Title: Ethics, Agriculture, and the Environment

Abstract: Those engaged in agriculture and environmental study possess a definite but unexamined moral confidence or certainty about the correctness of what they do. The origin of that confidence will be discussed and questions will be raised about its validity. The basis of the moral confidence is not obvious to those who have it, or to the public. In fact the moral confidence that pervades agriculture is potentially harmful because it is unexamined. It is necessary that those engaged in science analyze what it is about their science and their society that inhibits or limits their science. All should strive to nourish and strengthen the aspects that are beneficial and change those that are not. To do this we must be confident to study ourselves, our institutions, and be dedicated to the task of modifying the goals of both.