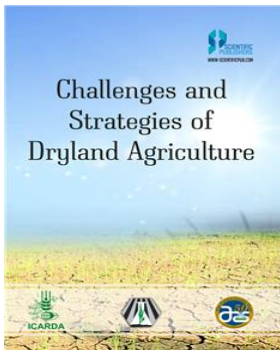


Challenges And Strategies Of Dryland Agriculture



S.C. Rao

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Blurb

The world has made remarkable progress in maintaining adequate food supplies during the past quarter century by introducing yield-increasing technologies such as better genetics, crop protection products, and more efficient use of fertilizers and irrigations. Far more people depend on irrigation in the modern world than during the times of ancient Sumeria. The spread of irrigation has been the key factor in increasing global crop yields. But future scarcity present the single biggest threat to future food production. The shift of water from agriculture to the growing cities and industry almost certainly will impact global food production. This means that dryland agriculture will be increasingly important in meeting food requirement for the growing population. Advances in plant genetics and agronomic conservation technologies, when considered in concert, continue to provide the greatest opportunities to achieve sustainability and profitability in dryland agriculture and will continue to be the focus of the ARS research program. The ARS is please to join the crop Science Society of America and international center for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) in sponsoring a symposiumChallenges and strategies for Dryland Agriculture at the Trisocieties Annual Meeting in November 2002 at Indianapolis, IN. This special publication contains an impressive series of paper by international group of experts on dryland agricultural production, conservation, and policy. The principles, philosophies, and technologies presented in this publication have the potential to contribute to improve food security and livelihoods for the people in dryland regions of the world.

Table of Contents

Foreword

Preface

Contributors

Conversion Factors for SI and non-SI Units

1 The Role of World's Agricultural Lands for Future Food Security Srinivas C. Rao, Jean L. Steiner, and Herman S. Mayeux

2 Dryland Agriculture: Long Neglected but of Worldwide Importance Bobby A. Stewart and Parviz Koochafkan

3 USDA-ARS Research and Development for SustainableDryland Agriculture Srinivas C. Rao, Herman S. Mayeux, and Allen R. Dedrick

4 A Grey-to-Green Revolution in the Semi-Arid Tropics of Asia and Africa William D. Dar, Eric M. McGraw, and D.V.R. Reddy

5 Climate Forecasts: Emerging Potential to Reduce Dryland Farmers' RisksJean L. Steiner, Jeanne M. Schneider, Jurgen D. Garbrecht, and Xunchang J. Zhang

6 Dryland Agriculture in India Harish P. Singh, Kapil D. Sharma, Gangireddy Subba Reddy, and Kishori L. Sharma

7 Drought Early Warning Systems for the Near EastEddy De Pauw

8 Dryland Agriculture on the Canadian Prairies: Current Issues and Future Challenges Francis J. Larney, H. Henry Janzen, Elwin G. Smith,

and Darwin W. Anderson

9 Crop Diversification for Dryland Agriculture in Central Asia Rajendra S. Paroda, Mekhlis Suleimenov, Hasan Yusupov, Aitkalyim Kireyev, Rahim

Medeubayev, Lyudmila Martynova, and Khasan Yusupov

10 Dryland Cropping in Australia John F. Angus and Anthony J. Good

11 Breeding for Drought Resistance in a Changing Climate Salvatore Ceccarelli, Stefania Grando, Michael Baum, and Sripada M. Udupa .

12 Localization of Quantitative Trait Loci for Dryland Characters in Barley by Linkage Mapping Michael Baum, Stefania Grando, Salvatore Ceccarelli, Gunther Backes, and Ahmed Jahoor

13 Durum Wheat Adaptation in the Mediterranean Drylands: Breeding, Stress Physiology, and Molecular Markers Miloudi M. Nachit and Ismahane Elouafi

14 Sustainable Barley-Legume Rotations for Semi-Arid Areas of Lebanon Sui-Kwong Yau, Mustapha Bounejmate, John Ryan, and Adel Nassar

15 Cool-Season Grain Legumes Production and Rhizobial Interactions in Australian Dryland Agriculture Jo Slattery, Kadambot H.M. Siddique, and John Howieson

16 Forage Legumes for Dryland Agriculture in Central and West Asia and North Africa Ali M. Abd El Moneim and John Ryan

17 Drought Tolerance in Chickpea and Lentil—Present Status and Future Strategies Rajinder S. Malhotra, Ashutosh Sarker, and Mohan C. Saxena

18 Soil Fertility Enhancement in Mediterranean-type Dryland Agriculture: A Prerequisite for Development John Ryan

19 Optimizing Soil Water Balance Components for Sustainable Crop Production in Dry Areas of South Africa Danie J. Beukes, Alan T. P. Bennie, and Malcom Hensley

20 Carbon Sequestration in Dryland Agriculture Rattan Lal

21 Acidification and Its Evolution under Australian Dryland Cropping Systems William J. Slattery and Keith R. Helyar

22 Challenges and Strategies for Dryland Agriculture in Pakistan Abdul Rashid, John Ryan, and Mushtaq A. Chaudhry

23 Subsoil Constraints to Dryland Crop Production on the Low Rainfall Alkaline Soils of Southeastern Australia James Nuttall, Roger Armstrong, Mark Imhof, Mohammed Abuzar, and Robert Belford

24 Impacts of Policies and Technologies in Dryland Agriculture: Evidence from Northern Ethiopia John Pender and Berhanu Gebremedhin

25 Dryland Research at ICARDA: Achievements and Future Directions Adel El-Beltagy, William Erskine, and John Ryan

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