

To subscribe to *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, send a blank email to subscribe_biores@ictsd.ch

CONTENT

Biotechnology	1
Biosafety Meeting Moves On Labelling, Compliance And Liability	
Commentary	3
On The CBD COP-7	
Commodities	5
How To Solve The Commodity Crisis...	
In Brief	6
Events & Resources	9

Note To Subscribers

With this issue of *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, we are introducing a new section -- "Commentary" -- that will be featured on an ad-hoc basis prior or post major international events related to trade and biodiversity. The commentaries will look at discussions and outcomes of the respective meeting with regard to broader implications for trade and the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

Biotechnology

BIOSAFETY MEETING MOVES ON LABELLING, COMPLIANCE AND LIABILITY

The first Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (MOP-1) -- convening from 23 to 27 February in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia -- took the first step towards establishing an operational framework for the implementation of the Biosafety Protocol by making important progress on documentation requirements, compliance, liability and redress and the Biosafety Clearing House. Many delegates and observers, including the usually critical non-governmental groups, generally welcomed the agreement reached in Kuala Lumpur, while the US and other biotech exporters criticised the outcomes for failing to take into account trade implications.

Labelling for LMO commodities expanded

On documentation, governments operationalised the existing requirements under Article 18.2(a) by requesting Parties and urging other governments to require all shipments of living modified organisms for food and feed or for processing (LMO-FFP) to use the commercial invoice or other documents to specify that the shipment "may contain" LMOs and as not intended for introduction into the environment. Government

were also asked to include a contact point and the name of the importer, exporter or other appropriate authority (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 February 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-02-20/story2.htm>). In addition, the Decision expands on existing requirements by 'urging' Parties and other governments to require information on the name of the organism and the transformation event or unique identifier code. While the additional information is only optional -- following objections by Mexico to language that would 'request' such information -- it nevertheless marks a step beyond the requirements originally included in Article 18.2(a).

A technical expert group, open to all governments, was charged with elaborating the documentation requirements for LMO-FFPs further -- including additional information, the use of unique identifiers and if possible labelling thresholds and a review of sampling techniques. The Protocol mandates Parties to agree on these requirements within two year of its entry into force, which effectively means by MOP-2 in the second quarter of 2005. Some observers expressed doubts that the group would be able to agree on these questions during their five-day meeting, raising the possibility that MOP-2 could leave some issues for further discussion.

Parties also elaborated on the already more stringent documentation requirements for shipments of LMOs destined for release into the environment under Article 18.2(c). Such shipments will be accompanied by information on the name of the organism, transformation event or unique identifier code, any handling requirements as well as the risk class of the LMO where appropriate.

Progress on compliance

Procedures and institutional mechanisms for compliance -- to be adopted by MOP-1 as mandated in the Protocol -- proved to be one of the main sticking points in the negotiations, in particular discussions on who could submit a complaint and consequence of non-compliance. In the end, the compliance Decision establishes a 15-member Compliance Committee, which will receive submissions from any Party with respect to itself and from "any Party, which is affected or likely to be affected, with respect to another Party". In cases of non-compliance, the MOP can decide to provide technical assistance, caution the concerned Party and/or publish the case in the Biosafety Clearing House. The contentious issue of how to address repeated non-compliance, for instance through the use of trade sanctions, was left for MOP-3 to discuss. The trade concerns underlying these discussions were also reflected in the final plenary when the US noted its understanding that non-compliance measures developed by the MOP would be consistent with international law.

Liability -- priority for Africa

During the MOP, Twolde Egziabher from Ethiopia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, stressed the great importance which they attached to the question of liability. Liability "is badly needed ... for the caution we will force on those who export," he noted. African countries called for a legally binding regime to deal with liability that would allow countries to seek compensation from exporters if LMOs contaminated their environment or damaged their health. While a decision on this question was left for a later date MOP-1 set up a technical group of experts and a working group. The working group, which was charged with elaborating options for elements of rules and procedures, will complete its work by 2007.

Some reactions

Many civil society groups welcomed the outcomes of MOP-1 while recognising that more work needed to be done. "Those requirements are not sufficient to protect the environment and the food chain from contamination, but they are an important first step that governments should implement immediately," said Doreen Stabinsky of Greenpeace. In a joint statement a group of developmental and environmental non-governmental organisations, strongly criticised excessive influence on the negotiations by non-Parties, which they felt was jeopardising the discussions. In the end, they thanked Parties for their "determination and hard work" that they had demonstrated "in seeking solutions to difficult dilemmas".

The group also sharply criticised the US-Canada-Mexico deal, which sets out documentation requirements for LMO commodities (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 February 2004, referenced above), as a "model to evade the Protocol". In particular, they criticised the deal's 5 percent labelling threshold for effectively opening the door to transgenics "with no evaluation of the risks" and for seriously jeopardising the subsequent export possibilities of signatory countries. They called on the Latin American and Caribbean countries that had been approached to join in the accord to reject "this 'model of implementation and compliance' that only favours the commercial interests of countries that have not ratified the Protocol".

In its assessment of the MOP-1 outcomes, the US noted "that countries are moving away from practical steps very quickly in the direction that could have consequences," according to Deborah Mala of the US State Department's Biotechnology Trade Policy Division. With reference to the fact that none of the major biotech producers and exporters, including the US, Argentina, Canada and Australia, has so far ratified the Protocol, she added that "a lot of decisions here have been made by the importers without a real understanding of the implications". During the final plenary, Australia expressed disappointment that the views of non-Parties had not been taken adequately into account in decision-making, calling for the record to note that the MOP cannot make requests to non-Parties. In response, the MOP-1 President stressed that Decisions are not legally binding for non-Parties.

Decisions of MOP-1 will be available shortly at <http://www.biodiv.org/>.

ICTSD reporting; ENB Vol. 9 No. 289; "Europe OKs new rules for biotech labels," AP, 27 February 2004; "MOP1: 'Celebrate the Protocol'," NGO STATEMENT, 27 February 2004; "Global deal struck on stricter Gm trade rules," REUTERS, 27 February 2004; "The Trilateral Agreement of US-Mexico-Canada: a 'model' to evade the Protocol," 26 February 2004.

Commentary

ON THE CBD COP-7

By Martha Chouchena- Rojas,

*Head, Policy, Biodiversity and International Agreements, IUCN- The World Conservation Union**

The 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was a crucial meeting in various ways. Firstly, COP-7 had the challenge of translating into action the commitments made by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and especially the target to reduce significantly the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. It also had to assert the Convention's leading role in addressing the biodiversity components of the sustainable development agenda. Despite a heavy and difficult agenda, the COP managed to live up to these expectations. Prominent results include the adoption of an ambitious Programme of Work (PoW) on protected areas; the definition of a process to negotiate a regime on access and benefit sharing (ABS); the definition of a framework for goals and targets and a list of indicators to assess progress towards 2010; and the adoption of principles on sustainable use.

The dynamics of the negotiations reflected the challenges arising from the complex relationship between conservation and development that are at the heart of the CBD with objectives addressing conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing. The need for balancing these objectives was evident when progress on negotiations on the PoW on protected areas and ABS became interdependent, with some countries conditioning progress in one of these issues to progress achieved in the other. More specifically, developed countries and especially the EU, championed strong commitments, follow-up mechanisms and global approaches to protected areas while developing countries made these dependent on increased funding and capacity and on nationally based approaches to implement the PoW. The compromise decision on protected areas provides for a strong PoW with outcome-oriented targets including on capacity building and guidance to mobilise financial resources, with implementation being left to countries in accordance with national conditions and priorities.

Concerning ABS, developed countries pushed for facilitated access to genetic resources and for using existing instruments while developing countries and especially the Like-Minded Group of Megadiverse Countries, expected the international regime to address benefit sharing and to take the form of a new legally binding instrument. The latter group also supported consideration of traditional knowledge in the context of the scope of the regime. The decision on ABS defines a process to negotiate a regime on access and benefit sharing leaving to the Ad Hoc Working Group to consider its nature, scope and elements.

The decisions adopting principles and guidelines for sustainable use and calling for the integration of the Millennium Development Goals also showed the trend of the CBD to link more explicitly with development processes. But this movement towards further integration has also opened the door for the development agenda to permeate deeply into the CBD negotiations. The most outstanding trend in this regard at COP-7 was the increased attention to trade. In the past meetings of the CBD and especially COP-6, trade related concerns had focused on the inclusion of the precautionary approach and risk assessment, especially in the areas of invasive alien species and biosafety, as some parties considered that these could be used by countries to avoid their obligations under trade related agreements. Also, the linkages between ABS and intellectual property rights, discussed at WIPO and the WTO, had been made explicit in previous meetings of COP and the Ad Hoc Working Group on ABS.

At COP-7, these discussions continued but trade also emerged in unexpected places, such as the programmes of work on mountains and inland waters and decisions on incentive measures and on principles for sustainable use. The main concern here was that positive measures and especially agricultural subsidies could be used as a means to distort international commodity trade. The compromise reached was the addition of a footnote stating that the implementation of the decisions "should not promote incentives that negatively affect biodiversity of other countries". A similar concern permeated in the discussions on protected areas around the concept of ecological networks pushed by the EU, which added to countries' fears about possible restrictions that the use of this definition could imply on national sovereignty over their resources and territory.

Many civil society groups called during the COP-7 for WTO matters to be kept out of the CBD. But the linkages between these processes are becoming more and more evident. The challenge is how to make the principle of mutual supportiveness operational within the context of the achievement of sustainable development. This requires further interaction between both processes and the actors involved in each of them at international and national levels. For the CBD this means that further capacity needs to be developed in order to analyse and deal with trade aspects of issues included in its agenda. Also, more opportunities are required for the CBD process to engage in trade-related negotiations. These include granting observer status to the CBD Secretariat for WTO bodies and the development of better capacity of the conservation community to interact with trade processes.

The "intrusion" of trade in COP-7 also has wider implications for the conservation community. IUCN has recognised in a number of Resolutions and in its Programme approved by its governing body the need to give attention to trade if it is to achieve its conservation agenda. Through its Policy and International Agreements unit (PBIA), regional programmes and the Group on Environment, Trade and Investment of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP-GETI), IUCN is increasingly engaged in addressing issues at the interface between biodiversity and trade, such as ABS, invasives and subsidies. This includes action in the trade fora to ensure that policies developed are supportive of conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing. But also, as the COP-7 has confirmed, work is necessary in the context of multilateral environmental agreements to ensure that trade concerns do not freeze negotiations on key issues in the biodiversity agenda, such as invasives, and that conservation is not used as a barrier to sustainable development. The linkages between trade and biodiversity clearly add to the complexity of the negotiations in the CBD, but they also provide a challenge and an opportunity to achieve better integration between the pillars of sustainable development.

For an account of COP-7, see <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-02-20/story1.htm>. For an account of COP-6, see <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-18/story1.htm> and <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-05-02/story1.htm>.

* The views expressed in this commentary are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of any organisation.

Commodities

HOW TO SOLVE THE COMMODITY CRISIS...

The WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) held its 48th session on 18 February, chaired by newly-elected Ambassador Trevor Clarke (Barbados). Discussions in the Committee focused mainly on the issue of declining commodity prices, an issue introduced by Kenya. Also looking at commodities, UNCTAD released a report on Africa's commodities trade and the related economic development of the continent. Although both fora deal with commodity dependency, the proposed ways out of the current crisis greatly differ.

Market instruments -- the way forward?

Kenya stressed the importance of addressing the decline in commodity prices and said it would submit a paper before the next CTD session outlining its expectations of CTD action on the issue. The paper reportedly will elaborate on and add detail to a May 2003 submission by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania (WT/COMTD/W/113, accessible at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), highlighting the need for urgent action to deal with the crisis caused by the long-term price decline of primary commodities. Most developing countries, including India, Pakistan and Brazil, supported Kenya's intervention. According to one delegate, Kenya said the issue of declining terms of trade had many dimensions, including those related to tariff peaks, technology transfer and agricultural subsidies -- all of which were under the purview of various WTO negotiating bodies.

The US cautioned against having the WTO handle non-trade issues, and added that the problem was market-related -- pointing to issues such as competitiveness, horizontal and vertical diversification and investment -- rather than a question of supply management. The US felt the commodity price decline needed to be addressed through 'market-based' instruments such as commodity-risk derivatives. The EC highlighted the importance of damage verification in countries affected by declining commodity prices, and greater access to finance and capacity building.

The next CTD meeting is scheduled for 11 May, and a meeting of the Sub-committee on Least-Developed Countries for 9 March.

Coherent trade and development policy -- the way forward?

Rather than focussing on market-based mechanisms as suggested by the US, the UNCTAD report "Economic Development in Africa: Trade Performance and Commodity Dependence" released on 26 February, suggests that commodities should be treated as an integral part of development policy. The report examines the structure and composition of Africa's trade and considers the various impacts of commodity dependence. Furthermore, the report attempts to put in perspective Africa's declining share of world trade, which has fallen from 6 percent in 1990 to 2 percent in 2002. While trade has grown relative to gross domestic product (GDP) in African countries, as elsewhere, Africa's diminishing share of world exports has been a phenomenon that "has as much to do with the structure of international trade as with the composition of Africa's merchandise trade, the trade policies applied on the continent in the past 20 years, market access and trade policies in developed countries". "Even in the area where Africa is supposed to have a competitive advantage, it has been losing market share," said Kamran Kousari, one of the authors of the report.

In particular, the report focuses on policy issues in both the domestic and international spheres for i) providing adjustment mechanisms to help Africa manage commodity dependence in the short to medium term and ii) promoting sectoral diversification and productive development in African economies as a long term strategy. Specifically, it calls for a compensatory financial mechanism for African producers to meet short-term price shocks and declining incomes, as well as a "diversification fund" to support the diversification of production structures in African economies. In addition, the report points out that the state

should play a bigger role in improving infrastructure and encourage value addition by ensuring quality control and diversifying into new products such as fruits, vegetables and fish.

The U.N. body furthermore backed calls by some African countries for compensation from developed countries for losses caused by subsidies on cotton and other products (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 June 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-06-02/story1.htm>). The World Bank estimates that subsidies on cotton by the US and the EU cost African producers up to USD 300 million in 2002 -- more than the total amount of debt relief granted in the same year to African cotton-producing countries. To counteract this trend UNCTAD called on the international trading system -- especially the WTO -- to accelerate negotiations on reducing and phasing out distortive agricultural subsidies in advanced economies and strengthening technical assistance in areas such as quality control and health and safety requirements.

In conclusion, the report states that the three last decades have shown that markets alone cannot solve the problem of commodity dependence. Comparing Africa today to the newly-industrialising economies (NIEs) in South East Asia in the 1970s, the report notes that the international context since the 1970s has changed. African countries have to operate within the WTO framework, which limits the use of measures that the NIEs used in their development process. While the report stresses that African governments are shouldering the responsibility for reducing their commodity dependence themselves, the international community should support this process by providing as consistent and coherent a policy framework as possible.

The UNCTAD report is available at <http://www.un.org/Pubs/whatsnew/e03466.html>.

ICTSD reporting; "UNCTAD Study on African Development Prospects Echoes President Chirac's Call For Ending "Conspiracy Of Silence" On Commodity Issues," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 26 February 2004; "Trade Barriers Leave Africa Dependent On Commodities" AP, 26 February 2004.

In Brief

WTO APPOINTS PANEL IN US-EU BIOTECH DISPUTE

The WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi on 4 March appointed the panel that will rule on the US-Argentina-Canada complaint against the continued EU de facto moratorium on the approvals of new genetically modified organisms (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 25 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-08-25/story2.htm>). The panel will be chaired by Christian Haberli, Head of the International Affairs at the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture. Previously, Haberli had served on the panels assessing the US complaints against the EU's banana import regime and Japan's quarantine rules for apples. He will be assisted by Mohan Kumar, a former diplomat at the Indian Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva and currently based at the Indian embassy in Sri Lanka. He had previously been a member of the panel that ruled against the US tariffs on steel. The third panel member will be Akio Shimizu, who also served on the panel that evaluated India's complaint against the EU's preferential tariff regime for countries that are fighting the production of illicit drugs. As the next step, the panellists will meet with the parties in the dispute to agree on working procedures and a timetable for submissions.

"WTO chief appoints panelists to rule on the EU GMO restriction," WTO REPORTER, 5 March 2004.

NEW EVIDENCE OF GM CONTAMINATION

A study released by the Union of Concerned Scientists on 23 February, documents research showing that the traditional varieties of three major US food crops are found to have DNA from genetically engineered crops. According to Dr. Margaret Mellon, the lead author of the study, "This study shatters the presumption that at least one portion of the seed supply -- that for traditional varieties of crops -- is truly free of genetically engineered elements... There is no reason to believe that the contamination of the seed supply is limited to

what we found." To perform the study, the scientists had purchased six traditional varieties of canola, corn and soybeans from commercial distributors and tested the seeds at two independent commercial laboratories. GM seed levels ranged from 0.05 to 1 percent. In conclusions the report calls for a widespread study on seed contamination, a reservoir of seeds free from GM influence and stricter regulations on biotech crops. Friends of the Earth also released a report on 23 February, highlighting the experiences from the last 10 years with genetically modified (GM) crops. The report "Genetically Modified crops: a decade of failure [1994-2004]" outlines problems such as: threat to biodiversity, consumer reluctance towards GM foods, increased ecological vulnerability associated with monoculture agriculture. The report also touches upon the relationship between GMO agriculture, food distribution and malnutrition.

The report by Friends of the Earth, is available at: <http://www.foei.org/media/gmdecade.html>

The report by the Union of Concerned Scientists, is available at:
http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_environment/biotechnology/seed_index.html

"Modified Seeds Found Amid Unmodified Crops," NEW YORK TIMES, 24 February 2004; "Genetically Engineered DNA Found In Traditional US Crops," ENS, 24 February 2004.

US-MOROCCO FREE TRADE PACT CONCLUDED

On Tuesday 2 March, Morocco and the US concluded a free trade agreement (FTA) after thirteen months of talks. According to Robert Zoellick, US Trade Representative, "It's a groundbreaking (agreement) that not only slashes tariffs, but also sets a new high standard for the protection of intellectual property rights, opens markets for services, ensures government transparency and provides effective labour and environment enforcement". With respect to environmental obligations the agreement requires each government to enforce its domestic environmental laws and the two countries can challenge these requirements through a dispute settlement process. Furthermore, the agreement encourages the use of voluntary market based instruments protecting the environment while at the same time ensuring free trade. Complementing the environmental provisions of the agreement, the US will, through its development cooperation, provide technical assistance to Morocco on implementing and developing its environmental laws and institutions. In general the Morocco deal foresees that more than 95 percent of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products will become free of duties immediately, with all remaining tariffs to be eliminated within nine years. The US will phase out all agricultural tariffs under the agreement, most within fifteen years. In response to Moroccan fears over the effects of cheap American imports on sensitive agricultural products, new tariff rate quotas will be applied to durum and common wheat, and quotas for US poultry and beef exports will be established, gradually increasing over time. Morocco is the second Arab country with which the US has been able to reach a free trade agreement. The first was with Jordan in 2001.

To access the fact sheet outlining specifics of the agreement, please see: <http://www.ustr.gov/new/fta/Morocco/2004-03-02-factsheet.pdf>

"US Concludes Trade Pact With Morocco," AP, 2 March 2004; "US Completes Free Trade Agreement With Morocco," CROPDECISIONS, 2 March 2004; "US Morocco Reach Free Trade Agreement," THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 3 March 2004.

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL FOCUSES ON BIOTECH, ENVIRONMENT AND TRADE

Representatives from government, international organisations, civil society and academia met on the sidelines of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (MOP-1) on Biosafety for the High-level Dialogue on Trade, Biotechnology and Sustainable Development on 21 February, organised by the UNU Institute for Advanced Studies and the Asia-Europe Foundation. Among other issues, participants focused on the relationship between trade and environment and the extent to which the respective

communities should take into account each other's concerns. Some felt that trade representatives should not be involved in environment-related discussions, such as MOP-1. Others saw the increasing focus on trade issues in environment forums as a positive signal, arguing that it was preferable to adopt decisions that took into account the trade implications and were therefore less likely to be disregarded by trade policy-makers. Similar differences in opinion could be heard with regard to the role of the WTO in discussing environment and biosafety issues. While some noted that these issues should be kept out of the WTO because trade negotiators and members of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) lacked the capacity to address them, others felt that environment should be an integral part of trade discussions. Regarding the relationship between WTO rules and the Biosafety Protocol, many participants supported a suggestion that the WTO could develop non-legally binding guidelines for the interpretation of this relationship, which could be used by the DSB in the case of a possible dispute.

For further information, see <http://www.ias.unu.edu/research/biosecurity.cfm>.

ICTSD reporting.

FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE IN PARIS

The Global Conference on Animal Welfare took place from the 23-25 February in Paris, organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to begin work on international standards and guidelines on the welfare of animals. It was the first of its kind, bringing together a range of stakeholders including member countries, non-governmental organisations and scientists. Discussions centred on establishing standards and guidelines in four areas: transport by sea and land, humane slaughter for consumption and the killing of animals for disease control. Furthermore, the conference aimed to provide an introduction to the science of animal welfare and further elaborate on the importance of science in the formulation of standards and principles, often accused of being an unfair barrier to trade not based on sound scientific evidence. Participants at the meeting strongly reaffirmed that science should always be the essential base for setting any international standard. The proposed standards will be submitted to the OIE General Session in May 2004 and expected to be completed in 2005. The standards for animal health and zoonoses developed by the OIE are recognised international standards and in compliance with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures.

"World Animal Welfare Standards Under Negotiation," ENS, 24 February 2004; "Global Conference on Animal Welfare: the OIE confirms its role as a coordinator of guidelines on animal welfare world wide," OIE, 25 February 2004.

STOCKHOLM AND ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ENTER INTO FORCE

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) -- which bans highly toxic chemicals, including pesticides like DDT -- will come into effect on 17 May. The treaty includes 12 harmful chemicals, which do not break down through normal processes but accumulate in the body fat of people, marine mammals and other animals and thus can enter the food chain. Clifton Curtis from WWF commented "The Stockholm Convention is unique in attacking the problem at its source, banning outright or severely restricting some of the world's most dangerous chemicals". France, which submitted the 50th ratification on 17 February, triggered its entry into force three months later.

A related pact, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC) became legally binding for its members on 23 February. Under the Convention, countries are only allowed to export certain hazardous chemicals following the importing party's prior consent. The importing country will be provided with a "decision guidance document" containing information about the chemical and its effects, and the country will have nine months to provide a final decision or an interim response. The PIC Convention also requires labelling on potential

health and environmental impacts of traded chemicals. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said developing countries now "will be able to reap benefits that chemicals and pesticides can offer while ensuring that their development is environmentally sustainable," noting that many pesticides banned in industrialised countries are used in the developing world. Implemented on a voluntary basis since September 1998, the convention includes 27 chemicals on the list for prior consent and notification, including asbestos, parathion and monocrotophos (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 28 November 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-11-28/story1.htm>). Fifteen more pesticides are set for inclusion at the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the PIC Convention, scheduled for 20-24 September this year in Geneva. The convention has been ratified by 60 and signed by 73 countries.

Both conventions are being discussed at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment under the Doha Ministerial Declaration's Paragraph 31(i) and (ii) negotiations on the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the status of observership for MEA Secretariats and enhanced information exchange between MEA Secretariats and the WTO.

"Prior Informed Consent for Chemical Imports Now the Law," ENS, 24 February 2004; "Toxic Chemical Warnings Required Under New International Law," REUTERS, 23 February 2004.

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

2-5 March 2004, Concepción, Chile: GLOBAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FORUM. Organised by UNIDO and the Chilean Government. This event will bring together representatives from the scientific, public, private and social sectors as well as high-level decision makers to review opportunities and challenges in biotechnology for the developing world. For further information, contact: tel: (+56 41) 204-649; fax: 214-288; email: gbf2004@udec.cl; Internet: <http://www.gbf2004.cl>

4-5 March, Brussels, Belgium: REMAKING THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM. This conference, organised by the Greens/European free alliance, will be held in the European Parliament. It will focus on opportunities to redefine the global trading system with more emphasis on fair trade and sustainable development. Expected discussions include structural and procedural reforms that may be available within the stalled trade talks of the WTO. Advanced registration is necessary for security reasons. For more information, contact: email: GreensTradeConference@europarl.eu.int; Internet: <http://www.greens-efa.org/en/>

9 -10 March, Pretoria, South Africa: CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC. Organised by the US Embassy and the Public Understanding of Biotechnology Programme, this conference will comprise a debate on aspects of biotechnology, specifically interfaces between biotechnology and society in South Africa. The event is primarily targeted at journalists and media representatives along with stakeholders in the biotechnology field. For further information, contact: Rosa Seleke, tel: (+27 12) 392-9300; email: rosa@pub.ac.za; Internet: <http://www.pub.ac.za/events/index.html>

11 March, Oaxaca, Mexico: MAIZE AND BIODIVERSITY: THE EFFECTS OF TRANSGENIC MAIZE IN MEXICO. Organised by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The symposium will address key questions in relation to transgenic maize production in Mexico. Issues for discussion include the impacts on environmental, agricultural, animal and human health. Expected participants include members of the public, academia and governments. The Maize and Biodiversity Symposium is an integral part of the CEC's investigation and an opportunity for the public to engage in the process. For further information, contact: the CEC Secretariat: tel: (+1 514) 350-4300 fax: 350-4345; email: meetingservices@ccemtl.org; Internet: http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1405

9-12 March 2004, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania: THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORKS FOR ANGLOPHONE AFRICA. This workshop, organised by UNEP-GEF, aims to help participants acquire a better understanding of the different options for regulatory regimes and administrative systems for biosafety, as well as legal and administrative requirements of the Cartagena Protocol. For further information, contact: Christopher Briggs, tel: (+41 22) 917-8411; fax: 917-8070; email: chris.briggs@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/biosafety/devsubregwrkshops.htm>

15-19 March, Geneva, Switzerland: 50TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE. This meeting is organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. For further information, contact: the CITES Secretariat, tel: (+41 22) 917-8139; fax: 797-3417; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.cites.org/eng/notifs/2003/076.shtml> Events

Other Forthcoming Events

24-26 March, Geneva, Switzerland: 3RD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GMOS. Organised by the United Nations Economic Commission on Europe, Environment and Human Settlements Division. This meeting will continue to discuss the application of the Aarhus Convention to GMOs. For further information, contact: tel: (+41 22) 917-2468; fax: 917-0107; email: public.participation@unece.org; Internet: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/calendar.htm>

1-3 April, Kampala, Uganda: ASSURING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN AFRICA BY 2020. Organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute and the government of Uganda, this all-Africa conference will bring together the traditional and new actors and stakeholders to deliberate on how to bring about change and action to assure food and nutrition security. For more information, email: r.pandya-lorch@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.ifpri.org/2020africainconference/index.htm>

19-23 April, Trieste, Italy: INTRODUCTION TO BIOSAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GMOS. This workshop is organised by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and focuses on providing a theoretical/scientific approach. For further information, contact: tel: (+39 040) 375-7333; fax: 226-555; e-mail: courses@icgeb.org; Internet: <http://www.icgeb.org/~bsafesrv/bsfn0309.htm#anchor442802>

24-25 April, Washington DC, US: 2004 SPRING MEETING OF THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK GROUP. The International Monetary and Financial Committee Meeting will take place on 24 April, and the Development Committee Meeting will be held on 25 April. For further information, contact: Annual Meeting inquiries, tel: (+1 202) 473-7272; fax: 623-4100; email: bfcoffice@worldbank.org; Internet: <http://www.imf.org/external/am/>

25-27 May, Geneva, Switzerland: MULTILATERALISM AT A CROSSROAD. The annual WTO public symposium is intended for participants from governments, parliaments, civil society, the business sector, academia and the media, who are invited to debate the stakes and challenges ahead in the most crucial and final phase of the Doha Round of negotiations. For further information, contact: WTO External Relations Division, Bernard Kuiten, tel: (+ 41 22) 739-5676; email: symposium2004@wto.org; Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_04_e.htm

28-29 May, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico: III SUMMIT OF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN AND THE EU. The summit seeks to strengthen the LAC-EU partnership. For further information, see: Internet: http://www.alcuelc.org/alcue/web/home_EN.php

17-19 June, Washington DC, US: GLOBAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS: TRADE, POVERTY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT. The Seventh Annual Conference is jointly organised by the World Bank and the Center for Global Trade Analysis, with additional support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC). The goal of the conference is to promote the exchange of ideas among economists conducting quantitative analysis of global economic issues. Particular emphasis will be placed on applied general equilibrium methods, data, and application. Related theoretical and applied work is also welcome. For further information, see: Internet: <http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/events/Conferences/2004/default.asp>

Vacancies

MOSAICS FELLOWSHIP, Brussels, Belgium: Mosaics is looking for a candidate for a 12 months full time research position in the field of Biotechnology, Biodiversity and Sustainable development. Applications are welcome from candidates whose research focuses on the areas of intellectual property rights, environmental economics, indigenous affairs, traditional knowledge, technology transfer and the inventory of genetic resources. The applicant should have received training in the fields of economical theory or legal doctrine (not necessarily as his/her major qualification) and have carried out research in a field relevant to the topics of the MOSAICS network. For further information and for submitting your CV send an email to: Philippe Desmeth at, email: philippe.desmeth@belspo.be

REGIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICER FOR GRAIN This full time position will focus on strengthening farmer-controlled agricultural research and food systems in Asia. It will be a three-year commitment, extendable. More information about this post is available at: Internet: <http://www.grain.org/about/rpo-asia-post-2003.cfm>. Applicants should send a CV and cover letter to: rpo-asia@grain.org by 31 March 2004.

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.

CITES IMPLEMENTATION IN NEPAL AND INDIA: LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE. By Ravi Sharma Aryal, PhD. Published by Bhrikuti Academic Publications, 2004. The book is an outcome of legal and policy research in the field of trade of endangered or threatened wildlife products. It provides an in-depth analysis of the CITES implementation status in Nepal and India and suggests changes in the current implementation process. For further information, tel: (977 1) 422-0660, 425-6036, 421-8351; fax: 425-6036; email: readbpmb@wlink.com.np

BUSINESS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY: REGULATION AND THE POLITICS OF INFLUENCE. By P. Newell and D. Glover. Produced by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, UK, 2003. This paper explores the issue of regulation of biotechnology products at the national and international level, paying special attention to the role of biotechnology firms and the responses of civil society groups. For further information, see: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/wp/wp192.pdf>

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE WTO: AFTER CANCEL. By Duncan Brack & Thomas Branczik, RIIA, February 2004. This briefing paper examines the ways in which the expansion of trade may sometimes conflict with and sometimes support environmental regulation; highlights the main areas of trade-environment tensions, over product standards, processes and production methods, and trade measures in multilateral environment agreements, and considers the politics behind the debate. To access the report visit: <http://www.riia.org/pdf/research/sdp/T&EFeb04.pdf>

SUGAR POLICIES: OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE. By Donald Mitchell. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, February 2004. The author argues that internal changes in the EU; changes within the sugar and sweeteners markets; and changes within the international trade commitments calls for policy reforms with regards to sugar. The benefits of sugar policy reform would be greatest under multilateral reform, and according to recent studies, the global welfare gains following from the removal of all trade protection are estimated to total as much as USD 4.7 billion a year. World sugar prices would increase by as much as 40 percent, while sugar prices in countries that heavily protect their markets would decline. To access the report visit <http://www.worldbank.org/prospects/workingpapers/Sugar%20Policy%20Opportunity%20for%20Change%20-%20WP%203222%20Feb%202004.pdf>

"Trade, the Pollution Haven Hypothesis and the Environmental Kuznets Curve: Examining the Linkages". By Matthew A. Cole in ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS 48 (1, 2004) pp. 71-81. This paper examines the relationship between trade and environment and the migration or displacement of polluting industries from developed countries to developing countries. Using detailed data on North-South trade flows for pollution intensive products the evidence for the theory is assessed. Emissions of 10 air and water pollutants are estimated, the level of free trade is measured and structural changes within North-South trade as it relates to polluting industries.

"The Growth and Distributional Consequences of International Trade in Natural Resources and Capital Goods: A New-Austrian Analysis". By John Proops in ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS 48 (1, 2004) pp. 83-91. The problem

explored is the role of natural resources in economic growth. A neo-Austrian model is constructed which can represent either a single, autarchic country, or a pair of trading countries, one of which can export natural resources and the other can export manufactured capital. It is shown that under autarchy, the price of the natural resource has no effect on economic growth, while under conditions of trade, having significant influence. Falling natural resource prices slow the growth in the resource exporting country and stimulate it in the capital exporting country. Some policy implications of this finding are explored.

"The Globalisation Timeline". By Ward Rennet and Pim Martens in INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT 4 (3, 2003) pp. 137-144. Globalisation is a complex phenomenon; it is the interactive co-evolution of millions of technological, cultural, economic, social and environmental trends at all conceivable spatiotemporal scales. Given this complexity, any attempt to give a satisfactory definition of globalisation is doomed to failure. Rather, the authors argue one should take a pluralistic approach, analysing past and current processes taking place in multiple domains. The paper identifies key historical landmarks of economic, political, technological, social-cultural, and environmental developments that have pushed the process of globalisation further.

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY. Produced by: Centro Internacional de la Papa (CIP) / International Potato Center (CIP), 2003. This sourcebook is a compilation of 75 papers of international field based experiences by scientists, development specialists, academics, policy-makers and donors looking at aspects of conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity. The book encourages action aimed at managing agricultural biodiversity resources within existing landscapes and ecosystems, in support of the livelihoods of farmers, fishers and livestock keepers. It is designed for use by trainers, rural development practitioners and local administrators. For further information, see: <http://www.esiap.cipotato.org/upward/Abstract/Agrobio-sourcebook.htm>

PERFORMANCE OF BT COTTON IN INDIA: DATA FROM THE FIRST COMMERCIAL CROP. By S. Sahai and S. Rahman. Produced by Gene Campaign, 2003. This paper presents data on the field study of the first genetically modified crop to be cultivated in India. Bt cotton was studied in selected locations in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, which are two of the six Indian states that have been granted permission to commercially cultivate Bt cotton. The main conclusion reveals that the performance of Bt cotton in the areas studied in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, has been poor and the farmers have had to suffer losses. 98 percent of the farming families surveyed said, they were not interested in growing Bt cotton again. For further information, see: <http://www.genecampaign.org/btcotton.html>

THE BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTAL STATE?: INVESTIGATING THE CHINESE GENE REVOLUTION. By J. Keeley. Produced by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, UK, 2003. This paper looks at how and why China has pursued research on agricultural biotechnology within the public sector as opposed to undertaking research within the private sector. In particular, the paper focuses on the role of science-policy networks in promoting a biotechnology discourse. It also explores whether China can be seen as a 'biotech developmental state', steering both the private and public sectors to deliver public goods, and seizing the opportunities presented by a new technology while attempting to ensure that there is some level of social control over it. For further information, see: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/wp/wp207.pdf>

Electronic Resources

SCIDEV.NET WEBSITE. This website explores how concerns over biodiversity can be reconciled with the needs of the developing world. The website has evolved from the previous quick guide on biodiversity to including policy briefs, along with new opinion pieces and features. It also has the latest news, links, definitions and details of future events. For further information, see: <http://www.scidev.net/biodiversity>.

BRIDGES Trade BioRes© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org>, in collaboration with IUCN - World Conservation Union, <http://www.iucn.org>, and IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, CEESP, <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/index.html>. This edition of BRIDGES Trade BioRes was edited by Marianne Jacobsen, mjacobsen@ictsd.ch. Contributors to this issue were Heike Baumüller, Marianne Jacobsen and Evelyn Kislig. The Managing Editor is Heike Baumüller and The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, rmelendez@ictsd.ch. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch. des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from BRIDGES Trade BioRes may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editors or the Director. BRIDGES Trade BioRes is made possible in 2004 through the generous support of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (BUWAL). It also benefits from ICTSD's core funders: the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK), the Rockefeller Foundation, MISEREOR, NOVIB (NL), Oxfam (UK) and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland). ISSN 1682-0843

To subscribe to *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, please send a blank email to subscribe_biore@ictsd.ch.

To become a member of the CEESP Working Group on Environment, Trade and Investment, please send an email to: mjacobsen@ictsd.ch