

IAASTD process if it had made an explicit scrutiny of the institutions and processes that are responsible for guarding and enhancing the relevance and quality of AKST for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. This notwithstanding, the IAASTD Synthesis Report bodes well for a hoped-for greener world of tomorrow.

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*Multifunctional Rural Land Development: Economics and Policies.* Edited by F. Brouwer and C. M. van der Heide. London: Earthscan (2009), pp. 360, £65.00 ISBN 978-1-84407-577-5.

Brouwer and van der Heide intend, in this edited volume, to provide insight into developing viable strategies of sustainable management practices that achieve both economic and environmental objectives. The loosely related papers touch on the wide range of factors that must be taken into account in shaping such policies and strategies, but few of the strategies – or the methods for designing them – seem to be totally satisfactory in practice.

Rather, the papers demonstrate how difficult it is, in a real, constantly evolving world, to formulate and manage effective policies for economic profit *and* sustainable resource management.

Most authors drew on Europe's experience, but there is a useful discussion on the US Conservation Reserve Program that complements nicely information on the EU's various agri-environment schemes.

Many authors lamented the inadequacy of economic data on and methods for valuation of ecosystem goods and services. How, for example, to design efficient economic incentives to enlist private farmers in the conservation and management of natural resources when one of the desired outcomes is protecting 'priceless' biodiversity? Some of the best insights in the book are provided by the cautionary tales encapsulated in case studies.

However, the diversity of authors ensures that lots of ideas, concepts, and experiences are explored. Given the global imperative to move toward a more sustainable future, greater understanding of how local and regional decision-makers are using economics to manage their rural lands, ecosystems and economies for sustainability is critical. Perhaps the next book will include case studies from the developing world as well.

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*Adequate Food for All: Culture, Science, and Technology of Food in the 21st Century.* Edited by W. G. Pond, B. L. Nichols and D. L. Brown. Boca Raton: CRC Press (2009), pp. 436, US\$99.95. ISBN 978-1-4200-7753-7.

Dedicated to the world's farmers, this book on food production and nutrition comprises 24 chapters involving 33 authors, 27 of whom are based in the USA. The chapters are mustered into six sections: Food and Agriculture in Human History (two chapters); Foods by Choice (two chapters); The Required Nutrients (four chapters); Foods and Health (six chapters); Food Production: Synergy of Science, Technology, and Human Ingenuity (seven chapters); Global Food Security (three chapters). All chapters have an abstract and a bibliography/references listing, and there is a useful 22-page index.

Some of the chapters are impressive in their coverage and analysis, namely the two opening chapters giving an historical perspective, the six chapters on foods and health, and the four chapters on bioenergy, soil, crop science and animal science. The remaining chapters were much weaker. The two chapters on foods by choice should have been merged because the article on the role of religion, spirituality and faith was especially disappointing and superficial.

The foreword by Alice Pell noted that the most notable contribution of the book is its single-volume breadth of coverage of issues facing the food system. Its multi-author approach means that it captures all the crucial issues but to variable standards, but worthy nonetheless. Similar to virtually all textbooks in the era of the internet, it lacks a plentiful supply of coloured illustrations and website references.

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