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Agriculture And Natural Resources

EU POLICIES: THE CAP, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ILLEGAL LOGGING

Following intensive negotiations and discussion on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) the EU Agriculture Council, on 29 September, moved towards implementing the first steps of the CAP compromise package and debated support reductions for various agricultural sectors. During the meeting agriculture Ministers also started off discussions on the future of the EU tobacco, cotton, olive oil and sugar sector. Furthermore, as part of its 6th Environment Action Plan the EU has published its first strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources -- aimed at raising a policy debate amongst a broad range of stakeholders -- and has moved towards developing legislation on the import of illegally logged timber.

First phase of CAP reform implemented

The EU Agriculture Council approved first regulatory measures targeted at implementing the EU-internal compromise deal on reforming its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which had been agreed on 26 July 2003 in Luxembourg. The reform package will affect the milk, rice, cereals, durum wheat, nut and dried fodder sector. Part of the reform aims to reduce direct payments for bigger farms and redirect payments into the rural development pillar of the CAP. In addition, large parts of the production-linked payments will be merged into a single farm payment scheme, while payments will be largely decoupled from production and made contingent on cross-compliance with environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards (see *BRIDGES BioRes*, 30 June 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-06-30/story2.htm>). However, part of community farm support remains coupled to production, in particular in the cereals sector, oilseeds and protein crops (25% coupled), potato starch (60%), and in the durum wheat (40% of supplementary aid per hectare) sector. This is meant to give EU member states flexibility, security and a smooth transition to producers amidst what has been described as the most radical change since the foundation of the CAP in 1958. Furthermore, partial compensation and support for income losses resulting from a reduction of intervention prices and community support, as well as incentives to produce quality products will be provided in the, *inter alia*, durum wheat sector, the rice sector and the nuts sector.

By diminishing trade-distorting support in the agricultural sector, the CAP reform is expected to strengthen the EU's position at the WTO negotiations on agriculture, which, however, are currently stalled due to the collapse of the WTO Cancun Ministerial meeting in September (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 September 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-09-25/story2.htm>).

Discussion on reform of tobacco, cotton, olive oil and sugar sectors

Further reform initiatives with respect to tobacco, cotton, olive oil and sugar, sectors that previously were not covered under the Luxembourg reform package, were also discussed. For tobacco the proposal suggests phasing out the production-related subsidies over three years, including decoupling existing premiums, abolishing the Community Tobacco Fund and restructuring tobacco-producing areas. With regards to cotton and olive oil the proposal suggests that 60 per cent of the subsidies would no longer be linked to production, but be converted into new entitlements to the single farm payment scheme. In addition, the Commission suggests three ways to reform the sugar sector. One suggestion, which is likely to be controversial among EU member states, would be to open the EU sugar market to foreign competition, in particular from developing countries. Another option would be to progressively eliminate production quotas, and harmonise prices for imported sugar with internal EU prices. The last option would be to slowly reduce quotas, tariffs and prices without abolishing the current support system (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 September 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-09-25/story2.htm>).

Although the reform is aimed at bringing better market orientation, environmental benefits, enhanced competitiveness and more stable income for farmers, proposals are likely to be met with strong resistance from environmental organisations, EU producers and agriculture ministers, alike. Opposition is in particular expected from France and Germany, the major sugar producers in the EU, as well as from the Mediterranean countries, the major producers of olive oil, cotton and tobacco. Oxfam, on the other hand, believes that the proposals submitted would not be sufficient to end surplus dumping. Oxfam argues that sugar farmers in the EU would be compensated for lower prices through direct payments. In 2001 EU subsidies amounted to EUR 1.4 billion for sugar, EUR 973 million for raw tobacco, EUR 2.524 million for olive oil and to EUR 773 for cotton.

Consultation on the sustainable use of natural resources

On 1 October the EC Commission outlined its Thematic Strategy (available at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2003/com2003_0572en01.pdf) on the sustainable use of natural resources, which aims to promote economic growth without causing environmental degradation. The main activities of the strategy include gathering and updating information on the environmental impacts of resource use, assessing policies affecting the use of natural resources, as well as identifying appropriate measures to ensure that policies are supportive of the sustainable use of natural resources. The gathered information will be used to develop a knowledge base providing, amongst others, data on the specific environmental impacts of the use of natural resources, as well as related technological and socio-economic changes. Based on this information, the Commission hopes to be able to develop appropriate policy assessments for example on how trade policy affects the import of tropical timbers. Finally, through policy integration it is hoped that resource-related environmental issues will also feature in other policy areas. The overall aim of the multi-stakeholder process is to reach the objectives of the Lisbon strategy by decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation.

The resource strategy is linked to two other initiatives introduced this year; the Integrated Product Policy assessing environmental impacts of products through life-cycle assessments, and a waste strategy promoting the recycling of waste and limiting the amount of waste produced. The resource strategy, which is being developed in cooperation with European institutions as well as public and private stakeholders, is expected to be operational in 2005. The second stakeholder meeting to continue discussions will be held on 14 November 2003.

New EC policy to halt illegal logging

Related to the discussions on the sustainable use of natural resources EU agricultural ministers on 13 October instructed the Commission to draft legislation to allow only certified legal timber imports to enter the region. This is an initiative to clean up the estimated EUR 1.2 billion in illegally sourced timber imports that cross EU borders. The EU has a substantial market for harvested timber, with Africa being the largest supplier of plywood and sawn wood, followed by Asia. The proposed legislation foresees that the timber exporting countries or regions sign up to the "Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade" agreement, which obliges them to certify the timber exported to the EC as legal. WWF supports the proactive steps of the EU towards environmental sustainability, but remarks that there are still many things to improve, such as integrating Public Procurement Directives in its forest policies. The legislation on the import of illegally logged timber is expected to be finalised by mid-2004.

ICTSD reporting; "EU Aims to Stem Illegal Rainforest Timber Trade," REUTERS, 14 October 2003; "EU Plan on Illegal Logging: now it's time to legislate!," WWF.DK, 14 October 2003; "Sweet nothing in EU sugar reforms," OXFAM, 23 September 2003; "Commission starts consultation on sustainable use of natural resources," EURACTIV, 3 October 2003; "Commission outlines strategy for sustainable use of resources," EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 1 October 2003; "Brussels offers three ways to start CAP reform," GUARDIAN, 24 September 2003; "Agricultural reform continued: Commission proposes sustainable agricultural model for Europe's tobacco, olive oil and cotton sectors," EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 23 September 2003.

Marine Resources

US - ICELAND: TRADE SANCTIONS FOR WHALING?

In order to assess whether to impose trade sanctions against Icelandic fish exports, the US Commerce Department is currently reviewing Iceland's whaling practices under the Pelly amendment of the US Fishermen's Protection Act from 1962. The Pelly amendment allows the US to impose sanctions on nations whose action diminish the effectiveness of an international conservation programme. In this case the Commerce Department is considering whether Iceland's whaling practices diminish the effectiveness of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling under which a moratorium on commercial whaling was endorsed in 1986 that however, allows for whaling for scientific purposes (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 30 June 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-06-30/story3.htm>). This year Iceland has hunted 38 minke whales under its scientific research programme. The Icelandic government believes that if the US imposed trade sanctions against Iceland's fish exports, they would be in violation of WTO trade rules. The US government, if applying trading sanctions, might do so with reference to Article XX of the GATT Agreement, which allows countries to take measures to protect human, animal or plant life or health. Approximately two-thirds of Iceland's exports are derived from marine resources. The US in 2002 bought nearly 12.7 percent of the total exports. Iceland is therefore worried that potential trade sanctions could hurt both the domestic industry, its economy and could harm the international perception of Iceland. Environmental groups such as Greenpeace International and WWF welcomed the US initiative, hoping that in the future the Pelly amendment would prevent Iceland from using the "opportunity to exploit an unintended loophole" of the IWC Agreement referring to scientific whaling.

Although the US has previously reviewed trade sanctions under the Pelly agreement, the last time trade sanctions were actually imposed on a foreign government was in 1994 when Taiwan was found to hinder the effectiveness of the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). The Commerce Department is expected to come to a decision within the next two weeks.

"Iceland urges US to halt Whaling Review that could lead to Sanctions," Inside US Trade, 10 October 2003; "Iceland Finishes First Scientific Whaling Season," High North Alliance, 7 October 2003.

FISHERIES: CAN WE MEET GLOBAL DEMAND?

A new report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the World Fish Centre, released on 2 October, highlights the fact that while the majority of world wild fisheries resources are being exploited to their maximum or beyond the level of sustainability, the worldwide demand for fish is increasing, raising the question of whether in the future the global demand for fish products can be met. The report states that in particular developing countries experiencing high economic growth and increasing living standards, such as China, have a greater demand for fish and fish products. The report expects fish consumption in developing countries to increase by 57 percent, to a total of 98 million metric tons, whereas in developed countries it is expected to only increase four percent, to a total of 29 million metric tons. Developing countries are also expected to become the major producers of fisheries products by 2020. However production from wild fisheries resources will grow only slowly as wild fisheries resources are exploited to a maximum already. Instead, the report foresees that the major part of fisheries production will stem from aquaculture in developing countries.

However, the report also points out that aquaculture is likely to place greater pressure on wild fish stocks and the marine environment through an increased use of fertiliser, biological waste and organic matter in general. On the other hand the report underlines the great potential of aquaculture and improved fishing technologies and finally points out that both developed and developing countries should pay more attention to developing sustainable fisheries policies. This, the report stresses, should include rationalising food safety systems for seafood imports, harmonisation of tariff classifications as well as technical assistance in eco-labelling practices for small-scale fish exporters from developed countries to developing countries.

The report "The Future of Fish - Issues and Trends to 2020" can be downloaded at: <http://www.ifpri.org/media/fish20031002.htm>

"Global Appetite for Seafood will not be easy to satisfy," ENS, 2 October 2003; "Poor Countries to dominate Fish Industry in 2020," IFPRI, 2 October 2003.

In Brief

POST CANCUN: WHO WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE?

On 14 October, WTO Members convened for the first Heads of Delegation meeting to consider the way forward after talks collapsed at the ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in September. All formal special negotiating sessions will continue to be suspended and the General Council Chair Carlos Perez del Castillo will hold consultations on four key groups of issues -- agriculture, non-agricultural market access, cotton and the Singapore issues. So far, no country or group of countries has taken an active role in re-launching the negotiations. The US is unlikely to make the first step after having declared its intention to move ahead with "will do" countries on a bilateral basis. Similarly, the EC has noted that it was in "listening mode" and would not take the initiative. While the G-20 group of developing countries have urged Members to "resume the task in Geneva in a constructive spirit on all of the issues of the Doha programme" while focusing on priority issues for developing countries, the group has yet to present specific proposals or positions. Several Latin American countries have recently left the group, including Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Colombia and Peru, all of which are in the process of negotiating free trade agreements with the US or are expected to do so in the future.

For further information, see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/index.htm>.

PROMOTING CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS: BIOPROSPECTING

Tom Kursar, associate professor of Biology and Phyllis Coley, professor of Biology have developed a new method for bioprospecting, which they hope will help conserve tropical rainforests and at the same time bring economic benefits to developing countries. The two biologists point out that if the pharmaceutical industry established laboratories in rainforest countries, these countries would have a greater incentive to conserve their rainforests. Based on five years of research the biologists conclude that usually only a very small number of plant extracts found through bioprospecting are actually developed into drugs and then it takes several years before developing countries earn royalties on the new drug. The researchers' report points out that "by conducting all of the research in Panama, we circumvent the issue of uncertain royalties and provide immediate and lasting benefits in the form of training, employment, technology transfer and infrastructure development". Jeff McNeeley, chief scientist at IUCN, in a commentary published with the study, welcomes the report as an "excellent first step" turning what has been described as "biopiracy" to an economically beneficial activity for developing countries, which also helps build the capacity of local people. As a result of the project, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, employer of Kursar and Coley, and Panamanian scientists have obtained provisional patents for three alkaloid chemicals extracted from local plants.

The report was published in "Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment" available at:
<http://www.frontiersinecology.org/>

"Local Drug Discovery Industry Could Conserve Rainforests," ENS, 10 October 2003; "Rain Forest Plan Blends Drug Research, Conservation," National Geographic, 7 October 2003;

NEW REPORTS ON GM CONTAMINATION

A new report, sponsored by a group of Mexican farmers and indigenous communities, has revealed that Mexico's traditional maize crop is far more contaminated with DNA from genetically modified (GM) maize than previously thought. The study tested 2000 maize plants from 33 communities in nine Mexican states as positively contaminated with the DNA from GM maize, including with DNA from the StarLink variety, which was developed by the US based Aventis, and is only allowed for animal feed in the US due to concerns that it causes allergic reactions in humans. So far four government-sponsored studies have been undertaken in Mexico over the past two years to examine whether maize in Mexico, which is the centre of origin for maize, is contaminated from GM maize. Each study found various degrees of contamination despite the moratorium on planting of GM maize. At a press conference in Mexico City last week the sponsoring groups of the study demanded a halt to maize imports, arguing that the cheap US maize is displacing the use of native maize varieties.

In addition a new report published by the UK government on 16 October shows that conventional varieties of oilseed rape, maize and sugar beet are contaminated with GM strains in a much faster way than previously expected. The report for example shows that bees can pollinate conventional oilseed rape with pollen from GM oilseed rape over a distance of 26 km. The report was originally commissioned to assess the impact on farmland wildlife related to the planting of the herbicide-resistant crops. With regards to wildlife the report shows that in GM beet fields there were 60 percent fewer weed seeds, less butterflies and fewer bees and in GM oilseed rape there were 80 percent fewer weed seeds and also less butterflies. The report concludes that this ultimately could lead to a decline in bird population. In a press release Margaret Beckett, the UK environment minister said: "The trials demonstrate the precautionary approach which the government has taken on GM crops [...] the results will be considered as part of the comprehensive risk assessment undertaken for every GM crop". The results of the report will now be passed on the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment that will advise the government on the implications of the report. Concurrently with the release of the report Monsanto, a biotechnology firm, declared that it would close its research plant in Trumpington, Cambridge.

The Mexican maize report can be downloaded at Internet: <http://www.etcgroup.org/article.asp?newsid=407>

The UK report can be downloaded at Internet: <http://www.gmnation.org.uk/>

"Farm-scale evaluations of GM crops - results published," DEFRA, 16 October 2003; "Maize Rage in Mexico," ETC Group, 10 October 2003; "Mexican Maize Meets Banned Variety," IPS, 14 October 2004; "New Research Highlights Dangers of Modified Crops," Friends of the Earth, 14 October, 2003.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, A GROWING MARKET ALSO FOR KRAFT

A new study released by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the World Bank, UNCTAD and the International Coffee Organisation, points to the rapidly growing market for fair trade coffee in Europe and Japan. Based on data from socially and environmentally sustainable produced coffee sales the report concludes that the growing market share of "fair trade coffee" not only provide a sustainable solution for the environment but would also help to alleviate the current crisis in world coffee prices and provide smallholders with a competitive advantage to large companies. Concurrently the multinational firm Kraft Foods Inc. has announced a new partnership with the Rainforest Alliance aimed at buying coffee from producers who meet certain social and environmental standards. However Kraft was criticised by several "fair trade" organisations claiming that the standards applied by Kraft are too slack to really make a difference to the livelihoods of the coffee farmers. Instead "fair trade" organisations advocate for the approach taken by Procter and Gamble last month who developed a whole new line of fair-trade coffee under their gourmet brand Millstone (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 September 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-09-19/inbrief.htm#2>).

The report is available online at:

<http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/ESSD/sdvext.nsf/43ByDocName/SustainableDevelopment>

"Kraft, some activists remain at odds over coffee," AP Business Writer, 8 October 2003; "The State Of Sustainable Coffee - Ground-breaking study takes in-depth look at trends in coffee market," WORLD BANK RELEASE, 9 October 2003; "Sustainable Coffee Market Growing Rapidly, Report Says," UNWire, 10 October 2003

SUPERMARKETS - A NEW THREAT TO SMALL AFRICAN FARMERS

According to a new study from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), small farmers in Africa risk being marginalised as supermarkets spread. New supermarkets are being established at a rapid rate across urban areas and rural centres in Eastern and Southern Africa, and the traditional supply and distribution systems for food, in which small farmers play an important part, are being disrupted. Millions of small farmers need to adapt to survive. In the words of Kostas Stamoulis of the FAO, "if we don't help small farmers tap into the supply game and become players in this new market they will be left on the sidelines". In terms of benefits, the spread of supermarkets could provide a stable market for farmers' produce, as well as create transport and distribution jobs. In order to enjoy these benefits, however, the small farmers need assistance and resources to, for example, set up cooperatives and associations to meet the volume of supply requested by the supermarkets, and learn to negotiate with large companies. Further, credit schemes could be set into place to allow small farmers to buy technology they need in order to meet new food quality and safety standards. In South Africa, 55 percent of food is sold in supermarkets, and in Kenya 200 supermarkets and 10 hypermarkets account for the same amount of sales as 90,000 small shops. The trend is unlikely to be reversed; hence the need for small farmers to adapt.

"Rise of supermarkets across Africa threatens small farmers," FAO Release, 8 October 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

13-17 October, Lisbon, Portugal: CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONGRESS 2003. This event, organised every three years by Consumers International, will focus on the theme of 'The future of consumer protection: representation, regulation and empowerment in a world economy'. It will consist of a series of plenary sessions, workshops, training sessions, and fringe meetings on the changes in the global economy and their implications for consumer rights. For more information, see: <http://www.consumersinternational.org/homepage.asp>.

15-17 October, Geneva, Switzerland: CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR UNCTAD XI. The civil society meeting, organised by UNCTAD, will follow up on the discussions and outcome of the Strategic Group Meeting, which was held in September 2002 and will provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange views among civil society representatives and UNCTAD secretariat with regard to pertinent organisational and substantive preparations of the civil society dimension for UNCTAD XI. For further information contact Amel Haffouz of the UNCTAD secretariat, tel: (41 22) 907 5048; fax: 907 0122; e-mail: amel.haffouz@unctad.org.

16 October, Brussels, Belgium: GREEN FACTS - CONVEYING SCIENCE INTO POLICY: SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING. The workshop is organised by the Greenfacts foundation. The morning session will have three simultaneous stakeholder workshops on issues of science communication and environmental decision-making. The results will be presented in the afternoon to a public conference with speakers from UNEP, the EU, Industry and Environmental NGOs. The conference will be followed by the official launch of the GreenFacts website www.greenfacts.org. For further information, contact: David Zaruk; tel: (32 2) 211-3425; email: david@greenfacts.org; Internet: www.greenfactsfoundation.org/conference/.

16 October, Basel, Switzerland: FOOD SECURITY AND BIODIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM. Hosted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and the International Plant Genetics Resources Institute. The event will examine practical approaches and varied perspectives on what constitutes reasonable sharing under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. For further information see: http://www.benefitsharing.org/index_en.asp?br=ns.

20-21 October, London, UK: UNEP'S 3RD WORKSHOP ON THE ENVIRONMENT. This workshop is hosted by Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD). The objectives include, inter alia, discussing ways to overcome the challenges of reducing risk through environmental screening, strengthening contacts and cooperation between financiers on the environmental aspects of their work, and initiating processes to further analyse issues raised during the workshop. For further information, contact Martina Otto, tel: (33 144) 377-615; email: martina.otto@unep.fr.

20-21 October, Tokyo, Japan: UNEP FI 2003 GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE: SUSTAINING VALUE, A MEETING ON FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY. Organised by the United Nations Environment Programme. The Roundtable provides an opportunity for bankers, insurers, and asset managers from around the world to discuss new ideas and challenges in the fields of finance, insurance and sustainability. It will focus on the role of the finance sector to promote best practice approaches in exercising good governance, accountability, transparency, and reporting. These four disciplines are integral to sustainable development, and reinforce the trust, confidence and credibility, which underpin the long-term stability of the financial

system. For further information, contact: UNEP FI, email: tokyo@unepfi.net; Internet: <http://www.unepfi.net/tokyo/>

22-23 October, Washington DC, US: FOREST INVESTMENT FORUM. Organised by the World Bank (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), with support from Forest Trends and PROFOR. The Forum will bring together senior executives from forest product companies and financial institutions around the world. The main objective is to explore how the sponsoring organisations could help to create enabling environments for private sector investment by companies and financial institutions committed to socially, environmentally and economically sustainable management of forest resources in sustainable forestry and forest industry projects. Participation is limited to invitation only. For more information, contact: The World Bank, tel: (1 202) 473-1000; fax: 477-6391; Internet: <http://lnweb18.worldbank.org/ESSD/ardext.nsf/14ByDocName/Events>

24 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO-UPOV SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY. Organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). The Symposium will examine the role of intellectual property in plant biotechnology at the international, regional and national levels. It will focus on how patents and breeders' rights are effectively used and managed in this field. For more information, see: <http://www.upov.int/en/news/index.html>.

28 October, Amsterdam, the Netherlands: THE FUTURE OF FOOD & BIOTECH. Organised by the Club of Amsterdam. The conference will address questions related to food safety, food technology, food quality, related global market developments and the role of locally produced foods based on seasonality and variety. For more information, contact: Club of Amsterdam, email: info@clubofamsterdam.com; Internet: <http://www.clubofamsterdam.com>.

29-31 October, Davis, California, US: WORKSHOP ON ACCESSING BIODIVERSITY AND SHARING THE BENEFITS. This workshop will aim to analyse the findings of a study conducted on the status of national genetic resources access, intellectual property right and benefit-sharing policies among countries on the Pacific Rim. The workshop will also design strategies and provide recommendations to the facilitation of the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to genetic resources. For more information contact: Santiago Carrizosa; tel: (1 530) 754-8506; email: scarrizosa@ucdavis.edu; Internet: <http://www.grcp.ucdavis.edu/>

30-31 October, Berlin, Germany: MOVING FORWARD FROM CANCÚN - A CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Hosted by Ecologic - Institute for International and European Environmental Policy. The conference assesses the current trade and environment nexus at the interface of policy and research. It is the first major conference to follow the WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancun and will be an important opportunity to take stock in light of the crucial negotiations to be concluded in 2005 and beyond. For more information contact: Markus Knigge; tel: (49 30) 8688-0100; email: knigge@ecologic.de; Internet: <http://www.ecologic-events.de/Cat-E/en/background.htm>.

Other Forthcoming Events

4 November, Geneva, Switzerland: GATS, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP. Organised by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature and Centre for International Environmental Law. This workshop will discuss the findings of the study of a discussion paper entitled, "GATS, Water and the Environment". The paper analyses the implications of the current WTO negotiations to liberalise trade in services may have for global water resources. It assesses possible consequences for domestic regulations of water resources, particular those concerning extraction of water resources and identifies potential implications of the GATS for water laws and policies, strategic considerations and recommendations for the GATS negotiations. For

further information contact: Sabine Granger tel: (41 22) 364 9012; email: sgranger@wwfint.org; Internet: <http://www.panda.org/>

17-20 November, Wilton Park, West Sussex, UK: CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN NORTH AND SOUTH? Organised in co-operation with The Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Oslo; and LEAD International, London. This conference will discuss the next step in the Kyoto process, mitigation targets needed for the coming commitment period, whether the US and major greenhouse gas emitters among transition and developing nations can be drawn in, what role there is for alternative energy and nuclear power, and what external actors and national governments can do to help entire societies soften the impacts through adaptation strategies. Speakers include Sir John Houghton; Michael Meacher, officials and Members Parliament from Europe and developing countries. For further information, contact: David Grace, email: davidgrace@insideeurope.fsnet.co.uk; tel: (44 146) 067-368; Internet: www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/conferences/wrapper.asp?confref=WP730

17 November -12 December, E-mail conference: MARKER-ASSISTED SELECTION. Organised by the FAO Electronic Forum on Biotechnology in Food and Agriculture. The theme of this web-based conference is marker-assisted selection for crops, forest trees, livestock and fish in developing countries. This will be the 10th conference hosted by the Forum since it was launched in March 2000. For further information contact, email: mailserv@mailserv.fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/biotech/forum.asp>

26-27 November, New Delhi, India: NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GM TECHNOLOGY: The Relevance of GM Technology to Indian Agriculture and Food Security. Organised by the Gene Campaign. The symposium aims to raise awareness about GM technology and its applicability and relevance in an Indian context. A range of national and international experts will speak on the various aspects of GM technology and its application. Furthermore, the Agriculture Minister of India, Sri Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the symposium and Dr M S Swaminathan will deliver the Inaugural Address. The President of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, will deliver the Keynote Speech. For further information, contact: Gene Campaign, tel: (91 11) 2651-7248; fax: 2696-9716; email: genecamp@vsnl.com Internet: <http://www.genecampaign.org/nov.html>

Courses

January-June 2004, Geneva, Switzerland: BIO SECURITY COURSE. At the University of Geneva and University of Lausanne. The course aims at encouraging dialogue between specialists in different disciplines concerned with bio security issues. This course permits participants to explore the legal, scientific, technical, economic and ethical aspects of biosecurity. Open to individuals from the public, private and non-governmental sectors with a minimum two years experience in a field linked to biosecurity. For further information, contact: Ezra Ricci, tel: (41 22) 906-5975; email: ezra.rcci@iued.unige.ch; Internet: www.unige.ch/formcont

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 Marianne Jacobsen, mjacobsen@ictsd.ch.

"From Ocean to Aquarium: The Global Trade in Marine Ornamental Species," by Colette Wabnitz, Michelle Taylor, Edmund Green and Tries Razak (UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Series No 17, 2003). This report takes a look at the aquarium trade industry. A potential source of income for communities living close to coral reefs, the aquarium trade has been heavily criticised for the use of unsustainable collection techniques and poor husbandry practices. Policy makers have been faced with something of a dilemma in trying to control the environmentally undesirable aspects of the industry without risking the economic incentive, which aquarium fishers have in caring for the coral reefs that provide their livelihoods. Through linking trade data to what is known about the life histories of the target organisms, conservation priorities and management

recommendations are identified. For further information, see: Internet:
http://www.unep.org/PDF/From_Ocean_To_Aquarium_report.pdf

SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE PROVISION AND PRICING OF WATER SERVICES. By the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. This book examines social issues related to the provision and pricing of household water services. Properly designed water management policies can contribute to both environmental and economic goals, but may face resistance due to the perceived negative social impacts for some stakeholders. Given the importance of household water supply and sanitation services for social welfare, these social dimensions need to be taken into account when key policy decisions are made regarding the provision of water services. For further information, contact: email: sales@oecd.org; Internet: www.oecd.org/bookshop.

CAPTURING CARBON AND CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY: A MARKET APPROACH. Edited by Ian Swingland. This book looks at an alternative market-based approach to reduce carbon emissions, save the planet from global warming, conserve biodiversity, create sustainable livelihoods and save money. It addresses the issue by making a case for the maximum use of carbon sinks, particularly in the developing world. For further information, see: Internet: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3944>

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: VOICES OF THE SOUTH AND NORTH. Released by CABI Publishing. The book had its genesis at a March 2002 conference by the same name in Alexandria, Egypt. Its many contributors discuss biotechnology applications in the fields of human health, agriculture, and the environment and discuss ethical, institutional, regulatory, and socio-economic issues associated with the technology. The book's goal is to identify "ways and means" by which biotechnology can serve humanity and improve the livelihoods of poor people. Contributors include Gordon Conway of the Rockefeller Foundation and M. A. Madkour of Egypt's Agriculture Genetic Engineering Research Institute. For further information see:
Internet: http://www.cabi-publishing.org/Bookshop/book_detail.asp?isbn=0851996752

"Market Opportunities For African Agriculture: An Examination Of Demand-Side Constraints On Agricultural Growth," released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This paper explores market opportunities for growth in Africa's agricultural sector. It states that rapid growth in African agriculture must be central to any poverty reduction plan, but it cautions that investments aimed at increasing agricultural productivity need to be linked to market opportunities if they are not to depress commodity prices and farm incomes. For further information see: <http://www.ifpri.org/>

"Paying for environmental stewardship: using markets and common-pool property to reduce rural poverty while enhancing conservation," by J. Shilling and J. Osha. for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and published by Brent Nordstrom. This report identifies key issues and international experiences in using markets and common-pool property to reduce rural poverty and enhance resource conservation. The cases cited in this report demonstrate that it is possible to create markets for environmental stewardship to benefit local communities, and help to identify how these opportunities can be developed. For further information, see: Internet: <http://www.panda.org/downloads/policy/shilling.pdf>

"Genetically Modified Crops and Sustainable Poverty Alleviation in Sub-Saharan Africa," published by Third World Network Africa. It argues that genetically modified (GM) crops are "relatively ineffective and expensive" for improving African agriculture. The report assesses three GM crops: Bt cotton, which is being cultivated in South Africa, and GM sweet potato and maize, which are both under development in Kenya. The report evaluates whether each of the three crops meets standards of being: 1) demand driven; 2) site specific; 3) poverty focused; 4) cost effective; 5) institutionally sustainable; and 6) environmentally sustainable. For further information, see: Internet: <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/GMCIFA.php>

ENVIRONMENTALLY HARMFUL SUBSIDIES: POLICY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES. By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This report contains the proceedings of the OECD Workshop on Environmentally Harmful Subsidies (Paris, 7-8 November 2002). The workshop

brought together, for the first time, academic, industry and government experts on subsidies to agriculture, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, forestry and water resources - to take stock of both the available information on subsidies and current understanding of their environmental impacts. For further information see: Internet: <http://oecdpublications.gfi-nb.com/cgi-bin/OECDBookShop.storefront/>.

"Interpreting Para 6: Deal on Patents and Access to Drugs," by K.Ravi Srinivas in ECONOMIC&POLITICAL WEEKLY, Vol. 38 No. 38. Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration, recognising the need to ensure adequate and affordable supplies of needed drugs in countries which do not have manufacturing capacities while protecting the rights of patent-holders, had directed the TRIPS Council to find an expeditious solution. The solution came on the eve of the Cancun meeting. How is it likely to affect developing countries? For further information, email: krsrniv@indiana.edu; Internet: <http://in.geocities.com/ravisrinivasin/drguswto.doc> and www.epw.org.in.

Electronic Resources

ORIGIN – ORGANIZATION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL GEORGRAPHIC INDICATIONS NETWORK
Launched in Geneva in June 2003, ORIGIN was created to connect a growing number of countries interested in geographical indications (GI). Geographical Indications allow the protection of product names that are unique because of their origin and specific production techniques. Conceived as a network for exchanging information among producers of GIs worldwide, ORIGIN's goal is two-fold: 1) promote geographical indications as an instrument of development and protection for local knowledge; 2) demand better protection at the international level for Geographic Indicators. For further information, see: Internet: <http://www.origin-gi.com/index.php>

"Invasive Alien Species: a toolkit of best prevention and management practice," Citation by R. Wittenberg and M.J.W. Cock. This online toolkit was developed using comments and experience of participants in a number of conferences. The toolkit is intended to be global in its applicability, although there is a small island focus, recognizing that the impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity is greater in small island systems. The authors state that the toolkit will need to be locally adapted for different countries or regions. For further information see: Internet: <http://www.cabi-bioscience.ch/wwwgisp/index.html?cmdSubmit=Go+to+the+Toolkit>

Vacancies

INTERNSHIPS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WORK FOR PROGRAMME ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. The South Centre as institution of the South seeks to promote the development of the technical and intellectual capacities of professionals from developing countries. Accordingly, the Centre offers internship opportunities in the context of its work on trade and development. For further information see: Internet: <http://www.eldis.org/news/adverts/09-09-03cs.htm> and <http://www.southcentre.org/>

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