

Preface

This book is the outcome of an international conference on “Climate Change, Agri-Food, Fisheries, and Ecosystems: Reinventing Research, Innovation, and Policy Agendas for an Environmentally and Socially-Balanced Growth (ICCAFFE2011)” organized on May 19–21, 2011 in Agadir (Morocco) by the North-South Center for Social Sciences (NRCS) in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany and the Institute for Research and Development (IRD), France.

A wide range of participants had taken part in the second edition of this conference (researchers, experts, policy makers, NGO actors, businesses, professional organizations, advisory and support services, development institutions, etc.). Researchers and experts from institutions in Northern and Southern countries and from a wide variety of disciplines (including social sciences, ecology, meteorology, agronomy, biology, genetics, animal sciences, food processing, sociology, anthropology, economics, management, geography, land planning, modeling, engineering sciences, educational sciences, marine sciences, etc.) had enriched and widened the scientific exchanges, and consequently shaped the conference outcome.

ICCAFFE2011 was organized in a global context marked by: (1) the failure of the Copenhagen Summit to come up with a binding agreement to deal with climate change; (2) The fragility of the world food security, the seriousness of hunger consequences, and the inefficiency of different policies and programs devoted to achieve sustainable food security; (3) the decrease of global marine biodiversity and fish stocks because of different pressures exerted by overfishing, environmental degradation, and the impacts from human-induced climate change; (4) The growing loss of biodiversity and degradation of forest ecosystems, as a result of climate change and anthropic activities impacts, despite a global convention committing governments to halt the decline.

The conference program had covered a diversity of themes, such as, (1) climate change, food security and agriculture, (2) climate change adaptation in food and agriculture perspective, (4) innovation to address climate change, (5) sustainable agriculture and capacity building, (6) biofuel linkages with climate change, agriculture, and food security, (7) sustainable marine ecosystems and fisheries, (8) contesting the agro-food system in the context of climate change, (9) food’s climate impact

and the need for a green and climate-friendly consumerism, (10) climate change, ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation, and (11) the need for proactive and coordinated policy responses.

The book chapters, selected after a rigorous peer-review, represent the best part of the conference proceedings, published in three contributed volumes. The chapters are distributed into four parts. Part I deals with sustainable agriculture development within a context marked by environmental, economic and social dynamics and addresses topics such as global climate change, agriculture, and related challenges including socioeconomic factors, adaptation, poverty reduction and water management. Part II deals with impacts of soil degradation in terms of agricultural productivity and covers issues pertaining to expert systems in assessing and managing degraded lands, agricultural productivity, land suitability and rehabilitation. Part III focuses on livestock production enhancements—such as feed resources and supplemental feeds for animals—and women capacity building in dairy management. Part IV shares the outcomes of research projects in the field of agrobiodiversity, climate change and livelihoods, addressing topics such as comanagement of forests, carbon consumption models, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration, and scarce mangroves forests.

We hope this book will be an excellent source of scientific information to be used by a myriad of stakeholders, such as researchers and experts, professors and students, land use planners, decision makers, NGO actors, and politicians.

The Editors

Science, Policy and Politics of Modern Agricultural
System

Global Context to Local Dynamics of Sustainable
Agriculture

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2014, XXXI, 380 p. 79 illus., 66 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-94-007-7956-3