Keith Douglass Warner

Agroecology in Action
Extending Alternative Agriculture through Social Networks

With foreword by Fred Kirschenmann

American agriculture has doubled its use of pesticides since the publication of Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring in 1962. Agriculture is the nation’s leading cause of non-point source-water pollution—runoffs of pesticides, nutrients, and sediments into streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. In Agroecology in Action, Keith Douglass Warner describes agroecology, an emerging scientific response to agriculture’s environmental crises, and offers detailed case studies of ways in which growers, scientists, agricultural organizations, and public agencies have developed innovative, ecologically based techniques to reduce reliance on agrochemicals.

Agroecology in Action shows that agroecology can be put into action effectively only when networks of farmers, scientists, and other stakeholders learn together. Farmers and scientists and their organizations must work collaboratively to share knowledge—whether it is derived from farm, laboratory, or marketplace. This sort of partnership, writes Warner, has emerged as the primary strategy for finding alternatives to conventional agrochemical use. Warner describes successful agroecological initiatives in California, Iowa, Washington, and Wisconsin. California’s vast and diverse specialty-crop agriculture has already produced 32 agricultural partnerships, and Warner pays particular attention to agroecological efforts in that state, including those under way in the pear, winegrape, and almond farming systems.

The book shows how popular concern about the health and environmental impacts of pesticides has helped shape agricultural environmental policy, and how policy has in turn stimulated creative solutions from scientists, extension agents, and growers.

Available November 2006
Paper • 6 x 9, 304 pp.
978-0-262-73180-0 • $25.00
Food, Health, and the Environment series

Keith Douglass Warner is Faith, Ethics, and Vocation Project Director in the Environmental Studies Institute at Santa Clara University, where he is also a Lecturer. He is a Franciscan Friar.

SEND TO:

Name _________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City ____________________  State ______  Zip _______

Send order form to:

THE MIT PRESS
55 Hayward Street
Cambridge, MA 02142-1315

Make checks payable to: The MIT Press. Checks must be in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank. International Postal Money orders are also accepted. Prices subject to change.
For phone orders, call 1(800) 405-1619. The on-line ordering address is: mitpress-orders@mit.edu.

PLEASE SEND ME:

_______ Copies of Warner, Agroecology in Action
978-0-262-73180-0  $25.00

_______ Payment enclosed  _______ Purchase order attached

Charge to my:       ___ Master Card        ___Visa        ___Am Ex

Card # ____________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________

$ ____________________ Total for book(s)  Exp. date_______

$ ____________________ Postage*

$ ____________________ Canadian customers add 6% GST**

$ ____________________ TOTAL DUE

*  For N. American addresses: $4.00/1st item, $1.00 each additional item. For addresses outside N. America: Surface—$4.00/item or Air—$18.00/item.
**  MIT Press remits GST to Revenue Canada. Books will be shipped from inside Canada with no Canada Post’s border handling fee.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword
Acknowledgments
List of acronyms
Introduction: Re-thinking the Ecology of Industrial Agriculture
1. Rachel’s Dream: Agricultural Policy and Science in the Public Interest
2. Agroecology in America: An Integrated System of Science and Farming
3. Cultivating the Agroecological Partnership Model
4. The Partners
5. The Practices
6. Agroecological Networks in Action
7. Circulating Agroecology
8. Public Mobilization
Notes
References

“This book addresses a quiet revolution in California agriculture, an important story that few people know. It provides a powerful analytic tool for anyone investigating collaborative efforts to prevent pollution and promote environmental protection in food and fiber.”

David Runsten
UCLA School of Public Affairs, and Executive Director, Community Alliance with Family Farmers

“Two very important concepts are developed in this book. First is the evolution of agroecological concepts and their importance to agricultural practice. Second is the human process of embedding and developing these practices, in agricultural communities. It is the only book of which I am aware that consolidates information and analysis of this variety of agroecological social networks. As such it is very significant. It is a very useful history of their development, strengths, weaknesses, and successes.”

Michael W. Hamm
C. S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Michigan State University