“Professor Carolan provides a masterful overview of past and recent developments in the sociology of food and agriculture. This book will serve as a useful reference for advanced scholars but, perhaps more importantly, is also a necessary and very accessible text for undergraduate students and other novices to the subject.”

Leland Glenna, Associate Professor of Rural Sociology and Science, Technology, and Society, Pennsylvania State University, USA

“This volume is the perfect starting point for students and others interested in food and its background. Very accessible, this volume develops a sociological view on food from its appearance on the dinner table to its origin in the field and from the life-world of the farmer to global food security. It does so by also engaging with vital debates on (the future of) food.”

Peter Oosterveer, Associate Professor in the Environmental Policy Group at Wageningen University, The Netherlands

“Carolan is one of the foremost writers in contemporary agrifood studies and he has fashioned a book that provides an up-to-date, informative and highly readable overview of the global agrifood system. The book will have immediate appeal to students, policy-makers and all those concerned about the future of food and farming.”

Geoffrey Lawrence, Professor of Sociology, University of Queensland, Australia

As interest has increased in topics such as the globalization of the agrifood system, food security, and food safety, the subjects of food and agriculture are making their way into a growing number of courses in disciplines within the social sciences and the humanities, like sociology and food studies. This book is an introductory textbook aimed at undergraduate students, and is suitable for those with little or no background in sociology.

The author starts by looking at the recent development of agriculture under capitalism and neo-liberal regimes and the transformation of farming from a small-scale, family-run business to a globalized system. The consequent changes in rural employment and role of multinationals in controlling markets are described. Topics such as the global hunger and obesity challenges, GM foods, and international trade and subsidies are assessed as part of the world food economy. The second section of the book focuses on community impacts, food and culture, and diversity. Later chapters examine topics such as food security, alternative and social movements, food sovereignty, local versus global, and fair trade. All chapters include learning objectives and recommendations for further reading to aid student learning.

Michael Carolan is a Professor at Colorado State University (USA) and Chair of its Department of Sociology. He is author of *The Real Cost of Cheap Food* (Earthscan, 2011).