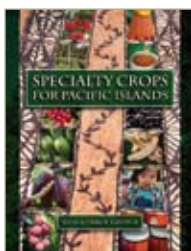


MIND! > NEW IN PRINT



Speciality crops for pacific islands

C.R. Elevitch (ed.), 2011. Permanent Agriculture Resources. Holualoa, Hawaii. 558 pages.

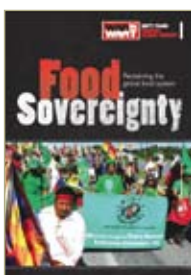
If you are interested in traditional and promising new crops in the Pacific Islands then this book is a must have. It is an encyclopaedic compendium on ethnobotany, and a hands-on practical manual, covering 26 Pacific Islands crops. Each chapter, composed by an expert on the crop, is richly illustrated, and contains written parts on the characteristics of the crop, how it is cultivated, its application in agroforestry systems, how it is produced commercially, how it can be produced on a small scale, and examples of successes. The objective of the book is to contribute to the conservation and enrichment of traditional Pacific Island agroforestry systems that are threatened with replacement by mechanised, chemical-intensive monocultures.



Payments for ecosystem services and food security

D. Ottaviani and N.E. Scialabba, 2011. FAO, Rome. 281 pages.

Poverty is linked to food security, which is linked to farm production, which in turn relies on "critical regulating ecosystems services". These include soil formation, micro-organism activity, erosion control, nutrient cycling, crop pollination and pest and disease control. In modern intensive agriculture the pressure put on provisioning services to increase production is damaging these regulating and supporting services. This can seriously affect food production. This book explores how a new generation of payment for ecosystem services (PES), one that specifically focuses on agriculture, can provide incentives for farmers to support critical regulating and supporting services. The book draws on the lessons learnt from old PES schemes in the European Union and OECD countries.



Food sovereignty: Reclaiming the global food system

S. Branford, 2011, War on Want, London, 54 pages.

In 2009, over one billion people were officially classified as living in hunger for the first time in history. The author attributes this to the global expansion of corporate capitalism which encompasses the Green Revolution and the transformation of national systems to export oriented agriculture. This has resulted in more land grabs and more poverty. The proposed alternative is food sovereignty, defined as "the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems". The report presents cases in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Mozambique and the U.K., where farmers have successfully implemented different principles and are harvesting the benefits.



Food movements unite!: Strategies to transform our food systems

E. Holt-Giménez (ed.), 2011. Food First, Oakland, 323 pages.

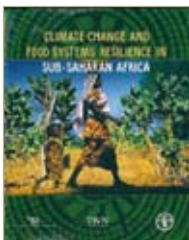
"The corporate food regime dominating our planet's food system is environmentally destructive, financially volatile and socially unjust." This is the opening sentence of Eric Holt-Gimenez's introduction. The book presents the views of farmers' unions, consumer groups, NGOs and community organisations that are committed to food justice, food democracy and food sovereignty. This book seeks to derive "the new norm" from the fragmented collection of hopeful alternatives so as to further the organisation of local food movements into global alliances. The book includes chapters by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, leaders from La Via Campesina and the MST, and the president of the Millennium Institute.



The politics of seed in Africa's Green Revolution: Alternative narratives and competing pathways

I. Scoones and J. Thompson (eds.), 2011. IDS, Brighton. 120 pages.

The call for a "Uniquely African Green Revolution" is gaining momentum. The objective of this new Green Revolution is to increase food production by combining the same technologies that failed under the "old" Green Revolution with commodity markets. Networks of entrepreneurs are to deliver inputs and technologies. This Institute of Development Studies bulletin takes the case of cereal seed systems to explore commonly overlooked questions, namely: whose interests are being served by current policies and what alternatives are being excluded? The bulletin also consists of articles that look at how the Green Revolution is transforming seed systems in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe.



Climate change and food systems resilience in sub-Saharan Africa

L.L. Ching, S. Edwards and N.E. Scialabba, 2011. FAO, Rome. 448 pages.

Modern agriculture has weakened the ability of agro-ecosystems to adapt to climate change and weather fluctuations. Intensifying production with chemical fertilizer is also unsustainable due to escalating fertilizer prices. The authors of this book advocate production intensification through "ecological agriculture" practices. It is argued that these practices will enable farmers to break out of poverty, increase food security and enhance food system resilience. This is supported with studies on Asia's Green Revolution; trends in African agricultural knowledge, science and technology; the impact of trade policy and climate change on agriculture; and successful, on-the-ground experiences with ecological agriculture.

Land grabbing

Recent literature that estimates the magnitude of land grabbing and/or explores what is driving it, how it is affecting small-scale farmers and what can be done, include "Land tenure and international investments in agriculture" (by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, 2011), "Land and power: the growing scandal surrounding the new wave of investments in land" (Bertram Zage, 2011), "Land grabbing in Africa and the new politics of food" (Future Agricultures policy brief 41, 2011) and "The great land grab: Rush for world's farmland threatens food security for the poor" (S. Daniel and A. Mittal, 2009). Literature that presents alternatives to interna-

tional land acquisitions include the "Access to land and the right to food" report (O. de Schutter, 2010), "Responding to land grabbing and promoting responsible investment in agriculture" (IFAD, 2011) and "Alternatives to land acquisitions: Agricultural investment and collaborative business models" (edited by L. Cotula and R. Leonard, 2010). Both the "Development" journal (volume 54, issue 1, 2011) and "The Journal of Peasant Studies" (volume 38, issue 2, 2011) have dedicated a special on land grabbing, and the website of the "International Conference on Global Land Grabbing" (held this year by Future Agricultures) contains articles that cover several aspects



of the topic. "A historical perspective on the global land rush" (by the International Land Coalition, 2011) relates the current wave of land grabs to the past legacy of colonisation and neo-liberal reforms. (LvdB)