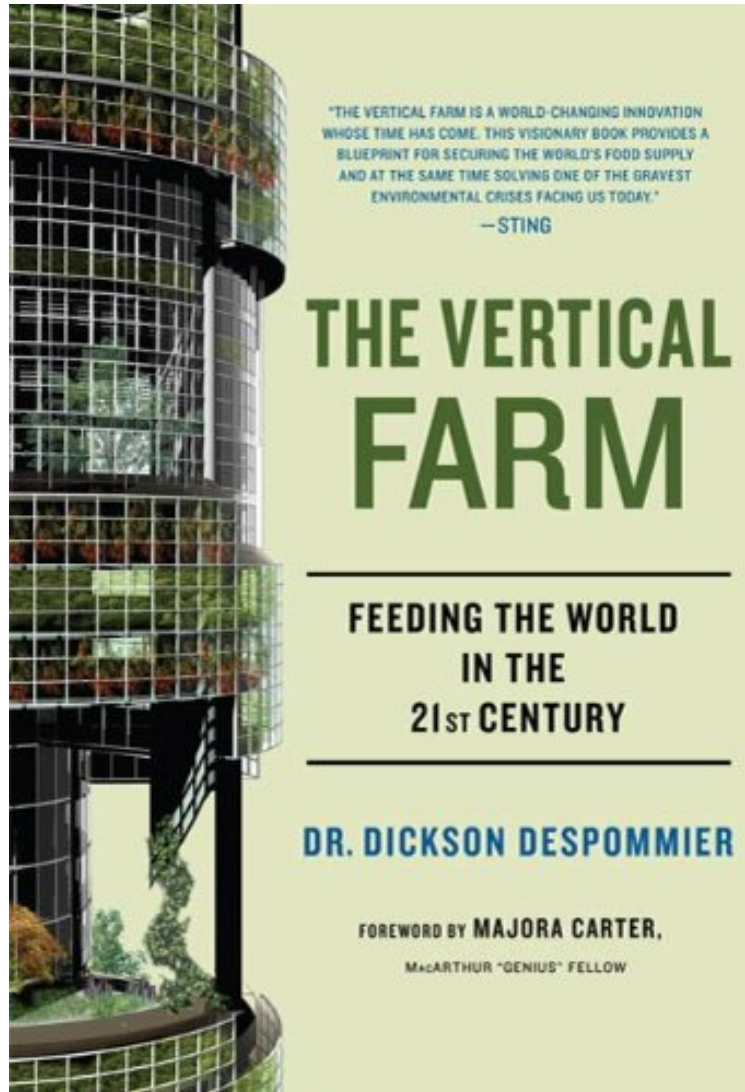


The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century

Dr. Dickson Despommier

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Dr. Dickson Despommier : The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vertical Farm: Feeding the World in the 21st Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Paradigm Shift in Agricultural ThoughtBy Origins MuseYou 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.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This topic is critically important

By Rick P.

This is an extremely important topic and this book is one of the only attempts to discuss its future relevance in many dimensions. Rather than come to this book with preconceptions or expectations, I urge readers to simply think about what he is saying.

"The vertical farm is a world-changing innovation whose time has come. Dickson Despommier's visionary book provides a blueprint for securing the world's food supply and at the same time solving one of the gravest environmental crises facing us today."--Sting

Imagine a world where every town has their own local food source, grown in the safest way possible, where no drop of water or particle of light is wasted, and where a simple elevator ride can transport you to nature's grocery store - imagine the world of the vertical farm.

When Columbia professor Dickson Despommier set out to solve America's food, water, and energy crises, he didn't just think big - he thought up. Despommier's stroke of genius, the vertical farm, has excited scientists, architects, and politicians around the globe. Now, in this groundbreaking book, Despommier explains how the vertical farm will have an incredible impact on changing the face of this planet for future generations. Despommier takes readers on an incredible journey inside the vertical farm, buildings filled with fruits and vegetables that will provide local food sources for entire cities.

Vertical farms will allow us to:

- Grow food 24 hours a day, 365 days a year-
- Protect crops from unpredictable and harmful weather
- Re-use water collected from the indoor environment-
- Provide jobs for residents
- Eliminate use of pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides-
- Drastically reduce dependence on fossil fuels
- Prevent crop loss due to shipping or storage-
- Stop agricultural runoff

Vertical farms can be built in abandoned buildings and on deserted lots, transforming our cities into urban landscapes which will provide fresh food grown and harvested just around the corner. Possibly the most important aspect of vertical farms is that they can be built by nations with little or no arable land, transforming nations which are currently unable to farm into top food producers. In the tradition of the bestselling *The World Without Us*, *The Vertical Farm* is a completely original landmark work destined to become an instant classic.