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Uncertain Peril: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Seeds

By Claire Hope Cummings

Beacon Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 256 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.7in. Life on earth is facing unprecedented challenges from global warming, war, and mass extinctions. The plight of seeds is a less visible but no less fundamental threat to our survival. Seeds are at the heart of the planet's life-support systems. Their power to regenerate and adapt are essential to maintaining our food supply and our ability to cope with a changing climate. In *Uncertain Peril*, environmental journalist Claire Hope Cummings exposes the stories behind the rise of industrial agriculture and plant biotechnology, the fall of public interest science, and the folly of patenting seeds. She examines how farming communities are coping with declining water, soil, and fossil fuels, as well as with new commercial technologies. Will genetically engineered and terminator seeds lead to certain promise, as some have hoped, or are we embarking on a path of uncertain peril? Will the doomsday vault under construction in the Arctic, designed to store millions of seeds, save the genetic diversity of the world's agriculture? To answer these questions and others, Cummings takes readers from the Fertile Crescent in Iraq to the island of Kauai in Hawaii; from Oaxaca, Mexico,...



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