Contents

Preface **xi**

Part I Background

1 What is a Crop Model? **1**
Sugarcane Growth Model 2
Terms Used to Describe Models 6
Variables in Models 6
Classification of Mathematical Models 7
Models Are Not Reality! 8
Exercise 8

2 Fundamental Guides in Constructing Crop Models **9**
Definition of Objectives 9
Itemize Critical Assumptions 11
Quantitative Description of Hypotheses 12
Programming 14
Estimating Parameters 17
Model Evaluation 17
Exercise 18

3 Evaluation of Model to Meet Objectives **19**
Transparency 19
Robustness 21
Direct Evaluation of Robustness 23
Graphs for model evaluation 23
Statistics for model evaluation 27
Exercise 28

4 Applications of Crop Models **29**
Research Applications 31
Integration of research knowledge 31
Integration of knowledge across disciplines 31
Improvement in experiment documentation 31
Crop genetic improvement 32
Crop management research 33
Geographical yield analysis 35
Response to climate variability and change 37
Environmental consequences of crop production 39
Crop Management Applications 40
Best management practices 41
Pre-sowing and in-season decision aid for farmers 41
Site-specific or precision farming 42
Pre-harvest yield forecasting 43
Educational Applications 43
Exercise 45

5 Status of Crop Modeling **46**
Infancy 46
Juvenility 46
Adolescence 47
Extensive reductionism 48
Universal models 48
Validation 49
Maturity 49
The Future of Crop Modeling 53
Exercise 54

Part II Potential Production Models

6 Phenology – Temperature **55**
Background 56
Basics 58
Which phenological stages need to be predicted? 59
What are the temperature response functions? 59
Parameter Estimation 64
Cardinal temperatures 64
Temperature unit requirements 65
Programming 68
Additional Notes 69
Using temperature unit when the crop is sensitive to photoperiod 69
Other temperature functions 70
Time-step in calculation of thermal time 70
Exercises 72

7 Phenology – Temperature and Photoperiod **73**
Background 73
Basics 75
Photoperiod Function 77
Parameter Estimation 80
Programming 82
Exercises 87

8 Phenology – Vernalization **89**
Vernalization Model 89
Vernalization function 90
Crown temperature 92
Parameter Estimation 94
Programming 95
Exercises 101

9 Crop Leaf Area **102**
Background 102
Carbon-based methods 102
Temperature-based methods 103
Hybrid methods 103
Leaf Area Submodel 104
Leaf area development prior to TLM 104
Leaf area between TLM and BSG 107
Leaf area after BSG 108
Crop LAI 109
Parameter Estimation 109
Programming 110
Additional Notes 111
Non-constant phyllochron 111
Other allometric equations 112
A simple approach to parameter estimation 113
Non-constant SLA 113
Shading and leaf senescence 113
Freezing and leaf senescence 114
Exercises 115

10 Dry Matter Production **117**
Background 117
Functions 121
Radiation interception 121
Radiation use efficiency 122
Crop growth 123
Parameter Estimation 125
Programming 127
Exercises 128

11 Dry Matter Distribution and Yield Formation **129**
Background 129
Model 130
Vegetative organ growth 131
Grain growth and yield formation 132
Parameter Estimation 134
Programming 137
Additional Notes 138
Constant FRTRL 138
Yield formation based on linear increase in harvest index 138
Exercises 139

12 A Model for Potential Production **140**
Model Structure 140
Structure of Excel File Containing the Model 149
"Run" 149
"Crops" 150
"Weather" 150
"Outputs" 153
"Figures" 153
"Help" 153
Estimating Daily Solar Radiation 157
Sample Runs of the Model 158
Exercises 159

Part III Water-limited Models

13 Soil Water **161**
Soil as a Reservoir for Water 161
Measuring Soil Water Limits 163
Estimating Soil Water Limits 164
Soil Water Limits from Databases 167
Exercises 169

14 Soil Water Balance **170**
Soil Water Balance Concept 170
Water Inputs 173
Precipitation (RAIN) 173
Irrigation (IRGW) 173
Root extension (EWAT) 173
Water Removals 176
Drainage (DRAIN) 176
Runoff (RUNOF) 178
Soil evaporation (SEVP) 179
Plant transpiration (TR) 181
Required Parameters and Inputs 183

Programming 184
Additional Notes 188
Priestley and Taylor method for calculation of potential evaporation 188
Accounting for the effect of soil water content on runoff 189
Crop cover and runoff 189
Mulch straw and soil water balance 190
Exercises 191

15 Plant Responses to Soil Water Deficit and Excess 192
Defining Crop Stress Level 192
Dry-down Experiments 193
Modeling Effects of Water Deficit 195
Growth and transpiration 195
Leaf area 196
Development 197
Flooding Effects 198
Crop Termination Due to Water-deficit Stress 199
Exercise 199

16 A Model for Water-limited Conditions 200
Model Structure 200
Structure of Excel File Containing the Model 201
Sample Runs of the Model 213
Exercises 216

Part IV Nitrogen-limited Models

17 Plant Nitrogen Budget 218
N and Crop Production 219
N and phenological development 219
N for leaf area development 219
N and dry matter production 220
Leaves as temporary N storage for grain 222
Seed growth need for N results in leaf senescence 222
Background and Basics of Plant N Budget 223
Plant N Budget During Vegetative Growth 225
Plant N Budget During Seed Growth 227
Plant N Budget in Legumes 229
Parameterization 231
Programming 232
Exercises 237

18 Soil Nitrogen Balance 238
Soil N Balance 239
Available N in Soil Solution 241
N Inputs 243

Mineralization 243
Fertilizer application 245
N Losses 245
Volatilization 245
Leaching 246
Denitrification 246
Crop N uptake 248
Required Inputs 248
Programming 250
Exercises 252

19 A Model for Nitrogen-limited Conditions 253
Model Structure 253
Structure of Excel File Containing the Model 254
Sample Runs of the Model 273
Exercises 275

Appendices
Appendix I: A Practical Guide for Model Troubleshooting 277
Appendix II: Tables for Converting Date to Day of Year (DOY) 282
Appendix III: List of Variables and Their Definitions 284

References 291

Index 309