
Keith Warner has done us a great favour in a very engaging way. In parallel to a candid assessment of the pervading obstacles to the advancement of agroecology in the United States, he has presented that which is working and why through a number of stories in a highly readable format. This book plays an instrumental role in unpacking and understanding the makings of innovative farmer-scientist partnerships and processes that have demanded, initiated, and ultimately heralded farming solutions and success stories.

The book offers an opportunity to visit different commodity based farmer networks, understand the practical agroecological issues they face, and the steps taken towards remedying those. These stories are complemented by and threaded with a theoretical underpinning and assessment. Warren builds on Latour’s science circulatory systems to examine social learning through farmers and scientists acting as explorers separately, then as collaborating problem solvers (often with others), and leading to multi-stakeholder partnerships as an advancing movement that serves the wider good.

This is a feel good book with substance which recognizes that there is indeed a core element that is positively influencing how agriculture business can be and is being carried out. The language of social learning through partnerships has become ubiquitous in the agricultural and environmental sectors over the last years, yet there are still innumerable lessons that need to be learned and or further capitalized upon and shared lest we continue to falter. Social movements and networks have emerged as a powerful force to be reckoned with – driven by enlightened self interest and the need to meaningfully address the practical problems of quality food production. This book wrestles with the fact that researchers are imminently important yet academic requirements have created obstacles that stand in the way of the progress they are meant to be a part of. There are those who are taking the risk and joining the fray of facilitated interaction and collaboration and finding that collective actions can bring fast forward sustainable natural resource results. Thanks to Warner for a hopeful piece about American agriculture.

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