Against the Grain

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This book emphasizes an overlooked aspect of the increasing destruction of the world's tropical forests: the dangers of losing rich pools of potentially useful genes harbored in wild populations of crop plants. To illustrate the contributions of tropical forests to agriculture, the authors describe a variety of crops, including fruits, spices, and timber, surveying how each one came to be domesticated, how it is used today, and where it is grown. They consider conservation strategies as they emphasize the delicate relationships between people and the plants of the tropical forests.

Nigel J.H. Smith is Professor of Geography at the University of Florida.

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