improve sources of biomass and their biochemical processes, and to do likewise for those organisms necessary to process these sources into usable fuels. Rapid and effective progress requires the use of plant breeding and GM technology. Microalgal oil production is especially interesting, with its reduced requirement for agricultural land. In addition to developing usable, efficient biofuels, the need is stressed for a cost-efficient fuel delivery infrastructure. Examination of 'well to wheel' energy balances indicates that not all biofuels are commercially viable. The introduction of biofuels will have to be encouraged by a less punitive tax regime, with the inevitable impact on tax revenue. Also highlighted is the dilemma which politicians face over the potential food versus fuel scenario.

The book is a worthy addition to the literature.

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*Agro-industries for Development.* Edited by C. A. da Silva, D. Baker, A. W. Shepherd, C. Jenane and S. Miranda-da-Cruz. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2009), pp. 278, £45.00 (paperback). ISBN 978-1-84593-577-1.

This welcome tome is an outcome of the Global Agro-Industries Forum (GAIF) conference in Delhi in 2008 sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and International Fund for Agricultural Development. Competitive agro-industries have a key role to play in generating employment and economic growth in both rural and urban areas across the globe, as well as adding value to agricultural products. The ripple effect of agro-industries in other sectors is often underestimated, and they have a crucial role to play in poverty reduction and wealth creation. Too often the financial benefit is exported by multinational corporations and supermarkets, and the sections on business models to increase inclusivity for women and small farmers and corporate social responsibility are particularly pertinent.

The political case for agro-industry development in developing countries is covered well, highlighting the mega-trends and challenges across the supply chain. The trends, patterns and development impacts, and the need for effective strategic policy are emphasized, as is the role of the applicable new technologies, particularly in the areas of information and communication. The importance of enabling environments in the competitiveness of the industries is covered, as is the importance of quality assurance. Throughout the book the effective use of case studies emphasizes the pertinent points, particularly the need to strengthen the position of farmers. The case for increasing the role of agriculture in development is well made as are the challenges, particularly in the area of investment and the need for new approaches and fostering entrepreneurship through policy at national and international level.

This useful contribution is a timely summary of the issues, processes, challenges and importance of the role of agro-industries in meeting development and wealth creation needs.

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*Science and Technology for Development. Development Matters.* By J. Smith. London and New York: Zed Books (2009), pp. 148, £55.00. ISBN 978-1-84813-200-9.

This small monograph is not best read alone. It is more complex than its size would indicate and lively debate of the analyses is needed. At one level, Smith focuses on a non-controversial reality: science and the technology development/diffusion that are associated with it are inextricably linked with the larger processes of economic, political, and social change – for good or ill. The East Asian Tigers demonstrate that differing patterns of successful economic development can result from different approaches to the use of science and technology. The scientists who drove toward the Green Revolution, by contrast, did not anticipate negative consequences. Smith's real interests, however, lie in plumbing the historical depths of science and technology. Using a wide