



# Bridges Trade BioRes

*News, events and resources at the intersection of trade and biodiversity*

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## Finalising the checklist

The new submission is based on a broader proposal made by the Brazil- and India-led group in March 2004 setting out a checklist of issues to be considered in the discussion (see *Bridges Trade BioRes*, 19 March 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-03-19/story2.htm>). It addresses the third and final issue of the checklist, i.e. requirements for patent applicants to provide evidence of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Previous submissions to the TRIPS Council in September (see *BRIDGES TradeBioRes*, 22 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-23/story1.htm>) and December 2004 (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 8 December 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-12-08/story1.htm>) had addressed the first two issues of the checklist, i.e. elements of the obligation in patent applications to (1) disclose the source and country of origin of biological resources and/or traditional knowledge used in an invention and (2) provide evidence of prior informed consent under the relevant national regime.

## Intellectual Property

### TRIPS COUNCIL FOCUSES ON BENEFIT-SHARING FOR GENETIC RESOURCES

During the 8-9 March meeting of the WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) in Geneva, Brazil on behalf of Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand and Venezuela tabled the third proposal in a series of three on the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The latest submission focuses on the need to provide evidence of benefit-sharing in patent applications, complementing previous proposals on disclosure requirements and prior informed consent.

The new proposal (IP/C/W/442) outlines a number of criteria for the determination of evidence for sharing the benefit arising from the use of genetic resources. Regarding the legal effects of non-compliance by a patent applicant with the obligation to provide such evidence, the submission distinguishes between the pre- and the post-grant phase. Failure to provide evidence before the grant of the patent should result in a discontinuation of the application procedure, combined with penalties, time limits and eventually the withdrawal of the application. Failure to provide evidence after the grant of the patent could result in the revocation of the patent or/and criminal and administrative sanctions, including punitive damages. In line with their previous proposals on first two issues of the checklist, the proponents of this submission favour an amendment of the TRIPS Agreement that would

mandate the requirements for disclosure of origin, and evidence of prior informed consent and benefit-sharing.

### **Positions remain largely unchanged**

Discussion and comments on the submission echoed those in previous meetings on the first two issues of the checklist. Developing country Members stressed the importance of an international mandatory system reflected in the TRIPS Agreement to address cross-border misappropriations of genetic resources. They noted that the current patent system was inappropriate to prevent misappropriation, and pointed to the high costs involved in examining whether patent applications in third countries involved domestic genetic resources. Brazil also recalled that the CBD contains a provision requiring that intellectual property rights should be supportive and not run counter to the CBD objectives of preservation of, access to and benefit-sharing for the use of genetic resources.

For their part, several developed country Members reiterated their view that the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD were not in conflict with each other and that any amendment of the Agreement was unnecessary. The US, supported by Japan, again stressed its preference for national and contract-based solutions outside the realm of patent law, and expressed concern about possible legal uncertainty of the proposed solution, which might impact on the role of patents to promote innovation. Australia, while indicating its flexibility, expressed concern about additional costs of the proposed multilateral solution and noted that the patent system was not the primary solution for the prevention of misappropriation of genetic resources.

Also at the meeting, Peru presented an additional proposal on its experience of its National Commission on Biopiracy (IP/C/W/441) while India and Brazil submitted a paper (IP/C/W/443), reacting to a US submission on the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD put forward at the December meeting.

The next meeting of the TRIPS Council is scheduled for 14-15 June.

WTO submissions are available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

ICTSD Reporting.

## **Fisheries**

### **NEW FAO REPORT INTRODUCES WEEK OF DEBATE ON FISHERIES**

The FAO report "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture" (SOFIA 2004) released on 7 March confirms a continued decline in exploitable marine fish stocks, threatening food security and poverty alleviation efforts. In the week following the release, delegates met for the 26th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) from 7-11 March in Rome to discuss challenges facing efforts to achieve sustainable fisheries with a particular focus on implications for livelihoods in developing countries.

### **Dwindling stocks affect economic development**

According to SOFIA 2004, as much as 75 percent of global marine fish stocks are now fully exploited, over-exploited or depleted, confirming a consistent decrease since 1974 in marine fish stocks with potential for further exploitation. Currently only three percent of marine stocks are underexploited, while 21 percent could support modest increases in landings. The report highlights the "challenging necessity" of restoring depleted fish stocks, given that the decline has implications for food security, poverty alleviation and economic development, as well as for marine ecosystems.

Despite the strained marine stocks, global fish production reached a new high of 133 million tons in 2002. Whereas the global landings from capture fisheries have decreased since 2000, this decrease has been more than offset by an increase in aquaculture production. In 2002 aquaculture represented 29.9 percent of total production, and the FAO projects that this figure could reach 39 by 2015.

Moreover, total world trade of fish and fishery products increased to US\$58.2 billion in export value in 2002, representing a 45 percent increase since 1992. For many economies, export of fish and fish products constitutes an important source of foreign currency earnings. The net foreign exchange income derived from fish in developing countries increased from US\$11.6 billion in 1992 to US\$17.4 billion in 2002. Low-income food deficit countries accounted for more than 20 percent of total export value.

As well as being important for government revenues, fisheries and aquaculture directly employ 38 million people worldwide, eighty-five percent of these in Asia. Furthermore, the report states that human consumption has increased and that fish provides 2.6 billion people with at least 20 percent of their animal protein supply.

### **FAO Committee focuses on developing country concerns**

At the FAO COFI, the importance of the fisheries sector for developing countries was highlighted during the debate on fisheries and trade. In order for developing countries to benefit further from trade in fish and fish products, the FAO was urged to provide technical assistance to meet international regulatory standards. The FAO was also encouraged to consider ways for trade to enhance employment and income benefits for small-scale sustainable fisheries.

The development aspect was also raised in the discussions on eco-labelling of fish and fish products. In order to prevent eco-labelling from becoming a barrier to trade, it was noted that the system should be transparent, consistent with WTO rules and not out of reach for developing countries. The need for voluntary and internationally agreed guidelines for eco-labelling was widely acknowledged by delegates, who adopted the recently-developed FAO guidelines with some reservations calling for additional work and clarification.

In the debate on fisheries subsidies, it was underlined that the work of the FAO should complement and not overlap with the efforts made within the WTO where negotiations are currently underway on possible disciplines for fisheries subsidies (see Bridges Trade BioRes, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-03-04/story1.htm>). Given the importance of the sector for food security and livelihoods, the Committee stressed the need to distinguish between different categories of subsidies depending on their effects on stocks, poverty alleviation and economic development. Based on the FAO work programme on fisheries subsidies adopted at the meeting, the FAO will in the short-term focus on the links between subsidies and development and the comparison of subsidy impacts on industrial and artisanal fisheries. In the longer term, the FAO aims to identify the impact of fisheries subsidies on various resource management regimes.

Delegates also discussed the concerns raised in SOFIA 2004, challenges facing efforts to achieve a sustainable level of fishery exploitation, and options for doing so. Among the issues debated were illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, the establishment of marine protected areas, and the problems confronting small-scale fisheries. Participants addressed the effects of new technologies that had changed fishing practices, in particular by making it possible to commercially exploit bottom-dwelling stocks already vulnerable to overexploitation due to their low productivity.

### **Tsunami relief on the agenda for fisheries ministers**

The rehabilitation of fisheries and aquaculture in countries hit by the 2004 tsunami occupied a central position in discussions at the COFI meeting. This was underlined by the joint statement adopted by fisheries ministers and senior officials during a ministerial meeting that followed the FAO session, in which governments called for sustainable reconstruction and emphasised the importance of fisheries for the livelihoods of tsunami-affected communities. A second declaration made by the ministers acknowledged the need to strengthen cooperation on high sea fisheries through the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, and calls for large-scale vessels to be fitted with vessel monitoring systems by 2008. The ministers would also like to see a global record of fishing vessels to be established in an attempt to combat IUU fishing.

### **Additional Resources**

SOFIA 2004:  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/y5600e/y5600e00.htm>

Documents of the COFI meeting:  
[ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/COFI/COFI\\_26/default.htm](ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/COFI/COFI_26/default.htm)

Report of a FAO expert consultation on subsidies in the fisheries sector:  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5689e/y5689e00.pdf>

FAO work programme on fisheries subsidies:  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/009/j4030e.pdf>

FAO guidelines on eco-labelling:  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5889t/y5889t00.pdf>

ICTSD reporting.

## Agriculture

### WTO: BRAZIL COTTON VICTORY AGAINST US REAFFIRMED

The WTO Appellate Body has upheld all major findings of an earlier WTO panel that ruled that US cotton subsidies were in violation of WTO rules on agriculture and subsidies (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-09-23/inbrief.htm#3>). Trade analysts noted that this ruling together with Brazil's challenge against the EU's sugar subsidies could open a Pandora's Box of WTO challenges against developed country subsidies after the "peace clause" immunity, under which countries had agreed to refrain from challenging each other's agricultural subsidies, expired at the end of 2004.

#### Appellate Body findings

In its 3 March report, the Appellate Body confirmed that certain US payments to farmers, such as 'product flexibility contracts' and 'direct payments', constituted trade-distorting domestic subsidies. Furthermore, it said that since they were related to the type of production undertaken, they could not be categorised as permissible 'decoupled payments'. The US had argued that these payments were the type of 'decoupled' support that qualified as allowable "green box" subsidies under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) as they were provided independently of farmers' yield and unrelated to the type of crops produced.

The Appellate Body further agreed with the panel that the 'export credit guarantees' and 'Step 2 marketing payments' offered to US cotton producers were prohibited export subsidies. The 'Step 2' programme pays US cotton producers the difference between the domestic cotton price and the world market price to ensure that their cotton can be sold profitably in foreign markets. Moreover, the Appellate Body upheld the panel's finding that all the above subsidies challenged by Brazil did not qualify for exemption from WTO challenges under the "peace clause" of the AoA.

Under WTO rules, the cotton ruling must formally be adopted by the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) by the beginning of April. The US will subsequently have 30 days to announce its intentions to comply with the ruling, although it need not reveal the timeframe for doing so. The implementation deadline will be fixed through

negotiations between Brazil and the US or, failing that, through WTO arbitration.

### Africa, civil society groups urge US to comply immediately

In a 6 March statement, West African cotton producing countries Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali welcomed the ruling and urged the US to implement the decision in time for the WTO's Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005. Speaking to the press, Samuel Amehou, Benin's Ambassador to the WTO, pointed out that the ruling "confirms that these subsidies are not fair and must be phased out in a very, very short time". The four countries reiterated their position that the ruling "confirmed the validity" of their repeated calls for the total elimination of cotton subsidies within the context of the Doha Round negotiations (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 June 2003; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-06-2/story1.htm>). On this point, Amehou emphasised that "two years after the submission of our sectoral initiative on cotton, it is now time to move from the stage of declarations and clarifications and finally move to concrete actions".

International charity Oxfam, which has repeatedly called for the US to abolish its subsidies because of their injurious effects on poor farmers in Africa, has expressed concern over statements by US government officials that no reforms may be needed to comply with the cotton ruling. Gawain Kripke, spokesperson for Oxfam's 'Make Trade Fair' campaign in Washington cautioned that "if the US stalls reform, it will cost poor Africans farmers the chance to trade their way out of poverty and perpetuate an unfair system of rules rigged for the rich". Oxfam also expressed concern that failure by the US to implement this decision could stall the WTO Doha Round agriculture negotiations. Within the WTO agriculture talks, a special sub-committee has been established to deal with the issue of cotton (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 18 February 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-02-18/inbrief.htm#4>).

#### Background

Brazil asked for a WTO panel to be established to hear its claims in this dispute in February 2003 after consultations with the US failed. According to Brazil, subsidies paid to US cotton farmers from 1999-2000 and those authorised in a 2002 US Farm Bill, contravened WTO rules on Subsidies and

Countervailing Measures and the Agreement on Agriculture (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-02/story1.htm>). Brazil argued that the US was responsible for driving down world cotton prices, consequently causing harm to Brazilian farmers while increasing the US share of the global cotton market.

Brazil further claimed that the cotton subsidies were exempted from the immunity granted under the so-called "peace clause" of the AoA. Having found in favour of Brazil on all its major claims, the WTO panel had ordered the US to immediately withdraw the subsidies it had found to be prohibited export subsidies -- i.e. export credit guarantees and 'Step 2' marketing payments -- at the latest within six months of the date of adoption of the panel report or by 1 July 2005.

ICTSD reporting; "African Nations Urge U.S. to Implement WTO Cotton Ruling by December Ministerial," WTO REPORTER, 8 March 2005; "US must act 'quickly' on cotton," BBC, 4 March 2005; "Oxfam Concerned U.S. Delaying Cotton Reform; U.S. Response to WTO Ruling Indicates Stalling, Poor Farmers Suffer Consequences," US NEWS WIRE, 4 March 2005.

## In Brief

### EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE UPHOLDS NEEM PATENT REVOCATION

The Technical Board of Appeals of the European Patent Office (EPO) on 8 March upheld a 2000 decision to revoke a patent on a fungicidal product extracted from seeds from the Indian neem tree, bringing to a close a ten-year battle around the patent (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.23-05-00.htm>). The decision thereby dismissed an appeal brought by the original defendants -- biotech company Thermo Trilog and the US. A reformulated claim submitted by the patent holders as part of their appeal was rejected on formal grounds. Subsequently, the main body of the patent was tested with regard to novelty, disclosure, and inventive step -- and irrevocably revoked.

The case had originally been brought to the EPO in 1995 by Indian environmentalist Vandana Shiva, Magda Aelvoet (then MEP and President of the Greens in the European Parliament), and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). According to Magda Aelvoet, now the Belgian Minister of State, "Our victory against biopiracy is threefold. First, it is a

victory for traditional knowledge and practices...Second, it is a victory for solidarity: with the people of developing countries -- who have definitively earned the sovereign rights to their natural resources -- and with our colleagues in the NGOs, who fought with us against this patent for the last ten years. And third, coming as it does on International Women's Day, this is also a victory for women."

"Landmark Victory in World's First Case Against Biopiracy: European Patent Office Upholds Decision to Revoke Neem Patent," RFSEE, GREENS/EFA AND IFOAM, 8 March 2005.

### CHINA'S TIMBER NEEDS THREATEN WORLD FORESTS - REPORT

In their 8 March report "China's Wood Market, Trade and the Environment", the environmental group WWF urged China to change its current policies regarding timber imports and logging to avert "devastating impacts on some of the planet's outstanding forests" resulting from the country's rapidly rising demand for wood. Since China's logging ban in 1998 due to the flooding of the Yangtze, domestic wood production has dropped significantly and China has been able to start preserving threatened forests through forest restoration and sustainable forest management. To meet growing demand, imports have increased substantially -- making China the second-largest market for industrial timber, pulp and paper in the world -- including from countries where illegal logging is rampant, such as Russia, Malaysia and Indonesia. "Logging bans in China should not lead to forest loss in other parts of the world," said Claude Martin, Director General of WWF International. "Decisive action is needed to ensure that supply chains leading to or through China begin with well-managed forests," he added. Along with the environmental damage, there are also significant financial losses from illegal logging. Indonesia, for instance, one of China's leading providers of timber, is losing billions of dollars in tax revenue due to the illegal logging.

The report is available at <http://panda.org/downloads/forests/chinawoodmarkettradenvironment.pdf>.

"China Timber Demand Threatens World's Forests - WWF," REUTERS, 9 March 2005.

## EUROPE TO ADJUST BORDER PRICES IN TRADE WITH NON-KYOTO COUNTRIES?

Caroline Lucas, a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), recently raised the issue of adjustment measures at the border to protect European companies -- which face costs related to climate change abatement under the Kyoto Protocol -- from unfair competition from companies in non-Kyoto countries such as the US, which "are avoiding these costs at the expense of the global environment". Lucas suggested that the European Commission raise the issue at the WTO, since the advantage enjoyed by companies in countries outside the Kyoto regime could be considered a subsidy which "could be subject to redress in the form of countervailing duties or border tax adjustments" under WTO rules. The European Commission recently outlined its strategy beyond 2012, when the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ends (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 18 February 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-02-18/inbrief.htm#1>). The strategy includes enticing countries currently outside the Kyoto Protocol to come on board.

Responding to Lucas on 9 March, the European Commission said, however, that it had no plans of raising the issue at the WTO, as it "does not expect any major negative competitiveness impacts from EU climate policies". The Commission also noted that in its future climate strategy, it would seek to incentives through constructive dialogue, to encourage non-Parties to participate in the next steps of the climate regime.

Question posed by MEP Caroline Lucas to the European Commission:  
[http://www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk/parliament/pdfs\\_and\\_wor/KyotoWTO\\_220305.pdf](http://www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk/parliament/pdfs_and_wor/KyotoWTO_220305.pdf)

European Commission response:  
[http://www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk/parliament/pdfs\\_and\\_wor/KyotoWTO\\_Ans\\_220305.pdf](http://www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk/parliament/pdfs_and_wor/KyotoWTO_Ans_220305.pdf)

"Mandelson Rejects MEPs Call For US Kyoto Tax," NEWS RELEASE FROM C. LUCAS, 9 March 2005.

## BLAIR COMMISSION FOR AFRICA CALLS FOR FAIRER TRADE

The Commission for Africa established in 2004 by British Prime Minister Tony Blair issued its report on 11 March, calling for "more and fairer trade" for the continent. It put forward recommendations for

reducing poverty in Africa, and helping the continent cope with globalisation. The 450-page study identifies governance, capacity building, peace and security, education, healthcare, trade, and an additional US\$25 billion per year in aid by 2010 as essential to combating poverty and promoting growth in the world's poorest. The report concludes that increasing Africa's capacity to trade would require investments in infrastructure and the creation of an enabling climate for the private sector. It also emphasises that that development concerns must be the priority in all trade agreements, urging developed countries to address non-tariff trade barriers facing developing country exporters, and to use the Doha Round to set end dates for "appalling levels of developed country protectionism and subsidies". The Commission encouraged them to provide transitional support to African countries to help them deal with negative social and economic effects resulting from the removal of global trade barriers and the erosion of trade preferences.

African leaders generally welcomed the report, although South African President Thabo Mbeki noted that it must be translated into concrete action. Critics, however, pointed out that the Commission's recommendations were not new, and that developed countries had often failed to deliver on past promises of aid and debt-relief to Africa. Others said that the study offered some novel suggestions, including the call for the developed world to play a more active role in policing corrupt payments and repatriating funds deposited by African dictators in European banks.

The full report is available at:  
<http://213.225.140.43/english/report/introduction.html>

ICTSD reporting; "Can we dare implement Blair Commission report?" IPP Media, 14 March 2005; "Commission for Africa," All Africa.com, 14 March 2005; "Development-Africa: A Mixed Verdict for Commission's Report," allAfrica.com, 14 March 2005; "Africa must be strengthened to compete globally," ghanaweb.com, 14 March 2005; "Mbeki welcomes Blair's Commission for Africa report", SABC News, 11 March 2005.

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## Events & Resources

### EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar, <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/calendar.htm>.

**Coming up in the next two weeks**

17-20 March, Geneva, Switzerland: 2ND ALTERNATIVE WORLD WATER FORUM. The forum is organised by an International Committee made up of members of the World Water Contract, of the World Coalition against the Privatisation of Water, and a Swiss committee composed of representatives of Swiss NGOs. The objective of this forum is to further develop and promote public policy and institutions that will provide all human beings access to potable water and have water management done in a sustainable manner. For further information contact the Secretariat of Fame 2005, tel: (+41 22) 320 18 03; fax: 320 18 23; email: [secretariat@fame2005.org](mailto:secretariat@fame2005.org); Internet: [http://www.fame2005.org/article.php?id\\_article=126](http://www.fame2005.org/article.php?id_article=126).

21-23 March, Marrakech, Morocco: 2ND INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION ON WATER AND ENERGY. This Forum is organised by the Moroccan Ministry of Territory Planning, Water and Environment in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) and will build on the outcomes of other international partnership discussions, including the First International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development held in March 2004 in Rome, Italy. The Second Forum will focus on the issue of "Advancing Implementation on Water and Energy." The meeting's outcomes will be presented during CSD-13, which will convene from 11-22 April 2005, in New York. For further information contact the Moroccan Ministry of Territory Planning, Water and Environment, tel: (212 37) 77 26 62; fax: 77 26 40; e-mail: [forum@minenv.gov.ma](mailto:forum@minenv.gov.ma); Internet: <http://www.minenv.gov.ma/forum-part.2005/>.

22-23 March, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE. For further information contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org)

24-29 March, Seoul, Republic of Korea: FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. This Ministerial Conference is organised by UNESCAP, UNEP, the World Bank, and Asia Development Bank. The theme of the conference is "achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth". This conference represents an important opportunity for national leaders to create an enabling environment for sustainable development across the region. For further information contact: the Ministry of Environment; tel: (+82 2) 2110 6565; fax: 503 8773; e-mail: [hyejungy@me.go.kr](mailto:hyejungy@me.go.kr); Internet: <http://www.unescap.org/mced/>.

**Other Upcoming Events**

14 April, Paris, France STUDIES ON THE IMPACT OF TRADE AGREEMENTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ASSESSMENT AND PROSPECTS. Organised by the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, and GRET. The seminar, which will be given in French and English, aims specifically to bring together experts involved in impact assessments and sustainable development (the Ministries of European Union member states, international organisations, research institutes, the private sector, and NGOs) so as to take stock of impact assessments and reflect on operational ways to improve this tool. For further information, contact Isabel Berest, tel: (+33 1) 40 05 61 51; email: [berest@gret.org](mailto:berest@gret.org).

20-22 April, Windhoek, Namibia: A WORKSHOP FOR THE SADC REGION ON THE IMPACT OF THE WTO AGREEMENTS AND THE CURRENT WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FISHERIES SECTOR. This conference is carried out in co-operation with the Ministry of Fisheries of Namibia, INFOSA and SADC. Sessions held during this conference include international fish trade, ACP-EU capacity building needs in non-fishery sectors, quality and safety aspects for fish trade, and the WTO and fisheries. For further information contact Erik Hempel, tel: (+264 61) 279 432; fax: 279 434; email: [erik.hempel@hempelco.com](mailto:erik.hempel@hempelco.com); Internet: [http://www.globefish.org/files/WindhoekWorkshopAgendaNov24-26-2004\\_168\\_204.pdf](http://www.globefish.org/files/WindhoekWorkshopAgendaNov24-26-2004_168_204.pdf).

28-30 April, Brussels, Belgium: INTERNATIONAL BANANA CONFERENCE II. This 2nd International Banana Conference, organised by Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Sindicatos Bananeros (COLSIBA), the Association of Caribbean Farmers (WINFA), the European Banana Action Network (EUROBAN), International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Tobacco & Allied Workers' (IUF), and United States Labor Education in the Americas Project (US/LEAP); aims to place the specific needs of women workers and small farmers firmly on the international agenda; explore mechanisms to control over-production and to stabilise prices; elaborate a definition of a 'fair price'; and create a permanent mechanism/forum in which to continue dialogue between the different actors. For further information contact Stephen Coats, tel: (+1 773) 262 6502; fax: 262 6602; email: [usglep@igc.org](mailto:usglep@igc.org); Internet: <http://www.ibc2.org/>.

30 May - 26 June, Internet: FAO E-MAIL CONFERENCE - BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CHARACTERISATION/CONSERVATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES. The FAO Biotechnology Forum is devoting its next e-mail conference to the role that biotechnology can play in the characterisation and conservation of crop, animal, forestry and fishery genetic resources in developing countries. The conference is free and open to everyone, and will be used to discuss and exchange experiences on this theme. For further

information contact John Ruane; email:  
john.ruane@fao.org;  
Internet: <http://www.fao.org/biotech/index.asp>.

## 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 [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch).

**THE PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE WTO.** By 3D and FORUM-ASIA, December 2004. This Practical Guide seeks to enable human rights advocates to be effective in their work relating to international trade, by describing how the WTO works, examining some examples where it affects human rights, pointing out ways to find practical information about WTO and other trade rules, and giving pointers for future advocacy work. The Guide is designed as a practical tool, and can be used when designing new work programmes; for mounting campaigns; in training programmes; and for general information on the WTO.

For further information visit  
<http://www.3dthree.org/en/complement.php?IDcomplement=36&IDcat=4&IDpage=14>.

**LEGAL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE KYOTO PROTOCOL MECHANISMS - MAKING KYOTO WORK.** Edited by David Freestone and Charlotte Streck. Oxford University Press, February 2005. This book provides full coverage of emissions trading, 'carbon finance,' which will dominate the implementation of Kyoto. It aims to contribute to the development of the market for carbon emission reductions, which is also one of the objectives of the Kyoto mechanisms. For further information visit  
<http://www.oup.co.uk/isbn/0-19-927961-6?view=lawview>.

**PROCESSED FOOD TRADE PRESSURED BY EVOLVING GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS.** By Anita Regmi Mark Gehlhar, in *AmberWaves*, February 2005. This article discusses the stall in food trade since the mid-1990s, even as the sales of processed foods continually grows. The authors conclude that even as the food

industry becomes more global, food demand is being increasingly satisfied at the local level where food suppliers are better able to meet specific demands of local consumers. For access to this article visit  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/February05/Features/ProcessedFood.htm>.

**DECOUPLING EU FARM SUPPORT: DOES THE NEW SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME FIT WITHIN THE GREEN BOX?** By Alan Swinbank and Richard Tranter, in *The Estey Centre Journal of International Law and Trade Policy*, 2005. Recent reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has led to reducing the link between support and production. The new Single Payment Scheme will simplify the application arrangements for subsidy payments by replacing ten major CAP payment schemes with one new single payment. The EU believes that the Single Payment Scheme will qualify for green-box status in the WTO, policies that have little to no effect on production. The paper examines this argument, particularly in light of the recent WTO panel report on upland cotton. For access to this report visit  
[http://www.esteyjournal.com/j\\_pdfs/swinbanktranter6-1.pdf](http://www.esteyjournal.com/j_pdfs/swinbanktranter6-1.pdf).

**AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY AND WATER USE: DEVELOPING INDICATORS FOR POLICY ANALYSES.** By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, October, 2003. Water quantity and quality problems caused by agriculture raise questions about sustainability of some of the current practices in agricultural sectors. The environmental impact of irrigation is an issue of increasing importance to agriculture. There is increasing awareness that agricultural chemicals, pathogen and viruses diffuse into the environment with the potential to impact human health and environment quality. Against this background the report reviews current approaches to monitoring, modelling and the economic validation of water quality and water use issues related to agriculture and the environment. For further information visit  
[http://www.oecd.org/departement/0,2688,en\\_2649\\_337\\_95\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/departement/0,2688,en_2649_337_95_1_1_1_1,00.html).

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