Agriculture faces increasingly the challenge of balancing its multiple functions in a sustainable way. Integrated assessment and modelling (IAM) can provide insight into the potential impacts of policy changes. However, concepts to address the wide range of issues and functions typical for agriculture are still scarce. The volume reviews and presents our current understanding of integrated and working tools to assess and compute, ex-ante, alternative agricultural and environmental policy options, allowing:

1. Analysis at the full range of scales (farm to European Union and global), whilst focusing on the most important issues emerging at each scale
2. Analysis of the environmental, economic and social contributions of agricultural systems towards sustainable rural development and rural viability
3. Analysis of a broad range of issues, such as climate change, environmental policies, rural development options, effects of an enlarging EU, international competition and effects on developing countries

This volume has a strong ‘lessons to be learnt’ emphasis, to facilitate and promote the use and further development of integrated assessment tools to support policies promoting agricultural development in support of sustainable development.

The book is an effort from many contributors whose input is much appreciated. The work presented in this volume has been (co-)funded by the SEAMLESS integrated project (January 2005–March 2009), EU 6th Framework Programme for Research Technological Development and Demonstration, Priority 1.1.6.3 Global Change and Ecosystems (European Commission, DG RTD, contract no. 010036-2); we gratefully acknowledge this support. We also appreciate the assistance provided by Mrs. Eline Bazen (LEI Wageningen UR) who took responsibility for guiding the publication process and preparing the chapters of the book.

July 2009

Floor Brouwer
Martin van Ittersum
Environmental and Agricultural Modelling:
Integrated Approaches for Policy Impact Assessment
Brouwer, F.M.; van Ittersum, M. (Eds.)
2010, XXIV, 322 p., Hardcover