

Clinton L. Beckford & Kevon Rhiney (eds.)

Globalization, Agriculture and Food in the Caribbean: Climate Change, Gender and Geography. Basingstoke, U.K.: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. ccciv + 304 pp. (Cloth US\$105.00)

This book weaves together the physical and cultural geographies of global climate change, agriculture, and food, underscoring each one's importance as a unique entity. The essays not only describe the problems and challenges associated with these themes, but also identify relevant case studies that help underscore how serious and scalable the challenges are to individuals and indeed the entire Caribbean region.

The two essays in Part One discuss overarching themes of globalization, reflecting on what it means to economies, agriculture, trade, and politics, and providing an interesting preliminary context for gender analysis. The myriad approaches and methodologies reflect the many types of research employed by Caribbean social and physical scientists. The adoption of a shifting perspective, characteristic of all the chapters, is valuable in that it offers different lenses through which to view the issues presented. Part One also provides a comprehensive review of the historical development of globalization in the Caribbean region.

Part Two focuses more specifically on global change, food, and agriculture. In Chapter 3, Joyelle Clarke looks at gender-infused discussions from the viewpoint of female workers in the declining sugar industry and argues that the importance of women in food security planning and management cannot be overemphasized. She discusses the roles that women play as small-scale farmers, as well as the way trade relations are still minimalized in agro-economic processes. One of the strengths of the analyses and topic choices is that they address issues holistically by including women as participants in potential solutions and as future decision makers. In Chapter 4, Chanelle Fingal-Robinson provides readers with an interesting analysis of the way St. Lucia's banana producers are impacted by the introduction of Fairtrade practices and policies. Local farmers receive many benefits from Fairtrade premiums, including road upgrades, buffer zones along rivers, and annual scholarships for their children. In Chapter 5, Dorlan Burrell presents the first case study of trade liberalization in central Jamaica, focusing solely on small-scale sugarcane farmers and their ability to contend with trade liberalization in small communities. Useful attention is given here to the different scales at which the problem is analyzed at the local, regional, and national level. He does an excellent job of situating his interview results in the context of additional market data including imports and exports and the impact of economic changes on each of these popula-

tion scales. In Chapter 6, Mario Mighty presents the results of a study directed toward finding major stressors to Jamaican coffee producers, exporters, and processors. He also points to the downfall of the coffee market as part of the 2008 global recession as well as environmental factors including an increase in disease, hurricanes, and droughts, thereby making crop yield less predictable and successful.

Part Three, on climate change, food, and agriculture, is organized in a way that helps readers understand regional impacts of climate change scaled down to the individual level of impact to small farmers. It incorporates varied perspectives on climate change and shows how the geophysical impacts of climate change will affect livelihoods in the region. As Rose-Ann J. Smith writes, "The impacts go beyond economics—they are also psychological as households try to make sense of the dynamics affecting their livelihoods" (p. 168). The authors collectively bring to light the multiple challenges that rural communities face from the approach of worsening and unpredictable weather patterns caused by global climate change. Smith writes: "Economic factors such as access to markets and price fluctuations in goods and produce are key determinants of vulnerability. They prevent households from acquiring the assets necessary to improve and expand their livelihoods, forcing them to make decisions that are geared towards survival rather than livelihood sustainability" (p. 158). This underscores the important point that rural communities need to become empowered to have access so they can embrace more sustainable agricultural practices without threat to family food security. Otherwise, lofty goals of attaining sustainable agricultural practices will never be realized.

Overall, the book is well written and organized. The central arguments are thoroughly documented, and the research and analysis behind it are carefully done. That said, some of the material presented is a bit redundant within the different chapters, as a number of points pertaining to the importance of domestic food production/processes and climate change are made multiple times. And although the book's title and introduction allude to comprehensive inclusion of gender issues, this is not sustained throughout the chapters. In short, although there is excellent discourse on women's issues in agriculture linked to local and global economies, I wish there were more.

Jennifer Gebelein

Earth & Environment, Florida International University

gebelein@fiu.edu