By Timothy A. Wise

Who will feed the world’s expanding population? Do multinational agribusiness corporations have the knowledge, resources, and vision to supply nutritious and affordable food globally? If they cannot, who will? These are issues that Wise, senior researcher at the Small Planet Institute, studies. Here he recounts his travels to Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Mexico, and India to learn how Green Revolution agricultural methods, supported by the international development community, have worked. Much of what he reports is discouraging. While land is stolen from some farmers, others are forced by their governments (at the demand of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund) to use foreign hybrid seeds requiring expensive fertilizers instead of native seeds developed for local soils. Often, the crops decline after a couple of promising years, and only the corporations profit. Rates of poverty and hunger in some developing countries are increasing. Wise does see hope in the small-plot farmers of the world who are rising in protest. His report will interest readers concerned about human rights and the environment.

— Rick Roche