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**Review of *Bugs in the System: Redesigning the Pesticide Industry for Sustainable Agriculture* Edited by William Vorley and Dennis Keeney**

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**Bugs in the System: Redesigning the Pesticide Industry for Sustainable Agriculture.** Edited by William Vorley and Dennis Keeney. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1998. xvii+222 pp. Figures, tables references, index. \$64.95 cloth (ISBN 1-85383-430-0), \$29.95 paper (ISBN 1-85383-429-7).

At first glance you might wonder what, if anything, pesticides and sustainable agriculture have in common. To quote the editors: "This book is a case study of an industry which finds itself with a vision of sustainable development and an entire product range which seems to be an anathema to that vision — pesticides — and a uniform perspective of its role in agriculture. We hope that this study is the beginning of an articulation of the choices that face the leaders, regulators and other stakeholders of this particularly controversial industry if they are to choose a course of sustainability."

The editors, William Vorley and Dennis Keeney, are well qualified to address this issue. Vorley has extensive experience in the pesticide industry and in crop protection; Keeney has been the Director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University since 1988. One of the strengths of their volume is its wide expanse of disciplines and approaches, ranging from crop protection to business management, economics, sociology, and systems science. The authors represent both North America and Europe, giving an international perspective to the discussion. Because of this breadth of coverage, few readers would fail to glean some new ideas from this book.

Although published in 1998, its chapters were written earlier. One drawback for the reader is that the pesticide industry has changed greatly in the past few years with the introduction of transgenic crops (Bt-corn, -cotton and -potatoes, and herbicide-resistant corn and soybeans) and the mergers among seed and pesticide companies. Some chapters focus primarily on characteristics of the pesticide industry before these changes occurred. In some ways, however, these changes only highlight the need for greater discussion of precisely the issues *Bugs in the System* raises: how *does* the makeup of commercial companies providing crop protection contribute to or detract from sustainable agriculture? Anyone with an interest in sustainable development, pesticides, or agricultural policy issues would benefit from reading this book. **Robert J. Wright**, *Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, South Central Research & Extension Center.*