

BOOK REVIEW

Wicherek S.P. and Bałazy S., 2012.

“Agricultural Diversity and Sustainable Development in Europe – Examples from France and Poland”

Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW Press,
Warsaw, 220 pp. ISBN 978-83-7583-429-1

This excellent book contains fifteen chapters arranged into three parts. Part I – “The Historical Roots of the Sustainable Development Concept in France and Europe” contains the following three chapters: Chapter 1 – “The Change in Society’s Perception of Nature and the Economy, Because of the Principals of Sustainable Development” by S.P. Wicherek and S. Bałazy (pp. 9–16); Chapter 2 – “The Historical Background of Sustainable Development Principals in France” by V. Clement, P. Arnould and L. Simon (pp. 17–27); Chapter 3 – “The Pioneers of Sustainable Development in Agriculture in Poland” by L. Ryszkowski and S. Bałazy (pp. 29–39); Chapter 4 – “The Legacy of Dezydery Chłapowski’s Activities, as an Officer and as an Agronomist in the Europe des Lumieres” by J.P. Amat, M. Galochet, L. Scher-Zambitska and J. Karg (pp. 41–65).

Part II – “Guidelines of Landscape Management for Sustainable Development” (pp. 67–212) contains the following chapters: Chapter 5 – “Can the Great French Agriculture Become Environmentally Friendly?” by S.P. Wicherek, R. Quilbe and J.P. Oudinet (pp. 67–88); Chapter 6 – “Transformation of the Polish Agriculture Towards the Sustainable Development Model” by J. Jankowiak, L. Ryszkowski and J. Bieńkowski (pp. 89–100); Chapter 7 – “Landscape and Vegetal Diversity of Forest Islets” by M. Galochet, V. Godard, M. Hotyat and F. Liege (pp. 101–116); Chapter 8 – “Options and Obstacles for Afforestation Management in Rural Areas of France and Poland” by M. Galochet (pp. 117–130); Chapter 9 –

“Economic and Ornamental Values of the Most Important Tree Species in Mid-field Afforestations of Europe” by S. Bałazy, M. Galochet, K. Ziomek and H. Weyssenhoff (pp. 131–138); Chapter 10 – “Water and Climate Conditions for the Development of Polish Agriculture – the Present and the Future” by M. Szwed (pp. 139–148); Chapter 11 – “The Effect of Climate Change on Water Management in Wielkopolska” by P. Kowalczak (pp. 149–164); Chapter 12 – “Control of the Spread of Inorganic Elements by Shelterbelt, in Agricultural Landscape” by L. Szajdak and I. Życzyńska-Bałoniak (pp.165–175); Chapter 13 – “Management of Biodiversity in the Countryside” by A. Du Lage, Ch. Dutilleul, K. Kujawa, K. Janku, M. Mana (pp. 177–198); Chapter 14 – “In Search of Indicators of Sustainable Agricultural Territory” (pp. 199–212) by F. Besancenot, M.J. Hassid, M. Liegeois and S.P. Wicherek (pp. 199–212).

Part III – “Synthesis” (pp. 213–220) contains: Chapter 15 – “Multifunctionality of the Countryside” by L. Ryszkowski, S.P. Wicherek and S. Bałazy in which the authors provide comments on the following topics: (1) Some solutions to preserve the quality of the soil and water, (2) Bringing soil deterioration under control for lasting agriculture, and (3) Perspectives.

Without a doubt, this is an extremely interesting treatise. Polish and French thoughts and achievements are presented in respect to “lasting agriculture” started in Poland by Dezydery Chłapowski and advanced by Lech Ryszkowski (1931–2006). The extraordinary contributions these men made to this research area is emphasized on page 7, along with a photo of the memorial desk in Turew.

I highly recommend this book to all agricultural and life science libraries and to all specialists engaged in ecological, biological, and agricultural research.

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