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## Book reviews

**Published Online:** 2010-02-02 | **DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1515/abpr.2009.013>

30,00 € / \$42.00 / £23.00

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# Book reviews

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Full bibliographic details, prices/overseas prices, and ISBNs are provided, where available.

Names of distributors outside Africa (where available) are given in square brackets e.g. [African Books Collective], for full address details please refer to the ABPR *Directory of Publishers* at the beginning of the *Bibliographic Index*.

## Agriculture

Margaret Najjingo Mangheni, ed.

### **Experiences, Innovations, and Issues in Agricultural Extension in Uganda; Lessons and Prospects.**

Kampala: Fountain Publishers, 2007.

172 pp. £19.95/\$24.95 pap. ISBN 9789970027156

[African Books Collective]

Uganda, like most of sub-Saharan Africa, is a rural society based on smallholder farmers who cultivate less than 2.5 acres each. Some 70% of farming is subsistence agriculture involving an estimated 81% of the labour force and this remains overwhelmingly traditional, with little utilization of scientific methods.

But, as this thoughtful book notes, it is only such risk adverse subsistence farming that can function in the face of highly unstable environmental, social and economic factors. For example, most land is still rain-fed, so yields are inherently unstable. Farming for market-based cash returns, makes large-scale corruption both possible and profitable. Furthermore, government policy is biased toward cheap food for the politically dominant cities with sub-market returns for producers.

Within this context, Uganda has developed agricultural extension programmes to meet the felt needs of its agricultural sector. The book's seven chapters provide a diverse but thorough overview.

The first chapter explores the administrative structure of extension agriculture and assesses its capacity. Chapter two assesses the contract-based farmer-owned extension approach. Chapter three evaluates the effectiveness of monitoring, which proved central to the success of its programmes.

A further case study, in chapter four, involves a community-based approach – the point being: use what works. The case study in chapter five is how to promote – and sometimes not promote – scientific agriculture. Chapter six looks at the externally driven privatization, the biggest administrative change in the history of extension agriculture. Chapter eight provides an overview of extension agriculture and environment challenges.

Chapter nine looks at HIV/AIDS, which after some 25 years is now more socially disruptive than the civil wars and genocidal regimes Uganda has endured. Tragically, a major focus for extension agriculture is now to teach orphaned

households the traditional subsistence farming skills that their deceased elders could not pass on. The implication being both food security and the very social structure of Uganda are being slowly torn apart by HIV/AIDS.

*Experiences, Innovations, and Issues in Agricultural Extension in Uganda* provides a comprehensive and informative assessment both for the general reader and the specialist and as such is highly recommended.

Craig Newcombe  
Independent consultant

## AIDS

H. Swaminathan, C. Walker and M.A. Rugadya, eds.

### **Women's Property Rights, HIV and AIDS, and Domestic Violence: Research Findings from Two Districts in South Africa and Uganda.**

Cape Town: Human Sciences Research Council Press, 2008.

176pp. £9.50 pap. ISBN 97807969222366

[Eurospan Group]

In the climate of an ever-increasing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, researchers are now recognizing the complicating factors that exacerbate risk of HIV infection and development of AIDS-related illnesses. The researchers in this book successfully look at the effects of property rights and domestic violence on the transmission of HIV and progression of AIDS.

The research project structure and protocol are impressive. The researchers involved in the project provided extensive transparency regarding their project design and implementation, including their logistical and financial limitations. The project design and implementation sections could serve as a model for other researchers and graduate students conducting both quantitative and qualitative research in Africa. For this reason, I highly recommend this book for university libraries, especially those with graduate programmes in African studies, development studies, public health and women's studies.

The analysis and discussion sections are also well-written, although not as impeccably as the design and implementation sections. The researchers present data that clearly shows the interplay among property rights, HIV and AIDS, and domestic violence. However, because this study is comparative in nature, the analyses of both individual locations could be expanded. Overall, the analysis was clear and convincing. Because of the accessibility of the writing, this book may also

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