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One Billion Hungry: Can We Feed the World?

Gordon Conway
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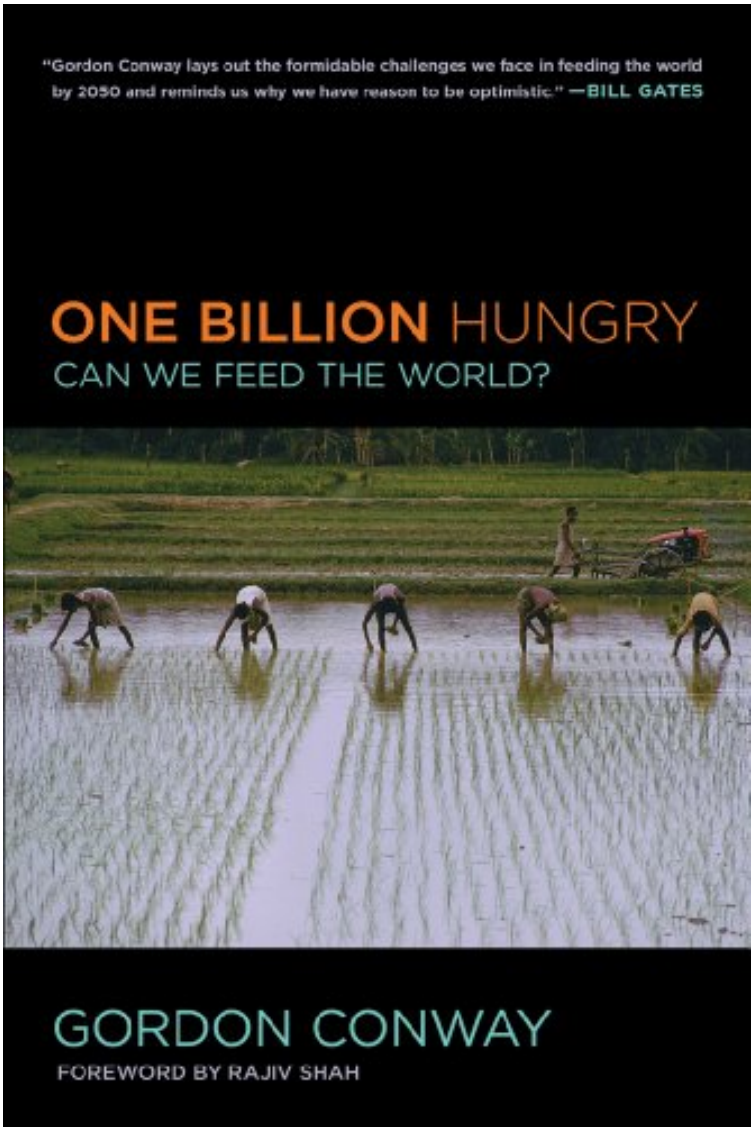

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Gordon Conway : One Billion Hungry: Can We Feed the World? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Billion Hungry: Can We Feed the World?:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Mark HarbisonA little technical for some readers, but takes on the GMO anti-science crowd with real facts.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent BookBy CustomerThis book should be mandatory in the school, our ability to provide the food people need to survive, will be tested in the coming years. Gordon Conway establish a compelling and articulated exposition of the different road we can take to prevent this disaster.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant but Too BroadBy Emma ButtonIn his book, Gordon Conway writes of pathways to start a Doubly Green Revolution to complete what

was lacking in the Green Revolution (namely, increasing food production to eradicate hunger and decrease the environmental impacts). All of his suggestions are extremely valid and exciting - especially because of his passion to see food production increase while reducing environmental impacts. He did a fair job of evaluating the benefits of fertilizer use and irrigation in light of their potential destructive effects on the environment. However, the book fell short because of its breadth. With such a broad message, Conway was disabled from ever being able to provide satisfactory solutions. The best he could offer were conceptual, vague solutions that sound good on paper but leave much to be desired in terms of practical application. This book could have be much more exciting and engaging to read if it had connected the author's broad ideals (i.e. conservation tilling) with practical applications (i.e. how did this work in a specific region? What were challenges? Successes?). All in all, I thought Conway tried to pack too much information in his book and the result was a collection of vague, fuzzy goals that the reader is doubtful will ever actually be accomplished.

Hunger is a daily reality for a billion people. More than six decades after the technological discoveries that led to the Green Revolution aimed at ending world hunger, regular food shortages, malnutrition, and poverty still plague vast swaths of the world. And with increasing food prices, climate change, resource inequality, and an ever-increasing global population, the future holds further challenges.In One Billion Hungry, Sir Gordon Conway, one of the world's foremost experts on global food needs, explains the many interrelated issues critical to our global food supply from the science of agricultural advances to the politics of food security. He expands the discussion begun in his influential The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for All in the Twenty-First Century, emphasizing the essential combination of increased food production, environmental stability, and poverty reduction necessary to end endemic hunger on our planet. Beginning with a definition of hunger and how it is calculated, and moving through issues topically both detailed and comprehensive, each chapter focuses on specific challenges and solutions, ranging in scope from the farmer's daily life to the global movement of food, money, and ideas. Drawing on the latest scientific research and the results of projects around the world, Conway addresses the concepts and realities of our global food needs: the legacy of the Green Revolution; the impact of market forces on food availability; the promise and perils of genetically modified foods; agricultural innovation in regard to crops, livestock, pest control, soil, and water; and the need to both adapt to and slow the rate of climate change. One Billion Hungry will be welcomed by all readers seeking a multifacted understanding of our global food supply, food security, international agricultural development, and sustainability.

"The existence of one billion hungry people, despite sufficient production to meet contemporary consumption needs, is a stark (and shameful) reminder of the complexity of these issues, and of the inadequacy of current thinking. Conway's text lays out, in careful detail, the many dimensions that need to be considered in trying to answer these questions, and starts to provide a future vision for a food-secure world that is both equitable and environmentally sustainable. This is a masterful survey of the landscape, and is essential reading for anyone hoping to understand these issues, and to engage in informed discussion about alternative options for global food security."?Bhaskar Vira, International Affairs (May 2013) "The author is notably, and refreshingly, open to any approach that solves world hunger as long as it meets site-specific needs, particularly at the farm scale. He appreciates the multidisciplinary nature of addressing world hunger, painting his topics in broad strokes?not superficially, but appropriately scaled so that average readers can understand trends and concepts outside their own discipline or experience. From a classroom perspective the individual chapters provide a superb launch point for more in-depth discussion. Summing Up: Highly recommended."?M.S. Coyne, Choice (July 2013) "In 350 information-packed pages, Conway systematically builds an answer to the book's title question. His answer is 'a qualified yes'.... This is the first 21st Century manual on how to feed the world. There may not be time to wait for another edition, so I recommend reading it now."?Jeff Waage, Food Security (April 2013) "We all want to end hunger. Conway's book provides the roadmap for how to do it.... Conway provides clear (if lengthy) guidelines for what to do and how to do it. His is a voice of optimism, and he speaks convincinglty and authoritatively when addressing the promise of agricultural science in this endeavor."?C. Peter Timmer,Journal of Economic Literature(March 2014) "In One Billion Hungry, Gordon Conway lays out the formidable challenges we face in feeding the world by 2050 and reminds us why we have reason to be optimistic. History shows that we can reduce hunger and poverty, but to make a lasting difference we will need to help smallholder farmers sustainably increase their productivity."?Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill Melinda Gates Foundation "We will not have a fair and secure world until we overcome the global challenge of feeding our ever-increasing population. Gordon Conway's insightful book addresses the complex issues of achieving global food and nutrition security."?Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations (1996ndash;2007) "Gordon Conway has set out a bold but doable agenda for meeting the food challenges the world faces. The brilliant and practical insights expounded in this book will help drive a sustainable green revolution in Africa."?Akinwumi Adesina, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria "One Billion Hungry is an excellent source of evidence-based proposals on how to feed the world in a sustainable manner. It is an antidote for pessimism and will go

a long way in inspiring the global community to act in time. The book is as inspirational as it is pragmatic."?Calestous Juma, Harvard Kennedy School "Sadly, the majority of the one billion hungry are smallholder farmers faced with limited opportunities to improve their livelihoods. This book promotes access to technology and, in partnership with the hungry, links evidence to policy and action."?Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, CEO and Head of Diplomatic Mission, FANRPAN (Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network)About the Author Sir Gordon Conway is Professor of International Development at Imperial College, London. He is the author of The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for All in the Twenty-First Century and One Billion Hungry: Can We Feed the World?(both from Cornell) and coauthor of Science and Innovation for Development. Rajiv Shah is the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).