

Preface

Agriculture faces increasingly the challenge of balancing its multiple functions in a sustainable way. Integrated assessment and modelling (IAM) can provide insight into the potential impacts of policy changes. However, concepts to address the wide range of issues and functions typical for agriculture are still scarce. The volume reviews and presents our current understanding of integrated and working tools to assess and compute, ex-ante, alternative agricultural and environmental policy options, allowing:

1. Analysis at the full range of scales (farm to European Union and global), whilst focusing on the most important issues emerging at each scale
2. Analysis of the environmental, economic and social contributions of agricultural systems towards sustainable rural development and rural viability
3. Analysis of a broad range of issues, such as climate change, environmental policies, rural development options, effects of an enlarging EU, international competition and effects on developing countries

This volume has a strong ‘lessons to be learnt’ emphasis, to facilitate and promote the use and further development of integrated assessment tools to support policies promoting agricultural development in support of sustainable development.

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