



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development

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## Intellectual Property Rights

### WIPO COMMITTEE RESUMES WORK ON GENETIC RESOURCES AND TK

On 15-19 March, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)'s Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) convened for its first meeting since its mandate was extended for another two years at the WIPO Assemblies in October last year (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 3 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-10-03/story1.htm>). The Committee initiated work on establishing core principles and policy options to prevent the misappropriation of traditional knowledge (TK) and folklore. Differences, however, arose regarding the appropriate body to deal with questions related to disclosure requirements for genetic resources, TK and folklore.

### Identifying key principles for protecting TK and folklore

In what was described as one of the most concrete outcomes of the IGC meeting, delegates agreed to accelerate the substantive work on protecting TK and folklore, to be carried out along two tracks. In the short term, the Committee will identify policy objectives and core principles for the protection of TK and folklore, which will provide the conceptual framework for future discussions. In the medium term, the Committee will compile specific policy options and legal elements as well as a brief analysis of their practical implications. This work is expected to provide the foundations for policy-making at both the domestic and international levels, including a possible international instrument for the protection of TK and folklore. While no timeline has been set, concrete outcomes are expected within the current IGC mandate, which runs until the end of 2005. The first draft will be prepared for the next IGC meeting in November.

The initiative will draw, inter alia, on a 15 March submission by Egypt on behalf of the African Group, which was widely welcomed at the IGC meeting as a suitable framework for the Committee's work. The submission outlines objectives, principles and elements of an international instrument (or instruments) on intellectual property in relation to genetic resources and the protection of TK and folklore. One observer noted that while the African (and to a lesser extent the Asian) countries were still pushing for a legally-binding international instrument, some countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC), in particular the signatories of the US-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), appeared to be reluctant to move towards such an instrument. However, another source pointed out that while countries might differ on the means for providing positive protection at the international level, there appears to be growing acceptance of the usefulness of such protection, marking a shift from the more cautious positions in the early days of the IGC's work.

### **Differing views on assessing disclosure requirements**

Many developing countries, including Brazil and the African Group, questioned whether the IGC was the appropriate body within WIPO to respond to the invitation by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to assess the interrelation of access to genetic resources and disclosure requirements in intellectual property applications. The countries expressed concerns that hosting the discussions in the IGC would not necessarily ensure that the Committee's work flowed into other discussions at WIPO. Other relevant bodies include the Patent Cooperation Treaty, where Switzerland has submitted a related proposal (BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 28 November 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-11-28/story2.htm>) or the Substantive Patent Law Treaty, where several developing countries have raised biodiversity-related issues (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-12-11/story2.htm>). The discussions at the IGC mirrored similar debates at the CBD's Conference of the Parties (COP) in February, where several developing countries had opposed specific references to the IGC in the COP Decisions (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 February 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-02-20/story1.htm>).

Several delegations also felt that the WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) would serve as a more appropriate forum for the discussions. They expressed concern that a debate in the IGC would distract from or pre-empt a decision by the TRIPs Council on a proposal by a group of developing countries, calling for disclosure requirements and evidence of prior informed consent and benefit sharing related to genetic resources and TK in patent applications (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-03-19/story2.htm>). One observer, however, noted that rather than providing an alternative forum, the IGC's work could be used to provide the substantive basis for further discussions in the TRIPs Council.

Given the lack of consensus on how to proceed with the CBD's request, the Committee decided to forward the issue to the General Assembly for consideration.

### **Enhancing civil society participation**

Several observers noted an increased participation of non-governmental organisations in the IGC. In particular with regard to indigenous and local communities, discussions broadened from focusing primarily on funding concerns to more substantive debates on how to ensure their effective participation. The Committee agreed on several practical steps in this regard, including the establishment of an informal consultative forum for indigenous and local representatives in advance of IGC sessions. They also welcomed the establishment of a website for submissions by accredited observers, as mandated by the last IGC meeting.

#### **Additional Resources**

IGC meeting documents: [http://www.wipo.int/documents/en/meetings/2004/igc/index\\_6.html](http://www.wipo.int/documents/en/meetings/2004/igc/index_6.html).

Accredited observers' page: <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/igc/ngo/index.html>

ICTSD reporting.

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**Commodities**

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**WTO COTTON WORKSHOP DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT, LEAVES TRADE ASIDE**

From 23-24 March an African Regional Workshop -- organised by the WTO -- was held in Cotonou, Benin. Representatives from 30 African cotton-producing countries and from various international organisations attended the meeting, which formed part of the WTO's technical assistance programme. The workshop focused primarily on the development assistance aspects of the Cotton Sector Initiative that was initiated by Benin, Chad, Mali and Burkina Faso at the WTO Committee on Agriculture, prior to the WTO Ministerial Conference held in September 2003. The exclusive development focus was criticised by civil society groups and participants from African countries, who called for more discussions on cotton subsidies and trade distortions.

**Tensions between trade and development**

In his opening remarks to the workshop, WTO Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi reminded participants that the workshop was intended to focus "exclusively on the development assistance component of the Cotton initiative" and urged them to seek out concrete outcomes on financial and technical assistance. African observers of the meeting argued that the workshop's focus on the development dimension of the Cotton Initiative was an attempt to deflect the debate from trade issues, the main concern of West African countries. Some civil society groups also called on the US and the EC to address the issue of subsidies instead of using promises on development funds for the African cotton sector as an excuse for not dealing with the issue directly. Furthermore, hundreds of African farmers, mobilised within the West African Farmers and Producers' Organisations Network (ROPPA), gathered in Cotonou during the workshop to express their discontent with subsidies granted to producers in developed countries, which they claim have led to declining global prices and deteriorating terms of trade for cotton. The African producers furthermore, underlined the importance of cotton for their livelihoods as it allows them to build water supply systems; health centres and to send children to school. In a statement, they suggested a provisional financial compensation for losses incurred due to cotton subsidies.

**Cotton as a stand-alone issue**

The cotton initiative, submitted to the WTO Committee on Agriculture before the WTO Cancun Ministerial Conference (BRIDGES Weekly, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-06-04/story3.htm>, 4 June 2003), called for the phasing out of subsidies provided to developed country cotton producers and for a compensation mechanism to offset the income losses experienced by West African countries.

At the Cancun Ministerial conference no consensus was reached on the initiative. Following the Cancun meeting, there have been two divergent perspectives on how to move the cotton issue forward. One is the continual inclusion of it in the Agricultural Committee negotiations. The other, is the separation of cotton as a 'stand-alone issue', to be discussed outside of agriculture negotiations. This approach is favoured by African countries who are concerned that the issue could lose importance and urgency if subsumed under the difficult and slow negotiations on agriculture.

**No firm commitment on assistance**

The outcomes of the workshop, summarised by the WTO Secretariat, focuses on the development aspects of the Cotton Initiative. Representatives of the Quad group -- the US, EU, Japan and Canada -- and intergovernmental institutions present such as the World Bank and IMF identified existing and new programmes for financial and technical assistance. Although there were "positive indications of additional financial and technical assistance", no firm commitment was made on new financing to aid African cotton producers. Instead, members outlined areas of focus and effective use of existing delivery mechanisms for such assistance, and highlighted the need for enhanced coordination and follow-up arrangements.

ICTSD reporting; "Cotton Meeting Provides No Commitment On Aid: Further Issues Left for WTO Talks," WTO REPORTER, 30 March 2004; "African Farmers Still Resist Agricultural Subsidies," PANA, 23 March 2004; "Benin Hosts WTO Regional Workshop on Cotton," PANA, 23 March 2004.

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## Trade in Endangered Species

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### CITES RULES ON IVORY AND CAVIAR TRADE

The 50th Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) concluded a week-long session in Geneva on 19 March. Particular attention was paid to ivory and caviar trade, leading to mixed feelings from environmental groups. The Standing Committee announced that it might take action against four countries revealed to have ivory available on domestic markets, while several countries set to legally sell ivory stockpiles faced opposition from some CITES Parties. On the other hand, key caviar-producing states were granted more time to verify their compliance with rules to regulate the trade.

#### Possible action against four countries

Recent CITES investigations revealed that Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti and Nigeria all had ivory widely available in unregulated domestic markets (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-03-19/inbrief.htm#4>). The Geneva meeting called for 'refinements' to a draft plan for Parties to take action against the four countries by next year if trade in ivory had not ceased. The draft would then be submitted for approval to the 165 Parties to the Convention at COP-13, to be held this October in Thailand.

The draft seeks a cessation of all domestic sales of raw, semi-worked or worked ivory and legislation banning the products as soon as possible. In addition, law enforcement and border control agencies should make every effort to enforce existing or new legislation, while public awareness campaigns on existing or new bans of ivory sales should begin immediately. The eventual goal is "to bring a halt to once and for all the illegal trade in ivory", the Secretariat said. The African countries would have to report on action taken by the end of this year. If such measures had not been taken, the CITES Secretariat could propose a ban on trade in all wildlife products with those countries.

#### Opposition to the legal sale of ivory

Further weighing in on the ivory trade, the CITES Committee ruled that South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana should not yet carry on with the sale of 60 tons of stockpiled ivory (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-03-19/inbrief.htm#4>). In November 2002, CITES gave permission to the three countries to sell their ivory stocks, but not before May 2004 and only if certain conditions had been met (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 7 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-11-07/story1.htm>). At the meeting Kenya reported that the agency responsible for keeping track of elephant populations and poaching figures, called Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE), had not provided statistics to the CITES Secretariat because it had not received numbers from elephant range states. Kenya also noted that Botswana and Namibia had not yet reported on how the proceeds from CITES' first permitted sale of ivory in 1999 had been used, possibly violating the condition that profits from the ivory trade are to be used exclusively for elephant conservation or community development programmes within the elephant range.

Regardless of the outcome, a number of wildlife and conservation groups were pleased with CITES' effort to control the domestic ivory trade. Peter Pueschel, the International Fund for Animal Welfare's program manager on wildlife trade, said "It is imperative that stringent conditions for trade and verification of those conditions are met by both the export and import countries before any ivory trade proceeds."

## Extension on caviar compliance granted

In contrast, the CITES Committee's decision on the caviar industry did not resonate so well with environmental groups. The Committee agreed to give four Caspian Sea countries -- Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan -- an extra three months to fulfill international obligations on conservation. The move upset many ecologists seeking a suspension in the international trade of beluga caviar, which are harvested from sturgeon populations. Caviar Emptor, a coalition of three groups seeking to protect Caspian sturgeon, said, "The CITES reprieve means that the spring fishing season, the biggest of the year, will go forward."

The three groups -- the Natural Resources Defense Council, Seaweb, and the University of Miami's Pew Institute for Ocean Science -- insist that the global premium placed on Caspian sturgeon has led to over-fishing and illegal trade that is threatening the existence of the ancient species. They accused the four countries of taking no steps to manage sturgeon populations or illegal trade of the species; populations are estimated to have plunged by 90 percent since the 1970s. However, UN spokesman Michael Williams defended action taken thus far, saying, "These states have done a lot. There's no lack of political will." The extension will be used for the four countries to fill in information gaps that have been "unclear and incomplete", he added.

The 13th Conference of the Parties will be held from 2-14 October in Bangkok, Thailand. Meanwhile, the 20th Animals Committee meeting will be held from 29 March - 2 April in South Africa.

ICTSD reporting; "UN Allows Caspian Countries More Time on Caviar Practices," UN WIRE, 22 March 2004; "Ecologists Upset That UN Prolongs Caviar Trade," REUTERS, 22 March 2004; "CITES Gets Tough With Ivory Trade," ENS, 19 March 2004; "UN Body Considers Action Over Ivory Trade," REUTERS, 19 March 2004.

## In Brief

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### INTERNATIONAL SEED TREATY SET TO ENTER INTO FORCE

The International Treaty (IT) on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) will enter into force on 29 June after twelve European countries and the European Community ratified the agreement, thus bringing the number of ratifications to 48 (40 required). "The Treaty provides an international legal framework that will be a key element in ensuring food security, now and in the future," said Jose Esquinas-Alcazar, secretary of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Recognising both the sovereign rights and the inter-dependence of countries over their PGRFA, the IT establishes a Multilateral System that aims to facilitate access to PGRFA and benefit-sharing (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 22 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-11-22/story4.htm>). The Treaty provides for mandatory benefit-sharing in cases when the commercialisation of a product -- which was developed from PGRFA obtained from the Multilateral System -- restricts the product's availability for use in further research and breeding, for instance through intellectual property protection. Access is to be regulated principally by means of a standard material transfer agreement (MTA), which will apply also to transfers to third parties and to all subsequent transfers. The terms of the standard MTA will be developed by an expert group established at the first Meeting of the Interim Committee for the ITPGRFA. The group, which has yet to meet due to funding constraints, will report to the second meeting of the Interim Committee. It is hoped that the entry into force of the Treaty will revive some of the momentum that led to its adoption.

For further information, see <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm>.

ICTSD reporting; "Treaty on biodiversity to become law," FAO PRESS RELEASE, 31 March 2004.

## SENSE OF MOVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS

WTO delegates that participated in agriculture negotiations from 22-26 March (see BRIDGES Weekly, 24 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-03-24/story1.htm>) reported a change of tone in the concluding plenary of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA) special session. Reportedly, the week's intensive consultations led to a more positive negotiating climate as Members finally started listening to each other, following months marked by a generally negative tone in the post-Cancun agriculture debate. While the Chair of the special (negotiating) session Ambassador Tim Groser (New Zealand) in his concluding assessment said that Members had not yet reached a "problem-solving mode", he noted emerging consensus on the aim to agree on a negotiating framework by end-July, which would later be fleshed out to full modalities.

Working on the framework text, negotiators would act on the "working hypothesis" as the text might not include numbers, Groser said. This would require that Members show "conditional trust," taking into account that the parameters set out in the Doha mandate on agriculture, would remain "the political anchor" for the negotiation outcomes. According to trade sources, market access emerged as the most contentious negotiating area. Many participants expressed their discontent with the 'blended' tariff reduction formula, which was first introduced by the US-EU draft framework text last August (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-21/story2.htm>) and modified in several subsequent drafts. Some, such as the Cairns Group members, said they were unconvinced by the blended formula as it might not lead to real new market access, while others such as the Switzerland-led G-10 found it too restrictive. Sources reported that most speakers agreed that developing countries should be allowed a category of special products (SPs) to be exempted from general reduction commitments. However, differences remained over the conditions for designating SPs. Groser scheduled another four 'Agriculture Weeks' for 20-23 April, 2-4 June, 23-25 June and 14-16 July. The upcoming April session will use the current negotiating format -- consisting mainly of informal negotiations -- but may be somewhat more structured, sources reported.

ICTSD reporting.

## ANGOLA BANS GM CEREAL IMPORTS, MAURITIUS MOVES ON LEGISLATION

Angola became the latest African country to ban the import of genetically modified (GM) seeds and grain, including in GM food aid, unless they are milled prior to arrival. The country thereby joined Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Lesotho, which had set the same conditions for imports in 2002 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-27/inbrief.htm>). Zambia continues to ban the import even of milled GM cereals. The Angolan standard setting body has called for the establishment of national biosafety regulations on the sale of transport of GMOs, which should be based on the precautionary approach and conform to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) recommendations on biotechnology and biodiversity, according to the body's Chairman Gome Cardoso.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly of Mauritius on 23 March adopted the Genetically Modified Organisms Bill, which regulates the imports and use of GMOs in the country. "Thanks to this bill, Mauritius will be able to use biotechnology to improve its agricultural efficiency, but it will, above all, allow better protection for the consumers, environment and biodiversity", said Paul Raymond Bérenger, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. The opposition, however, was more cautious, pointing to limited scientific and human resources for the bill to be effective.

The SADC recommendations are available at  
[http://www.sadc.int/fanr.php?lang=english&path=fanr/agres&page=sadc\\_biotechnology\\_gmo](http://www.sadc.int/fanr.php?lang=english&path=fanr/agres&page=sadc_biotechnology_gmo).

"Angola's plan to turn away altered food imperils aid," NYT, 30 March 2004; "Angola calls for GMO legislation," PANA, 24 March 2004; "Mauritius' legal framework for GMOs," L'EXPRESS, 30 March 2004; "Mauritian Parliament adopts bill on GMOs," PANA, 24 March 2004

## UNEP ENVIRONMENT FORUM HIGHLIGHTS THREATS TO ECOSYSTEM

The eighth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GCSS-8/GMEF) was held from 29-31 March in Jeju, Republic of Korea. Delegations including Environment Ministers came from 158 nations to discuss "Water and Sanitation". South Korea's Environment Minister Gwak Gyl-ho noted that the meeting was aimed at identifying "[a] specific framework to supply enough water for 10 billion people worldwide suffering from lack of water and provide 25 billion people with upgraded sanitary services". Various issues were raised at the forum, such as threats related to handling solid wastes from industry, households and tourism especially for small islands across the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and the Pacific, lacking landfill space or treatment plants to deal with waste and garbage. "Dead zones" -- oxygen-starved areas of the world's oceans that are devoid of fish, mainly caused by excess nitrogen run-off from farm fertilizers, sewage and industrial pollutants -- was also one of the environmental problems discussed. "Dead zones" is also one of the issues raised in UNEP's first-ever Global Environment Outlook Year Book, being circulated to government officials at the Forum.

On the eve of the meeting, Friends of the Earth (FOE) called for the transformation of the UN Environment Programme into a UN Environment Organisation. FOE emphasised the need for a joint UN review of the impacts of existing trade agreements on sustainable development, together with the establishment of a world commission on trade and agriculture to review impacts of existing trade agreements. According to FOE, the French government, with support from the EU, supports the strengthening of UNEP by turning it into a UN 'specialised agency'.

The discussions form the basis for the 12th meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to be held in New York from 14-30 April.

The GEO Yearbook 2003 is available at: [www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/](http://www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/)

ICTSD reporting; "UNEP 2004 in Jeju," DONGA, 29 March 2004; "UN group issues warning on 'dead zones' in oceans," TAIPEI TIMES, 30 March 2004.

## MONTREAL PROTOCOL: EXEMPTIONS GRANTED FOR METHYL BROMIDE

The US, several EU member states and other developed country Parties were granted exemptions for the use of methyl bromide -- an ozone damaging substance -- at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held from 24-26 March in Montreal, Canada. Under the Protocol more than 180 signatory states are obligated to phase out the use of nearly 100 ozone depleting chemicals. Developed countries were to phase out methyl bromide, a fumigant that kills soil and food pests, by 1 January 2005. However, at the Extraordinary Meeting eleven states received exemptions totalling 13,438 tonnes for 2005, of which the US was granted almost 9,000 tonnes.

Commenting on the high demand for exemptions Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP said "[this] shows that governments and the private sector will have to work much harder to speed up the development and spread of ozone friendly replacements". In order to avoid a watering down of the agreement and to seek a clearer definition of the economic factors used for justifying an exemption Parties launched a process for detailed procedures and reporting requirement for requesting and granting future exemptions. However, US farmers pointed out that the fact that developing countries are scheduled to phase out methyl bromide use only by 2015 might lead to unfair competition. Rodger Wasson, president of the California Strawberry Commission, said, "the 50-acre grower in California may be competing with a multinational corporation based in China who gets to use the product 10 years longer". With such fears temporarily placated, others arose from the environmental standpoint. European Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström stressed that "the scientific consensus is that only full compliance with the Montreal Protocol will allow the ozone layer to regain its full protective power". Under the Protocol, developed countries have committed to taking the lead in phasing out ozone depleting substances. Many environmental groups suggested that effective alternatives to methyl bromide that do not harm the ozone layer exist and can be deployed without great cost.

"13 Countries To Seek Methyl Bromide Exemption," UN WIRE, 24 March 2004; "Eleven Countries Win UN Exemption From Ban On Ozone-depleting Pesticide," TERRA DAILY, 27 March 2004; "Top EU Environment Official Pushes Adherence To Ozone Pact," UN WIRE, 26 March 2004; "Exemptions from Global Methyl Bromide Ban Under Consideration," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 23 March 2004.

## **APEC CONCERNED OVER EU CHEMICALS LEGISLATION**

In a letter dated 11 March, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat expressed its concerns over the new EU legislation for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH), which was adopted by the EU in October 2003 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 3 October 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-10-03/story3.htm>). In its letter, the Secretariat states that the implementation of the REACH system would have negative effects particularly on small and medium sized enterprises in developing countries, as these do not have the capacity to comply with the strict deadlines and data requirements. Furthermore, the letter states that "Small and medium enterprises in our region and those economies that depend on commodity exports for their economic growth would be severely affected". The Asian and Pacific countries are furthermore concerned that the EU industry might turn away from non-EU suppliers thus creating unfair competition in favour of their domestic industry. The new legislation was also under discussion during the last meeting of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) held on 23 March, where countries criticised the system for being more trade restrictive than necessary due to the complexity of the system. Responding to these concerns the EC extended the period for comments until 21 June 2004. The US has already announced that it would issue a statement by 1 June.

"EU Chemical Legislation Deemed Harmful to Developing Economies and Small Business", APEC, 12 March 2004; "Europe's New Chemicals Policy Hits Pacific Rim Resistance", ENS, 24 March, 2004; ICTSD reporting.

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## **Events & Resources**

### **EVENTS**

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies.

#### **Coming up in the next two weeks:**

1-2 April, Monterrey, Mexico: FORGING NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY. This event is organised by the North American Forum of Integration in collaboration with EGAP (Escuela de Graduados en Administración Pública). The Conference will focus on challenges and alternatives to envision North American energy security. Speakers from the political, academic and economic spheres from Mexico, Canada and the US will debate and emphasise the relevance and challenges of creating a North American Investment Fund looking to finance Mexican infrastructure projects in the energy sector while respecting the Constitution of the country. For further information, contact: tel: (+1 514) 844-8030; email: [info@fina-nafi.org](mailto:info@fina-nafi.org); Internet: <http://www.fina-nafi.org/sections/sections.asp?langue=eng&menu=conf04&count=eng>

1-3 April, Kampala, Uganda: ASSURING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN AFRICA BY 2020. Organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 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 further information, contact: Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Head, 2020 Vision Initiative, email: [r.pandya-lorch@cgiar.org](mailto:r.pandya-lorch@cgiar.org); Internet: <http://www.ifpri.org/2020africainitiative/index.htm>



1-3 April 2003, Berlin, Germany: ENCOS 2004. This meeting will be the first European Networks Conference on Sustainability in Practice (ENCOS) focussing on the conditions and requirements for a new European level of capacity building. Organised by Kolleg für Management und Gestaltung Nachhaltiger Entwicklung. The goal of the meeting is to obtain an inter-and transdisciplinary understanding on the latest developments in international practice, research and education on sustainability issues. For further information, contact: tel: (+49-30) 2936-7940; fax: 2936-7949; email: [info@encos2004.net](mailto:info@encos2004.net); Internet: <http://www.ENCOS2004.net>

2-3 April, Brussels, Belgium: CONFERENCE ON MULTILATERALISM AT RISK - BEYOND GLOBALISATION. This Annual EU-LDC Network Conference will focus on the implications for the relationship between the EU and the developing countries in the fields of trade, aid, and international security. The EU-LDC Network also announces a call for papers for the annual conference. University students, researchers, scholars, policy makers, civil society representatives from developing countries are invited to participate. For further information on both the conference and the call for papers, contact: EU-LDC Network Secretariat, tel: (+31-10) 453-8703, fax: 452-3660, email: [mar.tuells@ecorys.com](mailto:mar.tuells@ecorys.com), Internet: <http://62.58.77.238/conference/conference2003/index.php>

7-8 April, New Delhi, India: SECOND ASIAN CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT. Organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) and World Conservation Union (IUCN). Some of the major issues for this conference include, *inter alia*: agriculture, food security and the economic contribution of biotechnology as well as public-private partnership in financing of biotechnology: lessons from bilateral and multilateral programmes in Asia. For further information, contact: tel: (+91-11246) 821-7780; fax: 821-7374; email: [dgooffice@ris.org.in](mailto:dgooffice@ris.org.in); Internet: <http://www.ris.org.in/SecCon/SACBD.htm>

13-15 April, New Delhi, India: AFRO-ASIAN CIVIL SOCIETY SEMINAR - FROM CANCUN TO SAO PAULO: THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM. This seminar is organised by the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE), in association with partner organisations. The participants from Africa and Asia will discuss issues related to developmental gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations and debate whether the international trading system promotes the interests of the poor. For further information, contact: CUTS, tel: (+91-141) 2207-482; fax: 2207-486/2203 998; email: [citee@cuts-international.org](mailto:citee@cuts-international.org); Internet: <http://www.cuts-international.org/forthcoming-events.htm#afro-backgrounder>

14-16 April, New York, US: 12th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The 12th session of the CSD-12 will be the first Review Session under the Commission's new Implementation Cycle. Participants will determine how a task- and action-oriented CSD will respond to the challenge of implementation and how future Review Sessions will be organised. The first three days of CSD-12 will serve as the preparatory meeting for the International Meeting on the ten-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The results of the CSD-12 review should bring about an improved understanding of priority concerns of the thematic issues selected for this Cycle - namely Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements - and pave the way for an effective policy session at CSD-13. For further information, contact: Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; tel: (+1-212) 963-2803; fax: 963-4260; email: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>

15-17 April, New Haven, Connecticut, US: FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, CONSERVATION, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS. Organised by Yale University. This workshop will explore cutting-edge research, on-the-ground practice, and social movements that bring together agriculture, biotechnology, conservation, development, and food and trade policy. Representative from academia, civil society and farmers from various countries will speak at the workshop. For further information, contact: The Yale Center of International and Area Studies; tel: (+1-203) 432-3422; fax: 432-5963 or 432-9381 email: [agroecology@yale.edu](mailto:agroecology@yale.edu); Internet: <http://www.yale.edu/las/food/index.html>

## Other Forthcoming Events

3-4 May, Washington, D.C., US: WORLD BANK ANNUAL BANK CONFERENCES ON DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS (ABCDE). The theme of the conference will be "Lessons of Experience". It will feature presentations on: the future of development - the next 10 years; a half century of development; evolution of thinking on development - lessons learned; infrastructure and development; and trade and development. An Economists' Forum will hold parallel sessions. The forum is open to staff from the World Bank and IMF, as well as to invited guests. For further information, contact: Leita Jones, DECPO, fax: (+1-202) 522-0304; Internet: <http://econ.worldbank.org/abcde/index.php?confid=33788>

3-7 May, Paris, France: CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES, 20TH SESSION. Joint FAO/WHO food standards programme. For this session, items on the agenda include: proposed draft revised code of ethics for international trade in foods, definition of traceability/product tracing of foodstuffs, guidelines for cooperation with international intergovernmental organisations. For further information, contact: fax: (+39-6) 5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccgp20/gp20\\_01e.htm](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccgp20/gp20_01e.htm)

9-12 May, The Hague, Netherlands: ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY. This conference, bringing together around 200 of the leading scholars and thinkers on these issues, aims to derive comprehensive approaches to address the challenges posed by environmental change for human security. For further information, contact: the Institute for Environmental Security; tel: (+31-70) 365-1074; fax: 365-1306; email: [conference@envirosecurity.org](mailto:conference@envirosecurity.org); Internet: <http://www.envirosecurity.net/conference/ESSDConference.pdf>

10-14 May, Montreal, Canada: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING, 32ND SESSION. Joint FAO/WHO food standards programme. For this session, items on the agenda include: report of the working group on the management of the agenda items on labelling of foods and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification/ genetic engineering and guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods: draft revised annex 2 – permitted substances. For further information, contact: fax: (+39-6) 5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfl32/fl04\\_01e.htm](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfl32/fl04_01e.htm)

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

POSTPONED PLACING ON THE MARKET - A REPORT ON THE SECOND AND THIRD GENERATION OF TRANSGENIC PLANTS. By Benno Vogel and Christof Potthof, published by the Gene-ethical Network (2004). For years surveys have shown the same picture: The majority of European consumers don't want genetically modified food on their plates. The agro-industry and some scientists argue that this is related to the fact that the transgenic plants of the first generation were mainly herbicide- or insect-resistant, and only show benefits for the farmers and not for consumers. A summary of the report is available at Internet: [http://www.gen-ethisches-netzwerk.de/gen/html/projekte/nw\\_pro.html](http://www.gen-ethisches-netzwerk.de/gen/html/projekte/nw_pro.html)

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT: CURRENT STATUS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. Edited by A.A. Snow et al and published by the Ecological Society of America (February 2004) This position paper states that GMOs have the potential to play a positive role in sustainable agriculture but that their release into the environment could have negative ecological impacts under certain circumstances. Noting that the long-term ecological impacts of new types of GMOs may be difficult to predict or study prior to commercialisation, the paper strongly recommends a cautious approach to releasing such organisms into the environment. The paper identifies cases where GMOs may pose risk to the

environment, including where the GMO may proliferate and persist without human intervention, where genetic exchange is possible, or where the new trait confers an advantage to the GMO over native species in a given environment. For further information, see:  
[http://www.esa.org/pao/esaPositions/Papers/geo\\_position.htm](http://www.esa.org/pao/esaPositions/Papers/geo_position.htm)

**POLICY RESEARCH AND AFRICAN AGRICULTURE: TIME FOR A DOSE OF REALITY?** By S.W Omamo and J. Farrington. Produced by Natural Resource Perspectives (NRP) and ODI (2004). This paper argues that, for the rural poor in Africa, market failure is more the norm than the exception. Despite the growing attention given to market imperfections of the kind highlighted by New Institutional Economics, much policy advice on the agricultural economy in African countries remains based on unrealistic analysis and assumptions. To make policy advice more relevant requires a better understanding not only of how markets (mal)function, but also of implementation issues (what constrains implementability, how constraints can be overcome or bypassed, and what policy measures have greater or lesser prospects of implementation). The paper is available at Internet: <http://www.odi.org.uk/nrp/90.pdf>

**FARM-LEVEL TIMBER PRODUCTION: ORIENTING FARMERS TOWARDS THE MARKET.** By C. Holding Anyonge, and J.M. Roshetko produced by Unasylva, FAO (2003). This article explores the potential of farm-level timber production, specifically in non-contracted or open market situations where farmers produce timber as one component (segregated or integrated) of their farm enterprise and search for markets in an ad hoc manner. It draws on experiences in East Africa and Southeast Asia to offer recommendations for helping small-scale farmers manage timber trees for specific markets. The paper can be downloaded at, Internet: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/005/y4744e/y4744e11.pdf>

**BANANA WARS - THE PRICE OF FREE TRADE: A CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVE.** By Gordon Myers (Zed Books, 2004). Banana Wars tells how the US government, answering the grievances of a single American corporation, forced the WTO to nullify a European Community commitment to protect small Caribbean banana growers. This book calls for new EU arrangements to help the Caribbean banana industry beyond 2005 and for the WTO to give greater consideration to the needs of very small states with vulnerable economies. For further information see Internet: <http://zedweb.cybergecko.net/cgi-bin/a.cgi?1%2084277%20452%202>

"WTO decision on implementation of Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and public health: a solution to the access to essential medicines problem?" By Duncan Matthews in the JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW 7 (1, 2004) pp. 73-107. The need for a legal solution to the compulsory license problem was outlined in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health of 14 November 2001. The agreement subsequently reached by WTO Members on 30 August 2003 in response to paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration is seen as key to improving access to essential medicines in developing countries. This article re-examines the negotiations that led to the 30 August agreement and assesses its likely impact. It then argues that compulsory licensing is one of a range of policy approaches that will ultimately assist in improving access to essential medicines in developing countries.

"How Green is NAFTA?: Measuring the Impacts of Agricultural Trade". By Scott Vaughan in ENVIRONMENT 46 (2, 2004) pp. 26-42. In 1993, the Clinton administration hailed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as the most environmentally sensitive trade agreement in history. Less than a decade later, Public Citizen dismissed NAFTA's environmental provisions as "meaningless". To assess some of the environmental ramifications of the agreement, this article examines changes in U.S.-Mexican agricultural trade since NAFTA's enactment.

**ORGANIC FARMING: POLICIES AND PROSPECTS.** By Stephan Dabbert, Anna Maria Haring and Raffaele Zanolli (Zed Books, February 2004). This book provides an accessible introduction to the latest scientific research on organic farming in Europe. The organic sector has moved from a marginal production fad to a serious subject of policy concern for politicians and public servants involved in European agricultural policy. This book reviews the organic farming sector today and the policies developed towards it and assesses its contributions to environment, food quality, farmers' incomes, and rural development. It

explains the key factors impinging on the organic farming sector in future and makes a detailed range of recommendations for future organic farming policy. For further information see <http://www.zedbooks.co.uk>

**PROTECTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT: IMPLICATIONS OF A WTO REGIME AND POLICY OPTIONS.** By Carlos M Correa and Nagesh Kumar (Zed Books, February 2004). The book provides an exploration of new WTO proposals on direct investment, from the developing country viewpoint. The authors explain the North's determination to give privileged protection to overseas investments by their transnational corporations. In particular, they focus on the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Agreement on Trade-related Investment Measures (TRIMS). They spell out their consequences for developing countries. They examine whether there is really a case for a new multilateral framework on investment within the WTO and propose various options for developing countries in resisting what amounts to a new form of Western protectionism. For further information visit <http://www.zedbooks.co.uk>

**REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.** World Bank (March 2004). Regional integration agreements (RIAs) can help developing countries boost growth and reduce poverty, if they use the agreements to foster competition in domestic markets, seek access to rich-country markets, and enhance the credibility of their own economic reforms. This study reviews the experience of many of the world's over 200 regional integration agreements, and recommends eight "rules of thumb" to guide developing-country policymakers in negotiating such accords. For further information see [http://www.worldbank.org/research/trade/regional\\_integration.htm](http://www.worldbank.org/research/trade/regional_integration.htm)

**ANOTHER REVOLUTION IN LATIN AMERICA: WHO WILL WIN?** By Andrea Gash Durkin and Ricardo Reyes (Cato Institute, March 2004). The authors argue that the transformation of Central America from a war zone into a region of stable democracies has been remarkably rapid -- and is thus remarkably fragile. As Haiti has demonstrated, young democracies in this hemisphere can descend into chaos in the blink of an eye. By offering new avenues for commerce and incentives for reform, CAFTA can help Latin America avoid Haiti's fate. To access the report visit <http://www.freetrade.org/pubs/FTBs/FTB-009.html>

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