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MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE, ECOLOGY AND FOOD SECURITY

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

J. RAM PILLARISETTI
ROGER LAWREY
AND
AZMAN AHMAD
EDITORS





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PREFACE

The editors have been deeply interested and engaged in research in environmental and development issues for many years. The idea for this book came from the editors' research and consulting on multifunctional agriculture issues. We have noticed that the international research being conducted on the multifunctional aspects of agriculture and their links to an ecologically sustainable approach to agriculture is predominantly focused on advanced economies. Research on developing country experiences on multifunctional agriculture is either limited, focused on very few countries, or is not widely disseminated. This made us realise how important it is to disseminate knowledge and information about the potential benefits of multifunctional agriculture in developing countries, which may include poverty alleviation, food security and sustainability, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, and the preservation of biodiversity, cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge.

We invited contributions from academics, researchers and senior civil servants with first-hand experience of the subject. Our aim was to have contributions that reflect the varied nature of multifunctional agriculture in different parts of the world. The book includes chapters related to developing and emerging economies in different geographical regions. Japan is the only advanced economy included as research on consumer attitudes towards biodiversity in Japan, a pioneer of multifunctional agriculture in Asia, is highly relevant for developing countries.

The themes are diverse and include indigenous knowledge, biodiversity, organic agriculture, food security, small-holder farming, youth in sustainable agriculture, agritourism and others. Editing such a diverse collection of papers enhanced our perception of different country experiences. We believe that the comprehensive nature of the book will stimulate further interest in readers on development, wellbeing and sustainability related to agriculture. This book can be considered as a scholarly reference work for libraries and researchers across the world.

We are grateful to the distinguished international researchers who passionately espoused the importance of multifunctional and sustainable agriculture to solve the myriad problems of the current unsustainable and environmentally and socio-economically destructive agricultural systems. Their works inspired us in the undertaking and preparation of the book. We also thank colleagues and students who shared our enthusiasm and contributed to useful discussions. A special thanks to Noratikah Hazwani Awang Kharin for her dedication and invaluable assistance in editing and formatting the chapters. Thanks are also due to our families for their encouragement, and to the Faculty of Business, Economics and Policy Studies Brunei Darussalam for financial Universiti assistance. sequestration in forestry and agroforestry systems. He has been active in Costa Rican national organizations, and has been a member of the National Forestry Research Commission and the National Agroforestry Commission. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Agricultural and Forestry Extensionists (ANEAF) and the Committee on Accreditation for Validation/Verification Bodies for Greenhouse Gases, of the Costa Rican Accreditation Entity (ECA).

Roger Lawrey PhD (Queensland) is Professor and Head of School (Accounting, Economics and Finance) at the University of Southern Queensland, Australia. Prior to this he spent many years in the Faculty of Business, Economics and Policy Studies at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He is an economist with interests in applied microeconomics including energy and resource economics, public utility pricing, the development of small states, and managerial economics. He has published three books and many articles in internationally refereed journals and has extensive experience including membership of the University Senate and Council at UBD. His experience in the field spans more than 25 years, and he has worked in industry, consultancy and/or academia in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Brunei.

Shaikh Tanveer Hossain, Dr., is a Sustainable Agriculture Advisor of Livelihood Enhancement Program (funded by The Netherlands) in Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), Bangladesh and Visiting Scientist of Laboratory of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Ehime University, Japan. Earlier he was a scientist of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI). He is pioneer of integrated rice-duck farming technology and organic vegetable production in sack method in Bangladesh. Dr. Hossain was awarded the grand prize of Organic Farming Innovation Award (OFIA) from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and Rural Development Administration (RDA), South Korea at the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress on September 30, 2011 in Gyeonggi Province, Republic of Korea. He was also awarded the Weed Science Award from the Weed Science Society of Bangladesh in 2011. More than 50 scientific papers of Dr. Hossain have been published in international and national scientific journals and proceedings of international conferences. Dr. Tanveer holds a Ph.D. in Agriculture from United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Ehime University, Japan.

Siddig El Tayeb Muneer earned a B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics in 1981 from University of Khartoum (Sudan). He was awarded an M.Sc. in Rural Sociology in 1986 and Ph.D. in Rural Sociology (with a minor in economics) in 1989 from Iowa State University, USA: He served as Professor of Rural Sociology and Rural Development and Head of the Department of Agricultural Extension and rural Development, University of Khartoum, Sudan (1990 – 2000). Since 2000 he has been working as Professor of Rural Sociology and Rural Development at the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. He has also worked as a rural development expert and socioeconomist for UNDP, FAO, World Bank, UNICEF and several national and international NGOs.

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