

scriptive terms (e.g. applicability, feasibility, etc.). The geographer must produce a product which can be evaluated, and quality-controlled by the client. These types of products and approaches are missing. 'Applied knowledge', although necessary, is only a part of applied geography. Newcomers to the field of applied geography will find the book useful and stimulating. Others, more experienced, will require a deeper perspective and more specifics, perhaps less topics but more techniques and detailed solutions.

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URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA (Proceedings of a workshop: Netanya, Israel, 23–27 June 1996) edited by David Grossman, Leo M. van den Burg, and Hyacinth I. Ajaegbu. Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 1999.

Humans have practiced urban and peri-urban agriculture—the raising of food crops, non-food crops, and small livestock in and around urban areas—for as long as there have been cities. Considered a normal part of urban life in the days before the development of mechanized agriculture and transport systems, urban agriculture more recently has tended to be frowned upon and even actively discouraged by urban leaders. The 'modern' notion has been that the urban and rural spheres should be strictly separated, with agriculture relegated to the rural sphere alone.

Reality, however, often wreaks havoc with human notions of what ought to be, and the current reality of urban agriculture is no exception. In the developing world, for example, the last few decades have seen cities struggling to cope with such problems as rapidly increasing in-migration and population growth, growing urban poverty and unemployment, and deteriorating infrastructure. These problems have

particularly been exacerbated since the implementation of Structural Adjustment Policies in the early 1990s. As a result, people in many cities and nearby areas are increasingly turning to urban agriculture as a necessary strategy to help them cope with these urban realities.

This book, a compilation of 18 papers originally presented at a workshop in Netanya, Israel from 23–27 June 1996, specifically looks at urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) in Africa. In a short introductory essay, the editors define the core themes of the book as UPA's potential to enhance household food security and to provide employment opportunities for marginalized urban populations (primarily women and youth). However, these are far from being the only important themes brought out in the papers that follow. Said papers are loosely categorized into four parts, two grouped geographically and two grouped thematically. Part 1 presents discrete regional studies from eastern and southern Africa; Part 2 comprises several closely inter-related papers resulting from a large and multi-faceted project in Jos, Nigeria. The papers in Part 3 concern general economic and methodological issues, and those in Part 4 touch on theoretical or policy issues. Part 4 also includes a short chapter containing abstracts of three papers delivered orally only at the workshop, and a chapter by the editors summarizing the workshop's concluding discussions. Yet as the editors point out, these sectional divisions are to some extent artificial: there is a great deal of geographical and topical overlap among the various papers, and readers who want to get the full value of the book should plan on reading most if not all of them.

The varied nature of the papers in the book is in fact both a weakness and a strength. In a multi-author volume such as this it is inevitable that not all of the papers will be of the same quality; a few of the papers here seem disappointingly thin on hard data or only tenuously applicable to UPA (horticultural products supplied to Nairobi and Mombasa by "long supply lines with transport distances up to 1,000 km", for instance, do not constitute an example of UPA). A further problem affecting all of the papers is the excessive number of typographical errors and misspellings throughout the book, which are a disservice to authors and readers alike. Finally, given the inevitably wide variation among the papers in terms of theme and coverage, the book contains some probably unavoidable but nonetheless frustrating gaps in coverage. For instance, only one of the articles (from Jos, Nigeria) specifically discusses women farmers, even though women are very much involved in UPA in Africa and it is widely acknowledged that this involvement needs to be better understood and supported.

On the other hand, as the reader progresses through the book, a deeper and more interesting picture begins to emerge: a picture painted by the very web of connections and contradictions that develops among the different papers as each one is read and considered in light of all the others. Thus, the sum of the book is greater than its parts.

Taken as a whole, the papers clearly show that the broad reasons why urban Africans practice UPA, and the constraints upon their practice of it, are remarkably similar in all cases. Urban and peri-urban dwellers in Africa primarily take up urban

agriculture as a means of improving their household food security or providing themselves with extra income. The major constraint they face is difficulty of access—particularly legal and secure access—to land. Other constraints include the costs of seed, tools, and fertilizers; lack of access to water; theft or destruction of crops; and lack of access to relevant information.

However, the papers almost unanimously agree that UPA is a part of current urban reality that is not going to go away. Furthermore, the consensus of the book is that UPA, if properly managed, can be a positive force not only as a survival strategy for the poor but ultimately as a means to increase the sustainability of urban areas overall. This is in part because UPA holds real promise for being able to transform significant portions, if not all, of the urban waste stream into valuable agricultural resources. For this potential to be realized, though, it is crucial that changes in policy be instituted to make the urban ‘climate’ more favorable to the existence of UPA.

While these points generally apply to all cases, the specifics of how UPA manifests itself in one urban area as opposed to others vary sharply, influenced by such things as differences in geography, climate, and cultural values. Thus, another clear implication of this book is that policies concerning UPA must also be tailored for each specific urban area. For example, the studies concerning Jos indicate that there is plenty of land still available for potential UPA use. In Lesotho, however, land suitable for agriculture is increasingly scarce in the urban area of Maseru. Thus, any policy for Maseru might lay particular stress on the use of techniques such as Permaculture design, whose tenets when applied in urban settings can result in the development of extremely compact, yet highly diverse and productive ‘permanent agriculture’ systems.

The papers in this book do not reveal any startling new truths about the current nature of urban and peri-urban agriculture in Africa. However, individually, many of them provide useful new data on UPA as practiced in specific urban areas in Africa. Collectively, they have much to suggest about steps that need to be taken in order to better support those who currently practice UPA out of necessity, and to promote the development of UPA into an essential component of a truly sustainable ‘urban fabric’.

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IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION IN POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES: THEORETICAL ANALYSIS AND POLICY-RELATED RESEARCH edited by Naomi Carmon. New York: Macmillan Press, in Association with Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, 1996.

This collection is an outcome of a workshop triggered by public and academic debates regarding the large wave of immigrants from the former U.S.S.R. to Israel in the