sapiens, plants have "helped to create a world habitable by people" and onward to the development of human systems for survival and culture. They propose that in the present, as we humans face global challenges to the integrity of these systems that sustain human and other life, "whatever else is done in favour of sustainable development, little ultimately will be achieved unless plants receive targeted and concentrated attention."

The second part (Chapters 3–8) describes the broad global and local historical and present contexts for the initiatives in which these two authors have worked to support the sustainable use of plants. The authors discuss the importance of differences and commonalities in worldviews and types of knowledge, the history of plant exploration and discovery, and the development of environmental, humanitarian, and conservation movements with respect to plants.

In the third part (Chapter 9), the authors summarize numerous concepts and approaches to biodiversity (including plant) conservation that underpin current principles and practices of ecosystem-based plant conservation. These include the ecosystem approach and ecosystem services frameworks and the stages of applied ethnobotany.

In the fourth part of the volume (Chapters 10–21), the authors offer their summaries and recollections of the major botanical/ethnobotanical initiatives and many local case studies, in which they have had a major part. The authors describe how these initiatives began and developed with their many partners and donors, in many parts of the world, focused on supporting the capacity of people to use the planet's plant resources sustainably.

This volume is a rich offering to anyone interested in economic botany/applied ethnobotany from global and local perspectives. It will be of particular interest to readers who, like me, have engaged from time to time with some of the projects described by the authors.

Danna J. Leaman
Canadian Museum of Nature
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
djl@green-world.org

Growing the Taraco Peninsula: Indigenous Agricultural Landscapes. Bruno, Maria C. 2024. University Press of Colorado, Denver, Colorado. xviii + 232 pp. (hardcover). USD 95.00. ISBN 978-1-64642-612-6.

The different types of *Chenopodium* plants, especially the ones from the Andean regions, are still not well understood. The high plateau in Bolivia, Titicaca Lake, Uyuni Salar, and the Southern Altiplano need to be studied using archaeology and ethnology. It seems that Tiwanaku culture was connected to *C. quinoa* and *C. pallidicaule*, also known as *kañawa*, which were grown, cultivated, and, most importantly, eaten. This book includes archaeological and ethnobotany studies in an Andean rural community near Titicaca Lake and is particularly valuable. The book is organized into eight clear chapters.

The first two chapters give a clear summary of the Taraco Peninsula, using a mix of archaeological and political information about its origins, which go back thousands of years. The third chapter is about how farmers changed the way of working the land over time to deal with changing conditions, and the research findings are supported by interviews and observations of field trials.

The fourth chapter describes how plants were grown in the early Taraco landscapes. Farmers found ways to grow plants successfully, which depended on things like the soil and weather, as well as other species living in the landscape.

In the fifth chapter, Dr. Bruno talks about how people used wild plants in the past. There may have been a decrease over time in the number of wild Chenopods. Evidence like ceramics shows a lot of things about life in the Taraco Peninsula changed; however, it seems like this probably did not have much effect on farming.

The sixth chapter is all about how food made from plants is connected to people who live in the countryside. It also looks at how food is changed into something that can be stored and eaten, like the processing of native potatoes into *chuño* and *tunta*.

The seventh chapter describes how the way meals were prepared and served has changed over time, but ingredients grown locally, especially Andean grains, remain the same. This

shows that while many aspects of political and social life changed over time, the food produced and eaten is similar.

In the last chapter, it is explained how growing plants and breeding animals were not the best response to big changes. There were hard times due to a lack of food or political problems, but farmers could change depending on the time of year. This helped people to get through hard times and develop new types of crops.

I would recommend this book to scientists and researchers in botany, ethnobotany, and archaeobotany. It is also for students who are curious to learn about the development of Andean agriculture, Andean peasants, and the domestication of *Chenopodium* species. This book is also a guide to fieldwork and has a list of other sources on the subject that are still being researched when it comes to the Tiwanaku culture and agriculture.

Juan Pablo Rodriguez
Julius Kühn-Institut
Braunschweig, Germany
jprodriguezcalle@yahoo.fr

Decolonizing African Agriculture: Food Security, Agroecology and the Need for Radical Transformation. Moseley, William G. 2024, Agenda Publishing Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom. xiv + 299 pp. (eBook). Paperback USD 40.00; electronic version free of charge. ISBN 978-1-78821-589-3.

This book, by a Western author with a long history of work in Africa, first draws attention to the ways in which Western development and financial structures have colonized African agriculture, to the people's detriment, and then proposes alternative approaches that would better support food security. Following recent rethinking of the concept of food security, it is broadly defined, having six dimensions: availability, access, utilization, stability, sustainability, and agency.

Several chapters give examples of harm in poorer (Mali, Burkina Faso) and middle-income (Botswana, South Africa) countries. For example, Mali was coerced by the World Bank and IMF to coerce its farmers to focus on cotton farming for export at the cost of environmental damage and food insecurity. Burkina Faso adopted Green Revolution crops and methods, but exposure to toxic pesticides massively increased, and female farmers have not seen better food security. Moseley thoughtfully analyzes a wide variety of contributing factors to the observed outcomes, from colonial-era political history to current competition for labor from mining industries.

Botswana has prospered, yet food security measures are still poor. The primary source of income is diamond mining, and the government abandoned the goal of food self-sufficiency. Increasing dependency on imports and escalating inequality have made food hard to come by for many. South Africa, finally, developed a system of racial capitalism, preventing Black farmers from competing with less efficient white colonial farmers and forcing them to become laborers on white farms. Land reform proposed after the end of apartheid has been limited and largely a failure due to the continuing power and influence of white commercial farmers.

In the third major section of the book, Moseley gives examples of people trying to reimagine food systems in the same four countries. The small village of Nyéléni in Mali hosted an international conference on food sovereignty whose Declaration asserted the right of peoples to have healthy, sustainable food and to define their own agriculture system. Pressure from the small farmers' movement and urban consumers who preferred local rice to cheaper, poor-quality imports brought the government at the time to embrace the concept. Continuing sorghum and rice production allowed Mali to survive the 2007–2008 food crisis better than many of its neighbors.

A discussion of the food environment in Burkina Faso notes the landscape and social complexity involved, with access to resources dependent on tenure and social status. Foraging, in addition to farming, is described as a "hidden safety net," an important source of diverse, nutritious food for poorer families. Green Revolution–centered approaches that are unaware of this importance risk poisoning or deforesting plants that provide essential nutrients.

In Botswana, a program to provide watering supplies and other assistance to women to engage in commercial gardening was shut down and deemed a failure. However, Moseley argues that