Ragland, J., Lal, R. (ed.): **Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics.** - American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, Madison 1993. 313 pp. US $ 30.

Nowhere is the sustainability of agriculture more urgent concept as in the tropical region, because its lands are more easily degraded than in any other part of the world, and population pressures are very intense. The American Society of Agronomy organized two international symposia on the topic (in 1990 and 1991), and the most important papers are collected in the reviewed book. All contributions are divided into seven sections. The first one will be probably the most attractive for anybody who is interested in sustainability of agriculture in general, not only in the tropics. A very clear and instructive overview of basic concepts, constraints and challenges is presented, together with some valuable ideas how to establish a positive trend in productivity without irreversibile degradation of natural resources. Sections 2 and 3 are concerned with comparison of traditional farming and modern agronomic technologies from the point of view of potential sustainability. Valuable information on nutrient cycling in agroforestry systems are also provided. The next two chapters are focused on control of soil erosion in the tropics, and on soil-crop computer models. The final part of the book is devoted to some more specific problems, as socioeconomic and political aspects of sustainability of sub-Saharan Africa, or technological options for different ecological regions. The book is well edited, clearly writen in a very concise style. It will serve as a valuable source of information for all who are interested in problems of agriculture in tropics.

J. GLOSER (*Brno*)