progress is not based on any scientific analysis. The availability of capital is also mentioned, but would have deserved a precise examination though it was certainly not possible during the short study tour.

This book will provide all readers interested in the analysis of the exceptional development of the ‘Spanish Westland district’ a clear picture of its dynamics in the year 2000. Such a synthesis was lacking.

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The horticultural industry in Spain


“Horticultural industry in Spain” is, according to the author and publisher Inigo Martin, the first book in English describing the current status of the horticultural sector in Spain. The book consists of five chapters describing the horticultural production characteristics of each one of the 17 autonomous regions of Spain.

The book starts by giving general information about the recent developments in the Spanish economy, politics and on the available infrastructure (roads, railways, sea ports). Clearly stated in this chapter (p. 1), is the importance of the Spanish horticultural sector not only in terms of the Spanish agriculture (50% of the total value of Spanish crop production) but also in terms of the European horticulture (about 30% of the total horticultural production in the European Union).

Chapter 2 (7 pp.) describes the geographical and environmental aspects of the different regions of Spain: soil, climate, water resources and irrigation systems. In broad terms, Spain is an arid country and water shortage is a “hot” issue. The Spanish natural water resources (main rivers, underground water) are presented together and the author also does not forget the investments made by Franco in hydrological infrastructures which permitted the extraordinary development of tropical and subtropical horticulture in Spain. The National Hydrological Plan (NHP) is referred to as well as the difficulties related with its approval. Therefore, the short-term solution for the water problems faced in the south is not in the NHP. A little out of the scope seems paragraph 2.4 that, in just two pages, brings together the past, the present and the future of Spanish horticulture. An elaborate analysis of the topic as suggested by the title of this monograph is missing. One would expect the identification of the weaknesses and strengths, the threats and opportunities of the Spanish horticulture. This would definitely enrich the book.
Chapter 3 (19 pp.) analyses basically the horticultural sector per region. Well structured, it gives the horticultural contribution of each region in terms of area and production. Three main categories of regions are distinguished: regions with small horticultural contribution, regions with medium horticultural contribution and horticultural regions. Andalucía, and the province of Almería, receive particular attention, as they are the most important horticultural regions in Europe.

Chapter 4 (13 pp.) is essentially a description of the main cultivated crops (vegetables, non-citrus fruits and citrus fruits). Data on area, production, growing techniques (irrigated, non-irrigated, protected or outdoors), main cultivated varieties, and main markets are presented.

The last chapter (2 pp.) on marketing, distribution and new trends, is a short analysis of one of the most important and complex part of the horticultural production chain. Some interesting points concerning market trends and the different interests of growers, distributors and consumers are presented.

The book contains an extensive appendix (46 pp.), that is about half of the book. It is composed of a set of tables providing statistics for the different crops (vegetables, non-citrus and citrus fruits) based on the agricultural census from 1995. In fact, the use of 5-year-old data is a limitation although throughout the book the author tries to make reference to more recent data. The complete lack of references and of a critical analysis of the data are omissions of this book. The title suggests a wide approach, whereas many aspects of the horticultural industry such as logistics, quality control and subsidiary industry receive minor attention or are not covered at all. Even so, “Horticultural industry in Spain” provides an introduction to the reality of the horticultural sector in Spain. It may be a useful tool for consultants, researchers or students, more interested in numbers than in a critical view on Spanish horticulture.

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Carbon dioxide and Plant Responses  

This is two books in one. The title indicates that it reviews the various effects of carbon dioxide on plants. That is indeed what the reader finds in Chapters 2–11