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### IN BRIEF

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## Intellectual Property Rights

### SUMMIT OUTCOMES CITED AS IMPETUS FOR PROGRESS IN TRIPS DISCUSSIONS

The WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) at its 17-19 September meeting continued discussions on issues related to TRIPs Article 27.3(b) (patentability of life forms), the relationship between the TRIPs Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and traditional knowledge. Several Members cited the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as a confirmation of the high priority that should be given to these issues by the Council.

The relevance of the WSSD for the work of the TRIPs Council, in particular the decision to negotiate an international regime on benefit-sharing (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes Special WSSD Update No.5*) was raised, inter alia, by Brazil and Colombia on behalf of the Andean countries. While not necessarily calling for a benefit-sharing regime to be established under the TRIPs Agreement, Brazil pointed out that the decision highlighted the need for including elements of disclosure of origin, prior informed consent and benefit-sharing in the Agreement to ensure that the CBD was not jeopardised by the absence of measures in the TRIPs Agreement to combat biopiracy.

WTO Members furthermore addressed various points raised in a "concept paper" submitted by the EC. In the paper, the EC signalled its willingness to discuss the inclusion of disclosure requirements in patent applications, as repeatedly called for by a number of developing countries (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 11 July 2002). To this end, the EC proposed the establishment of a "self-standing" requirement to include information on the geographic origin of the genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Such a requirement, however, should not constitute an additional formal or substantial patentability criterion. Thus, failure to disclose should lie outside the patent law, but should, for instance, be regulated by civil or administrative law.

While welcoming the EC proposal as a good step forward, Brazil expressed disappointment that the submission only addressed one leg of the tripod (disclosure), but had failed to deal with the other two (benefit-sharing and prior informed consent). The three elements, however, needed to be looked at together in order to ensure mutual supportiveness of the CBD and the TRIPs Agreement, and the prevention of biopiracy, Brazil added.

In addition to the developments in the TRIPs Council, the need for equitable access and benefit-sharing (ABS) measures in general and for disclosure requirements in particular appears to be attracting increasing attention and support in various fora. These include the CBD -- in particular the Bonn Guidelines on ABS which include disclosure requirements as a possible compliance measure (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 18 April 2002) --, the WIPO [World Intellectual Property Organization] Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002), the WSSD decision, which calls for the negotiations of a benefit-sharing regime to be 'bear in mind' the Bonn Guidelines, and most recently the report of the UK Commission on Intellectual Property Rights (see related story, this issue). As one source noted, the TRIPs Council needed to respond to this growing momentum so as not to prejudice the outcomes of these discussions. Some WTO Members, however, have in the past been reluctant to address these issues in the TRIPs Council while discussions were still going on in related fora.

The next regular session of the TRIPs Council will be held on 25-27 November. In addition, an informal meeting has been scheduled for 10 November to discuss the possible extension of a higher level of protection for geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits.

#### **Additional Resources**

The EC paper is available at [http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/europa/2001newround/comnr\\_trips.pdf](http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/europa/2001newround/comnr_trips.pdf).

Past issues of BRIDGES Trade BioRes can be found at <http://www.ictsd.org/biores>

ICTSD reporting

#### **UK COMMISSION CAUTIONS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AGAINST STRONG IPR REGIMES**

The UK Commission on Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR) -- an independent body set up in May 2001 by the British government -- released its final report on 12 September, setting out a number of recommendations aimed at aligning intellectual property rights (IPR) protection with efforts to reduce poverty in developing countries. The doubts and concerns raised in the report are not necessarily new, but what is significant is their source, i.e. a high-level Commission established and appointed by a developed country government. Many civil society groups welcomed the report as a reflection of widespread concerns regarding the IPR regime.

Overall, the Commission concludes that the IPR system is not as beneficial for developing countries as for industrialised countries, as it increases the cost of accessing many products and technologies of interest to poorer regions. The report furthermore points out that stronger IPR protection is not necessarily better for developing countries. "Developing countries should not be coerced into adopting stronger IP rights without regard to the impact this has on their development and poor people," said John Barton, Chair of the Commission. Instead, the IP systems should be tailored to the country's state of development and its particular circumstances, the Commission concludes.

With respect to patents on life forms -- as allowed under Article 27.3(b) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) -- the report discourages developing countries from providing patent protection for plants and animals because of the restrictions such patents may place on the use of seeds by farmers and researchers. Also, the report recommends that IPR applicants should be required

to disclose the geographic source of the genetic resources and provide proof that they were acquired with the prior informed consent of the country from which they were taken. Developing countries, including India and Brazil, have long been calling for such requirements to be implemented both at the TRIPs Council and at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-07-11/story1.htm>). The EC, changing its position on this issue, signalled its willingness to discuss the establishment of disclosure requirements at the last meeting of the TRIPs Council on 17-19 September (see related story, this issue).

Oxfam welcomed the report as "powerful evidence- based critique of the health and development problems caused by the one-size-fits-all approach of WTO patent rules". In particular, the report's findings reflect many of the concerns put forward by developing countries, academics, NGOs and others regarding IPRs and medicines, Oxfam pointed out. The report's failure to call for the reform of the TRIPs Agreement, Oxfam added, reflected "the authors' pessimism about current power imbalances at the WTO". Similarly, ActionAid saw the report as a "big step in acknowledging that intellectual property rights legislation has a detrimental effect on poor countries". The group also noted, however, that whether the Commission's recommendations are actually put into action would now depend upon the political will of governments.

The full CIPR report and an executive summary are available at: <http://www.iprcommission.org/>

"Independent Commission finds intellectual property rights impose costs on most developing countries and do not help to reduce property," CIPR, 12 September; "Oxfam's initial response to the report of the UK CIPR," OXFAM, 12 September; "Government Commissioned report throws TRIPs agreement into question," ACTIONAID, 12 September.

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## **Agriculture**

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### **WTO MEMBERS SPLIT ON FUTURE OF 'GREEN BOX'**

At the 23-25 September informal negotiating session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA) on domestic support, no progress was made on the most contentious farm subsidy issues. These include the question of whether the so-called 'Green Box' should be made more flexible or be tightened. In his conclusion, CoA special session Chair Stuart Harbinson reportedly called on Members to "switch their mindsets from portrayal of maximising national positions" to an "effort to compromise and bridging gaps."

Following on from discussions held at the 4-5 September intersessional consultation on domestic support (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-13/story1.htm>), WTO Members continued talks on the future of the international agricultural subsidy regime, largely categorised in the so-called Amber Box (clearly trade distortive subsidies), Green Box (non, or at most minimally, trade-distorting support) and Blue Box (direct payments under production-limiting programmes). Public spending targeting non-trade issues such as food security, structural adjustment or environmental conservation generally fall under the Green Box.

### **"Deadlock" between Cairns and 'Multifunctionality' Group?**

At the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha last year, Members committed themselves to "significantly reduce" trade-distorting support as these are seen as means of market support which harm other Members' trade opportunities. 'Ambitious' liberalisers, such as those from the Cairns Group of agriculture exporters (including Australia, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, Indonesia and others), want to go even further, calling for the Blue Box, which they also consider trade distorting, to be scrapped. Additionally, they proposed to restrict the use of income support schemes under the Green Box, arguing that those payments distort trade through cutting farmers' costs, reducing risks for those that would otherwise go out of business and sustaining supply.

More 'cautious' Members, like those from the 'Friends of Multifunctionality' group including the EC, Japan and Switzerland, however, made it clear that they would only negotiate additional reductions in trade-distortive support if the Blue Box was maintained and more flexibility was given on the application of the Green Box. The EC et al. also declared that they were not prepared to submit specific proposals on domestic support unless Members agreed to negotiate additional rules on non-trade concerns related to agriculture and other issues, such as labelling, the precautionary principle and geographical indications.

Members such as the EC and Japan take the view that agriculture fulfils a 'multifunctional' role since in addition to producing food and fibres, it also has a number of other functions related to public goods such as the protection of the environment, rural development and food security. Others, however, are concerned that the inclusion of non-trade concerns might lead to trade distortions. "If they want to address non-trade concerns like the need to maintain rural populations, that's fine, just put it in the green box in a way that doesn't distort trade," said David Hegwood, special trade advisor to the US Secretary of Agriculture on the side-lines of the CoA meeting. "Just don't make other countries pay for your beautiful countryside," he added.

### **Green Box Support**

In terms of detail, Switzerland proposed to allow for "payments compensating extra costs accruing from higher production standards" under programmes addressing "non-producer concerns", such as animal welfare imposed by consumers and voters. Furthermore, a number of developing countries asked for more flexibility for their developmental concerns including food security and rural development.

The Cairns Group and some others, however, expressed concern that many of the proposals advocating greater leeway would add new trade-distorting subsidies to the Green Box. Instead, the Group and some developing countries such as India demanded overall caps on Green Box spending (e.g. 5 percent of annual agricultural production), limits on specific types of programmes, or removing some income support programmes from the Box. Cairns Group member Canada furthermore suggested to tighten the applicability of the Green Box, for instance by requiring the amount of compensatory payments under environmental programmes to be "less than the extra costs involved in complying with the government programme" and that it should "not be related to or based on the volume of production."

The Agriculture Committee is holding a regular session on 26 September, followed by a formal special session on 27 September where the Chair will present a summary report of the 23-25 September informal special session.

ICTSD reporting: "Swiss See Deadlock Looming In Farm Reform Talks," REUTERS, 23 September 2002; "Swiss Negotiator Warns Of Deadlock In WTO Agriculture Liberalisation Talks," WTO REPORTER, 24 September 2002; "Japanese Official Sets Out Position In Farm Talks, Criticises US, Cairns Group," WTO REPORTER, 25 September 2002; "US says green box rules adequate to address non-trade farm talk worries," WTO REPORTER, 26 September 2002.

### **In Brief**

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#### **SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO SET UP GMO ADVISORY PANEL**

Agriculture ministers from Southern Africa are planning to set up an advisory panel to assess the potential impacts of genetically modified (GM) foods on the population. The decision comes at a time of growing concerns among some African countries, including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, over the presence of GM organisms in food aid. "The absence of a harmonised regional policy on genetically modified organisms is creating problems with regard to the movement of food items," said Prega Ramsamy, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). These and other concerns related to GM food will be discussed at the upcoming SADC summit on 2-3 October in Luanda, Angola, where agriculture ministers are expected to recommend that each of the 14 SADC member states take a position to accept or reject GM grain as food aid.

"Southern African nations seek GMO advisory body," REUTERS, 20 September 2002.

#### **AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS VALIDITY OF CBD DECISION ON ALIEN SPECIES**

At the recent Bureau meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Australia --supported by the US, New Zealand and Canada -- again raised concerns regarding the Guiding Principles on Alien Species, with Australia going as far as declaring the decision to adopt the Principles as illegitimate. The Principles were adopted by the Working Group at the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the CBD in April 2002, but when put to the final plenary, Australia rejected them due to concerns that the ambiguous language on the precautionary approach and references to socio-economic and cultural considerations in the context of risk management might result in conflicts with obligations under trade agreements (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-05-02/story1.htm>). Australia, supported by the same countries, had also noted these reservations at the WTO's information session with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in June 2002. The President of the Bureau has been authorised to conduct informal discussion on both of Australia's substantive concerns.

ICTSD Reporting.

#### **RESEARCHERS JOINING FORCES WITH MEXICAN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN BIOPROSPECTING**

In an effort to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular its objective of conserving biodiversity and equitable benefit sharing, a group of scientists are testing the abundant flora of San Luis Potosi in Mexico in the search of new drugs or natural herbicides in cooperation with local communities. The researchers and the local communities signed a legal contract which guarantees that the communities would receive fifty percent of the profits should any plant prove to yield a commercial product. Besides bioprospecting, the scientists will also reintroduce some of the plant species that have disappeared from the region due to over-harvesting and habitat damage, as well as support communities in improving propagation and processing of medicinal plants they commonly collect and sell. The San Luis Potosi project is part of a larger initiative called the Bioactive Agents of Arid Zone Plants of Latin America, which also operates in Argentina and Chile.

"Mexico's Dry Forests May Yield New Medicines," ENS, 25 September 2002.

#### **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ACCEPTS COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON CARTAGENA PROTOCOL**

The European Parliament at the first reading on 24 September adopted the European Commission's proposed legislation to bring the EU in line with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which regulates the transboundary movement of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The legislation was adopted with a number of amendments, addressing the following issues: prior informed consent from the importer should be required in order for a cross-border movement to take place; GMOs cannot be exported if they are not approved in the EU; and transparency should be reinforced through strengthening traceability rules.

"Cross-border movement of GMOs," EUROPARL, 24 September 2002.

#### **RICE-PRODUCING COUNTRIES CALL FOR GREATER COOPERATION TO COMBAT RURAL POVERTY**

During the International Rice Congress in Beijing, government officials and rice experts called for greater cooperation among Asian rice-producing countries in their efforts to lift farmers out of poverty. In particular, governments discussed how states could ensure that poor farmers benefit from agricultural research and technological innovation. The Chinese President gave an example of this by announcing that China would share sequencing information on thousands of rice genes thereby supporting its neighbours in taking

advantage of existing research and technologies. "The sequencing of the rice genome will be the first sequencing project to yield tangible results for humankind from the standpoints of food security and combating malnutrition" said Ronald Cantrell the Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). For information on the International Rice Congress 2002 see: <http://www.irri.org/irc2002>

"Rice Experts Target Fairer Deal For Poor Asian Farmers," Deutsche Presse Agentur, 18 September 2002; "China to Freely Share Research on Rice Genome," ABC, 20 September 2002.

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## Events & Resources

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### 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>.

### Coming up in the next two weeks

23 September - 1 October, Geneva, Switzerland: ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO (37th series of meetings). For further information contact: WIPO; tel: (41 22) 338 9111; fax: 733 54 28; email: [WIPO.mail@wipo.int](mailto:WIPO.mail@wipo.int); Internet: <http://www.wipo.int>[http://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo\\_content\\_frame=/news/en/conferences.html](http://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo_content_frame=/news/en/conferences.html)

26-29 September, Cairo, Egypt: AGRO-ENVIRON 2002 - 3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS. The Symposium covers a wide range of topics addressing key environmental and agricultural issues through applying new technologies that aim at sustaining agricultural systems, monitoring environment and conserving natural resources. Some of the topics include; agricultural waste management, biotechnology, desertification and land degradation, and environmental biodiversity. For further information, see: <http://www.agro.narss.org/>.

29 September - 3 October, Leipzig-Halle, Germany: BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS IN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS: AN EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE. Organised by the Centre for Environmental Research. The workshop will focus on evolutionary processes in biological invasions of plants and animals and their implications for ecosystem properties and processes. For further information contact: Stefan Klotz, Centre for Environmental Research; tel: (49 345) 558 5302; fax: 558 5329; email: [klotz@halle.ufz.de](mailto:klotz@halle.ufz.de); Internet: <http://www.hdg.ufz.de/index.php?en=1026>

30 September - 4 October, Bonn, Germany: PIC INC-9. The ninth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. For further information contact: Niek van der Graaff, FAO; tel: (39-6) 5705-3441; fax: 5705-6347; email: [Niek.VanderGraaff@fao.org](mailto:Niek.VanderGraaff@fao.org); or Jim Willis, UNEP Chemicals; tel: (41-22) 917-8111; email: [chemicals@unep.ch](mailto:chemicals@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.pic.int/>

30 September - 4 October, E-Conference: SCIENCE COMMUNICATION NEEDS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. The forum aims to encourage discussion about the needs in developing countries for science communication, highlighting how science communication can benefit a country in terms of increasing awareness of problems and advances, applying pressures to national politicians and informing international donors of national activities. To participate you can register by sending an email to [sciencecomms4development-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sciencecomms4development-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). For further information, see <http://www.swfaus.org/Econf.htm>.

1 - 4 October, Habana, Cuba: II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JURIDICAL PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. Organised by Instituto de Desarrollo e Investigaciones del Derecho. For further information contact: Mr. Miguel Angel García Alzugaray, Coordinator Organising Committee; tel: (537) 670795; Fax: (537) 670795; email: [drelaciones@fgr.get.tur.cu](mailto:drelaciones@fgr.get.tur.cu) / [didid@fgr.get.tur.cu](mailto:didid@fgr.get.tur.cu)

7-10 October, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: CONFERENCE ON BRINGING BACK THE FORESTS - POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR DEGRADED LANDS AND FORESTS. The international conference will address solutions to rehabilitation challenges in the forests and grasslands of Asia and the Pacific. For further information contact: Alias Abdul Jalil, Malaysia Forest Research Institute; tel: (60-3) 6272-2516; fax: 6277-3249; email: foreconf@apafri.upm.edu.my; Internet: <http://apafri.upm.edu.my/reconf/index.html>

8-9 October: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739 5007; fax: 739 5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

9-11 October, Rome, Italy: FIRST MEETING OF THE CGRFA ACTING AS INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. For further information contact: Paloma Señor, CGRFA, Tel: (0039) 06 570 52199, fax: 57056347, email: [Paloma.Senor@fao.org](mailto:Paloma.Senor@fao.org), Internet: <http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/cgrfa/docsic1.htm>

### Other Forthcoming Events

21-23 October, Aalborg, Denmark: EURO ENVIRONMENT 2002. The conference will explore how business can seek solutions and be the engine of change towards a sustainable society. The theme this year is 'Can business be a driving agent of global governance and hold the keys to the goals of global sustainability?'. For further information visit: <http://www.akkc.dk/index.asp?arrangement=327&kategori=kongresser&sprog=eng>.

23 October - 1 November, New Delhi, India: COP-8 AND SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES (SBI AND SBSTA) UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. For further information contact: Ms. Isabelle Colineau, UNFCCC; tel: (49-228) 815 1425; fax: 815 1999; email: [icolineau@unfccc.de](mailto:icolineau@unfccc.de); Internet: <http://unfccc.int/cop8/index.html>

15 - 17 November, Valencia, Spain: 17TH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM. The GBF17 will be convened immediately prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention. GBF17 will address the following five key issues: WSSD: the future for the Ramsar Convention; agriculture, wetlands and water resources; wetlands, people and climate: Preparing for change; the list of Ramsar Wetlands: Enhancing the framework and national Implementation; and Wetlands Restoration and Mitigation. For further information contact: Caroline Martinet, IUCN; tel: (41 22) 999-0216; fax: 999-0025; email: [caroline.martinet@iucn.org](mailto:caroline.martinet@iucn.org); Internet: [http://www.gbf.ch/present\\_session.asp?no=27&lg=EN](http://www.gbf.ch/present_session.asp?no=27&lg=EN)

17 - 20 November, Orlando, United States: SYMPOSIUM ON CHALLENGES FACING SMALL FARMERS: Organised by the International Farming Systems Association. The meeting will focus on small farms in an ever-changing world: meeting the challenges of sustainable livelihoods and food security in diverse rural communities. For further information contact: Peter Hildebrand, University of Florida; tel: (1 352) 392-1965; fax: 392-7127 ; email: [peh@ufl.edu](mailto:peh@ufl.edu) ; Internet: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ifsa>

18 - 26 November, Valencia, Spain: THE 8TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (COP-8). During this event Ramsar country members will meet to assess the progress of the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation to date, share knowledge and experience on technical issues, and plan their own and the Bureau's work for the next triennium. For further information contact: Mr. Dwight Peck, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Fax: (41 22) 999 0169; email: [peck@ramsar.org](mailto:peck@ramsar.org); Internet: <http://www.ramsar.org>

18- 22 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (8TH SESSION). For further information contact: WIPO; tel: (41 22) 338 9111; fax: 733 5428; email: [WIPO.mail@wipo.int](mailto:WIPO.mail@wipo.int); Internet: [http://www.wipo.inthttp://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo\\_content\\_frame=/news/en/conferences.html](http://www.wipo.inthttp://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo_content_frame=/news/en/conferences.html)

25 - 29 November, Rome, Italy: 14TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL (COP-14). For further information contact: Ozone Secretariat; tel: (1 514) 954-8219; fax: 954-6077; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/meet2002.shtml>

## 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, [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch).

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: PATENTING OF HIGHER LIFE FORMS AND RELATED ISSUES. By the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee, June 2002. An interim Report to the Government of Canada Biotechnology Ministerial Coordinating Committee. Available at [http://www.cbac-cccb.ca/documents/en/E980\\_IC\\_IntelProp.pdf](http://www.cbac-cccb.ca/documents/en/E980_IC_IntelProp.pdf).

CAN THE DEVELOPMENT BOX ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE AGRICULTURAL CRISIS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES? THE CASE FOR A POSITIVE LIST APPROACH. By Aileen Kwa, Focus On The Global South, 2002. A key issue confronting governments now in the Development Box debate is what actually goes into the Box. This paper makes out the case for a Positive List Approach, and gives reasons why, short of this, it may be better not to have a Development Box, but to settle for strengthened Special and Differential Treatment. Available at: <http://www.focusweb.org/publications/2002/Development%20Box-ag%20crisis.htm>

"Local food, global solution" by Colin Hines, Caroline Lucas, Vandana Shiva in *ECOLOGIST* 32 (5, 2002): 38, 40. Increased international trade in food is putting the livelihoods of small producers across the world at risk, the authors argue. In this piece the case for a return to a more localised agricultural model is presented.

"Reforming Global Trade In Agriculture: A Developing-Country Perspective," by Shishir Priyadarshi, in *TRADE, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT* Issue 2, 2002. The author believes the new round of WTO agriculture negotiations should produce an agreement that will give developing countries the flexibility to adopt domestic policies geared toward enhancing domestic food production and protecting the livelihoods of the rural poor. Available at: [http://www.ceip.org/files/pdf/TED\\_2.pdf](http://www.ceip.org/files/pdf/TED_2.pdf)

GOVERNING BIODIVERSITY. ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND APPROACHES TO OBTAINING BENEFITS FROM THEIR USE: THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES By Liebig, Klaus et al, German Development Institute, Reports and Working Papers 5, 2002. The study introduces two concepts of Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS): bilateral ABS for "wild" genetic resources, governed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and multilateral ABS for food crops, conceptualised by the recently concluded International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Available at: [http://www.die-gdi.de/die\\_homepage.nsf/FSepub?OpenFrameset](http://www.die-gdi.de/die_homepage.nsf/FSepub?OpenFrameset)

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