

"This remarkable book, outstandingly-well written, represents a bold tour de force through the several thousand years of human history that have seen agriculture develop from humble beginnings of small plots of diverse domesticated local foodplants to where it is today — a vast worldwide industry almost entirely based on just four major crops — wheat, maize, rice and soy bean, largely grown in monocultures. Interpreting this transformation through a series of nine revolutionary steps, the author elegantly, and uniquely in terms of virtually all other recent books on food security, weaves together history, culture, religion, belief systems, languages, strategic and applied science and technological innovation, and how these have represented drivers for agricultural change. The underlying emphasis throughout the work is the critical importance of conserving and utilizing agrobiodiversity, and to highlight that the current global system of reliance on relatively very few staple crops grown in monocultures is totally unsustainable and will fail to provide a large majority of 10 billion people by 2050 with adequate food and nutritional security in the face of extremes of climate change, major losses of biodiversity and erosion of other natural resources including water and soil. This book is eminently readable, unique in terms of its scope, and suitable for a very wide audience from the general public and students to researchers and policy makers and shapers."

**George Rothschild**

Emeritus Professor  
Natural Resources Institute  
University of Greenwich, UK  
former Director-General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

"The Ninth Revolution is Professor Sayed Azam-Ali's brilliant and important explanation of how human civilizations have moved through eight phases of agricultural revolution, each transforming our world for better and, often unnoticed, for worse. It lays bare the perilous risks to humanity from a dangerous and unsustainable food system, and concisely identifies crucial steps for a Ninth Revolution of agriculture."

Azam-Ali passionately and unflinchingly explains how our dependence today on only a handful of mainstream crops is killing people through malnutrition; crushing cultures; helping to warm the planet and destroying biological diversity. Perhaps most critically, with an inexorable rise in global population that is expected to reach around 10 billion by 2050, he confronts us with realisation that our present approach to modern agriculture will be unable to provide nutritional security for millions of people on a hotter, drier planet.

In this transcending and highly original work, Azam-Ali argues that hope for our future lies in a Ninth Revolution of agriculture that will rediscover and cultivate crops that are currently neglected or forgotten. He eschews romantic nostalgia for pre-industrial eras and firmly recognises that science and technology are necessary enablers for a complex, sophisticated food system of the future. This book is destined to become one of the great manifestos of human adaptation for the 21st century, which is shaping up perhaps to be the most dangerous and challenging ever for human civilization."

**Max Herriman**

CEO of the international consultancy firm, Sea Resources Management

**Seth Beckerman**

Editor and Writer (International Development), Pennsylvania, USA

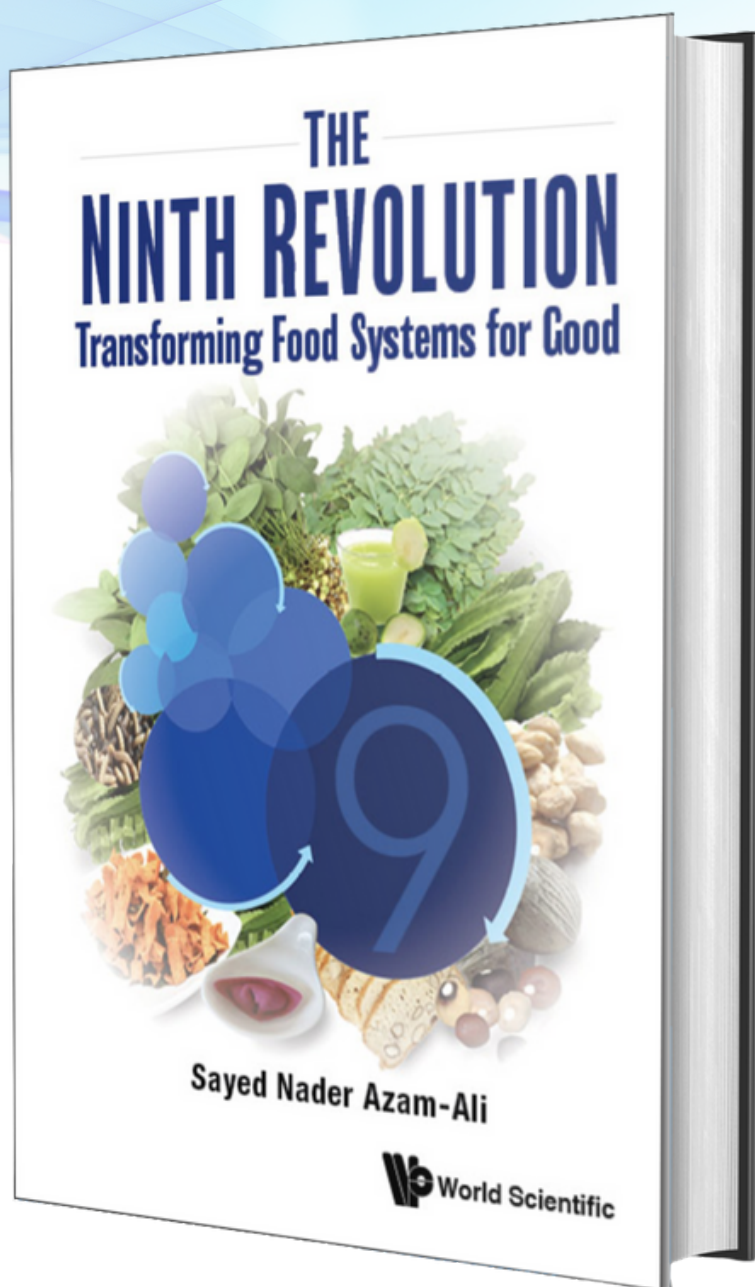


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"Sayed Azam-Ali has not only written a history of agriculture, but has proposed practical approaches to increase the food supply for poor people, what he deems a Ninth Revolution in agriculture. This is not a technical treatise for geneticists or food scientists, but after examining the historical context, he proposes imaginative solutions to improve the food supply and nutritional security of humanity in an era of changing climates. This is a book that should find its way to think tanks and students of international relations, agricultural development, natural resources, ecology, biological conservation, and policy studies, as well as the wider public."

## ABOUT THE BOOK

We are at a critical point in human history and that of the planet. In this book, a world leader in agricultural research, Professor Sayed Azam-Ali, proposes a radical transformation of our agrifood system. He argues that agriculture must be understood as part of global biodiversity and that food systems have cultural, nutritional, and social values beyond market price alone. He describes the perilous risks of relying on just four staple crops for most of our food and the consequences of our current agrifood model on human and planetary health.

In plain language, for the wider public, students, researchers and policy makers, Professor Azam-Ali envisions the agrifood system as a global public good, in which its practitioners include a new and different generation of farmers, its production systems link novel and traditional technologies, and its activities encompass landscapes, urban spaces and controlled environments. The book concludes with a call to action in which diversification of species, systems, knowledge, cultures and products all contribute to **The Ninth Revolution** that will *transform food systems for good*.

## READERSHIP

This book is aimed at a wider public that is increasingly concerned about issues of food and nutritional security, sustainable development and climate change for a world in crisis. It provides context and content for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in agroecology, crop science, natural resource management, food science and nutrition, climate change policy and genetic resources. The book will also be a resource for policy makers, international development agencies, innovators in agriculture and food systems and thought leaders.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After completing a PhD in Environmental Physics at the University of Nottingham, UK, **Sayed Azam-Ali** worked as a Groundnut Physiologist at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in India, later returning to Nottingham where he became Professor of Tropical Agronomy and then Chair in Global Food Security. In 2008, he was appointed as Vice-Provost for Research and Internationalization at the University of Nottingham in Malaysia and in 2011 became founding CEO of Crops For the Future Research Centre (CFFRC), the world's first centre for research solely on underutilized crops. In 2020 he became CEO of Crops For the Future (CFF) UK. Sayed Azam-Ali is a past Chair of the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA) and in 2021 was awarded an OBE for 'services to underutilized crops and increasing food security' in the Queens New Year's Honours List.

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