ASA has published a new book for middle school students. *Agronomy — Grow with It!* explains the science of agronomy using examples from scientists who are making contributions to the field of agronomy. ASA members Dr. Comfort Ateh (Providence College), Dr. Greg Welbaum (Virginia Tech), and Dr. Melanie Bayles (Oklahoma State University), and science writer Judy Mannes, wrote and edited the book. *CSA News* magazine interviewed Ateh, Bayles, and Welbaum about the book and their experience putting this resource together.

**Q** Why target middle school students as your audience for this book?

**Ateh:** Middle school is just the right grade level for the book as students would already have some basic knowledge in the sciences and can readily reflect on the relevance of what they are learning in the basic sciences in real life within the field of agronomy.

**Q** Where do you see gaps in the public’s knowledge about agriculture?

**Welbaum:** Everywhere! Most people have very little idea of who grows their food, how it is grown and handled, and whether it is safe to eat. I think there are many misconceptions about organic products and also the meaning of the term genetically modified.

**Bayles:** I think there is a general lack of knowledge about what agriculture is, why it should be important to all individuals, and most especially, what kind of diverse, cutting-edge career opportunities are available. I also see a major lack of knowledge about the challenges and realities of food production.

**Q** Did you learn anything new about agronomy or education while you were working on this project?

**Ateh:** Although I was versed in the diverse field of agronomy, working on this book enhanced my knowledge of the impact of climate change on crop production and how agronomists are mitigating reduction in crop yield is eminent with increased temperatures and heavy rainfalls resulting from global warming. This project emphasized the essence of systems thinking as a lens in exploring and implementing solutions to complex problems like world hunger and malnutrition.

**Welbaum:** That Judy Mannes is a very talented writer! Also, I had forgotten about all the different subdisciplines of agronomy. I think we in academia tend to focus on our own area and forget about the great work that others are doing. *Agronomy — Grow with It!* does an excellent job of showing just how diverse and relevant the field of agronomy is to everyone in our society.

**Bayles:** I have already had a number of discussions with students, teachers, and parents about the book. It’s been a real pleasure to share my love of agronomy with others.