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NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS

BRIDGES Trade BioRes will not be published during the upcoming WTO recess. The next issue, Vol. 2, No. 14, will be published on 22 August 2002. While our editorial team is working hard to bring you comprehensive coverage, the growing value of BRIDGES Trade BioRes as a resource for those interested in trade, biological resources and sustainable development is largely dependent on contributions from our audiences. We thank you for your continued support and welcome your comments on how we can improve our publications.

Traditional Knowledge

TRIPS COUNCIL SPLIT OVER ROLE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY TO PREVENT 'BIOPIRACY'

Delegates at the 25-27 June meeting of the WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) remained divided over the need to harmonise the TRIPs Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as a means for preventing 'biopiracy'. Related discussions also took place in the context of geographical indications (GIs), in particular regarding the usefulness of GIs as a tool for protecting traditional knowledge (TK).

CBD outcomes might give additional momentum to TRIPs discussions

Regarding the relationship between the TRIPs Agreement and the CBD, the TRIPs Council received a new submission from Brazil on behalf of a group of developing countries, including China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The submission (IP/C/W/356, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>) stressed the need to modify the TRIPs Agreement, arguing that the Agreement contained no provisions to prevent biopiracy acts or ensure prior informed consent and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. To this end, the group of countries proposed several conditions for acquiring patent rights related to biological materials or TK, including requirements for patent applicants to disclose the source of origin of the biological resource and associated TK; and evidence of prior informed consent and benefit-sharing. The Brazil-led submission, however, stressed that the proposed requirements would only provide "defensive" protection of TK. Echoing similar proposals raised in related fora (i.e. the CBD, WIPO [World Intellectual Property Organization] and preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development), the submission called on the TRIPs Council to also consider "positive" protection of TK, including, inter alia, an internationally agreed instrument that recognised national-level TK protection.

While the substance of the submission was not necessarily new, the context of the discussion had changed in several regards, one source noted. That is, the recent adoption of the Bonn Guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing at COP-6 of the CBD -- and in particular references to disclosure requirements contained in the Decision -- had given the debate additional momentum and had provided direction for future discussions, the source explained (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 18 April 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-18/story1.htm>). Also, the negotiating context had changed, i.e. these discussions now took place in the context of the Doha mandate, which requires the TRIPs Council to report on progress to the Trade Negotiations Committee by the end of 2002 and which left open the possibility of including these issues as part of the negotiations. Finally, a submission by a group of countries rather than proposals by individual countries was likely to add additional weight to the demands.

During subsequent discussions, countries' positions remained unchanged. Most developed countries, including the EC, US and Japan, have generally resisted amendments to the TRIPs Agreement as proposed by the group of developing countries, arguing that there was no conflict between the TRIPs Agreement and the CBD, and that they could be simultaneously applied. The US, in particular, has so far strongly opposed the inclusion disclosure requirements in patent applications, which they say would be incompatible with the TRIPs Agreement since they added another substantive condition on patentability beyond those already provided. Many developing countries, however, view the inclusion of disclosure requirements as part of the effort to establish a legal regime for access and benefit sharing and TK protection in addition to developments and decisions in related fora.

As one source speculated, significant progress on these issues was unlikely before the next Ministerial Conference in Mexico in September 2003 given that discussions in the TRIPs Council continue to be dominated by issues related to public health (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 July 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-07-03/story1.htm>) and GIs (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 July 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-07-03/story5.htm>).

GIs as a possible tool to prevent 'biopiracy'?

During the meeting, delegates furthermore debated the pros and cons of extending the higher level of protection for geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits (set out in Art. 23). In this context, Switzerland raised the issue of GIs as a tool for protecting traditional knowledge, referring in particular to a paper by the WIPO Secretariat, which highlights GIs as a "suitable" mechanism for TK protection (WIPO/GRTKF/IC/3/7; see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-27/story1.htm>). Brazil, however, while not objecting to the idea of using GIs for TK protection, pointed out that GIs were subject to the same limitations as any other intellectual property right (IPR). That is, GIs would not help against preventing 'biopiracy', as they only protected the

product but not the genetic resources and associated TK, and would thus not prevent their use and patenting. The EC, however, while acknowledging that GIs did not necessarily prevent patenting of TK, stressed that GIs could at least make a contribution to TK protection as part of a larger framework.

Geographical indications, as defined in the WTO TRIPs Agreement, are identifications of the country or region where the quality, reputation or other characteristic of a product is essentially attributable to the geographical region. Additional protection of GIs already exists for wines and spirits (e.g. Champagne, Bordeaux and Cognac), and some countries (mainly Asia, Europe and Africa) are calling for this protection to be extended to other products (e.g. Basmati rice, Darjeeling tea or Camembert cheese). Some believe that by giving value to localised natural products and associated know-how, GIs can provide an incentive to preserve native varieties, the environment in which the respective resources are grown, and the traditional knowledge associated with them. Others, however, are concerned that GIs will only bring new obligations for developing countries while the benefits will mainly go to developed countries that are better prepared at the national level to take advantage of GI extensions and that might use GIs as a trade barrier against developing countries' exports.

ICTSD reporting.

Biotechnology

PRESSURE TO LABEL GM FOOD MOUNTS IN EU AND US

On 3 July, the European Parliament voted in favour of a proposal put forward by the European Commission on new regulations for the traceability and labelling of genetically modified (GM) food and feed products. While the decision by the Parliament was applauded by environmental NGOs, voices in the US and UK criticised the vote, warning that the European consumers would have to bear the additional costs of implementing the regulations should they be adopted. In related developments, discussions on labelling GM food products, including transgenic fish, are also gaining momentum in the US states of California and Oregon.

Opinions diverge on the Parliamentary vote

The European Parliament adopted the European Commission proposals for GM food labelling and traceability regulations during the first reading on 3 July, including most of the amendments proposed by the European Parliament's Environment Committee earlier in June (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-27/story3.htm>). The Parliament thereby moved one step closer to establishing EU legislation, which would require the tracing of all GM food and feed products at all stages in the production and marketing chain, and establish a comprehensive labelling system aimed at ensuring consumer choice when buying food containing or derived from GMOs.

The European Parliament supported the Environment Committee's amendments to lower the threshold for accidental presence of GMOs from 1 to 0.5 percent, and to keep in place the de facto moratorium on the approvals of GMOs at least until the new regulation became effective. However, the Parliament rejected some of the more extreme amendments of the proposals, notably an amendment for the compulsory labelling of meat, milk and eggs obtained from animals fed on GM feed. Both the European Commission and the Parliament argue that such a system would not be workable. The European Commission proposals will now be transmitted to the European Council, which is expected to adopt its Common Position this autumn. Another two votes are likely to be needed by the European Parliament over the next year before the labelling and traceability regulations could become law.

The result of the vote evoked differing reactions. Friends of the Earth applauded the decision, saying "this is a major success for European consumers and a serious defeat for the biotech industry which has lobbied hard to water down these proposals". In contrast Britain's Food Standards Agency, the independent food safety

watchdog that advises the British government, expressed discontent with the vote, claiming that the legislation would not be enforceable and could lead to the deception of consumers. Similarly, US farm groups and biotech industry representatives -- including the National Corn Growers Association, the American Farm Bureau, the American Soy Bean Association and Grocery Manufacturers of America -- expressed their disappointment, emphasising that the new traceability measure would require tedious and expensive segregation of GM crops and conventional crops. They furthermore warned that European consumers would have to pay the extra costs and that the legislation was likely to result in a trans-Atlantic trade dispute.

The US and Canada are expected to raise similar concerns at the WTO where the proposed EU labelling and traceability regime have already been discussed in the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). At the last SPS Committee meeting in June, the US had informed WTO Members that it would decide shortly whether to formally challenge the continued EU de facto moratorium on the approval of new GMOs at the WTO (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002; referenced above). The outcome of the European Parliament's vote might accelerate further action by the US to initiate a trade dispute, some observers noted.

The US - the next country with labelling legislation?

Labelling of GM food and related legislation are not only being discussed in the EU, but also in the US itself where the California Assembly Committee and consumers in Oregon are currently looking into mandatory labelling requirements for GM fish and foods.

The Californian proposal (AB 791), which would require all transgenic fish and shellfish to be labelled, passed the first vote in the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. The main argument used by supporters of the bill resembled that advocated in the EU, namely that "consumers should be entitled to make informed decisions about genetically engineered fish," according to Assembly member Virginia Strom Martin. The AB 791 bill is the first labelling bill for GM foods that has passed a major policy committee in the US.

However, another related bill in California to prohibit the introduction of GM fish into state waters stalled due to strong opposition from biotech industries. The issue of labelling and releasing GM fish is of particular importance in the US as Aqua Bounty Farms is currently applying for permission to market genetically engineered salmon with enhanced growth rates. If the application were approved, this would be the first transgenic animal in the US released for commercial use and human consumption. Conservation groups have expressed serious concerns with regard to GM fish, arguing that genetically engineered fish that escaped from the ocean pens into the environment would likely affect wild populations of fish and cause some species to become extinct within only a few generations.

Regarding GM labelling, consumers in Oregon now hope that they can replicate the precedent set in California. On 5 July, the consumer organisation Oregon Concerned Citizens for Safe Foods handed in over 100,000 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State's office for a ballot initiative in November 2002 on GM food labelling. Specifically, the proposal suggests that food derived from or processed using genetically engineered materials are labelled by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Ballot initiatives give direct legislative power to the voters to enact new laws, change existing laws or amend the Oregon Constitution. In this case, the number of signatures is sufficient to place an initiative measure on the ballot that would amend the Oregon Constitution

Additional Resources

Proposed EU regulations on labelling and traceability:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/gmo/biotech09_en.pdf;
http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/gmo/biotech08_en.pdf

Californian proposed labelling bill for GM fish. http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_791&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen

Oregon initiative (No. 23, 2002) searchable at http://sos-venus.sos.state.or.us:8080/elec_srch/web_irr_search.search_form.

ICTSD reporting; "Commission proposals for a trustworthy and environmentally safe approach to GMOs and GM food and feed backed by European Parliament," EU PRESS RELEASE, 3 July 2002; "UK groups hail EU vote on GM labels, swipe at govt stance," REUTERS, 5 July 2002; "Labelling for genetically engineered food may happen in California and Oregon," FISHLINK SUBLEGALS, 26 May 2002.

Fisheries

JAPAN QUESTIONS NEGATIVE IMPACT OF FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AT WTO

At an 8 July meeting of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules, Members continued discussions on the clarification and improvement of WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies, with three new papers submitted by China, Japan and New Zealand. The debate largely focused on Japan's communication, in which the country rejected the reasoning of the so-called 'Friends of Fish' group that had previously called for special disciplines on fisheries subsidies. "Those who insist on special and separate treatment of fisheries subsidies have a burden of proof to fulfil," Japan stated in its position paper.

Japan resists special disciplines for fisheries subsidies

In its paper (TN/RL/W/11), which was broadly supported by Korea, Japan stressed that trade distortions caused by subsidies were not limited to the fisheries sector, and that it could not agree to the claim of the 'Friends of Fish' -- Australia, Chile, Ecuador, Iceland, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines and the US -- that special disciplines for fisheries subsidies were required (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 16 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-05-16/story1.htm>). Based on figures from studies undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Japan also disputed claims by the 'Friends of Fish' group that global expenditures of USD 14-20.5 billion in fisheries subsidies had led to adverse impacts on resources or distorted trade (according to a report commissioned by the World Bank).

Stating that overexploitation of fish stocks was "largely due to lack of proper fisheries management," Japan furthermore said that management of fish stocks should be left to the coastal states, the regional fisheries bodies and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). As a last point, Japan proposed that Members should await the results of work done by relevant international organisations such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the OECD in order to "appropriately deal with the complex nature of the fisheries subsidies issue".

In response, the US highlighted that the APEC study cited by Japan pointed to USD 8.3 billion of trade-distortive subsidies instead of USD 370 million. Other trade sources further commented that only 35 percent of OECD fisheries subsidies were not likely to affect fisheries resources or trade negatively, rather than 70 percent as cited by Japan. For its part, the EC shared Japan's concern about adopting a sectoral approach in the subsidies negotiations, and fully agreed -- along with Canada -- that the WTO should draw from the work of other international agencies. Also, both Canada and the EC stressed the importance of sound fisheries management. The US and Argentina countered, however, that this consideration was no excuse for delaying the ongoing discussions on fisheries subsidies at the WTO.

China emphasises S&D

Pointing to the Doha mandate, WTO newcomer China stressed in its proposal (TN/RL/W/9) the need to accord special and differential treatment (S&D) in fisheries to developing countries. It also suggested that certain fisheries subsidies should be defined as "non-actionable", namely those that do not have a detrimental effect on the environment, trade and sustainable development. Several developing countries, including Indonesia, Brazil and the Philippines, supported China's proposal on S&D, whereas Japan and Korea said that S&D was a generic issue to be discussed under the general subsidies heading. Indonesia added that fisheries were often the only source of income in many rural areas, and that it would not agree to limit governments' role in rural development and the preservation of marine resources.

Background

At the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar in November last year, Members agreed to conduct negotiations on clarifying and improving WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies "in the context of" negotiations on 'WTO Rules' (i.e. anti-dumping, subsidies and regional trade agreements). Reference to negotiations on fisheries subsidies is also included in the Trade and Environment section (para. 31) of the Doha Declaration. The decision to include fisheries subsidies as a separate negotiating item marks a significant change from the previous WTO mandate that had restricted discussions on this issue to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), which prior to Doha did not function as a negotiating forum. Fisheries subsidies are being discussed as a sub-item under the general "subsidies" topic in the Group on Rules, which was established at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in November last year as one of seven negotiating bodies (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 7 March 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-03-07/story3.htm>).

Additional Resources

WTO submissions are searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

"Study Into the Nature and Extent of Subsidies in the Fisheries Sector of APEC Members Economies," APEC, 2000; <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/workgroup/fish.html>

"Fisheries Subsidies and Overfishing: Towards a Structured Discussion", Gareth Porter, UNEP, 2001; http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/acts/capbld/rdtwo/FE_vol_1.pdf.

"Subsidies in World Fisheries: A Re-examination", World Bank Technical Paper 406, 1998; searchable at <http://www-wds.worldbank.org/default.jsp>.

ICTSD reporting.

In Brief

ANDEAN 'BIOPIRACY' PROVOKES ANGER. Two US companies have provoked anger in Peru by patenting an extract and a formulation based on a plant related to mustard called maca. Maca, sometimes dubbed 'natural viagra', is a traditional crop that Andean populations have cultivated for centuries for use as a food and as the basis for several medicinal formulations. One of the US patents, owned by Pure World Botanicals Inc., is for an isolated maca extract which, it is claimed, can be used to treat cancer and sexual dysfunction, as well as the process of preparing it. The latter use is already well known. Indeed, the company has for several years been importing maca into the US and selling it for this very purpose. The other patent, which Biotics Research Corporation owns, covers a mixture of powdered maca and antler and the process of increasing testosterone levels in men by administering this mixture in various forms. The consumption of both maca and antler is already known to be associated with increased testosterone levels. This led some to suggest that the patent lacks novelty and should therefore not have been granted. One of the main concerns about these patents is that depending on how the companies assert their rights, they may have negative impacts on maca exports to the US.

These patents have re-directed attention to the problem of patents being awarded for allegedly spurious inventions that misappropriate traditional knowledge. This issue has become a bone of contention between developing countries concerned about what they call 'biopiracy', and developed countries whose companies stand accused of such acts. Negotiations on this matter are taking place at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the World Trade Organization's Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (see related story, this issue).

"Peruvian farmers and indigenous people denounce maca patents," ETC Group, 3 July 2002; <http://www.etcgroup.org/documents/macafinal1.pdf>.

ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA REVOKE IMPORT BAN ON GM FOOD AID. The Zimbabwean government has agreed to allow food aid into the country that contained genetically modified (GM) maize "so long as it is milled immediately up on arrival," said Makena Walker from the World Food Programme (WFP). Last month, Zimbabwe had rejected GM food aid due to concerns that it might threaten beef exports to the EU and local maize seed varieties (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-27/inbrief.htm>). Walker also noted that WFP placed no restrictions on GM foods, which had passed the safety test in the donor country and were accepted by the recipient country. "WFP neither tests nor label for GM content since that is not called for by the Codex [Alimentarius Commission, the body responsible for setting international standards related to food safety] and there are not internationally accepted standards for such tests."

In related developments, Zambia this week revoked a recent ban on the imports of GM food aid imposed by Agriculture Minister Mundia Sikatana in June. "The government informed us that we can now buy GM maize for purposes of feeding people who are hungry," said WFP country representative in Zambia Richard Ragan. He added that WFP would purchase maize from the cheapest source. "GM maize in the US costs about USD 90 per tonne and shipment is around USD 100 per tonne from the US to Zambia. White maize in South Africa (the nearest market for Zambia) will cost around USD 260 per tonne, so we have to settle for the cheapest," he said.

"Zambia changes stance, seeks GM maize for food aid," REUTERS, 11 July 2002; "Govt approves GM maize imports," ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENT, 28 June 2002.

EU CONCLUDES FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH ANGOLA AND KIRIBATI. The European Commission and Angola have agreed to renew the fisheries agreement between Angola and the EU over a period of two years starting in August. As part of the deal, the EU's contribution to specific measures in Angola's fisheries sector will rise from 29 to 35 percent of the EU's contribution (Euro 5,525,000). These measure will be implemented in the framework of the development partnership between the two countries which aims to achieve sustainable development in fisheries, and will include development of small-scale fisheries, support for fishing communities, and institutional support for Angola's participation in regional fisheries organisations. In return, 22 EU vessels will be allowed to operate shrimp fisheries. The EU has furthermore concluded its first bilateral fisheries agreement in the Pacific region, namely with the Republic of Kiribati. EU vessels will be allowed to fish for tuna in Kiribati's waters in return for an EU contribution of Euro 1,378,000, part of which will be spend on building the country's capacity in the fisheries area and support its participation in regional and international fisheries organisation.

"Angola concedes fishing rights for EU vessels," IPS, 4 July 2002; "EU wins fishing rights in pacific," IPS, 9 July 2002.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/index.htm>. For further information on WTO events, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva: tel: (41-22) 739 5007; 739 5458; email: enquiries@wto.org

ICTSD-related Events

17 July, Geneva, Switzerland: TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Organised by ICTSD for the World Civil Society Forum. This working group at the World Civil Society Forum (14-19 July) will discuss the linkages and conflicts between environmental protection, poverty alleviation and trade liberalisation, as well as civil society's role in helping to make trade policy of mutual benefit to development goals. For further information contact: World Civil Society Forum, 31 Chemin William Rappard, 1293 Bellevue/Geneva, Switzerland; fax: (41- 22) 959- 8851; email: forum@mandint.org; Internet: <http://www.mandint.org/forum/>.

18 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO AND CIVIL SOCIETY: WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Organised by ICTSD for World Civil Society Forum. This working group will focus on tangible examples of participation that can enhance public participation in the WTO processes at a national and global level. For further information contact: World Civil Society Forum, 31 Chemin William Rappard, 1293 Bellevue/Geneva, Switzerland; fax: (41- 22) 959- 8851; email: forum@mandint.org; Internet: <http://www.mandint.org/forum/>.

Upcoming events: 11 July - 22 August

14-19 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WORLD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM. For further information contact: World Civil Society Forum, 31 Chemin William Rappard, 1293 Bellevue/Geneva, Switzerland; fax: (41- 22) 959-8851; email: forum@mandint.org; Internet: <http://www.mandint.org/forum/>.

16-19 July, Fiji: THIRD SUMMIT OF ACP HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT: For further information contact: Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; tel: (32-2) 74-0600; fax: 735-5573; email: info@acpsec.org; Internet: <http://www.acpsec.org/fiji/index.html>

19-22 August, Wellington, New Zealand: CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. The event is organized by the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET), and will provide a forum for participants to consider the future management of fisheries. For further information contact: IIFET 2002 Organizer; tel: (64 4) 389-3487; fax: 389-3457; email: bruce.shallard@xtra.co.nz; Internet: <http://www.iifet2002.co>

21-28 August, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada: 2002 WORLD ORGANIC CONGRESS - CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES. Organised by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the event is expected to be attended by farmers, researchers, advisors, food processors, traders, certifiers, policy makers and consumers and others interested in organic agriculture and sustainable development. further more information contact: tel: (1-250) 655-5652; email: ifoam2002@cog.ca; Internet: <http://www.cog.ca/ifoam2002/>

22-25 July, Dresden, Germany: THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH. The aim of the conference is to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary communication among scientists, engineers and professionals working in the fields of ecological systems, sustainable management, development of water resources and conservation of natural systems. For further information contact: Cathleen Schimmek, Conference Secretariat; tel: (49-351) 463-

33931; email: icwrrer2002@mailbox.tu-dresden.de; Internet: <http://www.tu-dresden.de/fghhihm/hydrologie.html>.

22-25 August, Durban, South Africa: ENVIROLAW CONFERENCE. The conference will offer a platform for the international legal community to suggest mechanisms that will interlink international and regional treaties and conventions in order to improve their implementation and enforcement. For further information contact: tel: (27-11) 269-7944; fax: 269-7899; email: info@envirolawsolutions.com; Internet: <http://www.envirolawsolutions.com>

22-26 July, Guatemala City, Guatemala: CONTRIBUTION OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: A WAY FORWARD. The conference is being organised as a follow-up to recommendations made by the Expert Meeting on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management held in Rome in 2000. For further information contact: Glenda Lee, Coordinator, Local Organizing Committee; tel: (502) 379-9830; fax: (502) 475-4407; email: cici2002@inab.gob.gt; Internet: <http://www.inab.gob.gt>

23-25 July, Montreal, Canada: 22ND OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. For further information contact: Ozone Secretariat; tel: (514-954) 8219; fax: 6077; e-mail: Michael.Grabner@unep.org; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/oewg/22oewg/22oewg.shtml>

23-25 July, Bangkok, Thailand: 20TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RICE COMMISSION. Every four years, FAO convenes a session of the International Rice Commission to provide a forum for senior policy makers and senior rice specialists from the Member Countries to address issues and constraints, as well as review and orient their national rice research and development programmes. For further information contact: Dat Van Tran, Executive Secretary, International Rice Commission, Crop and Grassland Service, FAO; tel: (39-06) 570-55769; fax: 570-56347; email: Dat.Tran@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/agp/agpc/doc/field/commrice/welcome.htm>

Events Around WSSD

22-23 August, Johannesburg, South Africa: SECOND SOUTH-SOUTH BIOPIRACY SUMMIT: "Biopiracy - Ten Years Post-Rio, " hosted by Biowatch South Africa, the conference aims to raise awareness, enable information sharing, and build capacity on issues of access and benefit sharing and to facilitate the development of mutual strategies and statements for the WSSD. For further information contact: Adele Arendse, Biowatch South Africa; tel: (27-21) 447-5939; fax: 447-5974; email: adele@biowatch.org.za; Internet: <http://www.biowatch.org.za/>

24 August, Johannesburg, South Africa: MEETING ON GLOBALIZATION AND FISHERIES TO COMPLEMENT UN WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY. Hosted by the Artisanal Fishers Association of the Republic of South Africa Topics to be covered in the pre-summit meeting include: the effect of globalisation on fisheries; fishermen's access rights; building alliances and networking, and; international activism and how to use it to bring about change. For further information contact: Andrew Johnson, email: andyj@worldline.co.za.

26 August - 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa: FORUM ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The Forum is being organised by the South African Government and in collaboration with a number of international partners, and is being held at the Ubuntu Village, Johannesburg. The objective of the event is to provide a platform for highlighting the critical contributions of science, technology and innovation to sustainable development. For further information contact: The Science Forum; tel: (27-12) 841 2450 /3716; fax: 841 3924; Internet: <http://www.scienceforum.co.za/>

27-28 August, Johannesburg, South Africa: THE WORLD FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY. The world forum is organised by the International Research Foundation for Development and will focus on the Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted during the Rio Conference on Environment. For further information contact: IRFD Contact Information International Research Foundation for Development; tel: (763-689) 2963; fax: 0560; email: info@irfd.org; Internet: <http://www.irfd.org/events/wf2002/intro.html>

27-30 August, Johannesburg, South Africa: LOCAL GOVERNMENT SESSION AT JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT. Organised by the International Training Centre. For further information contact: ICLEI ITC; tel: (49-761) 368 92 20; fax: 368 92 29; email: loc-gov-session@iclei.org; Internet: <http://www.iclei.org/lgs/>

28-30 August, Johannesburg, South Africa: ASPIRATION AND REALITY: BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY. The Global research charity the RICS Foundation, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Building Sustainability is organising a major conference at WSSD for the land, property, construction and development sectors. For further information contact the RICS Foundation; tel: (44) 20 7695 1568; email: info@rics-foundation.org; Internet: <http://www.earth-summit.net/>

29-30 August, Johannesburg, South Africa: PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP ON CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER. Organised by Parliamentarians for Global Action and hosted by several representatives from South African Ministries. The Workshop will bring together Members of Parliament from over 100 countries with leading environmental experts, NGOs, and business leaders to highlight the success of legislation to reduce air and water pollution and illustrate the potential to implement similar acts internationally. The workshop will provide Parliamentarians with practical skills in drafting and enforcing effective environmental legislation in their countries. For further information contact: Ms. Katie Tell, Programme Officer, Sustainable Development and Population tel: (1 212) 687-7755 Ext. 102; Fax: 8409; email: katie.tell@pgaction.org; Internet: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/calendar/media_alert.pdf

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy or review by the BRIDGES staff to Heike Baumüller. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Matteo Rizzolli).

LIVING PLANET REPORT 2002. This report is WWF's periodic update on the state of the world's ecosystems - as measured by the Living Planet Index - and the human pressures on them through the consumption of renewable natural resources - as measured by the Ecological Footprint. The report concludes that current trends are moving humanity away from achieving minimum requirement for sustainability, not towards it. The global ecological footprint has grown from about 70 percent of the planet's biological capacity in 1961 to about 120 percent of its biological capacity in 1999. Furthermore, future projections based on likely scenarios of population growth, economic development and technological change, show that humanity's footprint is likely to grow to about 180 percent to 220 percent of the Earth's biological capacity by the year 2050. Available at: <http://www.panda.org/livingplanet/lpr02/>

RECONCILING TRADE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY WITH ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT? THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY. Edited by Bail, C., Falkner, R., and Marquard, H. (2002) London, UK: Published by Earthscan Publishing and Royal Institute of International Affairs. The book analyses the process from which the Convention on Biological Diversity's Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety emerged, its key elements and its implications as a means of implementing an international regulatory framework designed to address the growing importance of biosafety the emergence of biotechnology as a global industry presents the world. More information available at: Internet: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3675>

Brookes, G. (2002). "Anti GM Crop Sentiment and Policies in the European Union: Some Economic Consequences." CROP BIOTECH BRIEF, Vol. 2, No. 2. Available at http://www.isaaa.org/kc/Services/Media/biotech_briefs/Brief2-2.pdf

"Developing countries and a new round of WTO negotiations," by Thomas W. Hertel, Bernard M. Hoekman & Will Martin in WORLD BANK RESEARCH OBSERVER 17 (2, 2002): 113-140. This article summarises some of the results and findings emerging from an ongoing World Bank research and capacity-building project that focuses on the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiating agenda from a developing country perspective. Recent research suggests that the potential gains from further multilateral liberalisation of trade remain very large. The payoffs associated with attempts to introduce substantive disciplines in the WTO on domestic regulatory regimes are much less certain. This suggests that the focus of current and future negotiations should be primarily on the bread and butter of the multilateral trading system-the progressive liberalisation of barriers to trade in goods and services on a non-discriminatory basis. In addition, priority should be given to ensuring that rules are consistent with the development needs of poorer countries and to helping developing countries implement WTO obligations.

"Market-based conservation and local benefits: the case of argan oil in Morocco," by Travis J. Lybbert, Christopher B. Barrett & Hamid Narjisse in ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS 41 (1, 2002): 125-144. Market-based approaches to biodiversity conservation gained popularity in the 1990s. The success of these strategies hinges on, first, the successful creation or expansion of target markets and, second, the beneficial involvement of local stakeholders in these markets so that improved incentives induce conservation. This paper evaluates these two key elements in the case of argan oil commercialisation in south-western Morocco. The principal finding is that even when locals appear well-positioned to reap ex post benefits, one can reject the hypothesis that successful resource commercialisation necessarily stimulates local development and reduces poverty.

"Rice monoculture and integrated rice-fish farming in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam: economic and ecological considerations," by Hakan Berg in ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS 41 (1, 2002): 95-107. This study is a survey of agriculture practices and pest management strategies among rice and rice-fish farmers in the Mekong Delta. Based on an economic comparison between different farmer categories, it is argued that rice-fish farming provides a sustainable alternative to rice monoculture, if the farmer takes full advantage of the natural productivity of the rice field ecosystem.

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