

BOOK REVIEWS

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Disease Resistance in Wheat. Edited by I. Sharma. Wallingford, UK: CABI (2012), pp. 322, £90.25. ISBN 978-1-84593-818-5.

Wheat is one of the most important crops worldwide. It covers the largest area under any single crop in the world and is the third most-produced cereal after maize and rice. It is a staple food for billions of people. Diseases cause significant yield and quality losses in wheat and are thus a major threat to global food security. The book *Disease Resistance in Wheat* is an excellent attempt to address the substantial problems associated with various diseases in wheat and provides an important overview regarding the economic importance, disease symptoms, epidemiology and breeding history along with various means to mitigate and control the challenges imposed by these diseases. The book has been divided into 15 chapters, each describing a building block of the latest technology/information to deal with major wheat diseases caused by fungi, viruses, nematodes and bacteria. There are several tables (sources of resistance and genes), diagrams and images that enable the reader to get an in-depth understanding of the guiding principles behind molecular and conventional breeding strategies of disease management. In general, this is an excellent overview of the current literature, molecular and conventional breeding tools to breed wheat cultivars with better and improved resistance. The book is presented in a logical format making it suitable for a wide range of readers, including plant breeders, pathologists, agronomists, policy makers, farmers and graduate and undergraduate students engaged in the field of plant protection. In my opinion, it is a worthwhile addition to one's bookshelf.

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Land Use Policies for Sustainable Development. Edited by D. McNeill, I. Nesheim and F Brouwer. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar (2012), pp. 292, £80.00. ISBN 978-1-84980-292-5.

This text provides, at first glance, a compilation of case studies focused on land use issues and policies in developing countries. Of perhaps more interest, however, is Chapter 4 in Part one, Introduction, and Chapter 12 in Part three, Conclusion. Chapter 4 introduces the approach used in the analysis of the seven case studies presented in Part two. Unlike many other texts comprising case study compilations, the approach presented in Chapter 4 and used for the case study analyses provides a useful reference framework for both this text and for future analysis of land use policies for other issues and/or countries beyond those presented here. The emphasis is on the problem context, the key causes, policies to address these and indicators that assess the outcome. The case study chapters themselves could be considered to be lacking in detail, but nevertheless are useful summaries. Chapter 12 summarises the preceding sections in a useful comparative analysis of the case studies, bringing to the fore the same emphasis on the problem context, causes, policies and indicators of assessment. Remaining chapters in the Introduction and Conclusion discuss land use issues, the future strategic agenda for both science and policy, the concept of sustainable development and governance and a critical analysis of land use policies generally. I would recommend the text for both policy makers and postgraduate students concerned with land use planning as it provides a useful framework for policy analysis alongside the case studies by way of illustration of implementation.

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