MicroLEIS: A Microcomputer-based Mediterranean Land Evaluation Information System. D. de la Rosa, coordinator. IRNA, CSIC. Reg.Mark £1591179 (Spanish + English versions). Madrid, 1990. Software Package.

At the presently crucial juncture, agricultural production has to emphasize on optimum land use systems for resources sustainability and environmental quality. For the particular case of Mediterranean regions, the central question is if these semiarid ecosystems can be managed for productive and sustainable agriculture given the cyclical nature of climate and the intensive use of land. Land evaluation appears to be ideal framework for this agroecologist approach, making possible to use land according to land potentiality.

In order to favour local dissemination and exploitation of results, a PC computer-based land evaluation information system (MicroLEIS) was developed for optimal allocation of agricultural and forestry land use systems, under Mediterranean conditions. The global outline of the methodology, which is in general accordance with FAO-Framework for Land Evaluation and with adaptations established for the European Community, integrates land evaluation methods previously developed by the coordinator and collaborators. Through and interactive and user-friendly procedure, several land capability, suitability and yield prediction methods may be automatically applied. These qualitative/quantitative biophysical land evaluation methods are combined by MicroLEIS, which appears to result a useful tool to predict appropriate agroforestry land uses. The software package, Spanish or English version, can be obtained on double or high density diskettes, along with an explanatory brochure and reprints of the literature used as basis to develop this software.

Requests to: Prof. D. de la Rosa, Instituto de Recursos Naturales y Agrobiología, CSIC, P.O. Box 1052, E-41080 Sevilla, Spain.

Climate Change. Implications for Water and Ecological Resources. G. Wall and M. Sanderson, editors. Dept. of Geography, University of Waterloo, 1990, 342p. ISBN 0-921083-36-X.

During the last few years, the international scientific community has initiated numerous studies which assess the sensitivity of environment and society to climate change. In Canada, these activities have resulted in a series of reports dealing with specific aspects of the possible effects of climate change on the country's ecosystems and people. In almost all cases, the studies were based on General Circulation Model (GCM)-derived scenarios of future climate.

While the results of the above studies have proven extremely valuable as initial assessments of the possible repercussions of climate change, in most cases the conclusions are qualitative and do not yet address the full impacts of changed frequencies and severity of extreme events. Although the reasons for these deficiencies vary, they include the coarseness of spatial resolution of GCM outputs, the crudeness of statistics on the effect of climate change on climate variability, and the lack of sufficient dialogue between climate modellers and impact analysts.

With the imminent availability of results from the Canadian Climate Centre $2 \times CO_2$ GCM experiments, increased modelling activities into transient climate response to CO_2 increase, and the development of regional scale submodels that increase the detail of GCM projections for a specified area, it is opportune to promote greater interaction between modellers and impact analysts. Of particular importance are questions concerning the hydrologic and ecologic response to climate change, since both are key factors in understanding related socio-economic impacts and in maintaining environmental quality. To this end, a workshop on 'Climate Change: Implications for Water and Ecological Resources' was organized.

A primary objective of the workshop was to facilitate future cooperation, establishing linkages among modellers and analysts in the fields of climate, hydrology and ecosystem research, as well as policy makers and others interested in the analysis process. A second objective was to evaluate the climate modelling and impact modelling projects presently available and to develop methods and strategies for future studies.

The present publication contains the 31 papers presented at the plenary sessions and workshops. The plenary sessions were designed to provide a broad perspective on climate change, with an emphasis on the state-of-the-art of climate modelling, impact analyses, and their implications for public policy. The five workshops were on: water resources, supply and demand; wetlands, wildlife and fisheries; energy and transportation; agriculture and forests; and conservation strategies. Summaries and recommendations from each workshop are also presented.

Price: Can$ 20.00, plus $ 3.50 for postage and handling.
Orders to: Dept. of Geography, attn. S. Friesen, Univ. of Waterloo, Ont., Canada N2L 3G1.

Abstracts on Sustainable Agriculture. Volume 2, 1989. J. Carls, compiler. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Eschborn, 1990, 372p. ISBN 3-528-02060-1.

This compilation of annotated bibliographic information contains over 250 comprehensive abstracts on sustainable agriculture in the following fields: traditional land-use systems, farming systems research and development, cropping systems, agroecology, agrometeorology, agroforestry, homegardens, seed production, plant protection, water management, soil fertility, erosion control and potential crops for marginal lands.

There is a subject index based on key words, a geographical index and an authors' index.

Price: DM 24.50
Orders to: Friedr. Vieweg & Sohn mbH, P.O. Box 300 620, D-5090 Leverkusen 3, Germany.