policy-makers and researchers who wish to think wider than their specific field. In summary, if you are looking for a book about agricultural sustainability in its narrowest sense then you would better off looking elsewhere. However, if you wish to explore the wider debate in which agriculture sits then this is the book for you.

Davey Jones

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Sustainable Land Management - Learning from the past for the future. Edited by S. Kapur, H. Eswaran and W. E. H. Blum. Berlin: Springer-Verlag (2011), pp. 400, £117.00. ISBN 978-3-642-14781-4.

Large areas of the world's land surface have been more or less seriously degraded by mankind. This book's 18 chapters describe aspects of such 'Anthroscapes', drawn mainly from countries around the Mediterranean Sea.

Although 'sustainability' is invoked – as if a *mantra* – throughout the book, it is not clearly defined, nor its ecological bases acknowledged (save a brief mention on p. 140 and intimated in more detail in the sixteenth chapter, from Japan). Therefore, routes to follow in remediating past damage and to making future uses of land more conservation-effective, are not clearly identifiable. Had this ecological focus been apparent from the beginning of the book, the possibilities for lasting improvements in future could have been implicit when reading the varied chapters which followed.

I looked forward to reviewing a book with a title so relevant to today's need. But the contents don't fulfil the promise of the title. It is a 'hotch-potch' of information from which no clear conclusions or recommendations for effective action have been, or can be, drawn, except what *not* to do.

There is no glossary; there are uncorrected spelling mistakes and evident errors of fact (e.g. pp. 132 and 140). Also, legends for diagrams on pp. 340, 343, 344, 389–391 have been wrongly allocated among them. Many of the illustrations (both photos and diagrams) were originally in colour. Rendering them in grey-scales throughout the book diminishes their visual impact and value.

This book was evidently rushed to publication before the editors had completed their work.

T. F. Shaxson

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Experimental Statistics for Agriculture and Horticulture. By C. Ireland. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2010), pp. 360, £39.95 (paperback). ISBN 978-1-84593-537-5.

Aimed at 'students and researchers', this book starts from scratch and covers all the topics in applied statistics you would expect from its title, up to, but not including generalized linear models. There is a lot of text but the writing is clear and relatively jargon-free. The statistical approach is frequentist with emphasis on concepts, how to do the arithmetic by hand (where feasible) and how to use statistical software. Apart from model definitions the use of mathematics is almost completely avoided. There are many fully worked examples but no exercises. As well as being a guide to exploiting statistical software, the book is designed to be a self-contained manual with a full complement of statistical tables.

So what distinguishes this textbook from the many other introductory texts? Firstly, it assigns greater importance to the design and analysis of experiments, 25% of the book's content, and interactions in particular are nicely explained. Secondly, every example includes a 'Conclusions' paragraph which converts the technicalities of the statistical analyses into plain English. Thirdly, two styles of statistical software are illustrated, the specialist package Genstat and the more general Microsoft spreadsheet statistical functions, along with the Microsoft Excel Analysis Toolpak.

Although I felt uncomfortable with recommended analysis for 'regression with replicated values', where the concept of pure error was ignored, thought too much emphasis was given to chi-squared tests and disliked the use of GLM as an abbreviation for General Linear Model, I would happily recommend this volume to its target readership either as a textbook or reference book.

Jim McNicol