

Sinclair, F.L. (ed.): **Agroforestry: Science, Policy and Practice.**- Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht - Boston - London 1995. 288 pp., NLG 150.00.

The present volume comprises a selection of the most important papers presented during the agroforestry sessions of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations held in Tampere (Finland) in August 1995. The book is introduced by a keynote address of Pedro Sanches (the current director of International Centre for Research in Agroforestry), summarizing past and present problems in agroforestry, and also presenting an excellent outline of the most urgent research needs. Vast majority of the following 14 papers is of general and synthetic character - only two case studies with local validity are included.

Agroforestry has many faces which is well documented by a rather broad spectrum of selected papers. Some of them are focused on socioeconomic problems including financial and non-financial evaluation of agroforestry. As an example, cost and benefit analysis of projects realized in Central America and the Caribbean is attached. More biological issues are discussed in several other papers including, *e.g.*, nutrient requirements of intercropped plants, root characteristics as criteria for species selection, and amelioratory effect of trees with symbiotic nitrogen fixation on soil fertility. Different approaches to simulation modelling in agroforestry research are presented in three contributions comprising (1) simulation of tree architecture, (2) theoretical framework for the design of modular models suitable for agroforestry, and (3) practical use of a coupled forest tree model with a tropical crop model. Quite interesting are also two papers included in the final part of the volume which call our attention to a more rigorous investigation of the indigenous knowledge and its use as a complement to knowledge available from scientific sources.

The book is well edited and also printing quality is of high standard. It will be undoubtedly of basic importance to all interested in agroforestry and plant ecophysiology.

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