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The Agribusiness Council. Agricultural Initiative in the Third World. A Report on the Conference: Science and Agribusiness in the Seventies. Lexington, Mass: D.C. Heath, 1975. XV + 210 pp.

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This book is composed of papers presented at an international conference held in London in 1974 under the auspices of The Agribusiness Council, a private enterprise organization formed in 1967. "The purpose of the conference clearly was to stimulate agribusiness investment in developing countries".

(pp. 3-4). It also marked a milestone in the cooperation of international business, research scientists, international agencies, and some underdeveloped countries in addressing the problems posed by world food shortages. Unfortunately most of the papers suffer from a lack of critical analysis of the economic and political framework within which such shortages occur. This shortcoming severely limits the usefulness of the book as a serious intellectual contribution to the debate on this important problem. The book does, however, provide a preliminary survey of the multitude of organizations concerned with food research and policy. Perhaps the primary justification for its publication is in suggesting the viewpoint of international private business concerning a critical issue in development policy. For those of a more sceptical mind, it implicitly exposes the limitations of this viewpoint and the urgent need for more attention to fundamental issues of political and economic policy.