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## Chemicals

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTS CHEMICALS PROPOSAL

The European Commission on 29 October adopted its proposal for the new European chemicals policy REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals). The proposal will now need to be approved by the European Parliament and Council. Industry groups criticised the proposal for being burdensome and threatening innovation, while environmental groups said it did not go far enough.

The proposal had been revised following an extensive public consultation in an effort to make the system "less costly, less bureaucratic and more workable, while reinforcing the guarantees for health and environmental protection," the Commission noted. According to a new assessment of the policy's impact on the chemicals sector, the revision has lowered the direct cost to industry by 82 percent to EUR 2.3 billion over 11 years. The total cost for industry and downstream users is estimated at EUR 2.3 - 5.2 billion. The anticipated benefits to the environment and human health are thought to amount to EUR 50 billion over 30 years. The REACH legislation would replace 40 different pieces of current legislation and shift the burden of proof for the safety of chemicals from public authorities to companies that produce, import and use chemicals (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 3 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-10-03/story3.htm>)

Civil society groups -- including the European Environmental Bureau, Friends of the Earth UK, Greenpeace, European Public Health Alliance and Women in Europe for a Common Future -- expressed their disappointment with the revised proposal which they said was a "mere shadow" of the earlier draft, "having

been watered down to suit many unjustified industry demands". Among other things, they criticised the "loophole" for hazardous chemicals, which the proposal did not try hard enough to eliminate, calling on the European Parliament and national governments to "use their chance to close this". While welcoming the draft for its potential to raise awareness about chemicals in daily use, the European Consumers' Organisation agreed that the revised text had been "severely weakened" and now failed to address key consumer issues, such as information on chemicals in consumer articles.

Industry groups continued to attack the proposal as overly costly and threatening European industry's competitiveness. The Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations in Europe (UNICE) expressed concerns over what they saw as an "inadequate consultation of downstream users". Specifically, they noted that the REACH legislation had yet to be assessed through a comprehensive impact assessment and a dialogue with sectors using chemicals. The European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) echoed the calls for an independent assessment, criticising the Commission's study as focusing too much on costs while neglecting the wider impacts on employment, investment, time to market or loss of know-how. They pointed to the big differences of estimates compared to studies undertaken for industry (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-07-11/story2.htm>). In contrast, environmental groups welcomed the Commission's estimates which they said exposed the "industry's scaremongering".

Moreover, business groups raised concerns over the policy's impacts on imports and exports, calling for a full cost-benefit analysis. Christophe Leitzl, President of Eurochambres, and Thomas J. Donohue, President of the US Chamber of Commerce, in a joint letter to the Financial Times noted that the Commission proposal had "structural and practical flaws that will result in unintended consequences". They called on European regulators "to make sure REACH does not violate World Trade Organisation discipline in either its design or implementation".

#### Additional Resources

For further information, including the new proposal, reactions and impact assessments, see [http://www.euractiv.com/cgi-bin/cgint.exe/1367562-82?714&1015=9&1014=ld\\_chem](http://www.euractiv.com/cgi-bin/cgint.exe/1367562-82?714&1015=9&1014=ld_chem).

"Chemicals review - fight over impact assessment results continues," EURACTIV, 17 October 2003;  
"Commission presents proposal to modernise EU legislation," EU PRESS RELEASE, 29 October 2003;  
"Hazardous chemical exposure: a never ending story?," BEUC, 28 October 2002; "Slimmed-down REACH needs healthy supplement," EEB, FOE, Greenpeace, EPHA, AECF, 29 October 2003; "REACH: Serious concerns about inadequate consultation of downstream users," UNICE, 29 October 2003; "EU plan for chemical industry is deeply flawed," FT LETTER, 31 October 2003.

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## Biotechnology

### GMO UPDATE: EU SEED LAW; NZ MORATORIUM; UK

#### EU delays adoption of seed law

The European Commission has delayed a decision on new rules for the purity of seeds, including thresholds for the presence of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which the Standing Committee on Seeds was scheduled to vote on at its 27-28 October meeting. Under a new procedure established by the Commission, the rules will now need to be adopted first under the EU Directive on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment and will then be submitted to the Seed Committee. This, the Commission noted, would help to avoid "legal inconsistencies" and provide an additional environmental check. This decision has effectively delayed the adoption of the new rules by about 6 months, but they are hoped to be in place by early 2004.

Still to be resolved are labelling thresholds for the presence of GMOs in seeds, with 0.3-0.7 percent proposed by the Commission depending on the seeds. GMO-sceptic countries, such as Austria and Italy, would like to

see the threshold lowered to 0.1 percent for conventional crops, with Italy calling for a zero percent threshold for organic crops. These tighter thresholds are also supported by environmental groups, which have welcomed the postponement and revised procedure as an acknowledgement that the issue should be looked at from an environmental perspective. The industry association EuropaBio, however, expressed their discontent with the delay to implement "much needed rules" to ensure fair and open markets for approved products in the EU.

A Commission official noted that the delay should not affect EU member states' decision on authorising new GMOs and thereby ending the current de facto moratorium. Syngenta's Bt-11 maize is the first item up for a vote, possibly as early as November.

### **New Zealand ends moratorium**

New Zealand has ended its moratorium on the approval of GMOs on 29 October with the entry into force of amendments to the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, the main legislation covering GMOs. The revisions introduce the category of "conditional release" to complement the options of full approval or rejection available under the old legislation. Thus, under the new rules, the Environmental Risk Management Authority will be able to attach controls for the release of GM organisms on a case-by-case basis, such as requiring certain planting distances between GMOs and conventional crops. These will be enforced through strict liability rules. "We put in place the moratorium on applications specifically so that we could strengthen the legislation and improve the way it worked for new organisms," said New Zealand's Environment Minister Marian Hobbs.

New Zealand is one of the third parties in the WTO dispute initiated by the US, Argentina and Canada against the EU's de facto moratorium on the approvals of new GMOs, in place since 1998 while the EU was revising its regulatory framework for GMOs (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 30 June 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-06-30/story1.htm>). All Members with "a substantial interest" in a dispute can join as third parties, which gives them the right to be heard by the panel, make written submissions and receive the submissions of other parties to the first panel meeting. As one trade source pointed out, New Zealand has a systemic interest in the interpretation of the Agreement on the Application of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), which will likely be discussed in the context of the dispute. The trade source noted that New Zealand's moratorium was different from the EU's de facto moratorium, as it had been instituted for a very specific reason and timeframe in response to the extensive consultation process under the New Zealand Royal Commission on Genetic Modification.

For more information on the dispute, see [http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/environment/biotech\\_case.htm](http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/environment/biotech_case.htm).

### **UK: Co-op bans GMOs from its businesses**

The UK-based Co-op has announced that it would ban GMOs from all its businesses, including food retailing, farms and dairy manufacturing, following a survey showing that four-fifths of its customers would not willingly buy food containing GM ingredients. Thus, the co-operative society will not grow GM crops on its 85,000 acres of farms, sell GM food under its own brand, feed its animals with GM feed or invest bank customers' money in GM technology. "On the strength of current scientific knowledge, and the overwhelming opposition of our members, the Co-op is saying no to the commercial growing of GM crops in the UK," said Martin Beaumont, the group's chief executive. This decision is likely to put pressure on other supermarkets to follow suit. The retail chain "Iceland" already banned the use of GM ingredients in its own-label products in 1998 and Tesco, the UK's biggest supermarket chain, uses non-GM feed for poultry, eggs and fish. Co-op's announcement comes at a time as the national GM dialogue in the UK is drawing to a close, which was meant to inform the UK government's decision on the future of GM technology in the country (see BRIDGE Trade BioRes, 3 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-10-03/story2.htm>).

"EU rethinks strategy on agreeing gene seed rules," REUTERS, 23 October 2003; "New legal basis may lead to stricter rules for GMOs in seeds," EURACTIV, 24 October 2003; "New GM legislation in force as

moratorium expires," NZ PRESS RELEASE, 29 October 2003; "Co-op goes GM-free," BBC, 21 October 2003; "Britain's Co-op supermarket group rejects GM crops," REUTERS, 22 October 2003.

## Commodities

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### UN ASSEMBLY AND WTO DISCUSS PRIMARY COMMODITIES

On 27 October a group of economic experts presented their results from a study on commodities trends and issues to the UN General Assembly, stressing that increased market access for key commodities from developing countries is essential to development efforts. Commodities were also debated at the WTO Committee on Trade and Development on 16 and 23 October to discuss a proposal from a group of East African countries on the declining prices of primary commodities.

#### Urgent need for enhanced market access - UN willing to move forward

The expert group reported on the latest developments in the commodities market, in particular as they relate to developing countries. In conclusion, the fifteen experts highlighted the urgent need to give equitable and enhanced market access for primary commodities of key importance to developing countries. The experts also stressed the need to deal with the current crisis in the primary commodities market and emphasised the linkages between prices, poverty alleviation and the improvement of crop management systems. The report lays out a set of recommendations pointing out, amongst others, the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to move this issue forward, for example by creating a new international diversification fund and by developing a partnership involving business, governments, producers, traders and civil society. The Secretary General of UNCTAD pointed out that the UNCTAD 11 meeting, scheduled to take place in Brazil in June 2004, would be a good opportunity to move commodities issues forward. In conclusion, the panel of experts noted the need to restart trade negotiations at the WTO, arguing that trade liberalisation and trade negotiations are important mechanisms for developing countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals. During the debate, speakers also stressed the importance of having a multilateral process sensitive to the vulnerable situation of developing countries dependent on a few commodities and noted the painfully slow process in achieving progress on this issue in various international fora

#### Commodities discussion at the WTO - The way ahead?

At the last meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development on 16 and 23 October, WTO Members also discussed commodities of particular importance to developing countries. In particular, they debated a proposal from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (WT/COMTD/W/113, available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), tabled in May 2003 focusing on the problems posed by the long-term trend of declining primary commodities prices, and the need for action in the WTO to deal with the resulting crisis (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 June 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-06-18/story2.htm>). Kenya suggested that the CTD should, inter alia, start examining in-depth the problems encountered by exporters of primary commodities, and that the matter should be dealt with expressly in a special session of the CTD involving other relevant WTO bodies, such as the Committee on Agriculture, the Negotiating Group on Non-Agricultural Market Access, the Working Group on Trade, Debt, and Finance, as well as the Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology.

The response from the major trading powers was "cool, at best", one observer noted. The US, Canada and the EU argued, amongst others, that primary commodity prices were dependent on market forces, which are difficult to interfere with, and improving the market situation for primary commodities was primarily a question of competitiveness, diversification and encouraging investment. This argument, however, was countered by one African delegate who pointed out that developed countries used supply management tools to ensure stable and profitable prices. Concluding the meeting WTO Members instructed the Secretariat to prepare an inventory of studies on the issue. Chair Habib Mansour (Tunisia) indicated he would undertake

consultations on how to proceed. The next meeting of the CTD is scheduled to take place on 27 November. The proposal from developing countries on primary commodities as well as a specific proposal on cotton was also discussed at the Cancun Ministerial meeting of the WTO, but -- as was the case with many other issues -- little progress was achieved (see BRIDGES Daily Update, 15 September 2003, [http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto\\_daily/ben030915.htm](http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto_daily/ben030915.htm)).

#### Additional Resources

The report of the expert panel is available at: <http://www.un.org/ga/58/documentation/list4.html>

For a more in-depth account of the CTD meeting see: BRIDGES Weekly, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-10-22/story2.htm>, 23 October 2003.

ICTSD reporting; "U.N. Urged to take action on commodities markets," U.N. WIRE, 28 October 2003; "General Assembly Panel Hears Call For Enhanced, Equitable, Predictable Market Access For Key Commodities From Developing Countries," U.N., 27 October 2003.

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### Regional Developments

#### ENVIRONMENT PROVISIONS IN THE US-CENTRAL AMERICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT?

After five days of trade talks, negotiators from the United States and five Central American nations (Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua) finished their latest meeting on 24 October in Houston, expressing optimism about reaching an agreement on the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) by the end of this year. Some critics argue that the environment and labour provisions of the agreement should be strengthened, while others have raised concerns about the impact of the CAFTA on the agriculture sector in Central America.

#### US Senator proposes inclusion of environmental provisions

Before finalising the agreement in December, the trade negotiators have to address several issues of concern put forward by, amongst others, the Democrat Senator Max Baucus. The Senator has urged trade negotiators to include environment and labour chapters in the free trade agreement. He suggests a tightening of environmental standards, including improving the text of the agreement and providing support for trade capacity building and environmental cooperation. In particular, Baucus would like to see the inclusion of a petition process for citizens and non-governmental groups that could lead to a factual investigation by an environmental commission of whether a country is effectively enforcing its environmental laws. Baucus argues that such a provision would be a tool of empowerment for citizens and NGOs. A similar provision is included in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), where an investigation can be initiated if ministers agree to it by two-thirds majority vote.

Furthermore, Baucus proposes to include a dispute settlement process, which gives parties to the agreement the right to penalties, and ultimately trade sanctions, if another party is not "effectively enforcing its environmental laws, through a sustained or recurring course of action or inaction, in a manner affecting trade between the Parties, after the date of entry into force of this Agreement". Similar articles have been included in the NAFTA, in the Singapore-US and in the Chile-US agreement. However, so far no party has ever made use of the Part V dispute settlement process, which has been criticised as non-substantive and non-enforceable due to weak language. Baucus however argues that it is necessary to include such a provision due to the "realities" in Central America where "environmental standards and enforcement capacity are lower, democratic institutions are fragile, and sustainable development concerns more critical".

Democrat politicians have also called for the inclusion of provisions to mandate strong labour standards referring to "the serious problem of the region's lower labour standards and enforcement capacity."

## Agricultural impacts

At the meeting negotiators also discussed concerns regarding sensitive agricultural products, which they said were likely to be addressed using a 15-year phase-out clause. Observers of the free trade agreement negotiations have raised concerns regarding the impact of the CAFTA on the agricultural sector in the Central American countries. In particular small farmers are concerned that they would be unable to compete against subsidised US products and loose out on their domestic markets. For example, Guatemala's production of staple crops such as maize, beans and rice could come under pressure compared with US products in terms of price and quality.

Central American countries hope, however, that access to the US sugar markets would boost their economies, as the region's sugar industry employs over 500,000 people and has several million tons of potential exports. For their part, US sugar producers are concerned that the agreement could undermine their domestic market, where sugar sells for about three times the world market prices. Randy Rolando, president and chief executive officer of the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, mentioned that CAFTA would raise the current 1.5 million tons of imported sugar to 3.5 million tons, resulting in a depression of sugar prices that would put many Valley sugarcane growers out of business.

The CAFTA negotiations began in January 2003. The chief negotiators will meet again on 12 November 2003, and the countries' ministers will meet again on the 18 November 2003. The ninth and final round of talks is scheduled to take place from 9-12 December 2003 in Washington, D.C.

"Talks bring hemispheric agreement closer to reality," HOUSTON CHRONICLE, 25 October 2003; "Trade accord moves ahead," WASHINGTON TIMES, 25 October 2003; "US, 5 Central American Nations Conclude Trade Talks in Houston," VOA NEWS, 25 October 2003; "Central American trade talks see progress," AP BIZWIRE, 24 October 2003; "Farmers, workers react to CAFTA Official: Free trade deal would put many Valley growers out of business," VALLEY MORNING STAR, 24 October 2003; Central American pact pushed: Trade negotiations resuming this week, Seattle Times, 23 October 2003; CAFTA Thumbscrews, The Nuts and Bolts of "Free Trade" Extortion, COUNTERPUNCH, 14 October 2003; Ag called key to Central American trade talks, HIGH PLAINS JOURNAL, 28 October 2003.

## In Brief

### BRIEF CTE MEETING ADDRESSES ILLEGAL LOGGING AND PARA. 51

WTO Members convened on 28 October for the first post-Cancun session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). The meeting lasted only two hours, as most delegates are awaiting the resumption of CTE special (negotiating) sessions, which are currently postponed until further notice along with all other negotiating groups. Delegates discussed a submission by Japan (WT/CTE/W/233, available online at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) on a bilateral cooperation with Indonesia to combat illegal logging through various measures, including, *inter alia*, the monitoring of legally logged timber and studies on feasible trade measures against illegally harvested and processed timber that are consistent with WTO rules. The proposal received support from the EC, Switzerland and Norway. Brazil and Venezuela said that the underlying causes of illegal logging, including poverty, tariff peaks and tariff escalation, should be considered. Furthermore, Brazil argued that the issue should not be discussed in the CTE, but in fora outside the WTO. Chile furthermore said that Japan's statement in the paper that "these measures must be prepared in consistence with the WTO rules" could have implications for negotiations in the special session on the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements and the WTO. One trade source noted that the wording could lead to the interpretation that trade-related environmental measures must be consistent with WTO rules, rather than 'mutually supportive'.

The CTE Chair encouraged countries to consider how movement on the paragraph 51 mandate could be achieved. Para. 51 mandates the CTE and the Committee on Trade and Development to "identify and debate developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected". Thus far, little progress has been made on para. 51, for which the EC was the principle demandeur at Doha. The EC, which has been quiet and reactive on most areas, including environment, did not make an intervention on this point. According to one EU trade source, the EC has not yet had any consultations with Members on environment since Cancun.

In 2004 the CTE will meet three times: in March, July and October respectively.

For a more in-depth account of the CTE meeting see Bridges Weekly, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-10-30/story4.htm>, 3 October 2003.

ICTSD reporting.

### **SAVING THE ARAL SEA FROM THE EFFECTS OF COTTON PRODUCTION?**

Kazakhstan has announced that it would try to rescue the northern part of the Aral Sea by building a dam between the northern and the southern parts of what used to be the world's fourth largest inland sea. The dam would be 12.7 kilometres long and is expected to raise the water level to between 38 and 42 metres and to revive the northern shoreline to its previous size. Furthermore, it is hoped that the dam would help to restore the fishing industry in Kazakhstan. If the dam is built, only the northern but not the southern part of the Aral Sea would potentially be saved. However, environmentalists have pointed out that the southern part is in such a bad state that it would be impossible to save it. In the last 40 years, the Aral Sea has halved in depth and lost 90 percent of its volume. In addition to the resulting high mineral content, the water is also contaminated with pesticides and fertilisers. The blame for what has been called the "worst man-made ecological disaster on the planet" has been placed on the agricultural politics of the former Soviet Union, which turned large parts of central Asia into chemical- and water-intensive cotton and rice farming. Experts also point out that not only the Aral Sea has suffered from the chemical intensive production, but also the health of the local population. Sirodjidin Aslov the chair of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (Ifas) said "the impact of those days is disastrous, and most of all on people's health".

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are spearheading the efforts to restore the Aral Sea, Afghanistan is expected to join the efforts soon.

"Kazakhs "to save north Aral Sea," BBC NEWS, 29 October 2003; "Kazakh dam condemns most of the shrunken Aral Sea to oblivion," THE GUARDIAN, 29 October 2003.

### **EU FISHERIES POLICIES ATTRACTS CRITICISM FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

The European Commission and Cape Verde have announced the extension of their fisheries agreement until June 2005. The fisheries agreement determines that vessels from Spain, France and Portugal can fish both tuna as well as demersal species (which are species such as cod, halibut etc. living close to the sea floor). In return for gaining access to the fishing grounds, the EU contributes EUR 680,000 annually to the fishing sector of Cape Verde; 42 percent of this contribution are earmarked for fisheries control and surveillance, and to quality control of fish products. Furthermore the Commission has agreed to add Cape Verde to the list of countries, which can export fisheries products to the EU under the public health rules for these products. WWF has criticised the European cash-for-fishing deals, arguing that due to unsustainable fishing practices in European waters, the EU is now overfishing fishery resources of developing countries (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-10-10/index.htm>, 10 October 2002). The Cape Verde fisheries protocol is only one out of several fishing agreements the EU has negotiated with developing countries under

the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and the so-called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), which is currently being negotiated between the EU and several African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

In related developments, a report from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) urges European countries to ban the fishing of cod in northern European waters so as to allow fish stocks to recover and prevent extinction. The ICES also gave this advice to the EU member states last year, which at the time decided only to limit the number of days per month and the fishing quotas of trawlers in the North Sea, instead of implementing a complete fishing ban. The EU sets the annual fishing quotes every year in December.

"Scientists call for cod fishing ban," ENS, 22 October 2003; "EU and Cape Verde extend fisheries protocol by a year," EU, 27 October 2003; "EU is failing to halt overfishing in Africa, says WWF," REUTERS, 24 October 2003.

## US MANDATORY FOOD LABELLING MAY BECOME PRICEY

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), American food producers may have to spend up to USD 3.9 billion for the mandatory origin labelling of beef, lamb, pork, fish, perishable agricultural commodities and peanuts when this law comes into effect after 30 September 2004. Despite resistance from the republican-led House, farm state senators have passed the labelling law, arguing that international and domestic consumers would buy more US food products if given the knowledge and choice of origin country. An USDA study found however, that there was "little evidence that consumers are likely to increase their purchase of food items bearing the U.S. origin label". Kenneth Clayton, associate administrator for the Department's Agricultural Marketing Service, said that prices might increase in grocery stores to offset the extra costs. Jon Caspers, an Iowa pork producer and president of the National Pork Producers Council, believes that this law will harm exports, as the increased prices would lower their competitive advantage. Furthermore farmers argue that the labelling procedure would be too cumbersome to implement as they have to keep record of where the animals were born, raised and processed. The Department estimated that farmers and packinghouses would probably spend USD 3.3 billion to separate pigs, cattle and sheep before they are slaughtered, with record keeping costs amounting to at least USD 500 million. Food companies, grocery stores and meat packers have mounted a campaign to repeal this law; consumer groups, industry officials and others involved have until late December to submit comment on these regulations.

For further information, see <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/>.

"USDA: Food labels to cost US industry \$3.9 billion," REUTERS, 28 October 2003; "Critics say country-of-origin food labels hurt, not help, economy," OKLAHOMA DAILY, 28 October 2003; "US Doubles food labels cost estimate," YAHOO NEWS, 28 October 2003.

## 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/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

29-31 October, Davis, USA: WORKSHOP ON ACCESSING BIODIVERSITY AND SHARING THE BENEFITS. Organised by the University of California. Scholars at this university have conducted an international study of the status of access and benefit-sharing policies among countries on the Pacific Rim.



The international workshop will review the findings of that study, draw lessons from it, and design strategies to facilitate the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding genetic resources. For further information, contact: Santiago Carrizosa, tel: (+1 530) 754 8506; email: [scarrizosa@ucdavis.edu](mailto:scarrizosa@ucdavis.edu); Internet: <http://www.grcp.ucdavis.edu/>.

30-31 October, San Antonio, Texas: THE ROLE OF GMOS IN TRADE DISPUTES.

Sponsored by the U.S.-based Farm Foundation in collaboration with six U.S. universities. Questions to be discussed include: 1) Why are the United States and Canada reluctant to introduce GMO wheat? 2) Would non-GMO producers lose more than what GMO producers would gain? 3) Why has there been reluctance by Canada to introduce GMO wheat, when in fact the acceptance of GMO canola is increasing?; and 4) Will the new "gene revolution" lead to significant increases in productivity as did the Green Revolution? For further information, contact: University of Florida, tel: (+1 352) 392-1826; fax: 846-0988; Internet: <http://www.fred.ifas.ufl.edu/conference/fre/gmotexas#spon>

31 October 2003. Zürich, Switzerland: GLOBALISATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MEETING: Organised by the World Economic Forum and the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL). This meeting seeks to bring clarity to how economic globalisation can be combined with social and environmental globalisation to ensure sustainable development. For further information, contact: Christina Hürzeler; tel: (+41 31) 322-8262; fax: 323-0367; email: [christina.huerzeler@buwal.admin.ch](mailto:christina.huerzeler@buwal.admin.ch); Internet:

<http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Globalization+and+Sustainable+Development+Meeting>

31 October - 6 November, Kathmandu, Nepal: INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON "CREATING BDS MARKETS FOR SMME - OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES". Organised by Aseed Eastern Europe.

The core of the proposed training workshop will be to articulate working experiences of business development services (BDS) practitioners, with a view to aligning these with the best practices and delivery models suitable (and economically viable) and tailored to small, medium and micro enterprise (SMME) needs. Objectives of this workshop include: to enable BDS Providers to examine their potentials and strength, to see the opportunities available and the challenges they will face, and to help explore the new areas of operation & develop critical insight into the changing market trends. For further information, contact: Aseed Asia Office, tel: (+11) 613-0635, email: [npsaseed@nda.vsnl.net.in](mailto:npsaseed@nda.vsnl.net.in); [training@aidmat.com](mailto:training@aidmat.com); or Aseed Eastern Europe, email: [anu@online.ru](mailto:anu@online.ru); Internet: <http://www.tradepoint.si/eng/news/doc002.asp>.

2 November, Bangkok, Thailand: WORKSHOP ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM (GHS) OF THE CLASSIFICATION AND LABELING OF CHEMICALS: OPPORTUNITIES AND

CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION. Organised by Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and under the auspices of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. This workshop and dinner, which will be held during the fourth session of the IFCS, will discuss implementation of the GHS, an approach to identifying chemical hazards and providing information about chemicals to users and exposed individuals. It is open to all IFCS Forum IV participants. For more information, contact: Kim Headrick, Health Canada; fax: (+1 613) 946-1100; email: [kim\\_headrick@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:kim_headrick@hc-sc.gc.ca); Internet: <http://www.ghsworkshop.com>

3-9 November: E-FORUM ON GM TECHNOLOGY AND YOU. Organised by the Gene Campaign. An e-forum for debate on GM issues every alternate month. Theme one poses two questions. "What do you understand by GM technology"? "What are the priorities that India/ developing countries should address"? For further information, contact: Gene Campaign, email: [gmforum@genecampaign.org](mailto:gmforum@genecampaign.org); Internet: <http://genecampaign.org>.

3-17 November: E-FORUM ON ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS PERSPECTIVE. Organised by the Global Network for Public Goods. The topic of debate will be how enhancing the provision of select global public goods could facilitate achieving the Millennium Development Goals at the select target date of 2015. To register, send a blank email to: [Subscribe-gpgnet-mdgs@groups.undp.org](mailto:Subscribe-gpgnet-mdgs@groups.undp.org) or for further information, see: <http://www.gpgnet.net/discussion.php>.

4 November, Geneva, Switzerland: GATS, WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Sponsored by the WWF and CIEL. This is a discussion to share the findings of a study on GATS, water, and the environment. The study analyses the implications of WTO negotiations to liberalise trade in services on global water resources. For further information, contact: Sabine Granger; tel: (41 22) 364-9012; email: [sgranger@wwfint.org](mailto:sgranger@wwfint.org).

4-5 November, London, England: DELIVERING CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY: PROGRAMMES, POLICIES AND POLITICS. Organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) in association with the Carbon Trust. It will address the emerging questions surrounding delivering climate technology. Building on the success of earlier RIIA climate change conferences, this year's focus on delivery will provide a key international forum for debate as the attention moves from general commitments to specific implementation. For further information, contact: RIIA, tel: (+44 20) 7957-5700; fax: 7957-5710; email: [contact@riia.org](mailto:contact@riia.org); Internet: <http://www.riia.org/index.php?id=5&cid=36>.

7-8 November, Krakow, Poland: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EU ACCESSION AND AGRICULTURE. Organised by the Friends of the Earth Europe, Friends of Earth Poland, Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Dutch Ministries for Agriculture and for Environment. The conference's goals are to stimulate public awareness and discussion on the impacts of the EU Common Agricultural Policy on nature and the countryside of the Accession Countries. For further information, contact: Friends of Europe: [krakow@foeeurope.org](mailto:krakow@foeeurope.org); Internet: <http://www.foeeurope.org/events/krakow>.

11 November, Farnham, Surrey, UK: MEETING ON RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES: MYTH OR REALITY?. Organised by the Centre for Sustainable Design in association with the ResponseAbility Alliance, will focus on the theme of making sense of corporate social responsibility, sustainability and supply chains. It is targeted at those managing Corporate Social Responsibility and those working for product development, design, brand management, marketing, advertising and public relations. For further information, contact: Russ White, Conference Administrator; tel: (+44 12) 5289-2772; fax: 5289-2747; email: [rwhite@surrart.ac.uk](mailto:rwhite@surrart.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.cfsd.org.uk/>.

11 November, Brussels, Belgium: GENERAL MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER PASCAL LAMY - AFTER CANCUN - WHAT NEXT? Organised by the European Commission. At this EC civil society consultation, Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy will discuss the roadmap for EU trade policy following Cancun, focusing on the relationship between the EU and WTO. Questions such as whether the EU should retain the same philosophical underpinning to its trade policy (i.e. that policy should represent a combination of market access and rules), a discussion over the best forum for pursuing the EU's trade policy agenda and the future of trade preferences will be addressed. For further information, email: [belgin.bingol@cec.eu.int](mailto:belgin.bingol@cec.eu.int); Internet: [http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/civil\\_soc/meet.php?action=consult&critere=128](http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/civil_soc/meet.php?action=consult&critere=128).

12 November, Washington D.C., USA: US: WORKSHOP ON BILATERAL/ REGIONAL IPR AGREEMENTS. Organised by Consumer Project on Technology. A workshop covering Bilateral/ Regional IPR Agreements, including current or proposed negotiations (such as the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Australia, Morocco, El Salvador, Egypt, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, Namibia, Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana, etc). For further information, contact: Michael Palmedo, tel: (+1 202) 387-8030; email: [mpalmedo@cptech.org](mailto:mpalmedo@cptech.org).

12-14 November, Mexico City, Mexico: FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTEWATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE. The main goal of this conference is to gather experiences among national and international institutions and specialists regarding wastewater reuse, with a particular focus on case studies on this topic. Sessions include: Semi-Intensive Treatment Plants for Wastewater Reuse in Irrigation, Salt Reduction in Municipal Sewage Allocated for Reuse: The Outcome of a New Policy in Israel and Economic Analysis of the Reuse of Water Reclamation in the Irrigation of Vineyards. For further

information, contact: Patricia Santillán de la Torre, email: [PSantillanT@iingen.unam.mx](mailto:PSantillanT@iingen.unam.mx); Internet: <http://www.iingen.unam.mx/isw/index1.html>

12-13 November, London: UK, FT GLOBAL BIOTECH CONFERENCE. Organised by the Financial Times and supported by Strategic Decisions Group. A panel of speakers from a select group of heads of industry will examine the latest essential developments on the global biotech scene. Particular emphasis will be placed on long-term growth strategies, shifting business models, structuring partnerships and innovation and competition in the industry. Key issues to be addressed include: best practice in co-development and co-promotion alliances, the evolution of pharma and biotech relationships, the road to commercialisation and revolutionary advances in mainstream science. For further information, email: [ftconferences@FT.com](mailto:ftconferences@FT.com); tel: (+44 20) 7873-3262; Internet: [http://www.ftconferences.com/mini\\_site/ft\\_bio/ft\\_bio/](http://www.ftconferences.com/mini_site/ft_bio/ft_bio/)

13 November, Edinburgh, UK: CONFERENCE ON PRECAUTION AND PROGRESS: Lessons from the UK GM Crops Dialogue. This annual conference of Innogen is co-sponsored by the Scottish Executive and the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission, and will focus on the components of the recent UK dialogue on GM crops and how these might be integrated into the policy decision-making process. For further information, contact: ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on Innovation in Genomics: tel: (+44 131) 650-9113; email: [innogen@ed.ac.uk](mailto:innogen@ed.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.innogen.ac.uk/events.php?page=2>.

### Other Forthcoming Events

17-18 November, Johannesburg, South Africa: GLOBAL FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT: Encouraging Modern Governance and Transparency for Investment- Why and How. Organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This conference will be the third annual meeting of the OECD Global Forum on International Investment, a forum for policy dialogue among OECD members, non-members and other stakeholders. The meeting will consider how modern, transparent governance can help countries to attract and benefit from foreign investment. For more information contact: Kaveri Bopiah Liverani, tel: (+33 1) 4525-9369; fax: 4430-6135; email: [kaveri.bopiah-liverani@oecd.org](mailto:kaveri.bopiah-liverani@oecd.org); Internet: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/1/6/4409911.pdf>.

17-21 November, Rome, Italy: FAO/WHO EXPERT CONSULTATION ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ANIMALS, INCLUDING FISH. This event is organised by FAO and WHO. Its purpose is to review and analyse data on the current situation of GM animals, in particular fish, and the foods derived from them. For further information, contact: Ezzeddine Boutrif, FAO; tel: (+39 6) 5705-6156; fax: 5705-4593; email: [ezzeddine.boutrif@fao.org](mailto:ezzeddine.boutrif@fao.org); Internet: [http://www.who.int/foodsafety/biotech/meetings/ec\\_nov2003/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/biotech/meetings/ec_nov2003/en/).

24-25th November, Brussels, Belgium. WHY DOES CHEMICALS POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CONCERN ME? Organised by EU Conferences Limited. The REACH Chemical Policy will become a reality in some form very soon and its legislation will influence, transportation, labelling, management, software applications design, testing procedures and production of chemicals. It will affect upstream and downstream users, as well as distributors and ethical retail purchasers. For further information, tel: (+ 44 18) 7383-0724; tel/fax: 7383-0692; email: [info@euconferences.com](mailto:info@euconferences.com); Internet: <http://www.euconferences.com/frachemical.htm>

1-5 December, Queensland, New Zealand: DEEP SEA 2003. Founding sponsors include the Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand, Food And Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. This is an international conference where experts will discuss and debate the issues and future needs for science, conservation, and governance and management of the continental slope and deep seas. It will provide a forum for expert discussion on the objectives, constraints and influences on the conservation and management of the continental slope and deep-sea area. For further information, fax: (+64 3) 441-8127; email: [deepsea@qdm.co.nz](mailto:deepsea@qdm.co.nz); Internet: <http://www.deepsea.govt.nz/index.aspx>

8-9 December, Geneva, Switzerland: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COFFEE SECTOR: EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PART II: ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION. Organised by UNCTAD and IISD. The meeting will focus on assessing concrete opportunities for multi-stakeholder collaboration towards the implementation of sustainability in the coffee sector at the multi-lateral level. The primary objective of this meeting is to adopt a preliminary strategy for pursuing further work on sustainability in the coffee sector at the global level. For more information, contact: Jason Potts, IISD, tel: (1 514) 814-1967; fax: 527-0612; Internet: <http://www.iisd.org/trade/commodities/>.

## 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](mailto:mjacobsen@ictsd.ch).

TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL PRODUCTION NETWORKS, by Jeffrey Henderson and the Centre on Regulation and Competition, University of Manchester, ID21 Development Reporting Service, 2003. Are economists failing to analyse the cross-border activities of firms because of adherence to outmoded, state-centred forms of analysis? Can the global production network (GPN) framework help us learn more about the dynamics of global organisation of production? Could this lead to new regulation and competition policies better suited to the task of economic development in a global era? These are some of the issues addressed in the working paper. For further information see: <http://www.id21.org/society/s7ajh1g1.html>

WHITHER THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM? TRADE POLICY REFORM, THE WTO AND PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW ROUND, by R. Sally. Published by the Institute for Global Dialogue, South Africa, 2003. Where does the World Trade Organisation fit in the overall scheme of international public policy? This paper examines the structural features of the WTO, set against the extended background of the world trading system post-Uruguay Round. It then surveys the political roadblocks impeding progress in the run-up to the Cancun Ministerial and beyond. For further information see: <http://www.igd.org.za/pub/OP/OP36.rtf>

"African land ecology: opportunities and constraints for agricultural development," by Roelf L. Voortman, Ben G. J. S. Sonneveld, Michiel A. Keyzer in: *AMBIO: A JOURNAL OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT* 32 (5, 2003) pp.367-373. Compared to other continents, the economic growth performance of Sub-Saharan Africa has been poor over the last four decades. Likewise, progress in agricultural development has been limited and the Green Revolution left Africa almost untouched. The question raised in the literature is whether the poor performance is a question of poor policies or of an unfavorable biophysical environment (policy versus destiny).

A NEW BEGINNING FOR WTO AFTER CANCUN, by Mark Ritchie and Kristin Dawkins, 2003. The World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun was one of the most successful international meetings in years because it redefined how trade can benefit the poor and how the developing world can be real players in these negotiations. In fact, if policymakers and global trade negotiators were paying attention, Cancun could lead to trade talks that actually bring about fair trade, and the benefits to both the developing and the developed world that have long been promised. For further information see: <http://www.fpif.org/commentary/2003/0310fairtrade.html>

THE LOST SEED - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AT THE WTO. By Eduardo Gudynas and Gerardo Evia (CLAES, October 2003). This publication is a collection of selected articles and reports on the agriculture and food sector in Latin America in Spanish. It includes daily reports by the authors written during the Cancun ministerial meeting, plus diagrams and photos. The publication was edited by CLAES (Latin American Center Social Ecology) and D3E (Development, Economy, Ecology and Equity Latin America). For further information see: <http://www.agropecuaria.org>.

FREE TRADE IS NOT ENOUGH: A NEW VISION FOR THE WORLD'S POOREST FARMERS, by Christian Friis Bach, Arne Larsen, Niels Kaergaard, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, and Finn Tarp (Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, October 2003). This report enumerates barriers to the agricultural development of poor countries other than trade barriers. It introduces a plan of twelve points to secure improved access, improved knowledge, and improved conditions for the poorest farmers of the world. For further information see [http://www.ms.dk/Kampagner/handelsrov/Free\\_eng.pdf](http://www.ms.dk/Kampagner/handelsrov/Free_eng.pdf).

LOCAL FOREST MANAGEMENT: THE IMPACTS OF DEVOLUTION POLICIES. Edited by David Edmunds and Eva Wollenberg (Earthscan 2003). Using case studies, this book demonstrates that devolution policies -- contrary to the claims of governments -- actually increase governmental control over the management of local resources and do so at lower cost. For further information see <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=4022>.

AFTER THE COLLAPSE: DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MUST BECOME RE-ENGAGED AFTER THE FAILED CANCUN MINISTERIAL. By L.E. Peterson, (IISD, 2003). This commentary looks at the nature and potential impact of the collapse of talks at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003. It states that the short-term outlook for the Doha Round does not look propitious, while the round had been characterised by a series of missed deadlines in the lead-up to Cancun, recriminations have flown in the wake of the Cancun collapse; as have suggestions that countries like the United States will simply choose to trade with countries to whom it will not need to make any deep concessions in advance of next year's presidential elections.

LIBERALISATION OF THE CROP SECTOR: CAN BANGLADESH WITHSTAND REGIONAL COMPETITION? by M. Hussain and U.K. Deb. (Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh 2003). The liberalisation of the crop sector in Bangladesh will affect more than just production and imports. As the source of staple food, livelihood and employment for millions of people, changes in the crop sector could have far-reaching impacts on poverty and welfare. This paper addresses some of these issues and their implications. It presents a comparative picture of the costs of production and the prices of major crops, and also examines the impact of recent trade policies pursued by India. For further information see: [http://www.cpd-bangladesh.org/cpdiri\\_4.pdf](http://www.cpd-bangladesh.org/cpdiri_4.pdf)

BLUE GOLD: THE BATTLE AGAINST CORPORATE THEFT OF THE WORLD'S WATER. By Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke (Earthscan 2003). In Blue Gold, activists Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke offer an account of how a false sense of security has damaged the environment and how the privatisation of once public resources threatens to worsen the problem. For further information see: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=4023>.

THE IMPACT OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALISATION PROCESSES ON WOMEN OF FISHING COMMUNITIES IN THE ASIAN REGION, by C. Sharma. (Asia Pacific Research Network 2003). This paper looks at the impact of fisheries development and globalisation processes on women of fishing communities in the Asian region. It also examines the responses of women of these communities to these developments as well as initiatives taken by them to deal with the situation in positive ways. The paper demonstrates that there is a lack of information or statistics on the issues involved and thus proposes areas for future research. For further information see: <http://www.aprnet.org/journals/8/v8-2.htm>

"Transboundary Areas in Southern Africa: Meeting the Needs of Conservation or Development?" by A.J. Mayoral-Phillips. (Digital Library of the Commons 2002). Southern Africa's natural resource management areas are becoming 'transboundary'. Terminology is becoming both complex and confusing yet conservation-dominant. Transboundary conservation areas, transfrontier conservation areas and peace parks have all been packaged within global environmental rhetoric and as such few benefits have accrued towards community development and rural livelihood empowerment. The paper questions the long-term sustainable viability of 'transboundary' conservation management and action plans. Furthermore, it raises the question that

sustainable transboundary management of natural resources has become too 'conservation' based and not developmental.

"Transformations in food consumption and production systems" by Ken Green, Mark Harvey and Andrew McMeekin in JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & PLANNING 5 (2, 2003) pp. 145-163. The sustainability of global food consumption and production systems (FCPSs) over the next 25 years depends on changing economic developments, changing household consumption patterns and new technological developments, as well as on the environmental context of agriculture. This paper explores the interaction of these dynamics by examining the claims for sustainability of supposedly competing 'strategies' for the transformations of FCPSs. An FCPS includes not just agricultural production but also processing, retailing, eating and waste disposal phases. The four strategies are characterized as 'industrialized', 'traditional sustainable', 'organic' and 'new industrialized'. The paper argues that each strategy works in a variety of politico-economic structures and that focusing only on food crop production (such as in agriculture) ignores major environmental problems that are due to other phases of a food's lifecycle.

PERSPECTIVES ON GROWTH AND POVERTY. Edited by Rolph van der Hoeven and Anthony Shorrocks (United Nations University Press, September 2003). The relationship between growth and poverty lies at the heart of development economics. While many see aggregate growth as both necessary and sufficient for reducing poverty, and consequently focus their efforts on achieving the desired macroeconomic outcomes, others stress that the benefits from growth may not be evenly spread. Perspectives on Growth and Poverty contains a selection of papers from a conference on this issue. They deal with institutional and policy questions, as well as sectoral issues and individual country experiences that illustrate the broad range of objectives and topics. For further information see: <http://www.unu.edu/unupress/new/growth-poverty-more.html>.

"Sustainable development, market paradigms and policy integration" by Emyr V. Thomas in JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & PLANNING 5 (2, 2003) pp. 201-216. This paper's overall purpose is to assess the viability of a particular form of integration, termed 'goal integration', based on a 'market' paradigm. The first section discusses the concept of integration in recent sustainable development policy thinking, outlines several ways of understanding it and culminates in highlighting and explaining the concept of goal integration. Two conditions relating to 'goal integrity' for policy design are set out. The remainder of the paper is concerned with whether and to what extent a market paradigm can meet these necessary conditions. The overall conclusion of this paper is that there are key respects in which the pursuit of goal integration by a market paradigm involves a logical failure to meet the conditions required for an appropriate degree of respect for goal integrity.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: RESOLVING THE DIFFICULT ISSUES. By Martin Khor. (Zed Books 2002). Intellectual property rights have become a major source of controversy. Corporations are now patenting human genes, plants and other biological materials, many of which exist in nature or have been used for generations by farmers and indigenous peoples. In this book, Martin Khor examines the "biopiracy" phenomenon, its links to the TRIPS Agreement, and its various effects. For further information see: <http://www.drc.org.nz/cgi-bin/bookshop/jump.cgi?ID=787>

CARING FOR CLIMATE - A GUIDE TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. (UNFCCC, September 2003) The Climate Change Secretariat has produced a new guide to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The guide includes a history of the negotiations and information on the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, including a description of the market mechanisms developed under the Protocol. It also contains a section on future directions. For further information see: [http://unfccc.int/resource/cfc\\_guide.pdf](http://unfccc.int/resource/cfc_guide.pdf).

EVOLVING A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION, SOME EVIDENCE FROM SINGAPORE, By Sachin Chaturvedi. (Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries). This paper attempts to look into the dynamics of National System of

Biotechnology Innovation (NSBI) in the wider framework of its role in the economic development. It has been found that NSBI crucially depends not only on budgetary allocations and institutional support for advancement but also on response to the market demand. The evidence from Singapore shows that sectoral approach in NSBI may help developing countries in finding a niche for growth instead of broadening the area of investment within biotechnology.

"Salmon aquaculture in the Pacific Northwest: a global industry with local impacts" by Rosamond L. Naylor, Josh Eagle and Whitney L. Smith in *ENVIRONMENT* 45 (8, 2003) pp. 18-39. From the docks of declining coastal villages to the desks of corporate and government offices, salmon farming has been hailed as a new hope for the world's ailing offshore fishing industry and a way to reduce pressure on severely depleted fish stocks. However, the aquaculture industry has grown so quickly that, in many areas-including the Pacific Northwest-it has outstripped the wherewithal to address its adverse ecological impacts. Will fish farms, in the end, do more harm than good? Or can they deliver on their sustainable promise?

"Moving towards sustainable development : rhetoric, policy and reality of ecological agriculture in China" by Tian Shi in *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD ECOLOGY* 10 (3, 2003) pp. 195-210. This paper attempts to provide a general review of the emerging background, development history, policy initiatives and recent tendencies of ecological agriculture. In addition, the extant problems and potential contributions of this alternative practice to China's sustainable agricultural development are discussed. The purpose of this study is to identify the gap between the policy rhetoric and practical implementation of Chinese ecological agriculture and therefore to facilitate its moving towards sustainable development.

"Behind the collapse of the Cancun Ministerial," by Martin Khor in *THIRD WORLD ECONOMICS* 313 (Sept. 16-30, 2003) pp. 2-4. The Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun ended on 14 September without reaching agreement on a Ministerial text. While differences among members on the Singapore issues appeared to be the immediate cause of the breakdown in talks, the collapse has deeper roots that extend to the woefully undemocratic decision-making process in the WTO.

"Regionalism and the Multilateral Trading System". By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2003). This study examines how regional trade agreements are undermining and/or contributing to global trade agreements governed by the World Trade Organisation. The chapter on intellectual property validates what people have been saying about the TRIPS-plus deals peddled by Washington, Brussels and other economic powers: they are not only multiplying, but they are seen to be setting new international IPR standards. For further information see: <http://www1.oecd.org/publications/e-book/2203031E.PDF>

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