

Ackerman R. A., Jenniskens M. I. P. J. 2000. International Plant Protection Policy and Market Development: On the Threshold of a New WTO Round. Wageningen Pers, 120 pp.

This book presents the Proceedings of the conference held at Wageningen on November 4 and 5, 1999 on the occasion of the centenary of the Netherlands' Plant Protection Service. This jubileum was the occasion to take a look not only at the present and future plant protection policy but also at the general agricultural policy.

Two introductory chapters "One hundred years of the plant protection: a stable approach" written by H.A. Duringhof – Director of the Dutch Plant Protection Service and "New challenges in international trade" written by G.H. Faber – Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, present a Dutch perspective. It may be emphasized that the Netherlands' annual import and export of agri-food goods has value of 13 milliards of euro.

In part 1 "Trends in agriculture and agribusiness: about consumers, agro-industry, trade and primary production" the following topics were presented: "Trends in agri-markets and trade policy" by T.E. Josling, "Agriculture in the light of modern trends" by A.E. Johnstone, "Trends in agri-markets and trade policy: the farmer's perspective" by D. King.

In part 2 "Changes in (safe)guards" four topics were presented: "Food safety and sustainability in a trading world: free market and/or regulation" by L.P. Mahe; "Food quality and safety: the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission" by J.R. Lupien; "World trade and plant health" by N.A. van den Graaff; "Consumer concerns, trust and transparency" by F.W.A. Brom.

In part 3 "Role of governments" the following topics were presented: "Role of governments: the European Union's point of view" by P. Pendergast; "The complexity and developing trend of plant quarantine in Asia and Pacific Region" by Y. Wenguo; "Future of national and regional plant protection institutions" by M.V. Dunn; "Government, market, civil society and plant protection policy" by C.J. Kalden.

From the topics listed above it is seen that this book contains a great volume of facts and thoughts, and presents philosophy emphasizing linkage between producer-government-consumer. In fact, the most important factor in this chain is consumer who wants to have a nice looking and tasty but also safe food. The role of governments and national plant protection agencies is to secure that farmers/growers/producers use safe and environmentally friendly plant protection means and methods not opposed by consumers

I recommend this book to specialists of various agricultural disciplines.

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