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Agriculture

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

At the annual UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Jean Ziegler, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, noted that current models of export-oriented agriculture policy was not supportive of ensuring food security, calling for a greater focus on food sovereignty. Meanwhile, at a conference in Kampala, Ugandan President Museveni called on developed countries to open up their agricultural markets, allowing Africans to export their way out of poverty and food insecurity.

Human rights expert questions Ag liberalisation

Speaking on agricultural trade under the WTO, Ziegler reported to the UN Commission on Human Rights on 30 March that "agricultural trade is far from being free, and even further from being fair". He stressed that market forces cannot solve the problem on hunger -- given that 840 million people are undernourished although global food production is sufficient to support the global population -- and urged WTO Members to focus on "food sovereignty". He emphasised the dire situation of small-scale farmers, which represent three quarters of the 1.2 billion poorest people in the world, and said that "models of export-oriented agriculture that threaten the livelihoods of millions of peasant farmers should be reviewed", as should the dominant role played by large agribusinesses. He suggested that, in addition to rejecting liberalisation measures, countries should be able to use protectionist tariffs in sensitive agricultural sectors.

Kampala conference addresses food security in Africa

Meanwhile, a conference entitled Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020 in Kampala from 1-3 April, organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and hosted by the Government of Uganda, sought to find technical, institutional and political solutions to improve the situation of 200 million undernourished Africans. Attended by over 500 participants representing different parts of society the meeting produced an outcome document on the way forward towards food security. The document identified priority actions for Africa, including: strengthening governance and public accountability; fostering macroeconomic growth and stability; investing in food processing for value addition; investing in pro-poor health policies and actions to raise labour productivity and nutrition security; investing in raising agricultural productivity; and investing in human capacity.

In his address to the conference, Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni stressed access to developed country markets as the key to ensuring food security. In the words of Museveni, "you cannot talk of sustainable food security without speaking of commercial agriculture which means market access". Several other speakers also addressed the issue of market access for African products and the need to address developed country farm subsidies.

Gordon Conway, from the Rockefeller Foundation, furthermore highlighted the role of biotechnology and research in Africa. Referring to a dedicated group of African scientists developing new varieties of for example cassava and bananas resistant to certain diseases and high yielding, he said Africa was going through its own green revolution. However, he also urged countries to engage more in agricultural training and education, and recommended to establish networks to spread agricultural inputs and know-how throughout the country.

To access the report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, visit [http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.CN.4.2004.10.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/E.CN.4.2004.10.En?Opendocument)

For further information and full reporting on the Kampala meeting, see <http://www.ifpri.org/2020africaconference/index.htm>

ICTSD reporting; "Treaty on biodiversity to become law," FAO RELEASE, 31 March 2004; "Summary Report Of The Conference On Assuring Food And Nutrition Security In Africa By 2020," IISD, 5 April 2004; "U.N. Rights Expert Slams WTO's Trade Policies," UNWIRE, 31 March 2004.

Biotechnology

GMO UPDATE: ASIA CONFERENCE, EU-US DISPUTE, RUSSIA AND TANZANIA REGULATIONS

Asia biotech conference highlights trade dimension

Trade-related considerations, the need for greater capacities to ensure the safe use of biotechnology and intellectual property rights (IPR) emerged as some of the key cross-cutting themes at the Second Conference on Biotechnology for Asian Development. The Conference was organised by the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS) in collaboration with IUCN's Regional Programme for Asia and the Confederation of Indian Industry from 7-8 April in New Delhi. In his opening remarks, Planning Commission chair K C Pant called for "collective thinking and coordination by Asian countries" within the WTO and other forums so as to allow countries to "exploit their synergies and expertise for mutual benefit". He added that the key focus of collaboration should be in the area of capacity building, particularly with regard to the handling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the field. Pant also expressed concern over the tightening IPR regime, which he said was restricting accessibility for developing countries to basic research tool. IPR-related concerns were also raised by Nagesh Kumar, Director-General of RIS, who noted the "asymmetric treatment" by the global IPR regime of knowledge resulting from modern innovation systems compared with products of traditional knowledge. During discussions on

labelling and traceability of GMOs, several participants stressed the difficulties faced by many developing country farmers to segregate and label GMOs, given the countries' agricultural and retail system. They noted the importance of establishing objective criteria for setting labelling thresholds and for an assessment of the impact of traceability rules on developing countries.

For further information, see <http://www.ris.org.in/SecCon/SACBD.htm>.

WTO Panel dismisses EU procedural complaint in biotech case

On 8 April the WTO Panel assessing the complaint filed by the US, Argentina and Canada against the EU's de facto moratorium on the approval of new genetically modified organisms (GMO; see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 25 August 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-08-25/story2.htm>) rejected the EU's procedural claim against the countries' complaint. The EU had requested the claim to be dismissed due to procedural shortcomings, stating that the three co-complainants had failed to clearly identify the measures at issue and calling on the three countries to identify any legal document confirming a moratorium on GM products. Countering this argument, the US stated that several EC officials had acknowledged publicly the existence of the de facto moratorium, thus reinforcing the existence of the "moratorium" on biotech approvals.

Based on the preliminary ruling, the panel review will continue as planned with parties currently preparing and handing in their first written submissions to the panel. The first panel hearing is scheduled for early June.

New GM regulations in Russia and Tanzania

The Russian Chief Sanitary Inspector has announced new labelling requirements for foods containing 0.9 percent or more genetically modified material, compared to the previous labelling requirements that applied to products containing 5 percent or more GM material. The new threshold corresponds to the recently adopted EU labelling requirements (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 22 January 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-01-22/story1.htm>.) Concurrently the Inspector also issued a list of newly approved GM products. Currently, 14.8 percent of Russia's meat products and 20.4 percent flour and grain-derived foods are made from genetically modified material.

In Tanzania a group of domestic experts has been mandated to draft national biosafety guidelines, in preparation for the introduction of genetically modified crops. The Tanzanian Minister of Agriculture and Food Security noted that Tanzania would not be able to evade GM technology in the future, hence the importance of developing biosafety guidelines. Tanzania is currently also discussing the introduction of GM technology with the government of South Africa and with China and India.

ICTSD reporting; "Pant pitches for Asian collective approach on GM food," FE, 7 April 2003; "Meet seeks Jt 3rd World front against biopiracy," FE, 8 April 2004; "GM Crops: Dar Working On Policy Options," THE EAST AFRICAN, 5 April 2004; "Russia adopts stricter GM food rules," CHECKBIOTECH, 8 April 2004; "WTO Panel Rejects EU Procedural Claim Against Request For Ruling on GMO Barriers," WTO REPORTER, 9 April 2004.

In Brief

RIO TINTO REVIEW TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSPARENCY

The global mining group Rio Tinto has released its Social and Environment Review 2003, summarising the group's policies on, *inter alia*, communities, environment, human rights, land access and sustainable development. The report is one initiative to increase transparency and improve sustainable practices in the mining sector. According to the report Rio Tinto met several of its 2003 targets including finalising environmental standards and guidance documents, and increased water use efficiency. Targets not met include reducing energy used per tonne of product, reducing total greenhouse gas emissions per tonne of product and achievement of zero significant spills. For the future, Rio Tinto is also developing and

implementing a biodiversity strategy and conducting partnerships with organisations such as Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Fauna and Flora International, BirdLife International, Earthwatch Institute and the Eden Project.

Environmental groups such as the Friends of the Earth recently criticised the multinational's plan to develop a mine in Madagascar. Friends of the Earth's Corporates Campaigner Hannah Griffiths commented, "Rio Tinto claims to have invested considerable sums in reducing the impact on the environment, but many questions still remain. Crucially, they have failed to show how they will replace precious habitat that has evolved over millions of years and how they will resolve long-term impacts." Although the company has revealed plans to protect the area by planting fast-growing trees, Friends of the Earth comments that this would not be adequate to protect endangered species or the sensitive ecosystem.

To access the report, please see: <http://www.riotinto.com/se>

ICTSD reporting; "Mining giant rapped for Madagascar plan," GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE NEWS, 13 April 2004.

CONSERVATIONISTS CALL FOR STRATEGIC APPROACH ON PROTECTED AREAS

A group of 21 scientists representing 15 organisations have questioned the effectiveness of the global protected area network in representing species diversity. They note the inadequacy of setting uniform conservation targets based on percentage of area, such as the 10 percent target set by the IUCN Caracas Congress in 1992. "Protecting more than 10 percent of the planet's land surface is a major conservation achievement," said Gustavo Fonseca, Executive Vice President for Programs and Science at Conservation International (CI). "But this study proves that no matter how appealing arbitrary percentage targets might be from a political standpoint, we should focus specifically on those places with the greatest concentrations of threatened and endemic species." The study, which was published in the science journal *Nature*, points out that the current network of protected areas remains inadequate and skewed towards particular ecosystem, "often those that are less economically valuable". The scientists stressed the importance of parks as a highly cost-effective tool for protecting biodiversity, calling on planners to shift their focus from conserving each biome to conserving the specific locations where the endangered animals still survive.

For further information, see http://www.conservation.org/xp/news/press_releases/2004/040704.xml.

"Rare species cling to existence in unprotected areas," ENS, 7 April 2004; "Effectiveness of the global protected area network in representing species diversity," *NATURE*, 8 April 2004.

EU GOVERNMENTS CRITICISED FOR ILLEGAL LOGGING

On 6 April WWF launched a new online report on the efforts of European governments to prevent illegal logging. The WWF report, entitled "Government Barometer", concludes that none of the twelve investigated European countries do enough to combat illegal logging. Although most EU governments support EU-wide efforts to prevent illegal logging, such as the Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) launched in May last year, they fail to implement domestic measures. The "Government Barometer" raises concerns that the amount of imported illegally logged timber might increase after the EU enlargement through imports from Russia, entering the EU via the accession countries. Half of the timber imported to the EU comes from Russia and Eastern Europe, a large proportion of which is likely to be illegally harvested. Europe's imports of illegally sourced timber are believed to be worth EUR 1.2 billion per year. The WWF online barometer can be used to follow both the domestic and EU-wide actions taken by individual governments to prevent illegal logging. The scoring on the website shows that the UK rates highest among the 12 countries. Denmark, Germany and Sweden are credited with moderate performance, while Austria, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Portugal are rated poorly.

The website and the report are available at Internet: <http://www.panda.org/barometer/>

SENSITIVE SEAS GRANTED SPECIAL PROTECTION FROM SHIPPING

At a meeting in London from 29 March to 2 April, the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) -- a UN agency concerned with the safety of shipping and cleaner oceans -- agreed to designate the Baltic sea, as well as the waters around the Galapagos Islands and the Canary Islands, as 'particularly sensitive sea areas' (PSSAs). The PSSA designation allows coastal states to adopt additional protective measures to deal with risks of international shipping. A majority of international trade is carried by ship; this traffic poses risks related to collisions, spills, and groundings. The Great Barrier Reef off Australia, Cuba's Sabana-Camaguey archipelago, Malpelo Island in Colombia and the Florida Keys in the US have already been designated PSSAs. Commenting on the IMO decision, Swedish Environment Minister Lena Sommestad said "this is an incredible success. This is a clear signal to the whole world that the Baltic Sea is a unique ecosystem with valuable wildlife" and its "sensitivity to the negative effects of shipping have been recognised". Sari Tolvanen of Greenpeace expressed regret that Russia, the only country bordering the Baltic Sea to oppose its PSSA designation, would be exempt from implementing special protective measures. She added that "the countries now have a big job to do, making sure that the framework is filled by a full set of appropriate specific measures". This process is expected to last two years.

"IMO declares Baltic Sea particularly sensitive," HELSINGIN SANOMAT, 5 April 2004; "Baltic Sea gets special protection, but Russia exempt," TERRADAILY, 2 April 2004; "IMO moves to protect Baltic," GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE, 6 April 2004.

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.

ICTSD events

22 April, New York, US: ENSURING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION – THE TRADE DIMENSION. This is a ICTSD-IUCN side event to the UN Commission On Sustainable Development, 12th Session. Organised with the support of the Finish Ministry of the Environment and the Italian Development Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and in collaboration with the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The session will consist of a series of short presentations on key themes related to water, sanitation and trade from systemic policy and regional perspectives. For further information, contact: Mahesh Sugathan, tel: (+41-22) 917-8351; fax: 917-8093 email: smahesh@ictsd.ch; Internet: http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2004-04-22/side_event.pdf

19 May, Geneva, Switzerland: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRADE - UNTANGLING KEY ISSUES. Organised by ICTSD and the Geneva Environment Network. The roundtable will offer an informal setting for exploring a number of policy questions relating to trade and biotechnology, including: To what extent will trade considerations constrain the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol when finalizing and implementing biosafety measures under the Protocol? What flexibilities does the multilateral trade regime provide for countries to implement their biosafety regulations and how will these flexibilities be impacted by the WTO dispute? Will it be possible to strike an adequate balance between a precautionary approach to policy-making and existing obligations under international trade rules? The roundtable will be held at the International Environment House. For further information, contact Sofie Flensburg; email: Sofie.flensburg@unep.ch, Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch/roundtables.htm>.

Coming up in the next two weeks

19-23 April, Trieste, Italy: BIOSAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GMOS. This workshop is organised by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). The workshop is targeted towards scientists dealing with risk assessment and

management for the environmental release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The main goal of the workshop is to provide the participants with an overview of the current research in biosafety and different risk assessment approaches used for the environmental release of GMOs. For further information, contact: tel: (+39-040) 375-7333; fax: 226-555; email: courses@icgeb.org; Internet: <http://www.icgeb.org/~bsafesrv/bsfn0309.htm#anchor442802>

19-30 April, New York, US: TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The 12th session of the CSD 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 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. CSD-12 will also continue the tradition of side events. For further information, contact: UN Division for Sustainable Development, phone: (+1-212) 963-2803, fax: 963-4260, email: dsd@un.org, website: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>

20 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. The meeting will be held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only. An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf.

20-21 April, Amsterdam, Netherlands: CARBON MARKET INSIGHTS 2004. The annual Point Carbon conference on the world's carbon markets. The meeting aims to provide concise viewpoints on recent carbon market developments and its future directions. In view of the fact that by 31 March 2004, all countries covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme will have to submit their National Allocation Plans, Carbon Market Insights 2004 provides an update on the developments in the carbon markets and explore the consequences for industry and business. In-depth sessions on the status and prospects for the CDM will be provided on day two. For further information, contact: Marte Nordseth or Ian Roche, tel: (+479) 0771-668/7539-036; email: conference@pointcarbon.com; Internet: <http://www.pointcarbon.com/category.php?categoryID=192>

20-23 April, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORKS FOR FRANCOPHONE 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/development/devsubregwrkshops.htm>

21-23 April, Orlando, Florida: WORLD CONGRESS ON INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOPROCESSING. Organised by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), American Chemical Society (ACS) and the National Agriculture Biotechnology Council (NABC). The convergence of biotechnology, chemistry and agriculture is opening doors to innovations that could revolutionise nearly every aspect of our lives, from industrial manufacturing to production of chemicals and consumer goods and even environmental protection. This conference will be geared toward a diverse base of participants from biotechnology, chemical and other industries, to government and academia. For further information, contact: tel: (+1-202) 962-6655; email: register@bio.org; Internet: <http://www.bio.org/worldcongress/>

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. Each Spring, the joint Bank-IMF Development Committee and the IMF's International Monetary and Financial Committee hold meetings to discuss progress on the work of the Bank and Fund. 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/>

26 April, New York, US: MEETING OF ECOSOC AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) together with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organisation and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will hold a special high-level meeting at the UN headquarters in New York. The meeting will focus on specific issues within the integrated approach of the Monterrey Consensus. For further information, contact: email: esa@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/>

26-27 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WORKSHOP ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT. The Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) of the United Nations Environment Programme will convene this workshop. The focus of the workshop is on both fisheries subsidies and sustainable fisheries management, understanding that successful integration of policies in these fields is essential to the adoption of effective and sustainable solutions. For further information, contact: Anja von Moltke, UNEP ETB, tel: (+41-22) 917-8137; email: etb@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/Fisheries%20Meeting/FishMeeting2004.htm>

26-29 April 2004, Vancouver, Canada: IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - WHOSE BUSINESS IS IT? This 24th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) will focus on the role of the private sector in impact assessments, including implications for improving the professional practice and processes of impact assessment. Impact assessment of trade policy and agreements is one of the key topics of this year's conference, including a joint session with the IAIA Biodiversity Section on principles and practice for biodiversity impact assessment of trade. The IAIA'04 conference event offers an opportunity for experts, decision makers, industry, and professionals of different visions and expertise to explore this issue. For submission instructions or for further information, contact Bridget John, tel: (+1-701) 297-7908; email: bridget@iaia.org; Internet: <http://www.iaia.org>

Other Forthcoming Events

21-23 June, Puebla, Mexico: REGULAR SESSION OF THE CEC COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. During the eleventh session of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) the environment ministers of Canada, Mexico and the US will review findings of the ten-year review of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), in order to chart a path forward for the CEC over the next decade (see <http://www.cec.org/trac/>). The programme of events begins on 21 June with a workshop on the future direction of the NAAEC organised by the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC). The CEC Council will hold a public session, during which a limited number of members from the public will be invited to present oral statements. In parallel to the above meetings, JPAC will hold a regular session on 22-23 June. Members of the public are invited to attend as observers. For further information, contact: Daniel Brevé, tel: (+1-514) 350-4368; fax: 350-4345; email: dbreve@ccemtl.org; Internet: <http://www.cec.org/news/details/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=2598>

12 -16 July, Geneva, Switzerland: OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. The 24th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group to the Montreal Protocol, convening for its annual mid-year meeting, is expected to review progress in the various committees and prepare for MOP-16 in November 2004. For further information contact the Ozone Secretariat, UNEP, tel: (+254-2) 62-3850; fax: 62-3601; email: ozoneinfo@unep.org; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/>

25-26 September, Ithaca, US: GROWING INEQUALITY IN CHINA: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND RESPONSES. The object of this conference at Cornell University is to take stock of growing inequality in China, focusing on its causes, its consequences, and policy responses to it in the future. It will bring together international research on the subject in terms of theoretical, empirical and policy analysis. Submissions of completed papers, or extended abstracts are invited (to be submitted by 15 April). For further information contact Xiaobo Zhang at email: x.zhang@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.ifpri.org/events/conferences/2004/20040925Cornell.pdf>

3-7 October, Nairobi, Kenya: WORLD CONGRESS ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE. Organised by the Africa Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) in collaboration with the Kenya Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Conservation Tillage Initiative (KCTI), and African Union's New Partnerships for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In the quest for locally viable options for sustainable agriculture, it has become crucial to share information and experiences on conservation agriculture (CA) across disciplines, economic sectors and geographical locations. The sharing facilitates integrated and holistic approaches, underscoring the fact that CA is not tillage, agronomy, marketing, chemical input, or any other aspect considered in isolation. CA weaves all these aspects together in a form and character dictated by the local circumstances. For further information, email: Martin Bwalya, actsecre@africaonline.co.zw; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/act-network>

Resources

GENES, TRADE, AND REGULATION: THE SEEDS OF CONFLICT IN FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY. By Thomas Bernauer, produced by Princeton University Press (2003). This book examines "the fundamental policy issues" in the global debate on agricultural biotechnology. The author argues that thus far the policy tools used to address the global trade tensions associated with agricultural biotechnology "have been and will continue to be ineffective." Bernauer suggests various policy reforms that "strike a sensible balance" so that agricultural biotechnology has a "fair chance" to demonstrate its potential benefits. For further information, see: <http://pup.princeton.edu/titles/7665.html>

GLOBALISATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY: PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY? By R. Mackenzie and P. Newell. Produced by Gapresearch.org, IDS (2003). This paper presents the main findings and recommendations of a research project, which explored how the governance of modern biotechnology interacts with processes of globalisation, paying particular attention to its effects on poverty and food security. It argues that the globalisation of the biotechnology industry does not appear to have been matched by the internationalisation of effective regulation aimed at safeguarding the food security needs of the poor. For further information, see: <http://www.gapresearch.org/governance/FINALSYNTHESIS.PAPER.pdf>

ORGANIC FARMING - POLICIES AND PROSPECTS. By Stephan Dabbert, Anna Maria Haring and Raffaele Zanolì published by Zed Books (February 2004). Food retailers in Europe, including supermarkets, have responded to rapidly rising demand for organic produce. 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. Drawing on a huge body of scientific research, this book reviews the organic farming sector today and the policies developed towards it. It also assesses its contributions to the environment, food quality, farmers' incomes, and rural development. For further information, see: <http://www.zedbooks.co.uk>

THE WORLD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY 2003. By Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations (UN). Produced by Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ESA), United Nations (2003). The World Economic and Social Survey is an annual analysis of the state of the world economy and emerging policy issues. The 2003 edition of the survey examines, in its second part, a number of areas in which policies are expected to have a beneficial effect on poverty over the medium or longer term, even if poverty reduction is not those policies' primary short-term goal. The document presents a framework for evaluating the impacts of a policy on the evolution of poverty. For further information, see: <http://www.un.org/esa/analysis/wess>

"The Puzzle of WTO Safeguards and Regional Trade Agreements". By Joost Pauwelyn in the JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW 7 (1, 2004) pp. 109-142. So far WTO jurisprudence has not resolved the puzzle of how WTO Members that also are part of a regional trade agreement (such as NAFTA or MERCOSUR) should conduct safeguard investigations and apply eventual safeguards in line with WTO rules. Can or must they exclude regional imports from the injury determination? Can or must they apply the eventual safeguard only to third parties, or are they under an obligation rather to apply all safeguards on a non-discriminatory basis? Those are the questions examined in this paper. The paper refocuses some of the

attention to GATT Article XIX and criticises the Appellate Body's requirement of parallelism as well as its jurisprudence under GATT Article XXIV. It also offers an alternative way forward and ends with a list of options for WTO safeguards by members of customs unions or free trade areas.

"The Role of International Law in the Development of WTO law". By Jiaxiang Hu in the JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW 7 (1, 2004) pp. 143-167. WTO law is referred to as the single package results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (1986--1994). Basically, WTO law is no different from other branches of international law. The general principles, customary rules and the way of interpretation of international law all apply to the operation of WTO law. Notwithstanding this, WTO law still has its unique characteristics, which are sufficient enough to distinguish it from other branches of international law. These differences can normally be perceived from their institutional statuses and dispute settlement mechanisms. The influence between international law and WTO law is mutual. While general international law determines the basic structure of WTO law, the creation of WTO law has also changed the landscape of international law.

"The role of the nation state in international environmental policy". By Jurgen Trittin, in GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS 4 (1, 2004) pp. 23-28. In this article, the German Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety analyses the role of the nation state in international environmental policy. With reference to the European Union, he argues that independent national environmental policy no longer exists inside the Union. Brussels now has greater influence on environmental legislation than any nation state in Europe - a development that the minister expressly welcomes. He argues that it has proven highly useful for Union members to speak with one voice at global environmental conferences and to present a united front just like one strong nation state.

"Intellectual property rights and biodiversity management: the case of India". By Philippe Cullet and Jawahar Raja in GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS 4 (1, 2004) pp. 97-114. This article analyses the impacts of the international legal framework for the promotion of intellectual property rights on India's legal regime concerning the control over biological resources and inventions derived from biological resources. It focuses in particular on the newly adopted Biodiversity Act and Plant Variety Act as well as on amendments to the Patents Act and their organic relationship within the overall domestic legal framework. It analyses these enactments in the context of the move towards the control of biological resources and derived products through property rights fostered by existing international treaties, in particular the TRIPS agreement and the biodiversity convention. This has impacts not only for control over biological resources and derived products but also more generally on the management of agriculture in India and other developing countries and the realization of food security and the human right to food at the individual level.

"Trade rules need to be changed and made fair". By Chakravarthi Raghavan in THIRD WORLD ECONOMICS 323 (Feb. 16-19, 2004) pp. 2-5. Fairer global rules should be put in place in the trade and financial systems to expand developing countries' policy space for pursuing development strategies and improve the terms of their integration into the world economy. These were among the recommendations issues by an ILO sponsored independent commission on the social dimensions of globalisation, which also called for coherent multilateral policies to realize the goal of decent work for all.

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