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## Trade Issues At CSD

### CSD-12: FOCUSING ON SMALL ISLAND STATES, WATER AND SANITATION

The first three days of the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12), held from 14-30 April in New York, were dedicated to preparing for the International Meeting (IM) on the Ten-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA +10) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Review Session of CSD-12, which took up the remaining two weeks of the meeting, focused specifically on reviewing progress and identifying ways to implement sustainable development targets and actions related to water, sanitation and human settlements.

### Formal prep process on small island states concludes

During this final (formal) preparatory meeting for the IM, delegates discussed the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Strategy Paper for the further implementation of the BPOA -- generally referred to as the 'Strategy Document'. The meeting heard comments and proposals from SIDS' development partners on the Strategy Document, which was adopted by the AOSIS -- a coalition of small island and low-lying coastal countries -- at the Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting in January (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 6 February 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-02-06/inbrief.htm#3>).

Countries differed on whether the Document should become the main outcome of the IM or, as advocated by the US, whether discussions should be limited to a few key priorities. The US voiced reservations over the document's length and size, stating that it is a list of demands, it seeks to alter language negotiated in other international forums, and it contains issues that are not particular to SIDS. The EC supported using the Document as a basis for discussions, but favoured greater emphasis on country-driven strategies and the Millennium Development Goals.

Opinions also varied on how the IM's outcomes should relate to other international processes and agreements, such as the WTO and the Monterrey Consensus. The US particularly objected to the inclusion of a trade section, arguing that the UN was not the appropriate body to deal with these issues. In general, development partners were cautious regarding any language that might prejudice the outcomes of the current trade talks, in particular the current work programme on small economies. They expressed concerns that SIDS would aim to create a new group under the WTO or try to create an alternative venue for trade discussions.

At the January meeting, the AOSIS had raised concerns over the impacts of trade liberalisation on SIDS. "We will be further marginalised unless specific provisions are made for SIDS in the multilateral trading system," AOSIS argued. As outlined in the UN Secretary-General's report on the BPOA's implementation, SIDS continue to face serious challenges and vulnerabilities in this regard, due to their small economies, limited diversification in production and exports, susceptibility to natural disaster and climate change, and the erosion of market access preferences for commodities such as sugar, bananas, coffee and coconut.

The need to address these concerns has been widely recognised at the international level, including in the WTO's Ministerial Declaration adopted in Doha in 2001, which launched a work programme on small economies. Discussions continue, however, to revolve around the question of defining such economies and avoiding the creation of a sub-category of WTO Members (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 May 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-05-13/wtoinbrief.htm>).

The IM, which was originally scheduled for 30 August to 3 September 2004 in Mauritius, has been tentatively postponed to 10-14 January 2005.

### **Meeting water, sanitation and human settlement targets**

The Review Session of CSD-12 was widely welcomed as an important opportunity to move forward on the implementation of the sustainable development targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Commission meeting was the first to focus more on substantive issues and progress of implementation -- in particular related to water, sanitation and human settlements -- than on negotiating text. Chair Borge Brende, Norway's Minister for the Environment and Chair of CSD-12, called on delegates to begin a "decade of keeping promises", envisaging the CSD to become the "watchdog" of progress on implementing global sustainable development goals.

Discussions at CSD-12 reaffirmed the WSSD's emphasis on poverty eradication as a central element of the sustainable development agenda. While many countries were not on track to meet the water, sanitation and human settlement targets, delegates considered these goals to remain achievable with the proper means of implementation, including financial assistance, capacity building and technology transfer. In his opening speech, however, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned that the recent emphasis on terrorism and the war in Iraq had diverted high-level political attention away from sustainable development, calling for balancing these concerns with a greater focus on environmental protection, social progress and economic growth.

CSD-12 was the first session under the Commission's new multi-year programme, adopted at CSD-11 in spring 2003. The programme is organised on the basis of seven two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters. For the first two-year cycle (2004-2005), the CSD is focusing on water, sanitation and human settlements, to be followed by energy, climate change, atmosphere and industrial development

issues in 2006-2007. The 2008-2009 cycle will include agriculture, land and desertification. A number of cross cutting issues are addressed during each cycle, including poverty eradication, sustainable development in a globalising world, protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development, means of implementation and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

CSD-13, tentatively scheduled for 2-13 May 2005 and to be chaired by John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, will again focus on water, sanitation and human settlements.

### Additional Resources

Further information on CSD-12: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>

Further information on BPOA +10: <http://www.sidsnet.org/>

AOSIS Strategy Paper:

[http://www.sidsnet.org/docshare/other/20040206162842\\_AOSIS\\_strategy\\_final\\_version.pdf](http://www.sidsnet.org/docshare/other/20040206162842_AOSIS_strategy_final_version.pdf)

UN Secretary-General's report on SIDS: <http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=E/CN.17/2004/8&Lang=E>

Daily reports and a summary by the Earth Negotiations Bulletin: <http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd12/>

ENB Vol 8, No 41; "Small island states swamped," IPS, 12 May 2004; ENB Vol 5, No 211, 3 May 2003; "Terrorism, Iraq Sap Energy From Sustainable Development," ENS, 28 April 2004.

### Commentary

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#### ON CSD-12

*By John Scanlon, Head, Environmental Law Programme, IUCN, and Sebastian Winkler, Senior Policy Officer, IUCN \**

Over the past few years States have adopted ambitious, yet necessary, targets for improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, both through the UN Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Extraordinary efforts will be required if these targets are to be met, and the best way to meet them was explored at the 12th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12), as well as at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto last year. Issues explored included the role that privatisation, liberalised trade and investment -- and the use of market instruments more generally -- can play in achieving these targets.

The CSD-12 focus on water and sanitation needs to be looked at in the context of broader WSSD commitments, such as those to develop integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans by 2005, to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, and, in the widest sense, to manage our natural wealth sustainably. The challenge is to keep our eye on the immediate needs of the billions of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, while ensuring the provision of clean water in the longer term. The latter will not be achieved without taking a holistic approach to water resources management, or without conserving our natural ecosystems as an integral part of the infrastructure needed to deliver water to our homes. The international community's response has often been too narrowly confined to debates about distribution of water between competing sectors and needs, and has largely failed to address water within an ecosystem context from source to sea.

How is all of this relevant to the multilateral trade debates and in particular the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS)? International rules developed under the GATS could impact domestic water policy and

legislative options. Whether it does depends upon the outcome of current negotiations and the commitments made by individual States. WTO Members would need to tailor their GATS commitments carefully with the relevant exemptions and exceptions in place in order to safeguard 'policy space' for the use of public policy instruments designed to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation. Alternatively, Members may wish not to liberalise supply of drinking water at all, depending on domestic needs and priorities. However, negotiating pressures for concessions perhaps as part of a larger package of 'trade-offs' in WTO and regional negotiations may arise. In that case, Members may be faced with multilateral rules and disciplines -- the implications of which might not be clear.

Thus, there are some key questions that must be explored such as: how compatible are emerging international trade and investment rules with the ability of countries to adopt strong domestic laws and policies for resource management, environmental protection and equitable access to water and sanitation services? Can one liberalise trade in services while adequately addressing environmental and equity issues, and if so how is this done? The need for water resources management to be able to adapt to changing conditions also remains a challenge. How the need for certainty in trade and investment rules should be reconciled with the need for flexibility in resource management -- for example in relation to water allocation, pollution control licences, licence fees and the recognition of customary rights -- is often not yet addressed in legislation.

While the role of privatisation and the use of market instruments more generally generated much discussion - counter-balanced by discussions of human rights, equity, the legitimate role of government and environmental considerations -- the issue of trade in services did not feature prominently at CSD-12. Issues of trade liberalisation and agricultural subsidies were indeed raised by the G77/China and by Australia, but were not debated. The lack of discussion of trade-related issues represents a lack of awareness of their relevance to the water and sanitation debate. However, the level of interest is expected to increase, as the possible implications of the GATS on the provision of water become better known.

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

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## Biotechnology

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### AFRICA GMO UPDATE: NIGERIA, GM FOOD AID, BOTSWANA

A number of recent developments have highlighted the serious challenges that African countries continue to face with regard to the adoption of biotechnology on the continent. While some countries such as Nigeria are spearheading their way into developing this sector, other governments and groups are hesitant. Safety, health, food security, the environment, regulatory needs and NGO concerns are among the considerations governments need to take into account in decisions on whether and how to embrace such technologies.

#### Nigerian government supports biotechnology initiative

In a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 3 May, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) promised to provide US\$ 2.1 million (about N380 million) for three years to support the Nigeria Agriculture Biotechnology Project (NABP) and the West African Biotechnology Network (WABNET). The Nigerian government, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and USAID, jointly support this biotechnology initiative. According to Nigerian Science and Technology Minister, Professor Turner Isoun, the project will encourage economic growth and sustainable use of natural resources, and enhance health, environmental, industrial and agricultural development in the African sub-region. Rick Roberts, Charge D'Affaires at the US embassy in Nigeria, also highlighted benefits for Nigeria: "The yield of both cowpea and cassava crops could be more than doubled by developing varieties that are resistant to insect pests and plant diseases." However, Environmental Rights Action of Nigeria (ERAN), the Nigerian branch of Friends of the Earth International, criticised this project as "neo-colonial", claiming that it threatens to erode food sovereignty and deprive Nigerians of the right to safe food. "[Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)]

have potential negative environmental, economical, cultural, ethical, political and health impacts," stated Doifie Ola, spokesperson for ERAN. He added that Africa was becoming a dumping ground for products rejected elsewhere, with the biotechnology industry and governments "pushing" such products into Africa with no regard for biosafety and African livelihoods.

### **African NGOs voice concern to food aid donors**

On 4 May, over 60 NGOs from 15 African countries sent a letter to the World Food Programme (WFP) and USAID, expressing concerns that Angola and Sudan were denied the right to choose whether or not to accept GM food aid. According to the NGOs, inappropriate pressure had been placed on governments to lift restrictions on GM food aid. Following recommendations by the Southern African Development Community's advisory committee on biotechnology and biosafety, Angola had made the import of GM food aid conditional on the grain being milled prior to arrival (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-04-02/inbrief.htm#3>). The NGOs allege that the WFP had warned Angola of decreases in food aid if such insistence continued. The WFP, responding to the letter, denied this. "We informed the government of Angola that if they insist all GM food must be milled it would delay the delivery process because Angola does not have the capacity to mill large quantities of grain... Milling would have to be done overseas and we would have to find someone to pay for it," commented Michael Huggins, Southern Africa regional spokesperson for the WFP. Moreover, the NGOs claim that USAID has entirely cut off food aid to Sudan in response to demands by the African country for food aid to be certified as GM-free. Huggins rejected these allegations, noting that "the US government has just donated 33,000 metric tonnes of food to the country". In a 4 May report, Earthlife Africa, ERA, GRAIN and SafeAge point to non-GM alternatives at national, regional and international levels, which donors should make available to Sudan and Angola.

### **Botswana GM Product Regulation: Uphill Battle?**

A workshop organised on 28 April by the Ministry of Agriculture in Botswana, revealed that coming up with a framework for regulating GMOs might be a daunting task. Representatives from the Biotechnology Alliance of Namibia -- one of the countries at an advanced stage of framework formulation -- noted that setting up the framework often required trial and error. Problems cited at the workshop included: revision of current laws; whether new import and trade legislation is needed; and fragmented controls scattered in different ministries across the country. Other participants noted difficulties in monitoring food that passes the borders, as the need for food was large in a continent that often experienced severe food shortage and famine. While citing the opportunities presented by GM crops such as increased sustainable yield, Dr. Mmasera Manthe-Tsuaneng, the national Biosafety Coordinator for Botswana, also explained the threats: "Socio-economic consequences are potentially severe like displacement of cash crops and the disruption of small scale farming systems that are prevalent in developing countries like Botswana." Botswana has ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which requires countries to implement necessary biosafety frameworks.

### **Additional Resources**

African NGO letter: <http://www.grain.org/nfg/?id=167>

"GM Food Aid: Africa Denied Choice Once Again", by Earthlife Africa, ERA, GRAIN and SafeAge: <http://www.grain.org/research/contamination.cfm?id=102>

"Africa GM Food Aid Claims are 'Rubbish'," AGBIOVIEW NEWSLETTER, 10 May 2004; "USAID to Spend N400m On Nigeria Biotechnology Development," THIS DAY, 4 May 2004; "Nigeria poised for biotech take-off," TIMES OF NIGERIA, 10 May 2004; "Regulation of GMO products may prove difficult," MMEGI/THE REPORTER, 29 April 2004; "NGOs accuse donors over UN food aid," BUSINESS DAY, 5 May 2004; "Nigeria; Group Warns on Genetically Modified Crops," THIS DAY, 9 May 2004.

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**Agriculture**

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**EU AGRICULTURE TO FACE TIMES OF TRANSITION**

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has warned new EU member states about the likely negative environmental impacts of joining the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) in a new report released on 28 April. Meanwhile, EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler circulated a letter to their trading partners on 10 May, offering to end all export subsidies. This offer came as negotiations in the current round of WTO trade negotiations -- in which agriculture holds the key role -- are intensifying. Trade Ministers were meeting in Paris at the sidelines of an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) summit in Paris from 14-16 May to forge a political deal, and negotiators in Geneva are expected to agree on a basic framework deal by the end of July this year.

**EEA warns new member states about environmental dangers of CAP**

Intensified farming and land abandonment are the two main threats for countries joining the EU, according to the EEA report "Agriculture and the Environment in the EU accession countries". In productive areas, the report foresees a moderate intensification of agriculture, with greater use of fertilisers, pesticides and machinery to increase yields. This could lead to increased soil and water pollution and aggravate the problem of already high concentrations of algae in 70 percent of the aquatic ecosystems in the new member states. The other trend would be the abandonment of farming on marginal, less productive land. This would lead to soil erosion and threaten areas that often host an abundance of wildlife. The EEA thus advises the EU to invest in making use of agri-environmental schemes, aid for less-favoured areas, farm advisory services and aid for small, semi-subsistence farms to lessen environmental impacts. Jacqueline McGlade, EEA Executive Director, noted "A new strategic vision is required to deploy agri-environment measures as a central tool of environmental management and rural development in the 10 acceding countries."

**The Lamy / Fischler letter**

In a letter dated 9 May, Lamy and Fischler set out EC positions on key areas that WTO Members need to move on in order to create a negotiating framework by July this year. On agriculture, the letter acknowledges the need for subsidising countries to take the lead. Lamy and Fischler deal with all three agricultural pillars. On market access, they support the so-called blended formula (which combines elements of the so call Uruguay Round formula that sets an average reduction with a minimum reduction per tariff line -- to be applied to certain "import sensitive" products -- and the Swiss formula, which would bring down all tariffs horizontally to a maximum ceiling, effectively addressing tariff peaks). On domestic support, the letter notes that the EC is open to commitments "guaranteeing the overall reduction of trade-distorting domestic support," while maintaining non-trade distorting, or "green box" support, free of restrictions. On export support, the letter states that the EC would be ready to eliminate such subsidies, as long as other Members moved in parallel to get rid of other forms of export competition, including export credits, food aid and state trading enterprises.

**Some reactions**

In their reactions to the letter, a number of the EC's trading partners welcomed the offer to end export subsidies. US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said "I hope this will provide a shot in the arm to the overall negotiations" (for the full statement see <http://www.ustr.gov/releases/2004/05/2004-05-10-statement-doha.pdf>). Australia's Trade Minister Mark Vaile echoed the same sentiments. Mexico's Eduardo Perez Motta said "I think it helps. I do not want to sing victory but they are giving positive signals". A Brazilian spokesperson agreed that "The fact these positions are being made public is welcome. It constitutes a move we view positively and with satisfaction". Japanese Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Yoshiyuki Kamei also welcomed the EC move, noting that Japan's position was that all forms of export support should be eliminated in a set of stages, and that the matter warranted further discussion.

## G-20 makes countermove

Also prior to the ministerial-level meeting in Paris, the G-20 group of developing countries, including Brazil and South Africa, circulated a document rejecting the blended formula preferred by the EU and US. The G-20 argued that the formula was "biased in favour of the tariff structures of its proponents, enabling them to maintain the protectionist status quo". While the group has not produced an alternative formula of its own yet, Brazil's foreign minister Celso Amorim indicated that a text is in the works and will likely be presented prior to the next meeting of the WTO agriculture negotiating session, scheduled for the first week of June.

The next agriculture negotiations are scheduled for 2-4 June, 23-25 June and 14-16 July, with Members expected to agree on framework modalities by the end of July.

## Additional Resources

For a more detailed account of the letter and reactions, see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 May 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-05-13/story1.htm>.

The full letter is available at [http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Lamy\\_Fischler\\_9May04.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/docs/Lamy_Fischler_9May04.pdf).

The full EEA report is available at [http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental\\_issue\\_report\\_2004\\_37](http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_issue_report_2004_37)

ICTSD reporting; "EU may end farm export aid, seeks trade talks boost," REUTERS, 10 May 2004; "WTO heavyweights step up search for farm deal," REUTERS, 4 May 2004; "USTR Zoellick Welcomes EU Offer To End Farm Subsidies," DOW JONES, 11 May 2004; "Australia Welcomes EU Offer To Scrap Ag Export Subsidies," DOW JONES, 11 May 2004; "Latin Americans wary of latest EU trade proposal," EFE, 10 May 2004; "New members warned about environmental threats of EU farm policy," EURACTIV, 30 April 2004; "New EU states need measures to limit impact on environment," EEA NEWS RELEASE, 28 April 2004.

## In Brief

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### BAMBOO UNDER THREAT FROM ILLEGAL TRADE

According to a recent news release from OneWorld South Asia, 1.7 million tonnes? of raw bamboo, worth US\$ 6.4 billion, has been smuggled illegally from India to neighbouring countries Bangladesh and Myanmar over the last few years. From there, the timber is supplied to factories in South Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Taiwan, Cambodia and Indonesia. The news release points to the negative environmental impacts of the illegal trade, which results in the destruction of 40,000 hectares of forestland in Mizoram, India, every year. The annual loss incurred by the government is estimated at US\$ 223,801. A report by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, sponsored by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), highlights the threat of extinction of half the world's 1,200 bamboo species due to forest destruction; 250 woody bamboo species have less than 2,000 square kilometres (about the size of London) remaining within their ranges. There are 1,500 documented uses of bamboo and an estimated 2.5 billion people trade or use bamboo and depend on it for food, construction materials, furniture, handicrafts, acupuncture needles and even musical instruments. The giant panda, the mountain gorilla, the lemurs of Madagascar and spectacled bears are among the species that depend on bamboo for survival.

"Rampant Smuggling Devours Bamboo in India's North-East," ONE WORLD SOUTHASIA, 5 May 2004.

### MONSANTO DEFERS COMMERCIALISATION OF GM WHEAT

On 10 May Monsanto, the world's largest seller of genetically modified (GM) seeds, announced it would defer efforts to commercialise Roundup Ready wheat, a genetically modified crop engineered to tolerate applications of Monsanto's Roundup (glyphosate) herbicide. According to Monsanto, the marketing of the GM wheat would be on hold "until other wheat biotechnology traits are introduced". Juan Lopez of Friends

of the Earth International welcomed the decision as a "worldwide victory for consumers and farmers". "Virtually every major wheat-user in the world had already rejected this product before it even was allowed on the market. This must be one of the most rejected products ever developed," he added. Canada's wheat exporters also welcomed the decision. They fear losses in market access to Japan and the EU, as both markets are likely to refuse to buy wheat from North America if GM wheat were introduced. Monsanto started its field testing of GM wheat in 1997, but faced resistance from farmers, food manufacturers, environmentalists and consumers. These groups raised environmental and food security concerns related to GM wheat, such as increased use of herbicides, increased weed resistance, and fears Monsanto is gaining control over key world crops. These concerns were recently fuelled by findings from the National University of Rosario and Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) that several previously uncommon species of glyphosate-resistant weeds have increased in abundance and GM soy farmers are forced to spray higher concentrations of Roundup. Adolpho Boy of Grupo de Reflexion Rural also noted that the excessive herbicides used had caused soil bacteria to decline, thus rendering soil inert and inhibiting the usual process of decomposition.

"Argentina's Bitter Harvest", New Scientist, 17 April 2004, <http://www.mindfully.org/GE/2004/Argentina-GM-Soya17apr04.htm>.

"Monsanto Suspends Biotech Wheat Program," REUTERS, 11 May 2004; "Monsanto drops GM wheat," FOEI PRESS RELEASE, 10 May 2004; "Monsanto realign research portfolio, development of roundup ready wheat deferred," MONSANTO PRESS RELEASE, 10 May 2004; "Canada Wheat Board cheers Monsanto GMO decision," REUTERS, 11 May 2004.

## **EU BANS FISH IMPORTS FROM FIVE COUNTRIES**

The EU on 29 April approved sanctions on imports of tuna and swordfish from Bolivia, Cambodia, Georgia, Equatorial New Guinea and Sierra Leone "whose fishing activities undermine international efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks in a sustainable manner", according to a EU press release. Moreover, the EU is planning to lift import sanctions from Belize, Honduras, Saint Vincent and the Grenadine Islands following improvements these countries have made. They are now using fishing methods that are in compliance with international regulations. Fisheries Commissioner Franz Fischler described the measure as a step in the EU strategy to combat illegal fishing at an international level. "The current efforts underway towards conservation and management of stocks are essential if we want fish in our seas for the future." The sanctions are more a symbolic gesture, as the mentioned countries do not export fishery products to the EU. However, closing market access is meant to "send off a clear signal to support international campaigns against illegal fishery," the press release noted.

"EU takes action to foster international sustainable fishing," EU PRESS RELEASE, 19 April 2004.

## **EARTH POLICY INSTITUTE Warns Of World Food Shortage**

According to Lester Brown, President of the Earth Policy Institute, a global food crisis is set to raise world food prices, as grain stocks are depleting to their lowest levels in 30 years. Environmental changes, such as expanding deserts, falling water tables and high temperatures, are affecting harvests in key producing countries, he noted at a 5 May briefing. "A rise in food prices is the first global economic indicator to reflect our neglect of environmental issues," he warned. He added that a harvest shortfall on the scale projected "almost guarantees the emergence of a politics of food scarcity in 2005 of the sort that occurred in the early 1970s". At that time, the US responded to a rise in food prices by restricting exports and using food for political leverage, negatively affecting food-importing countries such as Ethiopia and Bangladesh. Brown estimated that farmers needed to produce 120 million more tons of grain than last year to accommodate the current and projected population growth in 2004. While noting that genetically modified crops might provide modest increases in food production, Brown believes that the longer-term solution is a worldwide effort to reduce population, together with expanding water production and reduction of carbon emissions.

"Environmental neglect threatens food crisis, expert warns," UN WIRE, 5 May 2004.



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**Events & Resources**

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**EVENTS**

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar. 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 / IUCN Events**

17 May, Geneva, Switzerland: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT 10 YEARS AFTER MARRAKECH: WHERE ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE HEADING? Organised by ICTSD and UNCTAD. Ten years after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations, the IPRs standards as consolidated in the TRIPS Agreement are being expanded through new international treaties and in the inclusion of special chapters on IP in regional and bilateral free trade agreements. This policy dialogue aims at discussing developments in the area of IPRs, 10 years after the adoption of the TRIPS agreement, new trends at the regional and bilateral levels and their implications for development. For further information, please contact: Daniel Dubas, email: [ddubas@ictsd.ch](mailto:ddubas@ictsd.ch); tel: (+41-22) 917- 8374; fax: 917-8093.

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 finalising 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](mailto:Sofie.flensburg@unep.ch), Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch/roundtables.htm>.

26 May, Geneva, Switzerland, 15h00 - 18h00: TRADE AND BIODIVERSITY – THE NEED TO FIND COMMON GROUND. During the annual WTO Public Symposium, a joint workshop organised by ICTSD, IUCN, the Precautionary Principle Project, the Royal Institute for International Affairs and UNEP, will highlight the importance of addressing the relationship between trade and biodiversity. The workshop thereby aims to offer a forum for dialogue and exchange of ideas among the various stakeholders on ways to enhance the mutual supportiveness between the multilateral trading system and the environmental regime. For further information, contact Johanna von Braun, tel: +41 22 999 2011, Email: [johanna.vonbraun@iucn.org](mailto:johanna.vonbraun@iucn.org); Internet: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dda\\_e/symp\\_devagenda\\_04\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_04_e.htm).

**Coming up in the next two weeks**

16-18 May, St. Louis, Missouri, US: CONGRESS ON THE FUTURE OF THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE AMERICAS. This World Agricultural Forum regional congress will focus on developing a new model for agriculture. Congress participants will look at agriculture in the Americas in the context of commodities, natural resource management, social issues and trade. For more information, contact: the World Agricultural Forum, tel: (+1-314) 206-3208; fax: 206-3222; email: [wafstl@stlrcga.org](mailto:wafstl@stlrcga.org); Internet: [http://www.worldagforum.org/2004\\_homepage.html](http://www.worldagforum.org/2004_homepage.html)

17 May, Brussels, Belgium: AGRICULTURAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS - POLITICS AND PROSPECTS. The International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) will hold this seminar in conjunction with the 33rd IPC Plenary Meeting. The seminar will cover the prospects for finalising a framework for the agricultural negotiations by the end of summer given the political environment in key WTO member countries and groups of countries and how the pending disputes on cotton, wheat and sugar

could impact the political environment, the policy environment, and the negotiating objectives of instigating and target countries. For information and registration, contact: Michel Baumgartner, IPC's Brussels office, email: [ipcbrussels@prmltd.com](mailto:ipcbrussels@prmltd.com); tel: (+32-2) 534-9036; <http://www.agritrade.org>

22 May, Worldwide: INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY. The UN has proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity, to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The Day is organised by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and will focus on the theme of "Biodiversity: Food, Water and Health for All" this year. For further information, contact: the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2004.asp>

23-24 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: GLOBAL CONSCIENCE - ENVIRONMENT, POVERTY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. Organised by a range of environmental and development organisations in collaboration with Le Monde Diplomatique this conference aims to contribute to maintain the vision of sustainable development as a guiding principle for the future development of the world. The Global Conscience Conference is a "co"-conference to the Copenhagen Consensus Conference organised by The Danish Institute for Environmental Assessment (Institut for Miljøvurdering, IMV) and will provide an open and complex discussion of the worlds challenges. Speakers and participants include inter alia, Klaus Töpfer, Vandana Shiva, Margot Wallström and Suanita Narain. For further information, contact: Ecocouncil, tel: (+45-33) 15-0977; email: [rikke@ecocouncil.dk](mailto:rikke@ecocouncil.dk); Internet: <http://www.globalconscience.dk/indeng.htm>

24-28 May 2004, Geneva, Switzerland: SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. The Commission, at its sixth session in May 2003, selected as the substantive theme for its inter-sessional period 2003–2004 "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Millennium Development Goals". The Commission will also review progress made on decisions taken at its sixth regular session in May 2003. For further information, please contact: Mr. Mongi Hamdi, Technology for Development Section, tel: 41-22-917-5069; email: [mongi.hamdi@unctad.org](mailto:mongi.hamdi@unctad.org); Internet: <http://stdev.unctad.org/un/7thsession.html>.

25-27 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SYMPOSIUM: MULTILATERALISM AT A CROSSROADS. 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: Bernie Kuiten, tel: (+ 41-22) 739-5676; email: [symposium2004@wto.org](mailto:symposium2004@wto.org); Internet: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dda\\_e/symp\\_devagenda\\_04\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_04_e.htm)

24-28 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: COPENHAGEN CONSENSUS. This conference is organised by the Danish Institute for Environmental Assessment and supported by The Economist. The conference aims to assess the effects of international opportunities for solving ten of the worlds greatest challenges related to environmental and economic development. In Copenhagen, nine economic experts will discuss, analyse and rank the opportunities corresponding to each challenge based on a background paper within their field of research. For more information, contact: Environmental Assessment Institute; tel: (+45) 7226-5800; fax: 7226-5839; email: [info@copenhagenconsensus.dk](mailto:info@copenhagenconsensus.dk); Internet: <http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com>

29 May - 4 June, Washington, D.C., US: 36TH WORLD FARMERS CONGRESS. This Congress, organised by International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), will be the occasion to challenge world leaders on global issues, such as the WTO trade negotiations, water, food security and industrial concentration. For further information, contact: IFAP-FIPA, tel: (+33-1) 4526-0553; fax: 4874-7212; e-mail: [ifap@ifap.org](mailto:ifap@ifap.org); Internet: <http://www.ifap.org/wfc04/index.html>

### **Other Forthcoming Events**

9-11 June, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM. The fourth Regional Session of the Global Biodiversity Forum for Africa will

focus on the overall theme of Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Africa: Delivering on the Millennium Development Goals. A joint initiative of World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Regional Office for Southern Africa, IUCN South Africa, and ResourceAfrica, its aim is to gather and review regional experiences and perspectives on the precautionary approach in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, review and discuss early drafts of case studies, and contribute to the development of best-practice guidance on implementation of the precautionary principle. For further information contact Kule Chitepo, ResourceAfrica, tel: (+27-12) 342-9252; email: [kule@resourceafrica.org](mailto:kule@resourceafrica.org); Internet: [http://www.gbf.ch/present\\_session.asp?no=37&lg=EN](http://www.gbf.ch/present_session.asp?no=37&lg=EN)

5-6 July, London, UK: CONSUMERS, FARMERS AND FOOD: RECONCILING THE FUTURE: AN INTERNATIONAL CHATHAM HOUSE CONFERENCE. Organised by The Royal Institute of International Affairs in partnership with NewScientist magazine. Consumers' concerns about animal welfare, food safety, GMOs, biodiversity and the environment have been central to the debate surrounding food production in Europe. The evidence in the shops belies this concern: price, appearance, convenience and all-year-round availability still appear to be major factors in purchasing decisions. For further information, contact: Dino Ribeiro, tel: (+20) 7957-5753; email: [dribeiro@riia.org](mailto:dribeiro@riia.org); Internet: [www.riia.org/Agriculture2004](http://www.riia.org/Agriculture2004)

10-12 July, Beijing, China: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE: CURRENT AND FUTURE. This symposium will convene under the theme of "Innovation and Development in Agricultural Science and Technology". Its purpose is to promote the academic exchange and cooperation among the agricultural communities in China and other countries. For further information, contact: the World Food Prize Foundation, tel: (+1-515) 245-3783; fax: 245-3785; e-mail: [wfp@worldfoodprize.org](mailto:wfp@worldfoodprize.org); Internet: <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/chinaconference.htm>

25-30 July, Trondheim, Norway: XI WORLD CONGRESS OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY. This event will address a diverse range of food security interests under the theme of "Globalisation, risks and resistance". For further information contact Mark Shucksmith, ESRS, tel: (+44-12) 2427-3901; fax: 2427-3902; e-mail: [IRSA@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:IRSA@abdn.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.irs-world.org/XI/>

1 November, Copenhagen, Denmark: SEMINAR ON TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. This seminar is organised by the 'WTO, Trade & Development' network, an initiative based at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). The aim of the network is to provide an international forum for the discussion and dissemination of research and policy-relevant information on trade and development issues. The seminar is part of the 'Trade Mondays' series, with a seminar once a month at DIIS. For further information on the network and the 'Trade Mondays', contact Stefano Ponte, Seminar Coordinator, email: [spo@diis.dk](mailto:spo@diis.dk)

### Position Vacancy

SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR - GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME (GISP), Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, Cape Town. GISP is an international partnership network focussed on Invasive Alien Species issues. Reporting to the Executive Board of GISP, the incumbent will function as the chief operating officer of GISP. The Director has primary responsibility for managing Secretariat staff and budgets, overseeing programme operations, maintaining timely and effective communication with the individuals and organisations in the GISP Partnership Network, fundraising, as well as overseeing and implementing specific projects as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board. This position requires a professional leader and skilled negotiator with a Master's degree or Doctorate in a relevant field and at least ten years' relevant experience in managing and fund-raising for environmental / developmental projects. For further details on how to apply, see the GISP website and download the application package: <http://www.gisp.org/> Closing date: 21 May 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](mailto:mjacobsen@ictsd.ch).

**BUILDING ON SUCCESSES IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE: ARE KENYA'S HORTICULTURAL EXPORTS A REPLICABLE SUCCESS STORY?** By Nicholas Minot and Margaret Ngigi. By the International Policy Research Institute, IFPRI, 2004. Driven largely by private traders responding to international market opportunities, the growth of the Kenyan fruit and vegetable sector has not been a smooth, continuous process. Rather, the sector has expanded in fits and starts, with numerous changes in the commodity mix and types of marketing institutions. Over time, fruit and vegetable exports have become steadily more diversified. In spite of increased competition from Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, Kenya continues to be the most important supplier of vegetables to the European Union. The flexibility and responsiveness of Kenya's private traders have sustained this steady upward momentum. Available at: [http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus12/focus12\\_07.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus12/focus12_07.pdf)

**THE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND HIV/AIDS: CONNECTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** By the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development, December 2003. This essay was prepared for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and is intended to inform its strategic planning in agriculture. It seeks to create an awareness of the connections between rural poverty, under-nutrition, and HIV/AIDS in developing nations and to then suggest specific cross-sector investment strategies that can be used more effectively to combat these problems. Available at: [http://www.dec.org/pdf\\_docs/PNACW456.pdf](http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACW456.pdf)

"Implementation Deficits of Ethical Trade Systems: Lessons From the Indonesian Cocoa and Timber Industries", by Michael Blowfield in the JOURNAL OF CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP 13 (Spring 2004), pp77-90. Ethical trade is a central means for introducing social and environmental issues into global trade, but does it really improve the lives of its intended beneficiaries? This paper examines whether communities and workers are benefiting from ethical trade in the Indonesian cocoa and timber supply chains. It sets out four tests for measuring the efficacy of ethical trade and applies these to two of the most significant international initiatives.

"Protection of Plant-Related Innovations: Evolution and Current Discussion", by Bernard Le Buanec, in IP STRATEGY TODAY, BIODEVELOPMENTS, Ithaca, (No 9-2004). This paper provides a summary of the evolution of plant variety protection (PVP) and utility patents on plants regulations, and analyses the current situation with specific reference to the patenting of plants. The author also highlights a series of unresolved issues, specifically those relating to farm saved seed provisions under UPOV, the need for better protection of hybrid parental lines, and a call for enhanced cooperation among the plant protection offices across the world. Available at: <http://www.biodevelopments.org/ip/ipst9.pdf>.

"Intellectual Property Rights, Patents, Plant Variety Protection and Contracts: A perspective from the Private Sector", by Jean Donnenwirth et al in IP STRATEGY TODAY, BIODEVELOPMENTS, Ithaca, (No 9-2004). This paper provides a private sector point of view with in-depth experience from the US. The authors share their experiences in a wide range of aspects and point out the need for increased private sector investments in plant breeding as public sector investments have fallen far short of global needs. They discuss the dual nature of IP protection and how their application can encourage -- or hinder -- the use of a diverse germplasm, the exchange of and access to improved varieties, the adoption of new technologies, and the increased investments in plant breeding. Available at: <http://www.biodevelopments.org/ip/ipst9.pdf>.

**THE WIPO DRAFT SUBSTANTIVE PATENT LAW TREATY: A REVIEW OF SELECTED PROVISIONS.** By Carlos Correa. TRADE Working Paper 17, South Centre, March 2004. This is a detailed analysis of the Draft Substantive Patent Law Treaty (SPLT) as well as the Draft Rules and Regulations to assist the delegations of developing countries better to prepare and participate in the SPLT negotiations. This paper is not intended to provide an exhaustive analysis of the issues at stake, but to provide concrete

proposals for dealing with some critical aspects of the draft, taking into account, the draft submitted and discussed at the 9th Session of the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP) in May 2003. Available at: <http://www.southcentre.org/publications/workingpapers/paper17/wp17.pdf>.

THE ROLE OF REGISTERS AND DATABASES IN THE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS. By Brendan Tobin. Produced by UNU-IAS, Tokyo, January 2004. This report provides an analysis of a number of case studies of existing databases and registers that have been developed to document traditional knowledge, identifying their effectiveness, possibilities and limitations for securing the protection of traditional knowledge. Available at: <http://www.ias.unu.edu/publications/details.cfm/articleID/459>

STUDY OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES ON ACP COUNTRIES. By Cerrex Ltd, UK. By Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), 2003. This study examines the EU's SPS legislation in order to identify what measures related to consumer health and safety in the area of foodstuffs act as barriers to imports from ACP countries. The paper also attempts to identify the channels through which these effects are transmitted, and assesses the impact on ACP country exports and infrastructure and on individual exporters/growers/processors. For further information, see: [http://agritrade.cta.int/CTA\\_SPS%20Study\\_EN.pdf](http://agritrade.cta.int/CTA_SPS%20Study_EN.pdf)

CRY WOLF: PREDICTED COSTS BY INDUSTRY IN THE FACE OF NEW REGULATIONS. Report 6:04. Published by the International Chemical Secretariat, April 2004. Recently cost estimates for compliance with REACH, the new chemical legislation proposed by the EU Commission, were presented by German and French chemical industry trade organisations. The report notes that economists have refuted the methodology of these studies, but figures from these studies are nevertheless used in the debate. The report reviews earlier cost estimates for compliance with regulations commissioned by specific interest groups within industry. These cost estimates are based on the same kind of assumptions used by German and French chemical industry trade organisations. Available at <http://www.chemsec.org/documents/Cry%20wolf%20final%20220404.pdf>.

HIGH NATURE VALUE FARMLAND - CHARACTERISTICS, TRENDS AND POLICY CHALLENGES. By Ybele Hoogeveen, Jan-Erik Petersen, Katalin Balazs and Ivonne Higuero. Published by EEA, April 2004. Farmland supports many habitats and species of European conservation concern. In 2003, Europe's environment ministers agreed to identify all farmland areas with high nature value and take conservation measures. This report shows that these areas cover roughly 15-25 percent of the European countryside and suffer from land abandonment and intensification. Current policy measures appear insufficient to prevent further biodiversity decline. For further information, please see: [http://reports.eea.eu.int/report\\_2004\\_1/en/tab\\_abstract\\_RLR](http://reports.eea.eu.int/report_2004_1/en/tab_abstract_RLR)

## Electronic Resources

UNCTAD (UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT) XI WEBSITE. The website for UNCTAD XI was launched on 6 April and is available at: <http://www.unctadxi.org>.

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