
The world population is expected to increase by more than 2 billion people within the next 25 yr. Forecasts project that food and fiber supplies will have to almost double to fulfill this greater need. Society’s heightened concerns for both the environment and the world’s natural resources have necessitated that future improvements in agricultural productivity come about by more nontraditional means that use fewer chemical inputs. How and where these increases in productivity will occur and how the resulting increases in food supply can reach those in need are the focuses of this book.

The book encompasses chapters written by more than 70 specialists representing 23 countries. The chapters are technical in nature and suitable for specialists and graduate students interested in sustainable production agriculture, especially those interested in issues affecting global agriculture. The major food, fiber, feed, and forest crops grown throughout the world are discussed with respect to their current use, geographic location of production, where previous gains have occurred, and where and how future improvements can be made. For most crops, increases in productivity will have to occur by way of greater output on existing agricultural land and/or by putting more land into production, land that is usually more marginal in its productivity.

Most authors feel the greatest gains will be obtained through genetic improvements in biotic and abiotic stress resistance using both conventional breeding practices and, more importantly, biotechnology. Biotechnology was also suggested as a means of overcoming the problem of limited genetic diversity associated with most cultivated crop species. Besides focusing on individual crops, chapters are devoted to how cropping systems and production practices, as well as factors such as soil quality, can be improved to increase agriculture’s sustainability throughout the world. Many of the authors believe the greatest increases in productivity need to occur in developing countries since this is where rapid population growth will continue to occur and where yields are low and the most improvement can be made.

Although major advances are needed in developing countries, one weakness of the book is its underestimation of the contribution that developed countries can make to a greater world food supply. Agriculture in developed countries has a long history of progress and success, and farmers in these countries have the resources needed to fully maximize the benefits of new technologies. Concern for the environment is also very high in most developed countries, with many environmental regulations imposed on the farmers to ensure a sustainable agriculture. The problem with relying on developed countries to feed the world’s growing population is getting their farmers generally cannot afford technology. However, biotechnology as the underlying theme did connect different chapters and topics together.

The strength of the book is the breadth of issues ranging from topics such as new technologies, intellectual property rights, scientific ethics, public sector partnerships, and trade restrictions and tariffs. The book accomplished its goal of presenting important issues affecting the sustainability of global agriculture.

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The purpose and challenge of Visionary Leadership help readers find the right vision for their organization. The author assumes the reader has or aspires to have a vision of leadership. However, the organization may be small, new or old, in the private, public, or non-profit sector. The book is applicable to all levels, requiring only that the organization have some identifiable boundaries within which it is free to operate, some resources at its disposal, and people in it whose efforts the reader is expected to direct. “Vision” is defined simply as a realistic, credible, andpire future for the reader’s organization.

To help develop an appropriate vision, the author presents a step-by-step approach based on a systematic understanding of fundamental nature and future prospects for the reader’s organization. The book is divided into three parts. Chapters 1 and 2 define the fundamental nature and future prospects for the reader’s organization. Part 3 discusses the process of developing a vision. Systematic thinking begins by using a vision audit to assess the current vision. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 present a step-by-step approach for formulating alternative visions, and picking the right one, and how such a vision is different from, yet related to, an organization’s mission, goals, and strategies.

The lesson to show how visioning should be a continuing process is trying to serve and what their needs are, (ii) synthesis of leadership. However, the organization may be large or small, new or old, in the private, public, or non-profit sector. The book is applicable to all levels, requiring only that the organization have some identifiable boundaries within which it is free to operate, some resources at its disposal, and people in it whose efforts the reader is expected to direct. “Vision” is defined simply as a realistic, credible, and attractive future for the reader’s organization.

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