

stiske og pragmatiske synspunkter mht verdens befolkningsudvikling, og selv om Youngs konklusion generelt er pessimistisk, er fremstillingen åben og objektiv. Bogen konkluderer, ikke overraskende, at der er et stort behov for kortlægning af naturressourcer på alle niveauer samt at bæredygtighedsbegrebet og befolkningsvæksten skal tages alvorligt. Svaret er mere bistand til udviklingslande, især til forskning, kortlægning, nationale arealforvaltningsplaner og monitorering af naturressourcer. Til undervisningsbrug kunne bogen have været ideel som introduktion til arealforvaltning i udviklingslande, hvis fremstillingen havde været mere nuanceret. Som videnskabeligt bidrag er det begrænset hvor meget nyt den tilfører diskussionen af jordressourcer og arealforvaltning, men den giver dog en god oversigt over flere af delemerne.

Ole Mertz

Crop Yield: physiology and processes. Eds. D. L. Smith & C. Hamel. Berlin: Springer, 1999. XVI, 504 s.: ill. 25 cm. GBP 153,-

Bogen gennemgår i 16 kapitler en række af de vigtigste korn-, fiber og sukkerafgrøder samt bælgplanter på verdensplan og giver en god oversigt over hidtidig forskning i de plantefysiologiske processer der ligger til grund for forbedringer i udbytter. Afgrødernes vækstmønstre fra spiring til høst gennemgås og mekanismer for CO₂-assimilering, næringsstoffoptag og -transport, blad- og frugtsætning, m.v. samt miljøpåvirkninger der styrer udbyttevariationer diskuteres. De fleste af kapitlerne afslutter med en perspektivering for yderligere forbedringer og udbyttestigninger for den pågældende afgrøde. Bogen henvender sig primært til forskere med specifik interesse i enkelte afgrøder og hvert kapitel kan læses helt uafhængigt. Behandlingen af de enkelte afgrøder følger samme mønster, men afspejler den meget store forskel i forskningsindsats. Diskussionen af kornafgrøderne, især de temperede, er således væsentligt mere detaljeret end de øvrige afgrøder idet hver enkelt proces og mekanisme belyses ud fra mange forskellige forsøg. Kapitlet om ris er også grundigt, men data er præsenteret mere deskriptivt uden en egentlig diskussion af resultaterne. Som helhed er bogen et meget værdifuldt opslagsværk med udførlige og tidssvarende referencelister, og den kan anbefales alle der står for at skulle at arbejde med plantefysiologiske aspekter af en af de behandlede afgrøder.

Ole Mertz

P. O. Pedersen: Small African towns, between rural networks and urban hierarchies. Aldershot, Avebury, 1997. XIII, 220 s., 23 cm.

For more than 10 years, a group of researchers led by Poul Ove Pedersen at the Centre for Development Research in Copenhagen has been studying the role and nature of small enterprises in development, principally in Africa but also in Bangladesh. Given the dearth of research on small towns in developing countries, one of the aims of the group has been to redress this imbalance by focussing on small enterprises in small rural towns. This work has resulted in several PhD theses and articles but 'Small African Towns' brings together many of the findings within one cover. - Following an introductory chapter, the changing way in which small towns have been perceived is presented and trends in the growth of small towns in eastern and southern Africa outlined. The following chapter entitled 'A small-enterprise theory of small-town development', includes an analysis of the nature of enterprise networks, hierarchies of enterprises, enterprises and the household, and enterprises and the urban system. The bulk of the book, which is divided into 7 further chapters, focuses on small enterprises (including retail and wholesale trade, agricultural processing and marketing, the clothing sector, and the building sector) mainly in the Zimbabwean towns of Gutu and Gokwe. In the final chapter, the nature of small enterprise strategies is summarised and possible strategies for small-town development are presented. - As Pedersen argues, small towns play an important but often ignored role in the development process and his book clearly illustrates this. However, although he is correct in arguing that there has been a lack of research on small enterprises in small towns, I do not agree with some of the reasons given. It can be argued that the lack of academic interest has been as much for practical as theoretical reasons, and in the late 1990s it is no longer the case that most development theories are 'aspatial and dichotomous'. Most development theorists today focus on the complexity and diversity of the development process. Although it is rather unusual that several people's work are presented by one author, the book is well written and clearly illustrated with tables, maps and diagrams, however, sadly there are no photographs. - Given that the strength of the book is a detailed account of small enterprises in two urban centres in Zimbabwe, the title is rather misleading. Anyone