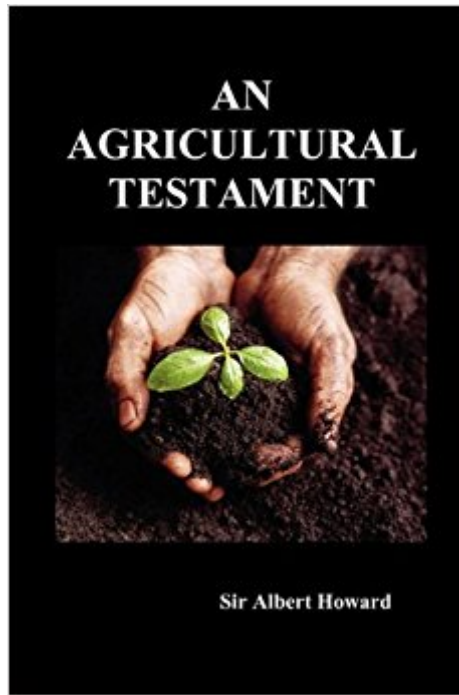


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# An Agricultural Testament



## Synopsis

Title: An Agricultural Testament Binding: Paperback Author: Albert Howard Publisher: Benediction Classics

## Book Information

Paperback: 266 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #543,433 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Soil Science](#) #19307 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary](#) #19658 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering](#)

## Customer Reviews

Sir Albert Howard certainly did not mince words nor did he dance around the subject of the destruction of soil fertility by modern farming techniques. The very first sentence of chapter one sets the tenor for the entire book, "The maintenance of the fertility of the soil is the first condition of any permanent system of agriculture." He accurately depicts the soil as being the Earth's `capital' and upon reflection one would come to agree that all of mankind's wealth have originated from the soil. In the same regard I will have to state the Earth's future population and prosperity (or lack thereof) will be determined by whether or not we can regain the courage to recognize and act on the eternal truth of Nature.

This is an example of how an astute westerner (Sir Alfred Howard) saw the wisdom of traditional farming practices and was humble enough to admit that England, the "advanced" colonial power, as highly educated as they were, did not have better answers to feeding the people of India. The wisdom of the centuries-old maintenance of fertility along the Ganges River is a lesson for the U.S. agribusiness folly which creates ever-expanding dead zones each year in the Gulf of Mexico and is losing topsoil in the Midwest at a phenomenal rate.

How did I hear about this book? I was watching the video "Vandana Shiva: Indigenous Knowledge". In this video, she states that this book "has become the classic for organic farming, worldwide." She was speaking at an International seminar on Innovation, Sustainability and Development, Delhi, 2011 June 28-30; hosted by the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies in partnership with the Centre for Development Studies-Trivandrum and the STEPS Centre. She also mentioned the Soil Association in England ([soilassociation.org](http://soilassociation.org)) and the Rodale Institute in US. Check out this Video: "Composting" Uploaded by rodaleinstitute on Aug 16, 2010. See also [rodaleinstitute.org](http://rodaleinstitute.org). If you don't know who Vandana Shiva is, you're not really a gardener. You Tube- "Vandana Shiva - The Future of Food and Seed"; This is why this book isn't your typical \$1 + \$3 S&H.

While not a particularly useful book for organic gardeners, it is an enlightening one for those who are interested in the history and efficacy of organic growing. The book is written in a scholarly style and recounts Sir Alfred Howard's experiences in India and England as an agricultural agent.

This is a must read for anyone that really wants a scientific, analytical look at the natural growth of plants and animals. How plants interact with the fungus of the soil was new information to me, and unknown to everyone around me. Albert Howard's genius and the knowledge from his life's works must not be forgotten, as society moves on with industrialization.

Although written somewhat complicated, this book offers detailed, well-researched information on composting and organic farming in general. Great book.

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