

**Shiva, Vandana and Gitanjali Bedi (eds). 2002. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security: The Impact of Globalization. Sage Publications. India Pvt. LTd. New Delhi, India. 489 pp. + index. Hardcover. Price: Unknown.**

Developing countries depend on locally produced food for the sustenance of their citizens. Subsistence agriculture plays a significant role in the quantity and quality of the foodstuffs of these countries. The question that the contributors to this book are attempting to answer is: whether the globalization efforts are negatively affecting the livelihoods, environment and food security in developing countries. Globalization in the forms of agribusiness, large-scale farming, international financial institutions, and loans for development projects are the culpable elements of the economic instability, native culture destruction, increase poverty level and immiseration in the developing world. Joseph E. Stiglitz, a noble laureate, former chief economist at the World Bank and now a Professor of Economic at Columbia University in a recent article in The American Prospect (Winter 2002: A16) notes: "...globalization itself has been governed in ways that are undemocratic and have been disadvantageous to developing countries, especially the poor within these countries." This argument supports the contention by the contributors of the book Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security: The Impact of Globalization who argue that "...that globalization, particularly as expressed through the WTO, is conversely threatening the very foundations of Third World agrarian economics and hence could condemn millions of small and marginal farmers to perpetual poverty while seriously damaging the environment and biodiversity."

The book contains twenty chapters which are organized into six sections which this reviewer believes make the subject matter interesting. These sections: Globalization and Food Security, The Impact of Trade Liberalization, Cooperation and Agriculture, Globalization of Food Insecurity, Corporate Monopolis on Life, and Food Rights and Food Responsible are inundated with vivid examples from the Indian subcontinent, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Latin America.

It is argued in many chapters of the book that the decentralization of agricultural communities would enhance land ownership and as such the sustainable use of natural resources would ensue as a result of such an effort. Sustainable development of natural resources through the indigenous knowledge of citizens will, in the long run, protect biodiversity.

This is a very good book that provides an argument against globalization. It is convincing because of its numerous case studies. It is recommended as complementary resource book for Third World studies because it provides other "world views" to the debate on sustainable agriculture.

Valentine James  
Southern University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana