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Agriculture

AFRICAN COUNTRIES TAKE PLIGHT OF COTTON FARMERS TO WTO

In an unprecedented move, four West and Central African (WCA) countries -- Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali -- have joined forces to put forward a sectoral initiative at the WTO to eliminate cotton subsidies worldwide in an effort to ensure the survival and development of the cotton sector in their region. Observers have described this issue as a potential "global deal" that could become a "make or break" issue at the next WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September.

African proposal calls for both systemic and emergency solutions

The submission stresses the crucial strategic position of cotton in the development policies and poverty reduction programmes in the WCA region where cotton accounts for up to 80 percent of export earnings in some countries. Extensive cotton subsidies in rich countries, especially the US where "subsidies given to American cotton producers are 60 percent more than the total GDP of Burkina Faso", have led to an artificial increase of supplies on international markets and a fall in export prices, costing WCA countries USD 250 million in export earning in 2001/2002.

To address this, the WCA countries are calling for a "systemic solution to the cotton problem within the framework of the new Doha Round of trade negotiations". This would include an explicit recognition of cotton as a "special" product with respect to food security, rural development and/or livelihood security concerns. According to the draft modalities text produced by Stuart Harbinson, chair of the WTO agriculture negotiations, such special products would be subject to reduced tariff reduction commitments (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 21 March 2003; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-03-21/story3.htm>). In addition, the countries are calling for the extension of the concept of "special products" from defensive to offensive measures, and

for the total elimination of border measures, domestic support and all forms of subsidies for the export of cotton.

Given the urgency to ensure the survival of the cotton sector in the WCA region, the countries propose certain emergency measures to be implemented immediately. The countries propose the establishment of a mechanism to phase out support for cotton production with a view to its total elimination ("early harvest") at the Cancun Ministerial meeting, which would set a specific date for the phase-out. They also advocate the use of transitional measures for least-developed countries (LDC) in the form of financial compensation paid to cotton-producing LDCs "to offset the injury caused by support of production and export".

Members supportive, but sceptical chances for success

While the proposal has not yet been officially discussed at the WTO, informal reactions from Members indicate a mixture of support, optimism and caution. A source from the US expressed his general support for a systemic rather than a sectoral solution, noting that any special treatment given to African cotton would also benefit potentially competing cotton exporters, such as Brazil. The source added that the "early harvest" demands did not appear very realistic. An EU source remained unconvinced that the concept of "special products" should be extended to cotton as the concept applied to products that were not competitive in the international market (and therefore required special treatment), which was not the case for African cotton.

A source from Brazil described the initiative both as a positive gesture for Africa and a sign of support for Brazil's ongoing WTO dispute with the US over its cotton subsidies. In March, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body had accepted Brazil's request for a panel to examine the legitimacy of the subsidies granted by the US government to its cotton farmers (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 April 2003; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-04-02/story3.htm>). The source, however, was sceptical with regard to how successful a strategy would be that focused entirely on negotiations with the US on one product category, favouring instead a systemic approach. A source from Mauritius echoed the general support for the initiative, but cautioned against the assumption that subsidy reductions would benefit developing countries, citing sugar as an example where Mauritius might lose its preferential market access to the EU if Brazil succeeds with its challenge against EU sugar subsidies.

The WCA countries' proposal is likely to be put forwards at the next meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 10 June and be discussed in more detail by the Committee of Agriculture during its 26-27 June and 1 July meetings. ICTSD, together with Oxfam and the IDEAS Centre, will be holding a panel entitled "Can Negotiations on Agriculture Deliver Pro-development Reforms? The Case of West African Cotton" on 17 June at the WTO's Public Symposium in Geneva.

Additional Resources

The WCA countries' submission is available at http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/development/resources/Cotton%20submission%20WTO_English.pdf.

"Cultivating Poverty: The impact of US cotton subsidies on Africa," Oxfam Briefing Paper, September 2002, <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/policy/papers/30cotton/index.htm>.

ICTSD reporting.

Biotechnology

GMO UPDATE: EU-EGYPT; EU; CHINA**Egypt Withdraws From WTO Complaint Against EU Biotech Moratorium**

Egypt will not join the US' WTO challenge of the EU's de facto moratorium on the approval of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), according to a letter by Egypt's EU Ambassador to the European Consumers' Organization. The US in its consultation request to the EU had listed Egypt along with Canada and Argentina as countries that were planning to also submit requests (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 15 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-05-15/story1.htm>). "The Government of Egypt took this decision in conscious emulation of the need to preserve adequate and effective consumer and environmental protection, and with the desire to reduce further distortions and impediments to international trade that may result due to the further pursuit of this matter within the WTO," the letter stated.

As one trade source noted, Egypt had no reason to join in the challenge since the country was a net food importer and did not have a significant export interest in GMOs. The source also referred to past consultations between Egypt and Thailand over Egypt's ban of Thai canned tuna due to concerns that the fish might be canned in GM soy oil. A US trade spokesperson, however, noted that Egypt had not given any indication to the US that it would withdraw from the case.

European Environment Committee Favours Tighter GMO Rules

The European Parliament's Environment Committee on 22 May voted to further tighten the labelling and traceability legislation for GM food and feed. The Committee agreed to lower the minimum threshold below which GMOs would be exempted from labelling requirements from 0.9 to 0.5 percent. The Committee also voted in favour of legally binding rules to regulate the co-existence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops.

European industry groups expressed concerns that these amendments, if adopted by the European Parliament in the second reading of the legislation in July, could hold up their adoption and further delay the lifting of the de facto moratorium on approvals. Criticism of the decision were also heard from the European Commission. "The Parliament has snubbed the US," said Commission spokeswoman Beate Gminder, referring to the recent US request for WTO consultations on the moratorium (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-05-14/story1.htm>). The Commission noted that co-existence was already being addressed as a separate issue and should not be added to the labelling bill (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-03-10/story1.htm>). The environmental group Friends of the Earth welcomed the Committee's decision, which they said "paves the way for better consumer choice and action to protect non-GMO and organic farmers from genetic contamination".

China Extends Interim Biotech Rules

The Chinese government has extended the interim arrangements for the approval of GM imports -- due to expire on 20 September -- until April 2004. This is the third time that the interim rules have been extended following protests from soy exporting countries (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 December 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-12-11/inbrief.htm>). During the transition period, imports will still be required to obtain preliminary safety approvals, which will be granted within 30 days. The most recent extension, however, has not yet been officially announced and Chinese traders are reluctant to commit to importing soybeans at this stage. "We are worried they might do something to disrupt soybean trade such as issuing the [official announcement of the extension] at the last minute and not giving us enough time to apply for the papers for soy shipments in August," one trader noted.

ICTSD reporting; "Egypt to drop backing for US GMO case vs EU," REUTERS, 30 May 2003; "EU lawmakers move to toughen GMO rules," REUTERS, 24 May 2003; "European Environment Committee votes for stronger GMO laws," FOEE, 22 May 2003; "China to extend GMO measure, market awaits papers," REUTERS, 30 May 2003.

Forestry

TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL MAKES PROGRESS ON FOREST CERTIFICATION

Delegates at the 34th Council of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) from 12-17 May in Panama City, Panama, made important progress on the contentious issue of certification, adopting a decision on phased certification schemes for sustainable forest management, which authorises the Executive Director to undertake further work on this issue.

Trade-related issues also featured during discussion on economic aspects of forests at the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-3), meeting from 26 May to 6 June in Geneva, Switzerland, although attention in the first week focused largely on the two other main issues under discussion, namely forest health and productivity and maintaining forest cover.

Progress on voluntary certification schemes at ITTC-34

Based on a report prepared by the ITTO Secretariat on issues affecting market access for tropical timber, delegates at the 34th Council meeting (ITTC-34) discussed, *inter alia*, monitoring tariff and non-tariff barriers; impacts of trade on sustainable forest management; and the development of phased certification schemes. Among the most significant achievements of the meeting in this regard was the adoption of a decision on phased approaches to forest certification (PA), which authorises the Executive Director to engage consultants from both producer and consumer countries to examine the costs and benefits of PAs in certain member countries and to develop procedures to implement PAs. In addition, the Executive Director is instructed to convene an international workshop on this issue and report to the Council no later than ITTC-38.

This decision marked an important step forward in the certification debate that has long divided producer and consumer countries in the ITTO (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-11-21/story3.htm>). A phased approach involves dividing full compliance with the certification standard into a series of interim targets or milestones, thereby allowing limited resources to be focused on one or two tasks at a time. The system would allow producer countries, which have no certification schemes in place yet, to attain certification more easily and thereby improve market accessibility for their tropical timber products. For their part, consumer countries have signalled their willingness to discuss PAs as one among several possibilities to ensure sustainable forest management, but would prefer to assess the actual costs and benefits before giving their final approval.

Regarding the relationship between the ITTO and the WTO, delegates adopted a decision mandating the Executive Director of the ITTO to report on the development of negotiations at the WTO on tariffs on tropical timber products.

Economic Aspects of Forests "Featuring" at UNFF-3

While certification featured high on the ITTC agenda, trade-related issues took a backseat in the first week of UNFF-3. During one morning of discussions based on the World Bank paper on the economic aspects of forests (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 15 May 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-05-15/story2.htm>), delegates touched on issues such as the economic valuation of environmental services provided by forests, enhanced market access for forest products from sustainably managed forests, and the harmonisation of certification schemes.

The G-77/China supported by India and Indonesia regarded the report as a set-back compared to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests / Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, expressing particular disappointment with the lack of references to new and additional financial resources. UNFF should avoid further normative debate, they noted, but should instead focus on implementing the proposals for action already agreed upon by IPF/IFF. Several countries also highlighted forest-related issues being discussed at the WTO such as subsidies, environmental goods and services, technology transfer and market access. Delegates did not manage to finalise their discussion on the economic aspects of forests and agreed to resume on Monday, 2 June.

Additional Resources

Official documents for UNFF-3 are available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents-unff.html#3>
Documents from ITTC-34 are available at: http://www.itto.or.jp/ittcdd_ses/thirty_fourth_sessions.html
For daily briefings of both meetings see: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>

ICTSD Reporting; ENB Vol. 24 No. 21, 19 May 2003; Vol. 13 No. 100, 2 June 2003.

In Brief

SOLUTION URGED TO INTERNATIONAL COFFEE CRISIS

The International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and the World Bank held a high-level Roundtable on 19 May to address the global coffee crisis brought about by historically low prices. Raw coffee prices are at the lowest levels seen in 30 years, due to overproduction and low quality production, which have led to devastation among coffee growers while large international coffee roasters continue to increase profits. The 250 meeting participants -- including coffee producers, officials from governments and international organisations, NGOs and industry representatives -- discussed issues such as diversification, quality, value added and market development for coffee. In conclusion, they issued a statement calling on rich countries to share the burden of the coffee crisis, which affects the living standards of 125 million people in developing countries. Néstor Osorio, ICO Executive Director, said "we will need to establish the capacity of international agencies and the private sector to work on concrete actions in areas like credit and risk management, and what measures can be taken to bring producers once again into the profit-zone". Oxfam's head of advocacy Phil Bloomer urged the meeting to propose the establishment of an independent commission on coffee and commodities to the G-8 summit in Evian in June. He said that "making the coffee trade fair is a crucial test of whether globalisation can be made to work for the poor as well as the rich". The output of the meeting will be presented to the ICO Executive Board and Council.

"ICO/World Bank high-level Round-Table calls on rich countries to take responsibility on coffee crisis," ICO PRESS RELEASE, 19 May 2003; "Coffee crisis tops summit agenda," BBC, 19 May 2003.

EU TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TIMBER TRADE

The EU announced on 21 May an Action Plan to combat illegal logging and trade in related timber products. Global forest product trade is worth US\$ 150 billion per year, and according to the European Commission, "in some forest-rich countries, the corruption fuelled by profits from illegal logging has grown to such an extent that it is undermining the rule of law, principles of democratic government and respect for human rights". According to the World Bank, developing country governments are currently losing US\$10-15 billion annually due to illegal logging. Under the Action Plan, the EU would support improved governance in wood-producing countries and initiate voluntary partnerships with these countries to ensure that only legally harvested timber entered the EU market. The Action Plan would also seek to strengthen international collaboration to combat illegal timber trade. The European Commission approved the Action Plan just prior to the UN Forum on Forest, which is taking place from 26 May to 6 June in Geneva.

For further information, refer to the Royal Institute of International Affairs' "Illegal-logging.info" website, which provides information on the current international debate around the control of illegal logging and forest crimes: <http://www.illegal-logging.info/>.

"E.U. bids to cut down worldwide illegal timber trade," REUTERS, 20 May 2003; "Commission adopts Action Plan to combat illegal logging and the trade in illegal timber," EC PRESS RELEASE, 21 May 2003.

NEW EU CONSTITUTION SIDESTEPS ENVIRONMENT?

The draft of a new EU constitution, which will revamp the governance structure and accommodate the ten members joining in May 2004, was released in late May. The Convention on the Future of Europe -- a body comprising EU and accession countries' heads of state, members of parliament, officials from the European Commission and Parliament and headed by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing -- spent 15 months producing the draft, which proposes, inter alia, an elected European president and foreign minister and a legally-binding charter of rights covering issues ranging across labour and social policies. EU members have disagreed over issues such as how deep to integrate, and smaller members have voiced concern that they will lose power in favour of the larger states. Environmental observers, for their part, have warned that environment and sustainable development have been overlooked in the new constitution, which on some accounts represents a step backward. According to Toni Juniper of Friends of the Earth, sustainable development is only referred to in social and economic terms in the new treaty, with environment missing, and environmental protection objectives are granted no higher priority than space exploration. The Aarhus convention on access to environmental information and justice and public participation is also inadequately reflected in the treaty, he adds. A number of sectors, including transport and energy, have not incorporated sufficient sustainability considerations, and the so-called precautionary principle may not be included.

An EU intergovernmental conference comprising all 25 EU governments is scheduled to agree on the final text of the new constitution by the spring of 2004. To access the draft EU constitution, visit <http://european-convention.eu.int/bienvenue.asp?lang=EN&Content=>.

"Blueprint for Europe published," BBC, 26 May 2003; "Europe's expansion threatens the green agenda," GUARDIAN WEEKLY, 22-28 May 2003.

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/html/calendar.htm>. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies.

Coming up in the next two weeks

1-3 June, Evian-les-Bains, France: G8 SUMMIT. Delegates will discuss issues relating to globalisation. Among the proposed major themes are solidarity, with particular emphasis on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and access to water for all. Other topics include government and corporate responsibility, security and democracy. For further information see <http://www.g8.fr/evian/english/home.html>.

1-12 June, Bonn, Germany: 18TH SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC SB-18). The Subsidiary Bodies will meet to continue negotiations on the institutional and implementation aspects of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. For further information, contact: UNFCCC Secretariat, tel: (49 228) 815-1000, fax: 815-1999; email: secretariat@unfccc.int, Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int>

2-5 June, Brussels, Belgium: THE GREEN WEEK CONFERENCE 2003 - CHANGING OUR BEHAVIOUR. The Green Week Conference, organised by the European Commission, aims to bring together people to debate key environmental issues of sustainable consumption and production, renewable energy & climate change and water. The conference involves both high-level experts and policy-makers as well as young people and children, thus the conference is aimed at local, regional and national decision-makers, as well as environmental stakeholders. For information contact: European Commission

Environment; Directorate-General; Green Week; fax: (32 2) 29 69560; email: env-greenweek@cec.eu.int; Internet: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm

3- 6 June, Shanghai, China: URBAN DIMENSIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: SCIENCE, EXPOSURES, POLICIES, AND TECHNOLOGIES. The conference aims to examine causes, impacts, and responses to environmental change in the world's major cities and urban areas. Topics for the conference will include policy, regulation, technology, impact adaptation, mitigation, and remediation. For information contact: Urban Dimensions of Environmental Change Conference; 252 Mallory Hall; Montclair State University; Upper Montclair, NJ 07043; USA; fax: (1 973) 655 4072; email: udec@mail.montclair.edu or udec@montclair.edu; Internet: <http://www.montclair.edu/globaled/shanghai/announcement.htm>

4-6 June Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. For information contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

5 June: WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY. Under the heading "Water - Two Billion People are Dying for it!" the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is organising the annual World Environment Day on, with activities all over the globe to stimulate awareness and enhances political action and attention. For information contact: Ms. Elisabeth Guilbaud-Cox, UNEP; tel (+254 20) 623401/623128; fax 623692/623927; email: elisabeth.guilbaud-cox@unep.org; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/wed/2003/about.htm>

10 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. For information contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

16-20 June, Berlin, Germany: 55TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION. This meeting will be preceded by meetings of the Scientific Committee and various sub-groups. For further information contact: International Whaling Commission; tel: (44 1223) 233971; fax: 232876; email: iwc@iwcoffice.org; Internet: http://www.iwcoffice.org/2003_meeting.htm.

16-18 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM. Hosted by the World Trade Organization this public symposium will focus on the challenges WTO Members face ahead of the WTO's 5th Ministerial Conference this September in Cancún, Mexico. Participants from governments, parliaments, civil society, the business sector academia and the media are invited to discuss what is at stake in the current negotiations and other key challenges facing the multilateral trading system. For information contact: WTO External Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739 56 76 or 739 52 86; email: symposium2003@wto.org; Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_03_e.htm

16-18 June, Dhaka, Bangladesh: THIRD REGIONAL SESSION FOR ASIA - THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM. The 3rd session of the Global Biodiversity Forum will address the following four key issues: People and protected areas; Sustainable development and livelihoods; Access, benefit sharing, and biosafety - relevance to trade and intellectual property rights; and the role of taxonomy in conservation in South Asia. For information please contact: Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati; Head, Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia; IUCN - The World Conservation Union; tel: (+94 74) 710439; fax: +(94 1) 662941; email: biodiv@sltnet.lk; Internet: http://www.gbf.ch/present_session.asp?no=30&lg=EN

Other Forthcoming Events

10-12 June, Carillo Puerto, Mexico: ZONA MAYA MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR CUNCUN. The International Forum on Globalization (IFG) and the Organization of Communal Forest Producers of the Zona Maya (OEPFZM) are organising a meeting to prepare for the upcoming WTO Ministerial in Cancun, Mexico. The meeting's agenda will focus on two objectives: to deepen the understanding among forest groups of the potential impacts of WTO on forests and to explore what can be done to impact WTO

decisions in Cancun. For further information contact Victor Menotti, IFG, tel: +1-415-561-3482; email: vmenotti@ifg.org.

23 June, Washington, D.C, US: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRADE IN THE AMERICAS? LESSONS FROM MEXICO. This meeting is organised by WWF, the Texas Center for Policy Studies, Global Development and Environment Institute - Tuft's University, Fronteras Comunes and Pesticide Action Network - Mexico (RAPAM). In this symposium, Mexican and US researchers will present their findings from two new reports on the social and environmental impacts of NAFTA. Through a series of case studies, panellists will discuss key impacts on Mexico's economy and environment and present policy recommendations, particularly for the on-going CAFTA and FTAA negotiations. Several of the case studies are available at <http://www.texascenter.org/bordertrade/reports.htm>. For further information and to confirm your participation, please contact Priscilla Stephan, email: priscilla.stephan@wwfus.org.

23 - 27 June 2003 Trondheim, Norway: FOURTH TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY: The Norway/UN Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building. Technology transfer and capacity building are to be major themes of the seventh Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity in 2004. One aim of the Trondheim Conference will be to provide useful input to that discussion and the discussions at the SBSTTA-meeting in November 2003, while also supporting the work of UNEP and its Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building to Developing Countries. For information contact: The Trondheim Conference; tel: (+47 22) 24 5700; fax: (+47 73) 801401; email: laila.saksgard@nina.no; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/abs/abswsbc-01/other/abswsbc-01-norway-en.pdf>

Courses

13-18 July, Michigan State University, Michigan, US: INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR): TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, USE AND MANAGEMENT. This one-week internship program in IPR with focus on technology transfer, use and management within the context of GATT/WTO. The internship program will be conducted at MSU by the Institute of International Agriculture, other U.S. Universities, federal agencies, legal experts, private companies, and associations. This program provides hands-on training in the day-to-day handling of IPR issues in several settings including university, business and legal environments. For further information, see <http://www.iaa.msu.edu/absp/msucourses03.html>.

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.

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, A REVIEW OF PROPOSALS AT THE TRIPS COUNCIL: EXTENDING ARTICLE 23 TO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN WINES AND SPIRITS, by Dwijen Rangnekar, May 2003. Produced for the ICTSD-UNCTAD Capacity Building Project on IPRs. The paper critically analyses the submissions to the TRIPS Council on GI-extension, including an overview of the legal doctrines that frame and rationalise the protection of GI, an analysis of the definition of GIs and a review of the submissions on GI-extension. Available at http://www.ictsd.org/iprsonline/unctadictsd/docs/rangnekar_may2003_final.pdf

CHANGING LANDSCAPES. By Duncan Poore (Earthscan, May 2003). The author reviews the evolution of policies for the sustainable use of tropical forests through a history of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). Beginning with an introduction to the ecological, historical and socio-economic trends that have influenced contemporary global forest management regimes, he goes on to explore the complex political forces that have shaped the trade in tropical timber and its regulation. <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3949&field=new>

SQUANDERING THE SEAS - HOW SHRIMP TRAWLING IS THREATENING ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY AND FOOD SECURITY AROUND THE WORLD. By the Environmental Justice Foundation, 2003. This report is one of a series documenting EJF's international investigations into the social, economic and environmental impacts resulting from shrimp production and consumption. Available at http://www.ejfoundation.org/pdfs/squandering_the_seas.pdf.

STOCK-TAKE OF THE WTO AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. By Tim Ruffer (Oxford Policy Management) and Alan Swinbank (University of Reading), March 2003. The purpose of this report is to clarify the issues and concerns that the Harbinson draft modalities have revealed, bearing in mind the perceptions, and the likely negotiating positions, of developing countries. Available at <http://www.apd.rdg.ac.uk/AgEcon/staff/staffpapers/Stocktake.pdf>.

PLAYING WITH HUNGER - THE REALITY BEHIND THE SHIPMENT OF GMOS AS FOOD AID. Friends of the Earth Europe, April 2003. The report presents a compilation of case studies related to the shipment of GMOs in food aid to four continents since 2000. It concludes that the controversy over GM food aid during the Southern Africa crisis should have been anticipated by the UN WFP and USAID. Available at <http://www.foei.org/publications/gmo/>.

GREEN PAPER ON SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST. By the Commission Of The European Communities, May 2003. The Green Paper discusses the scope of Community action in the area of services of general interest; provides a number of elements for a possible common concept of services of general economic interest on the basis of existing sector-specific legislation; looks at issues related to the way services of general interest are organised, financed and evaluated; and addresses the international dimension of services of general interest. On the basis of the Paper, the Commission is launching a public consultation in which it seeks comments from all interested parties (by 15 September 2003). Available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/services_general_interest/docs/com_2003_270_fi_en.pdf.

UNDERSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROCESSES - CASES FROM AFRICA. By James Keeley and Ian Scoones, April 2003. Published by Earthscan. The book addresses the following questions: How are environmental policies created and once put to effect, why are they so difficult to change despite sometimes becoming detrimental to the environment they are set up to protect?; African environmental policy is largely controlled by Northern concepts of how the environment should be handled - are these Northern ideals best for Africa itself? and What can be done to make policy making more participatory?. For further information, see <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3928>.

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