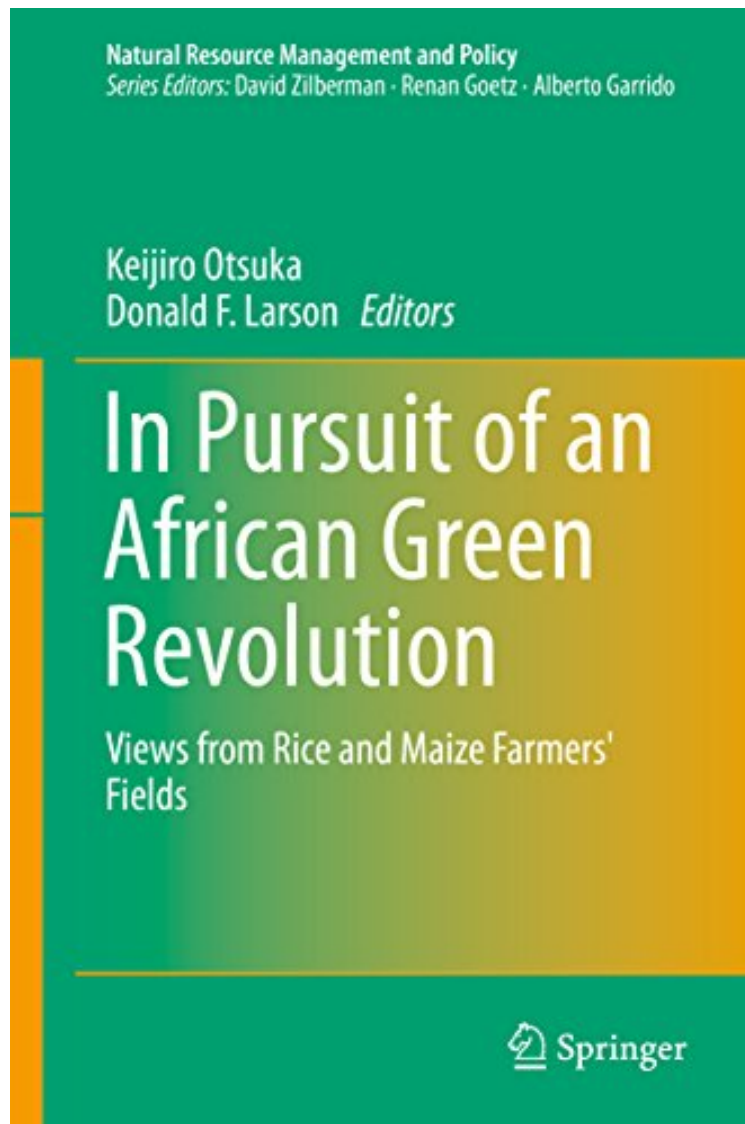


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This book explores recent experiences in the effort to bring about a Green Revolution in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The chapters focus on rice and maize, which are promising and strategic smallholder crops. Significantly, we find that an African Rice Revolution has already begun in many irrigated areas, using Asian-type modern varieties, chemical fertilizer, and improved management practices. Further, we find that the same technological package significantly increases the productivity and profitability of rice farming in rainfed areas as well. We also find evidence that that management training, when done well, can boost productivity on smallholder farms. This suggests that African governments can accelerate the pace of Africa's Rice Revolution by strengthening extension capacity. The story for maize is wholly different, where most farmers use local varieties, apply little chemical fertilizer, and obtain very low yields. However, in the highly populated highlands of Kenya, a number of farmers have adopted high-yielding hybrid maize varieties and chemical fertilizer, as was the case in the Asian Green Revolution, apply manure produced by stall-fed cows, as was the case during the British Agricultural Revolution, and keep improved cows or cross-breeds from European cows and local stock, as was the case of the Indian White Revolution. We conclude that while rice in Africa has benefited from an Asian Green Revolution strategy that emphasizes modern seeds, inputs, and focused knowledge transfers, the success of Africa's Maize Revolution will require a different system approach based on hybrid maize, chemical and organic fertilizers, and stall-fed cross-bred cows.

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Donald F. Larson is a senior economist in the Development Research Group at the World Bank. He joined the Bank while pursuing a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics at the University of Maryland, which he earned in 1995. Don also holds an M.A. in economics from Virginia Tech and a B.A. in economics from the College of William and Mary. Before coming to the Bank, Don worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. With colleagues he has written or edited five books and has published in scholarly journals focused on rural development, carbon

markets, natural resource management, and commodity risk management. He has worked with governments on policy issues in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America. Don was also part of a World Bank team that launched the first climate finance fund, the Prototype Carbon Fund, in 1999.