

The Ecological World View. By C. Krebs. Collingwood, Australia: CSIRO Publishing (2008), pp. 574, US\$59.95 (paperback). ISBN 9780643805. doi:10.1017/S0014479708007230

The author defines ecology as being concerned with the workings of the biological world within the framework of the world's environments. The book provides a comprehensive coverage of the subject and is soundly based on the scientific principles involved. By providing a wide range of examples of how populations and communities interact in nature, the reader is given the tools to gain a firm understanding of the ecological news items that come up in daily life. There are 21 chapters in all, ranging through geographic distributions, population dynamics, negative and positive species interactions, population regulation, community dynamics and landscape ecology. Towards the end of the book are three chapters covering topical problems in conservation biology, fisheries management and pest management. The final chapter deals with the problems of human impacts. It tackles growth of the human population together with the carrying capacity of the earth. This is not an easy subject and the author deserves congratulation for its inclusion. The book is an excellent read. The problems are clearly outlined and explained. The illustrations are relevant, easily understandable and beautifully presented. One particular feature is the inclusion of photographs of famous and influential ecologists. This reinforces the idea that ecology, and of course all science, is the product of human activity. While the book is suitable for students of all biological disciplines including agriculture, medicine and biotechnology, it is also essential reading for anyone, professional or amateur, who has an interest in how the natural world works.

Carol M. Duffus

Wastewater Use in Irrigated Agriculture: Confronting the Livelihood and Environmental Realities. Edited by C. Scott, N. Faraqui and L. Rachid-Sally. Wallingford, UK: CABI Publishing (2008), pp. 193, £29.95 (paperback). ISBN 978-1-84593-451-4. doi:10.1017/S0014479708007242

This valuable review of action worldwide on using wastewater for irrigation resulted from joint action by the International Water Management Institute (in Sri Lanka) and the International Development Research Centre (in Canada). Much effort to improve irrigation operation has, in the past, been focussed on rural areas, where water quality was not always a major issue. However, in urban and peri-urban areas, where demands for food from 'non-agricultural populations are high, wastewater offers opportunities for irrigation, but balanced against risks from serious health problems arising from poor water quality and pollution.

This excellent review was originally published in hardback in 2004, but is featured now due to a recent reissue in paperback. Sixteen chapters are each written by teams from one to four authors. Thirty-one contributors, from many countries, are listed. An initial chapter by the three editors, focusing on management challenges, is followed by contributions on the need for a common wastewater typology, on a sustainable livelihoods approach, and on health and microbial guidelines. The chapter on a 'Common Wastewater Typology' by Wim van der Hoek is particularly valuable in helping to define the various technical terms involved. There follow ten contributions based on practical field work in a wide range of countries – Bolivia, Ghana, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Senegal, Tunisia and Vietnam. The editors provide conclusions.

This book can be strongly recommended to those who wish to know more about the complex balances which need to be struck when using urban wastewater for irrigation.

Henry Gunston