

sufficient breadth of detail to attract all but the specialist reader. Can we draw conclusions from a study of two very distinct wheat cultivation environments? I also found the lack of an index frustrating, making it difficult to locate and check information.

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Distortions to Agricultural Incentives: a Global Perspective, 1955–2007. Edited by K. Anderson. Washington DC: Palgrave Macmillan/World Bank (2009), pp. 644, £80.00. ISBN 978-0-8213-7973-8.

This magisterial volume follows four others covering Africa, Asia, Latin America and European transition economies. In 90 figures and 123 tables, it presents the results of detailed econometric work on the nature and extent of agricultural policy ‘distortions’ and their impacts on markets and welfare. Its main chapters survey these topics in nine groups of 77 ‘focus countries’, which account for nearly all of the world’s agricultural production and farmers. Then, after analyses of additional distortion indicators at country and commodity level, a final chapter examines the economy-wide effects of policy reform over the three decades to 2004. It is estimated that agricultural policy reforms since the early 1980s have improved global economic welfare by US\$233 billion per year, of which about two-thirds have accrued to high-income countries, although developing countries have gained more (1.0%, compared to 0.7%) as a proportion of national income. If trade liberalization for all goods were to be completed, further annual global welfare gains of US\$168 billion would result, with similar but somewhat more emphasized effects. Most of these gains would come from agricultural policy reform, especially for developing countries and especially their unskilled workers. These results suggest that much poverty and inequality (and world market instability) could be alleviated by such further policy reform, as is being pursued in the ongoing World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda.

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The Mango. Botany, Production and Uses. 2nd edition. Edited by R. E. Litz: Wallingford, UK: CABI Publishing (2009), pp. 669 +10pp index, £135.00. ISBN 978-1-84593-489-7.

Mango production ranks fifth among all fruits (33 445 979 t in 2007 for mango, mangosteen and guava, source FAOSTAT), which is over a quarter of bananas and plantains or all types of *Citrus*. It is the most important fruit of Asia and becoming increasingly important in countries that have the quality and seasonality of production that allows them to find niche export markets. It is a minor crop in the USA, with 2950 t produced in 2007.

The book has 18 chapters, adequately covering botany, production, processing, trade and uses of the crop. The one on ‘World Mango Trade and the Economics of Mango Production’ would have been even more useful had it included the unit inputs behind the production costs. There are 29 authors, 12 from Florida, and the others from Australia (3), Brazil (1), France (2), India (4), Mexico (4), Philippines (1), Spain (1) and Taiwan (1). Twelve chapters have one or more authors from Florida, which sometimes leads to emphasis on more sophisticated approaches to the science and cultivation of the crop than might be chosen in countries with less a well-developed farming or research system. Most of the bibliographies end in 2006; the largest has 484 citations. The index is useful rather than comprehensive. The book is well edited with limited repetition over chapters.

The 1997 first edition of this book was reprinted in 1998. This second edition will be the definitive English language work on the crop for the foreseeable future, invaluable to growers, researchers, students and investors in the crop alike.

Rob Lockwood