Food is increasingly traded internationally, thereby transforming the organisation of food production and consumption globally. Distance between food producers and consumers is increasing and new concerns, such as environmental impact and animal welfare, are arising. This book provides an overview of the principal conceptual frameworks that have been developed for understanding these changes. It shows how conventional regulation of food provision through sovereign national governments is becoming elusive, at the same time as multinational companies put serious limits to governmental interventions. In this context, other social actors including food retailers and NGOs are shown to take up innovative roles in governing food provision, but their contribution to agro-food sustainability is under continuous scrutiny. The authors apply these themes in several detailed case studies, including organic, fair trade, local food and fish. On the basis of these cases, future developments are explored, with a focus on the respective roles of agricultural producers, retailers and consumers.

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction

Section I: Conceptual background

2. Globalization and food production and consumption
3. Sustainability and food production and consumption
4. Regulating food in the global network society

Section II: Cases

5. Food provisioning and climate change
6. Local food provision
7. Fair-trade: buying and selling consumer trust
8. Sustainable fish provision

Section III: Future perspectives

9. Roles of producers in sustainable food provision
10. Restructuring food supply: supermarkets and sustainability
11. Consumer involvement in sustainable food provision
12. Conclusion
This book provides a critical assessment of the contemporary global food system in light of its failure to achieve food security for the world’s population. The book examines both the contradictions in the global food system as well as the implications of existing ideologies of production associated with commodity industrial agriculture using evidence from relevant international case studies.

Worldwatch’s Nourishing the Planet team has travelled to 25 sub-Saharan African nations and uncovered innovations ranging from farmers’ groups to agribusiness companies. These innovations offer global benefits – from the continent’s role in preventing disastrous climate change to the way urban farmers are feeding people in cities.

This book assesses the state of agricultural innovations with an emphasis on sustainability, diversity, and ecosystem health.

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