

In all his speeches, Mandela commends and thanks groups of individuals throughout the world whose support led to the unbanning of the ANC and his release from goal. Romanticism and emotiveness is apparent in Mandela's speeches and makes his references to past history and personalities, and his use of comparisons, emotionally striking. These are the speeches of a politician seeking to sway people to his cause. For those interested in the politics of the South African situation, and the story of the ANC, this book will be useful.

Reviewed by Eulita Nyatito, Social Work Diploma student, Harare.

**Agroforestry in SubSaharan Africa. A Farmer's Perspective**, Cynthia Cook and Mikael Grut, World Bank Technical Paper No 112, IBRD/World Bank, Washington DC, 1989 (94pp, US\$7,95).

"The ecological problem of our time lies in modern science's uncontrollable desire to break everything down into parts which can be neatly analysed." I cannot remember whose quotation this was, probably an obscure farmer or gardener. But it is one that I am forced to recall almost daily. This was especially so reading this World Bank Technical Paper. There is no doubt it is a good paper, well researched, well planned and carefully put together. And it will be useful to students of agroforestry, providing an overview of pertinent points in the dynamic development of agroforestry as a discipline. But, like the discipline of agroforestry itself, the paper insists on separating out an aspect on the land (ie the use of woody perennials in agriculture) which perhaps should not be seen as a separate entity. Reading numerous agroforestry papers one senses this struggle going on: the struggle between the rational scientist of the twentieth century, trained to specialise and present specific data, and the very nature of agroforestry which is a first step in seeing the landscape as an interconnected web. Perhaps, however, because of its integrating characteristic, agroforestry can lead the way to seeing the land and the people on the land as a whole. But the worrying question is: will the scientists drink when still tethered to a methodology of division into parts?

**Agroforestry in SubSaharan Africa** is divided into five chapters:

- I. Introduction: which explains how the study was carried out.
- II. Agroforestry in Africa: which divides existing agroforestry practices into 10 different categories ranging them in an order which starts with the more passive and ends with those which involve much more active planting and management of trees. Their categories are as follows: savanna, grazing, farmer parklands, tree crops and shade trees, forested fallow, planted farm trees, homegardens, farm woodlots, forest plantation farming (taungya), fodder trees, alley cropping.
- III. Seven case studies: which is the main part of the paper and looks at seven situations in which agroforestry is being practised. The case studies are from East and West Africa, cover new and indigenous practices, and are drawn from three different environments: humid lowlands, semi arid lowlands and cool highlands. Research for the case studies included spending a week at each place conducting interviews with a cross section of the communities concerned, the point being made that "most of the time was spent in the field with villagers", presumably justifying the subtitle of the paper: "A Farmer's Perspective"! The seven case studies are:

1. CARE, Kenya Agroforestry Extension
2. Chagga Homegardens, Tanzania
3. Agro-Pastoral Project, Rwanda
4. Alley Farming in Western Nigeria
5. Agroforestry in Northern Nigeria
6. *Acacia albida* in Southeast Niger
7. Majjia Valley Windbreaks

IV. Identified Issues: which cover lessons learned both from reviewed literature on agroforestry and from the case studies.

V. General conclusions and recommendations for future project design and implementation.

I enjoyed Chapter III the most but then I'm a farmer at heart and not an academic! Chapter III is interesting and alive. Chapter II is useful for someone wanting to pass an examination in agroforestry while Chapters I, IV and V are very dry, but if you are a patient reader and a policy maker they are useful. It is a pity that Chapter III was not developed more fully (including diagrams/drawings) and that Chapters I, IV and V were not put in as appendices, leaving readers the chance to develop their own conclusions from the case studies. Unfortunately, as a reviewer, I had no option but to plough through the very precise, carefully presented and sub headed list of identified issues, conclusions and recommendations. I actually absorbed far more of these from my own deductions while reading the case studies.

The points that come through most strongly in the paper are:

- \* agroforestry already exists all over Africa and has its roots in traditional practices.
- \* agroforestry must be integrated into the whole farm, the technical aspects must not ignore the social
- \* farmers are looking more for shortterm financial returns than longterm environmental benefits
- \* success of agroforestry is not more closely linked to private ownership compared to situations of communal land tenure. Success is far more complicated than such a simplification
- \* the only experts on the land are the farmers themselves.

The first four come into the author's conclusions in some form or another. The fifth is mine. The trend in agriculture is to start to recognise this latter point and this paper reflects this trend: the importance of the farmers is emphasised again and again but the fact that they are the only real experts is not spelt out. I cannot help feeling that when it is discovered that every situation on the land is so unique that the only experts can be the users themselves, research will start to move in a useful direction. This paper, however, is a step in that direction as reflected by the statement in the Preface: "The challenge now is to find ways to integrate the new knowledge with the knowledge that farmers already have, so that widespread adoption of agroforestry systems will improve the welfare of farmers today, as well as the prospects for sustainable economic growth in the future."

The final 30 pages (of 94) is a comprehensive bibliography of agroforestry publications.

Reviewed by John Wilson, Fambidzanai Training Centre, Harare.