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LEAD STORIES

ACP COUNTRIES CONCERNED AS BRAZIL CELEBRATES FAVOURABLE SUGAR RULING

On 4 August, the WTO panel examining a complaint against the EC's export subsidies for sugar ruled in favour of Brazil and co-complainants Australia and Thailand in an interim decision issued exclusively to the parties. According to sources, the panel upheld Brazil's claim that EC subsidies provided were in excess of the bloc's WTO reduction commitment levels for sugar under the Agreement on Agriculture (AOA).

Brazil wins on major claims

Brazil focused its complaint on two categories of sugar exports subsidised by the EC. First, Brazil targeted sugar produced in excess of "A" and "B" in-quota sugar (the so-called "C" sugar), which, according to Brazil, the EC subsidises and exports. Second, Brazil targeted imported raw sugar from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Brazil alleged this sugar was refined, treated as national domestic surplus, and re-exported to third countries with the aid of direct subsidies (see [BRIDGES WEEKLY](#), 18 March 2004). The panel found that 2.7 million tonnes of exported EC "C" sugar was cross-subsidised by the high guaranteed prices paid for A and B quota sugar. The panel also held that an additional 1.6 million tonnes of refined sugar, which the EC exported to the world market, corresponded to the amount of raw sugar it imported from India and the ACP.

Having already found that the EC violated the AoA, the panel reportedly did not rule on Brazil's claim that the EC granted export subsidies prohibited under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM). The advantage of finding that a measure is a prohibited subsidy under the SCM lies in the remedy to which the complainant would be entitled. Under the SCM, a prohibited subsidy is to be withdrawn 'without delay' and the panel has to 'specify in its recommendation the time period within which the measure must be withdrawn.' The SCM prohibits

subsidies which are contingent on export performance or the use of domestic over imported goods.

Victory for Cairns and civil society groups

In the wake of the ruling, Brazil's foreign minister Celso Amorim said the decision was a "big victory" for Brazil's sugar producers and "an important step in the elimination of distortions in agricultural markets". All the complainants are members of the Cairns Group, a coalition of 18 agricultural exporting countries pushing for the liberalisation of agricultural trade in the WTO. Amorim also echoed the sentiments of civil society groups such as Oxfam, which had highlighted the adverse impacts of the EC's sugar subsidies. Jo Leadbeater, head of Oxfam International's Brussels Office, called the ruling a "triumph for developing countries," further adding that "the EU must now act to reform the regime in a way that benefits poor countries".

Challenging times ahead for the ACP

Meanwhile, relatively poorer developing countries such as the fourteen ACP sugar producing states who are third parties to the dispute consistently warned that a ruling in favour of the complainants would seriously destabilise their preferential sugar access into the EC under the Sugar Protocol (see [BRIDGES WEEKLY](#), 22 April 2004). Aside from the threats to the guaranteed prices offered by the EC, the ACP fear they would not be able to compete on the world market with large efficient producers such as Brazil. Reportedly, the panel urged the EC to honour its commitments to the ACP in the implementation phase of the ruling. This was welcomed by the ACP countries, which are haunted by additional potential problems, such as the questionable future of their unilateral preferences under the Sugar Protocol once their reciprocal Economic Partnership Arrangements (EPAs) with the EC come into force in 2008. Moreover, the ACP are worried that gradually increasing least developed country (LDC) raw sugar exports into the EC under the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative could further erode their sugar preferences.

EC declines to comment at this stage, sugar reform goes ahead

The EC declined to comment on the preliminary decision on the basis that the report is confidential. However, the Commission's spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez indicated that the EC may appeal the final report. The EC itself has, however, acknowledged in its recent sugar reform proposal that its current sugar sector is unsustainable. Under the sugar reform, the EC would maintain preferential access for ACP sugar producing countries while eventually reducing the price

these exporters receive by more than a third (see [BRIDGES WEEKLY](#), 21 July 2004). The EC is set to review the reform package in 2008 owing to factors such as the final outcome of the sugar dispute.

Implications for dispute settlement, agricultural trade reform

With the interim sugar ruling following closely upon Brazil's successful challenge against US cotton subsidies, some trade observers speculated that a number of other cases might be brought against developed country agricultural subsidies, especially as the AoA 'peace clause,' which protected existing subsidies, has expired (see [BRIDGES WEEKLY](#), 28 April 2004). Such a development might, according to some trade experts, hasten agricultural trade reforms in developed countries outside the difficult WTO Doha agriculture talks. Some US trade officials have come out strongly with the opinion that agricultural trade reform is best pursued within the ongoing WTO negotiations, not through dispute settlement. However, the outcome and implications of both cases indicate that legal challenges in the WTO forum may provide additional impetus to spur negotiations. Such challenges could also lead to the clarification of certain aspects of WTO agreements that have an impact on agriculture trade. The final panel report is expected to be issued in late September.

The full text of the EC communication on sugar reform is available [online](#).

ICTSD reporting; "WTO panel ruling on EC sugar subsidies and the WTO framework Agreements," CARIBBEAN RNM UPDATE, 19 August 2004; "With victory over EU sugar subsidies, Brazil plans to boost production," AP BUSINESS, 4 August 2004; "EU to consider appeal of WTO's sugar complaint ruling," BLOOMBERG, 5 August 2004; "WTO deals blow to Big Power farm subsidies," REUTERS, 4 August 2004.

SUPACHAI CONSULTS MEMBERS ON CONTROVERSIAL TEXTILES QUOTA PHASE-OUT

On 3 August, WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi held consultations among WTO Member countries on whether to organise an emergency meeting to respond to concerns around the global phase-out of textiles quotas at the beginning of 2005. The consultations were in response to a request made by Minister Cuttaree of Mauritius in July (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#), 21 July 2004). Mauritius, along with vulnerable textiles producers such as Bangladesh and Nepal, had raised concerns regarding their ability to compete in a

post-quota world, and requested an emergency meeting to examine adjustment costs. They warned that the phase-out of quotas, in combination with the emergence of China in the market, would lead to "unintended consequences," which would cost "hundreds of thousands if not millions of jobs in those countries that can least afford it".

Following his consultations, Supachai said Members had provided a mixed response to the request for an emergency meeting. He proposed that Members that so wished could raise the textiles issue at the Council for Trade in Goods at its next regular meeting on 1 October, which already is set to review the quota phase-out process. Reportedly, China, India, Pakistan, Brazil, Egypt, Hong Kong, Thailand and Indonesia objected to the idea of holding an emergency meeting, as this could be seen as a first step towards quota extension. Developed countries such as the EC and US remained neutral.

Report details winners, losers

In related news, the WTO released a discussion paper on "The Global Textile and Clothing Industry post the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing" in mid-August, which details the predicted upcoming changes. The paper details the expected growing market shares of China and India in particular, but also notes that countries close to large consumer markets might not fare as poorly as expected. Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe may in fact remain in a rather strong position as clothing, and fashion in particular, is becoming something of a "perishable good".

Sub-Saharan Africa and countries currently enjoying trade preferences are likely to lose out, according to the report. The long-term decline of the local Western European and US textiles industry is likely to continue. Although China is expected to gain significant new market shares, the picture is not altogether bright for the country. "Other developing countries are catching up with China in terms of unit labour costs in the textile and clothing sector and China has not yet shown competitive strength in the design and fashion segments of the markets," concludes the report.

In addition, some textile companies and organisations in China have raised concerns regarding declining prices. Xu Xiaochuan of the Sichuan Xinlixin Textile Company called for a voluntary mechanism to control export prices in order to prohibit malicious price competition and to secure profits, especially after 1 January 2005. A senior official within the Chinese trade administration noted that rock-bottom prices would only lead to criticism internationally and spur protective measures, such as anti-dumping levies, in importing countries. The prices for Chinese clothing, garments

and knitwear for export have gone down by 30 percent over the last five years.

Background

The WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) was set up as a transitional mechanism in 1995, with a view to phasing out quotas for trade in textiles and clothing by the end of 2004. A number of developing countries that currently enjoy preferential access to developed country markets, through schemes such as the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), fear they will lose all access after quotas are lifted and more competitive producers, such as China and India, pick up large market shares. These small and vulnerable economies are concerned that the development gains that their infant textile industries have allowed them to make will be lost and the industries devastated. Supachai, in his consultations, highlighted the role of the IMF Trade Integration Mechanism (TIM) in assisting developing countries in the adjustment to liberalised trade in the areas of textiles and clothing (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#), 22 April 2004).

A number of textiles groups from both developing and developed countries issued an Istanbul Declaration in March this year, calling for the extension of quotas by three years, and in June called for an emergency WTO meeting (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#), 23 June 2004). Retailers and importers have, however, strongly opposed any extension of quotas. A grouping of US-based business associations, representing companies such as GAP and J.C. Penney, wrote to Supachai in advance of the 3 August consultations calling for a predictable process and no quota extensions.

To access the WTO discussion paper on "The Global Textile and Clothing Industry post the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing," visit [internet](#).

"Supachai Consults On Possible Emergency Meeting For Textiles And Clothing Adjustment Challenges WTO," WTO RELEASE, 4 August 2004; "WTO envoys agree textiles "crisis" meet for October," REUTERS, 3 August 2004; "WTO: China, India To Soon Dominate Global Textile Trade," AP, 12 August 2004; "Textiles Warn Of Price War Damage," XINHUANET, 23 August 2004.

IN BRIEF

**EU-MERCOSUR TRADE TALKS HIT
STALEMATE**

Coming out of negotiations held from 10-12 August in Brasilia, Mercosur and EU representatives said the talks between the two customs unions around a free trade agreement had ended in stalemate. Given its dependence on exports to power growth and help create jobs, Mercosur -- comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, with Peru, Chile, Venezuela, and Bolivia as associate members -- is looking for an accord that would lower EU tariffs and expand quotas for key agricultural products. In exchange, Mercosur will offer increased investment opportunities and government contracts for European firms in South America's largest market. Though the August negotiations helped both sides advance towards a deal on Mercosur meat exports to the EU, little progress was made on wider market access for other basic farm produce.

Reportedly, the two sides disagreed on the format for the talks, with Mercosur preferring comprehensive negotiations, and the EU insisting on discussing each item step-by-step. The EU also refrained from making a new offer until Mercosur presented its offer. On the pace of the talks, Argentina's Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa said that "between reaching a quick and less ambitious accord and a slower and more profound accord, we will choose the second option". Argentine Trade Secretary Martin Redrado, however, said that "if there is no improved agricultural offer from the EU, the best option may be to suspend the talks until November and deal with a new European Commission". The talks are set to conclude by 31 October, although observers doubt the deadline will be met.

"Mercosur, EU begin last ditch trade talks," REUTERS, 10 August 2004; "No progress at EU-Mercosur free-trade meeting in Brazil," EFE, 12 August 2004; "Argentina's Lavagna Says EU Free Trade Talks Stalled," BLOOMBERG, 24 August 2004; "Impasse Between EU and Mercosur," AGENCIA BRASIL, 15 August 2004; "EU-Mercosur talks stall; ministerial summit," MERCOPRESS, 31 August 2004.

CAMBODIA RATIFIES WTO MEMBERSHIP

On 31 August, the Cambodian parliament ratified the country's WTO entry. Although Cambodia's WTO application was approved along with Nepal's at the fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September 2003,

Cambodia's actual accession stalled because it had no parliament in place to ratify the agreement. Cambodia's elections in July 2003 were inconclusive, and only last month was Prime Minister Hun Sen able to form a new administration. Cambodia had, however, been granted a six-month extension for ratification because of the internal problems. The second least-developed country to join under special procedures, Cambodia hopes that its WTO membership will help it adjust to the pending dismantling of global textiles quotas at the end of the year (see related story, this issue). Four-fifths of Cambodia's exports are garments. Cambodia still has to officially notify the WTO of its ratification, after which it enters the WTO after 30 days.

"Cambodia rubberstamps entry to WTO," ABC ASIA PACIFIC, 31 August 2004; "Cambodia's Legislature Approves Entry Into W.T.O., NEW YORK TIMES," 31 August 2004.

THAILAND LIFTS GMO BAN

On 21 August, Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, announced that Thailand was lifting a three-year ban on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and would allow open-field crop trials. Opponents to the introduction of GMOs in Thailand immediately raised concerns, stating that allowing GMOs into the Thai market could further impoverish farmers because of the high prices demanded by large GMO multinationals. They also warned that the modified genes would contaminate the natural environment, and cautioned about possible unknown effects of GM products, such as the production of new allergens or toxins. Other opponents argued that Thailand had crumbled under the pressure of pending free trade talks with the US, thus putting GMOs on the bargaining table. Thaksin denied this, saying "the cancellation of the GMO ban was not because of any US senator lobbying. Nobody can lobby me, only the Ministry of Science and Technology lobbied with information". He stressed that "genetically modified vegetables and fruits are very resistant to diseases and give high yields". According to Cheng Luk-ki, head of Hong Kong-based Green Power, "Asia is becoming far more accepting of GMOs because many countries are developing and have growing populations that they can't feed".

At the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Summit in Bangkok in October 2003, the US and Thailand announced their intent to open negotiations towards a bilateral free trade deal (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#), 23 October 2003).

"Thais lift ban on GMO planting, to regulate trials," REUTERS, 21 August 2004; "Asia heads toward use of GMO foods despite activist protests," AFP, 27 August

2004; "POLICY REVERSAL/ Green light for GMOs," THE NATION, 24 August 2004.

PETER MANDELSON NAMED NEW EC TRADE COMMISSIONER

Jose Manuel Barroso -- President-elect of the European Commission -- on 23 July announced his Commissioners, naming Peter Mandelson Trade Commissioner. Prior to his appointment, Mandelson served in the UK House of Commons, worked in affiliation with Tony Blair to modernise the UK Labour Party, and helped administer Blair's leadership campaign in 1994. Mandelson will fill the shoes of Pascal Lamy, who has taken an active role in launching and negotiating the WTO's Doha Round since his appointment in September 1999 as Trade Commissioner. In addition to finalising the WTO negotiations, the new Trade Commissioner will face issues such as ongoing free trade talks with the EU's former colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) and a politically charged dispute with the US over imports of genetically-modified organisms. Commenting on his new role, Mandelson said he would act on the premise that "Europe will continue to benefit from globalisation as long as trade and investment are further liberalised and if Europe's long-term competitiveness, capacity for innovation, and social market economy are preserved".

"U.K.'s Mandelson Named EU Trade Commissioner, Succeeding Lamy," BLOOMBERG, 12 August 2004.

WORLD BANK CONTINUES LENDING TO EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

On 3 August, the World Bank board of directors officially announced that the Bank would continue lending in the extractive industries. The announcement was a response to a comprehensive assessment, beginning in 2001, of World Bank investment in the extractive industries sector, including oil, gas, and mining (see [BRIDGES Trade BioRes](#), 28 November 2003). Environmental and human rights groups claimed that Bank projects in the extractive industries had failed to alleviate poverty and brought about social and environmental problems. The final report of the independent extractive industries review (EIR) recommended, inter alia, that the World Bank immediately halt its financing of coal projects, phase out its oil projects and redirect its activities into renewable forms of energy.

The World Bank board, however, argued in favour of continued lending to extractive industries at a time

when 1.6 billion people in developing nations still do not have electricity and 2.3 billion people rely on biomass fuels that are harmful to their health and environment. Paul Wolfensohn, World Bank President, said World Bank involvement in the extractive industries helped increase environmental and social standards. Civil society groups however slammed the board decision. Keith Slack, Oxfam's Extractive Industries policy advisor, said the "Bank's management has ensured that the poverty pipeline will continue to flow". "The EIR called for an 'extreme energy makeover,' and the World Bank opted for a cheap pedicure. It has missed a historic opportunity to bring its lending more in line with its mission to alleviate poverty," commented Jon Sohn of environmental group Friends of the Earth.

The Extractive Industries Review is available at <http://www.eireview.org/>

The World Bank response is available at <http://www.worldbank.org/ogmc/>

"World Bank Agrees to Continue Oil, Gas Lending," REUTERS, 5 August 2004; "World Bank Group Agrees Way Forward on Extractive Industries Review," WORLD BANK RELEASE, 3 August 2004; "Oxfam: World Bank Ignores Recommendations to Help the Poor," OXFAM PRESS RELEASE, 3 August 2004. "World Bank Misses Historic Opportunity," FOE PRESS RELEASE, 3 August 2004.

ASEAN TO WORK WITH UN ON SUSTAINABILITY

On 24 August, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo signed an agreement to strengthen their cooperation on projects in support of sustainable development. ASEAN is a political and trade bloc comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. ASEAN is moving towards further economic integration, seeking to forge an EU-style economic community by 2020 (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#), 15 October 2003). In this context, the collaboration with the UNU will seek to strengthen ASEAN's capacity and research on issues such as trade and environment, sustainable use of natural resources and regional synergies with regard to implementing multilateral environmental agreements.

"ASEAN and UNU Forge Closer Ties on Sustainable Development Cooperation," ASEAN RELEASE, 24 August 2004.

SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER AGREEMENT UNDER DEBATE

The UN Conference for the Negotiation of a Successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) convened from 26-30 July in Geneva, Switzerland. A key issue at the meeting concerned whether the scope of the ITTA should be broad or narrow in focus. Several producer countries, including Brazil and Malaysia, preferred a narrow focus primarily on timber. Other producers supported a broader focus that would deal with conservation issues, forest services, and other forest products. Some consumer countries and civil society groups also favoured a broader scope, arguing that in order to ensure conservation and sustainable development the ITTA ought to consider conservation concerns, as well as indigenous rights and forest services. The US, while supporting a broad scope, remained wary of the ITTA becoming another multilateral environmental agreement, stressing the need to preserve its status as a commodity agreement. The negotiations will continue from 14-18 February 2005 in Geneva.

For further information on ITTA and the objectives of the successor agreement visit <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-08-06/story2.htm>

Daily coverage of the ITTA negotiations was provided by IISD Linkages, see <http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/itta/>

ENB Vol. 24 No. 29, 26 July 2004; ENB Vol. 24 No. 44, 2 August 2004; "Trade, civil-society organizations agree on measures to combat illegal logging," ITTO, 23 July 2004.

WTO IN BRIEF

BIOTECH CASE: SCIENTISTS TO BE HEARD, FINAL DECISION POSTPONED

On 26 August, the WTO panel hearing an ongoing case against EU rules on imports of genetically modified organisms announced it would seek expert advice on technical and scientific issues raised in the dispute. Shortly before this, the panel had postponed the timing of its final report from September 2004 to March 2005. The decision to hear experts in the case brought by the US, Argentina and Canada against the EC's de facto moratorium on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) (see [BRIDGES WEEKLY](#), 7 July 2004), was seen by

trade commentators as a victory for the EC. The EC's defence has focused on the scientific uncertainty surrounding GMOs, and possible risks to human health and the environment. The US, on the other hand, has stressed that GMOs pose no additional risks as compared to traditional crops, and has argued that appointing scientists and technical experts to provide testimony is unnecessary because the crux of the matter -- the fact that the EC refuses to apply its own approval mechanisms for biotech products -- is not a scientific issue. According to sources, a first scientific hearing will take place in November. Some observers have expressed concern that the scientific hearings could result in further delays, mirroring an earlier case against the EC involving a ban on imports of beef raised with growth hormones (see [BRIDGES WEEKLY](#), 13 November 2003).

The panel's communication (WT/DS291/26) is available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>

ICTSD reporting; "GM trade war outcome delayed," FRIEND OF THE EARTH PRESS RELEASE, 26 August 2004; "WTO ruling delayed in transatlantic row over GMOs," REUTERS, 26 August 2004

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/index.htm>. If you would like to submit an event, please email events@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up: 2-8 September

1-4 September, Johannesburg, South Africa: JOHANNESBURG + 2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE. This event will be held on the occasion of the second anniversary of the WSSD, incorporating a National Sustainable Development Conference, Thematic Round Tables, Sustainable Development Best Practice Exhibition, a Learning Centre, Media Capacitation Workshop and Doing Business in Africa Workshops. The Conference and Exhibition's themes include: water and sanitation, human settlements, energy, agriculture and food security, technology, natural resource management, regional development and NEPAD. South Africa's President Mbeki and a number of other high-level participants are expected to attend. For further

information contact the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, tel: +27-12-310-3911; fax: +27-12-322-2682; Internet: http://www.environment.gov.za/Documents/Documents/2004Jun28/jhb2_28062004.html

6 September, Copenhagen, Denmark: SEMINAR ON WTO, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND THE LIMITS OF LAW. This seminar is organised by the 'WTO, Trade & Development' network, an initiative based at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). The seminar will include three presentations on: Developing Countries and the Enforcement Mechanisms in the WTO Dispute Settlement Body; The WTO Dispute Settlement Body - A Decade of Hard Work; and Democratising WTO Dispute Settlement - Options and Solutions. For further information on the network and the 'Trade Mondays', contact Stefano Ponte, Seminar Coordinator, email: spo@diis.dk

6-10 September, New York, US: UNFF AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON CONSIDERATION OF A LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON ALL TYPES OF FORESTS. At its 52nd plenary meeting held in December 2003, the Economic and Social Council decided that the ad hoc expert group of the United Nations Forum on Forests would meet in New York from 6-10 September 2004, with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. For further information contact the UNFF Secretariat, tel: +1-212-963-3262; fax: +1-212-963-4260; e-mail: unff@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests>

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf. 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. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only. There are no meetings scheduled until 15 September.

Other Upcoming Events

9 September, Tokyo, Japan: SYMPOSIUM ON THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE REGIME BEYOND 2012--LONG-TERM GOALS AND NEAR-TERM ACTIONS. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), together with the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) will hold an open symposium on "beyond Kyoto" issues. The discussion

will focus on the near-term actions that can be taken as part of long-term efforts to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. The symposium will provide simultaneous translation. For further information visit <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/event>

15 September, Brussels, Belgium: COLLECTIVE PREFERENCES AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE - WHAT FUTURE FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM? After the step forward in the Doha negotiations represented by the July package, which paved the way for future conclusion of the round, the EC is organising a conference to present and discuss some ideas concerning the future of the multilateral trading system and of global governance based on the concept of collective preferences. If you wish to attend you must pre-register and send an e-mail before 8 September to trade-conference@cec.eu.int.

10-15 October, Bath, England: ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE. This international seminar will tackle the complexity of environmental governance as it relates to development, politics and economics. Main topics will include: defining and exploring environmental governance, economic and political incentives and barriers, practical application of environmental governance, environmental citizenship and participation, climate change and climate justice. For further information contact Julia Winborn, tel: +44 1865 302713; fax: +44 1865 516590; email: yellowteam.seminars@britishcouncil.org; Internet: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/seminars-science-0467.htm>

19-21 November, New Delhi, India: OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT: INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT - FORGING PARTNERSHIPS. This event will explore how governments can enhance their business environments and maximise the benefits of investments. Sessions will focus on three areas: the OECD initiative on a Policy Framework for Investment as an operational tool to promote investment for development; promoting corporate responsibility; and maximising official development assistance. For further information visit http://www.oecd.org/document/56/0,2340,en_2649_33763_32233656_1_1_1_1,00.html

RESOURCES

BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS: AGENTS OF NEW GLOBAL STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS? By Carlos Correa (GRAIN, August 2004). Developing countries have entered into a large number of bilateral investment treaties (BITs) as well as free

trade agreements (FTAs) that include explicit obligations for the protection of intellectual property rights as "investments". These agreements fall outside the arena of multilateral standard-setting on intellectual property rights, and are being strategically pushed by developed countries to advance their industries' economic interests. This study examines whether and how bilateral and regional investment instruments increase the scope and availability of IPR protection beyond current standards, reduce flexibilities available to developing countries under international treaties and can be used to expand the application in their territories of IPRs over biodiversity. To access the study visit <http://www.grain.org/briefings/?id=186>

WORLD AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A COMMODITY-BY-COMMODITY GUIDE TO IMPACTS AND PRACTICES. By Jason Clay, WWF (Island Press, 2004). This book presents an assessment of agricultural commodity production and the environmental problems it causes, along with prescriptions for increasing efficiency and reducing damage to natural systems. Drawing on his travel and research in agricultural regions around the world, and employing statistics from a range of authoritative sources including the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the author examines twenty of the world's major crops, including beef, coffee, corn, rice, rubber, shrimp, sorghum, tea, and tobacco. For each crop, he offers comparative information including: main producing and consuming countries; major environmental impacts; and management strategies and best practices. For further information and to order the book visit <http://www.islandpress.org/books/detail.html?cart=108562953395998&SKU=1-55963-367-0>

TRANSFORMATIONS IN WEST AFRICAN AGRICULTURE AND THE ROLE OF FAMILY FARMS. By Camilla Toulmin and Bara Guèye (IIED Drylands Issue Paper No. 123, 2004). This paper examines change in West African agricultural systems. It addresses the major challenges smallholders face in the region and direction for the future, given international pressure and domestic restraints. It aims to contribute to the debate on West African agriculture, the role of family farms, and trade policy at national, regional and global levels. It also aims to: identify and document how agricultural patterns and livelihoods are evolving in different parts of the region; identify winners and losers; outline the impact of OECD trade and agricultural policy on farming livelihoods; and highlight the opportunities for producer organisations to influence policy design and negotiations in partnership with diverse organisations and interests in West Africa. The study is also available in French. For further information and to order a copy visit <http://www.earthprint.com/go.htm?to=9309IIED>

FOOD INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOOD POWER: IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD GOVERNANCE. By Tim Lang (IIED Gatekeeper Series 114, 2004). The industrialisation of food chains in rich countries in the second half of the twentieth century has led to significant policy and market implications for poor countries. With powerful corporations dominating many food sectors, poor primary producers have found themselves locked into contracts and unrealistic specifications; while rich consumers have found themselves locked into buying goods from a production chain which provide cheap food but can't guarantee quality. This paper examines good policy which is torn between the pursuit of productivity and reduced prices and the demand for higher quality with implications for both producers and consumers. It also discusses the tensions that have emerged about the state's role in regulating the industry. To access the paper visit <http://www.iied.org/docs/gatekeep/GK114.pdf>

REALISING THE PROMISE AND POTENTIAL OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURE: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA. By the InterAcademy Council (2004). Africa is rich in both natural and human resources, yet nearly 200 million of its people are undernourished because of inadequate food supplies. Comprehensive strategies are needed across the continent to harness the power of science and technology in ways that boost agricultural productivity, profitability, and sustainability -- ultimately ensuring that all Africans have access to enough safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs. This report addresses the question of how science and technology can be mobilised to make that promise a reality. To access the study visit <http://www.interacademycouncil.net/report.asp?id=6959>

"Transparency Measures under Patent Law Regarding Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge - Disclosure of Source and Evidence of Prior Informed Consent and Benefit-Sharing." By Martin Girsberger in the JOURNAL OF WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (Vol. 7, No. 4, July 2004). To increase transparency with regard to genetic resources and traditional knowledge and to combat "biopiracy", three patent-related measures are being discussed in WIPO, the TRIPS Council, and various fora of the Biodiversity Convention: (1) disclosing the source of genetic resources and traditional knowledge; (2) providing evidence of prior informed consent; and (3) providing evidence of fair and equitable benefit-sharing, in patent applications. More specific proposals were submitted by Switzerland to the WIPO, and by a group of mega-diverse countries, the African Group, and the European Communities and their Member States, to the WTO. This article analyses in greater detail the issues arising

with regard to these patent-related transparency measures, taking into account the proposals submitted to the WIPO and the WTO, the more recent developments at the international level and the applicable international law.

"Intellectual Property Rights and Food Security in the South." By Philippe Cullet in the JOURNAL OF WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (Vol. 7, No. 3, May 2004). Laws and policies guiding agricultural management have changed considerably over the past couple of decades. While the international legal and policy framework proposed in the 1980s emphasised the free availability and transfer of germplasm, today the emphasis is on appropriation through sovereign rights and intellectual property rights. Existing legal instruments consider the rights of states, commercial plant breeders and biotechnologists. They do not give much consideration to the rights of farmers even though their role in agricultural management is recognised. This article addresses this specific aspect, and examines ways in which developing countries can rebalance the situation by introducing legal protection to recognise and promote farmers' contributions to food security and sustainable agricultural management. The starting point for this enquiry is the TRIPS Agreement, but this article also explores other avenues for sui generis protection which takes into account other relevant treaties in the field.

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