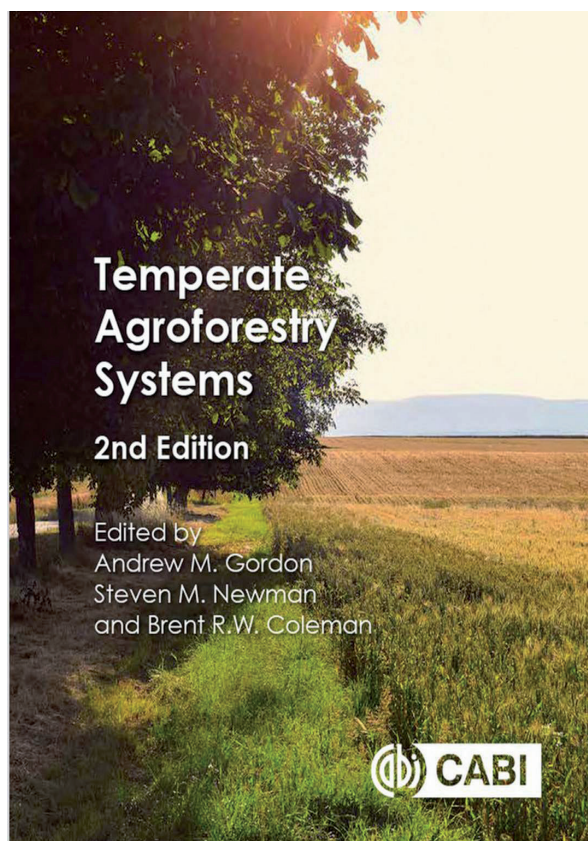




Book review

Andrew M. Gordon, Steven M Newman and Brent Coleman (editors). 2018. **Temperate Agroforestry Systems** (2nd edition). CABI, Wallingford, UK. xii + 326 pages. ISBN: 9781780644851 (hardback). Price: \$144.00, £85.50. Also available as e.pub and e.pdf.



This is the second edition of the book published by CABI with the same title and the same editors (A Gordon, S M Newman, B Coleman) in 1997. The book is a comprehensive review of the Agroforestry Systems of temperate zones of the World, written by more than 50 contributors directly involved with the research in this field. This second edition includes additional chapters on India and Chile and separate chapters on the US, Canada, the UK and continental Europe, stressing the ongoing advances in the field. The book presents the following 12 chapters:

- 1: Temperate Agroforestry: An Overview
- 2: Agroforestry in Canada and its Role in Farming Systems
- 3: Temperate Agroforestry in the United States: Current Trends and Future Directions
- 4: Agroforestry in the United Kingdom
- 5: Temperate Agroforestry: The European Way
- 6: Agroforestry in the Indian Himalayan Region: An Overview

- 7: Temperate Agroforestry in China
- 8: Agroforestry Systems in Temperate Australia
- 9: Temperate Agroforestry Systems in New Zealand
- 10: Novel Agroforestry Systems in Temperate Chile
- 11: Silvopastoral systems in Patagonia, Argentina
- 12: Temperate Agroforestry: Key Elements, Current Limits and Opportunities for the Future

As it is clear from the list, ten chapters are dedicated to the description of the state of the art in the various parts of the World, while the first chapter is introductory and the last is conclusive. In this last chapter, S.M. Newman and A.M. Gordon put in evidence the advantages of agroforestry over conventional agriculture and conclude the book with ten questions/propositions that should be taken into consideration to move from the paradigm of traditional agriculture (e.g. larger yield) to the new paradigm based on the “outcome approach” (e.g., key actors adopt specified behaviours).

I accepted with great pleasure the invitation to review this very interesting book in the spirit of this last sentence, because I think that agroforestry (“a land use system that allows for the concurrent production of trees and agricultural crops and/or animals from the same piece of land”), would become in the next future the most relevant agricultural typology all over the World. As it is stressed in the first chapter, agroforestry has a long history of development, being practiced in some parts of the world for more than 6,000 years, however, the “notion of the concept” consolidated only during these last 50 years. The book shows, with case studies and many examples, that “today’s challenges of climate change, population growth and food security, in concert with the ongoing global requirement for the energy and water needed for a resilient agricultural paradigm, can be met through the wide-scale adoption of agroforestry practices, in both tropical regions and temperate zones”. Personally, I think that the new technologies related to the hydroponic and the out of soil cultivations would certainly facilitate agroforestry diffusion, since they would reduce the pressure on cultivated lands allowing the landscape pattern closer to natural situations. Agroforestry would certainly facilitate a more diversified types of production and the application on large scale of the principles of “biological farming”, that would limit the pollution of the modern monocultural agricultural systems.

The book is of great value because it puts together relevant experience of temperate agroforestry, thus stressing the links between theoretical aspects (such as biodiversity and the role of vegetation systems) with the agricultural production. This is the reason why I recommend the book, not only to researchers and practitioners, but also to policy makers. Of great utility for them should be to know the activities carried out by the “Agencies dedicated to Agroforestry

Dissemination and Research Worldwide” listed at the end of the book. These Agencies are spread in all continents, however, they are concentrated mainly in North America (Canada and USA) and Europe. They are not present in Africa and are underrepresented in the Southern part of the World, where Agroforestry is already playing an important “spontaneous” role and that would need the improvement that temperate agroforestry systems had thanks to the applications of sci-

entific and technological tools. The volume is certainly very useful also to students and teachers of agriculture, ecology, environmental studies and forestry in temperate regions, however I hope it will encourage the application of Agroforestry everywhere adopting the adequate technologies.

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