

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779242603321
Autore	Sillitoe Paul <1949->
Titolo	From land to mouth [[electronic resource]] : the agricultural "economy" of the Wola of the New Guinea highlands // Paul Sillitoe
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven [Conn.], : Yale University Press, c2010
ISBN	0-300-16295-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (xx, 575 p.)) : ill., maps
Collana	Yale agrarian studies series
Disciplina	338.1089/9912
Soggetti	Agriculture - Economic aspects - Papua New Guinea Wola (Papua New Guinean people) - Economic conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [529]-559) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The agricultural economy -- Economics and the self-interested individual -- Community and the other-interested individual -- Land tenure and the collective-interests individual -- Selection of cultivation sites and individual choice -- The land issue : scarce resource? -- The population issue : too many people? -- Pioneering gardens : men's labor -- Cultivating gardens : women's labor -- The labor question : scarcity of time? -- Exchange : taro gardens -- The exchange economy? -- No economy, no development?.
Sommario/riassunto	Among the Wola people of Papua New Guinea, our category economy is problematic. Distribution is unnecessary; the producers of everyday needs are the consumers: produce goes largely "from land to mouth" - with no implication that resources are scarce. Yet transactions featuring valuable things -- which are scarce -- are a prominent aspect of life, where sociopolitical exchange figures prominently. The relationship -- or rather the disconnection -- between these two domains is central to understanding the fiercely egalitarian political-economy. In this detailed investigation of a Highland New Guinea agricultural 'economy' and acephalous political order-the most thorough inquiry into such a tropical subsistence farming system ever undertaken-esteemed anthropologist Paul Sillitoe interrogates the relevance of key economic ideas in noncapitalist contexts and challenges anthropological shibboleths such as the "gift." Furthermore, he makes a reactionary-cum-innovative contribution to research methods and analysis, drawing

on advances in information technology to manage large data sets. Over a span of more than three decades, Sillitoe has compiled a huge body of ethnography, gaining unprecedented insights into Highlands' social, economic, and agricultural arrangements. He uses these here to illuminate economic thought in nonmarket contexts, advancing an integrated set of principles underpinning a stateless-subsistence order comparable to that of economists for the state-market. Sillitoe's insights have implications for economic development programs in regions where capitalist assumptions have limited relevance, following his advocacy of development interventions more respectful of existing social orders.
