ever, provides reference sources and information for a much broader audience. It catalogues a wide range of plant species tolerant to salinity and provides information on the origin of these species, their response to salinity, and methodology required to adapt these plants to both managed and natural ecosystems. Where information is available data is provided on productivity of these plants in varying saline environments. This is critical information for a clientele interested in successfully introducing these plant materials into saline agriculture.

The publication is a well organized, documented catalogue of salt-tolerant plant species. The book is divided into four sections according to plant utilization and the references are presented under plant genus or species which are then grouped under plant use or type. With this format the reader can quickly look up plant species and/or use of specific plant materials and the response of these species to saline environments.

The publication is a valuable reference source for students, land managers, public and private agriculture development agencies, and the general public interested in saline environments. It also provides a quick reference for scientists investigating plant response to salinity.—D.W. RAINS, Department of Agronomy and Range Science, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

Health & Safety Beyond the Workplace


This book is a fascinating compilation of facts and figures concerning potential health risks due to all aspects of the American "life-style." It should be of considerable general interest, even though it focuses more on direct concerns of health professionals, and not those of agronomists, soil scientists, or environmental scientists.

Problems, sometimes sensational, regarding health risks from many everyday aspects of current culture are increasing dramatically as the public seeks to minimize exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals and physical phenomena. In order to provide an accessible, easy to read reference regarding these hazards, the authors broadly review personal and community exposure and potential health risks from arts and crafts, home gardening, home improvements and repair, household chemicals, indoor air pollution, ionizing radiation, nonionizing radiation and fields, outdoor recreation, air pollution, food, potable water, alcohol, and tobacco. Each chapter is written by experts from a wide variety of health areas in academia, government, and industry. The authors briefly describe hazardous materials and activities present in each of these areas, references for further information, and ways to mitigate the hazards.

The text also contains a brief introduction, which defines "life-style" hazards, their routes of entry into the body, and general preventive programs. A concluding section includes a concise and common sense summary of and commentary on the individual hazards section. The extensive index provides a ready guide to particular hazards of concern.

This book is a valuable source for practical, hard to obtain information, which would be especially useful in an introductory environmental science course and of interest to the public. However, it should be used with caution by readers as a primary reference regarding health and safety hazards for specific areas because of difficulty involved in weighing the significance of the information in such brief analyses.—D.M. OLSZYK, USEPA, Environmental Research Laboratory, Corvallis, OR 97333.

The Environmental Impact of Economic Incentives for Agricultural Production: A Comparative Law Study (FAO Legislative Study No. 38)


Agriculture and the environment are inseparable. However, increasing demands for agricultural production have sometimes made economy an adversary of ecology. "Economic incentives for agricultural development have sometimes resulted in short-term development, with a subsequent deterioration of the resources required for long-term development."

This report reviews and compares the environmental impacts of legal measures that have been made to provide economic incentives for increasing agricultural production. Legislation from numerous countries is included in the comparison. Because there is no comprehensive study of such economic incentives, this report categorizes the incentives: financial (e.g., agricultural credit and/or subsidies) or fiscal (e.g., tax measures); direct (directly benefits farmer) or indirect (benefits farmer indirectly); and positive (incentives supplied to the producer) or negative (the expense of the impact is borne by the producer). Legislation is compared with regard to whether the incentives to encourage agricultural development focus on stimulating agricultural production or on promoting the conservation of agricultural resources.

This report observed "a general tendency to proliferate and diversify incentive measures" without considering or clearly defining environmental impacts and objectives. However, recent legislation seems to be more attentive to environmental impacts of agricultural production incentives.

Although this report does not deal in depth with any particular legislation, it helps to show the interrelationships of various economic incentives for short-term agricultural production, long-term natural resource enhancement, and subsequent long-term agricultural production. This report provides an overview of many types of incentive legislation, which may be useful to agricultural policymakers, legislators, and development advisors.—L.B. OWENS, USDA-ARS, P. O. Box 478, Coshocton, OH 43812.