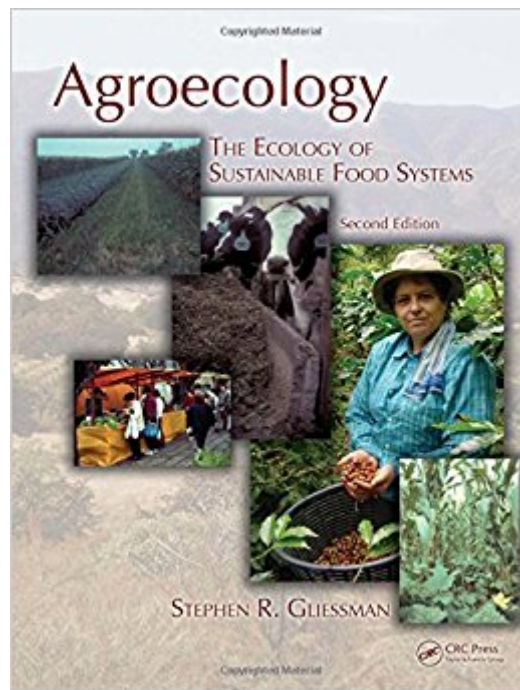




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Agroecology: The Ecology Of Sustainable Food Systems, Second Edition



Synopsis

Providing the theoretical and conceptual framework for this continually evolving field, *Agroecology: The Ecology of Sustainable Food Systems, Second Edition* explores environmental factors and complexities affecting agricultural crops and animals. Completely revised, updated, and reworked, the second edition contains new data, new readings, new issues and case studies, and new options. It includes two completely new chapters, one on the role of livestock animals in agroecosystems and one on the cultural and community aspects of sustainable food systems. The author clearly delineates the importance of using an ecosystem framework for determining if a particular agricultural practice, input, or management decision contributes or detracts from sustainability. He explains how the framework provides the ecological basis for the functioning of the chosen management strategy over the long-term. He also examines system level interactions, stressing the need for understanding the emergent qualities of populations, communities, and ecosystems and their roles in sustainable agriculture. Using examples of farming systems in a broad array of ecological conditions, the book demonstrates how to use an ecosystem approach to design and manage agroecosystems for sustainability.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author has had extensive international experience in tropical and temperate agriculture, and numerous farming systems. This experience has provided him with a wealth of material that has found its way into this book. The author clearly is an authority in the field of agro-ecology and

teaches on the subject. ãçâ –Â| agronomists and biologists, as well as general scholars and people interested by sustainability as an attitude or life style will learn about how to put principles into (cropping and wholefood chain) practice. All in all: a good read!ãçâ –â •Patrick Van Damme, University of Gent, Belgium, in Economic Botany

This text elucidates the fundamental science behind sustainable agricultural systems. The author is a clear, deliberate writer who is passionate about the place of agriculture in a world facing myriad environmental and human challenges. His arguments are solid and bases them on good science. This will give you a good base to speak up to more conventional agriculturalists and gives examples of successful, sustainable management practices. I'm not crazy about the flow of the chapters, which are broken down in an almost elementary way ("The Plant", "Light", "The Soil", "Temperature"). On one hand this is a good, simplified way to approach these biophysical components of agriculture, but on the other it feels very basic. He eventually gets around to delving deeper and drawing important systems-level connections between these components, but I would argue this is a pretty simple text for those first approaching agroecosystems or sustainable agriculture.

The program director told me this was the best book on Agroecology currently available, but it has some serious issues in my opinion. I could not wait to sell this book back at the end of the quarter. I felt the text bounced from being a 100 level course book to being a 400 level course book within the same chapter. I believe Mr. Gliessman knows the material, but his editors and publishers did not. The book needed to be more thoroughly refined and there are some, if not errors, definite places where clarification should be. For instance in one chapter they talk about 40t, but never define what unit of measurement the 't' is. I might be incorrect about the number in front of the t, since I do not have the book to reference. He was writing about topsoil generation and erosion loss. The 't' I finally determined must be tons, but since it was never actually defined they could have been talking about teaspoons. For a text, that later gets very in-depth into the different types of photosynthesis functions, that is an inexcusable error. Either you're a scientific text or you are not, an abbreviation should always be defined. I don't know if it was the way the text was used in my course or the text itself, but I did not get anything in particular out of this book, other than the fact there is room for an AMAZING agroecology textbook if someone is inclined to write one!

I bought this book for a class i was taking but i got so much more out of this book than i ever

expected. Its a great read if you want to educate yourself on agriculture and sustainability of food

The text is full of real life examples as well as updates on cutting edge research for Sustainable Food systems.

A really important subject for our future. I've really enjoyed learning about it. Combining the fascinating study of ecology with our food system's agronomy, this book is engaging and educational. I'm loving the course I'm taking for which I've had to buy this book.

Makes it easy to understand

Excellent textbook on the subject.

In general, the book is good, but I bought a new book and I received a written book. No honest!!! I realized that some parts of a chapter were highlighted with a yellow marker some months after I received the book. So, I could not return it.

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