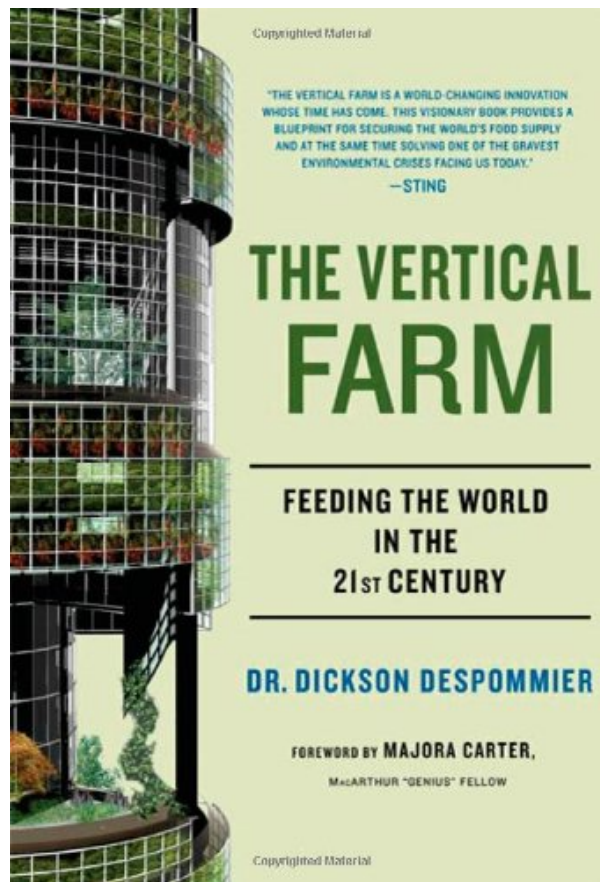
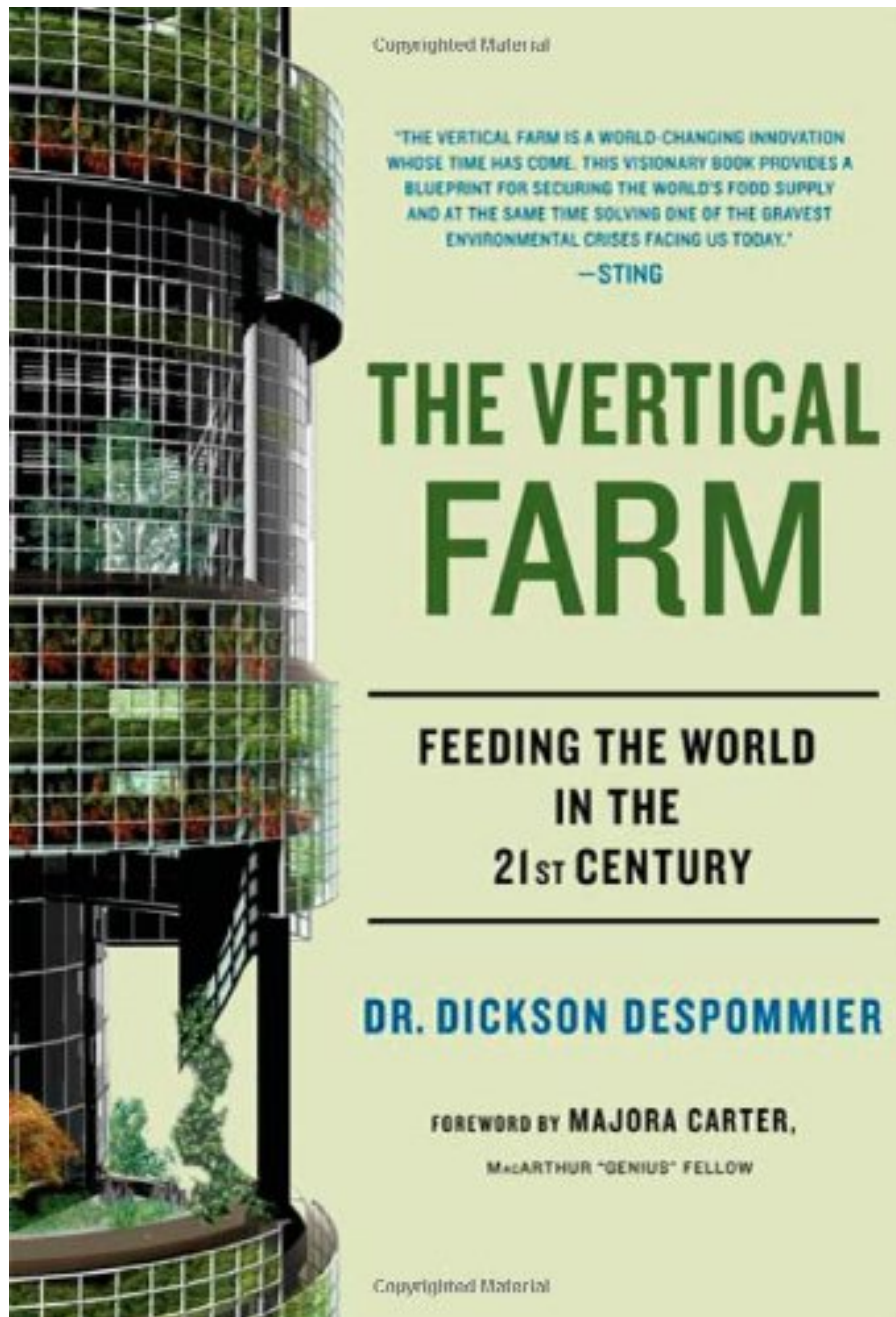


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Paradigm Shift in Agricultural Thought

By Origins Muse

You hear so much marketing these days about this is a new paradigm or that is a new paradigm. If you want to understand the definition of what a true paradigm is, then simply read this book. A paradigm is defined as an example serving as a model and that folks is exactly what we have here. . The current "state-of-the-art" in agriculture is defined by big agro-chemical companies dictating what the farmer must use for seed, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, etc. The small family farm concept has been dead in America for years. All the runoff from the big farms enters our surface water, groundwater, and oceans laden with harmful chemical that are literally killing every ecosystem on the earth (land, water, ocean, and air). With World population growth rates poised to put us at 10 Billion people by 2050, we simply do not have the amount of arable land available that it will take to feed this super population. At least not with current agricultural methods. Here enters Despommier and his troop of Grad students to show us how to think outside the box concerning an issue that will effect every one of us 7+ billion beings before we leave this Earth for parts unknown. That is having enough quality food to eat. It's hard for us Americans to sit down on our computers in our world of overabundance and contemplate that millions of kids die yearly from starvation. We think that only happens "over there, wherever there is". The truth is that it happens at home too, and in the relatively near future here is likely to become over there if we don't step up to prevent it. As our world gradually warms to levels humankind has not ever seen we will be dealing with climate changes that will rip apart our status quo agricultural systems. Imagine as our coastal cities become flooded that there is water everywhere but none fit to drink. What was until recently considered severe weather will become the norm, and new extremes will develop. If we could only slam on the breaks now and move backwards with respect to how we treat our Earth we might be able to salvage some of it. But we just keep humming along abusing our natural resources without a second thought. But wait, here is a glimmer of hope. A light at the end of the tunnel so to speak. By completely modifying how we produce our food and redefining how we use our resources to farm, we can accomplish an about face. If we can simply get the ball rolling it will snowball all by itself. I won't even try to explain how a Vertical Farm works or why it is such an amazing concept because the book does this so eloquently that my words wouldn't compare. Please just read it and think how the world would change for your kids and grand kids if we took the time and effort to make this happen. Good luck and I will see you on Level 4 of the first vertical farm (that one will be mine).

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Inspiring!

By Henry Gordon-smith

Two and a half years ago I was looking across the street and saw a Safeway supermarket with an empty roof. I thought to myself, why don't we put farms on top of buildings so that we have more local food?

Last month, I finally got to finishing Dr. Despommier's The Vertical Farm. As someone who is passionate about finding innovative solutions to environmental problems, I found this book inspiring.

First, Dr. D takes introduces some of the most important issues related to our unsustainable agriculture system. This is great for readers who might not be sustainability experts. If you are such an expert, this will be a good refresher of sustainable agriculture. The rest of the book explores the vertical farm as a concept and what role it might play in the future sustainable city. It has images of concept farms, the main systems

involved, and the basics of soil-less growing techniques.

A lot of the reviews on here are critical of the author's visionary thinking and criticize the book for using "could", "would" and "should" too much.

We won't get very far in making our societies sustainable without imagining solutions for the future as this book does. Our best ideas came from imagining what might be possible.

The Vertical Farm is a great read for those looking to be inspired by a sustainable vision of future cities.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting tidbits of information and step by step build up ...

By SJ

Interesting tidbits of information and step by step build up of case for vertical farms. Short on detail however, if you want to build one. Book is Appropriate for city planners and social scientists. Took one star out as some gardening content on what would be needed to make hydroponics and aquaponics feasible in such vertical farms would have been worthwhile.

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