



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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## Environment @ The WTO

### WTO: PROPOSALS TABLED ON FOREST TARIFF, NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE

Draft negotiating text on accelerated liberalisation of tariffs on forest products and disciplining forest-related non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade were presented during the WTO Negotiating Group on Non-agricultural Market Access (NAMA) the week of 17 April. During an informal meeting organised by the proponents of accelerated liberalisation of forest trade during NAMA week, Canada presented a proposal which sketches out the parameters of a so-called "sectoral initiative" on forests. In the proposal, Canada and other proponents of the initiative, which currently includes Hong Kong, New Zealand, Thailand and

the US, would reduce their tariffs on imports of forest products more than that required by the general NAMA formula. On NTBs, a Japanese proposal presented during the formal negotiating session calling for increased transparency in export restrictions could affect developing countries' ability to put in place log export bans or quotas to prevent unsustainable and illegal logging or to promote value-added processing of natural resources.

### Sectoral initiatives: forest liberalisation text tabled

During the NAMA week of negotiations, Canada presented a first draft of text for a sectoral initiative on accelerated tariff liberalisation in the forest sector. The draft, which was supported by their co-sponsors Hong Kong, New Zealand, Thailand and the US, outlines how those signing onto the agreement would reduce their tariffs on specified products more than that required by the overall NAMA formula for tariff reductions (see *Bridges Trade BioRes*, 29 April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-04-29/inbrief.htm>). It proposes to cover products in five forest categories, including wood; plywood; wood pulp; paper and paperboard; books and newspapers; and wooden furniture. Under the tariff reduction suggested in the submission, developed countries signing on could reduce their tariffs to zero and developing countries could reduce to an as-yet-to-be determined "x" tariff rate.

However, the paper leaves open by what date countries would have to reduce tariffs and how developing countries could have better, "special and differential" (S&D) treatment. S&D treatment options include possible exemption from the initiatives for some sensitive products for particular countries; credits for participation in the initiative in the overall NAMA formula; and longer

implementation periods or different implementation patterns for developing countries.

Notwithstanding the high participation at the informal meeting, the proponents encouraged more countries to commit to the initiative in order to reach the "critical mass" of participating countries, which should represent around 90 percent of world trade in forest products (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 17 March 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-03-17/inbrief.htm#3>). The current proponents cover an estimated 37 percent of the trade. For participation to even approach the 90 percent target, the EC, Japan and China, all of whom are major importers and exporters of forest products, would have to join the initiative. However, Japan has in the past said that it is not interested in getting involved because accelerated liberalisation of trade in forest products could have an adverse impact on sustainable use of forests (TN/MA/W/15/Add.1).

While most developing countries have been reluctant to formally get involved in the process, Thailand and others have been sympathetic because participation could enhance developing countries' abilities to attract foreign direct investment, reduce the cost of inputs to value-added production, and could increase south-south trade. The parameters of the formula, and the flexibilities for developing countries, could also strongly impact on South-South trade as well as the pervasive use of tariff peaks (high tariffs on sensitive products) and tariff escalation (when tariffs are low for raw or unfinished materials, somewhat higher for semi-finished products and highest for finished products) in forest trade.

Negotiations are continuing on other sectoral initiatives, including on fish products (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 17 February 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-02-17/inbrief.htm#1>). The possibility of creating initiatives that allow lower tariff reductions in sensitive sectors has been proposed by Turkey (in the context of textiles trade) and supported by several developing countries. However, in a submission to the NAMA group on 20 April, Singapore, supported by the US and Canada, objected to this proposal, arguing that sectoral initiatives should only go "over and above" the tariff cuts required by the NAMA formula.

**Export restrictions, taxes to be restrained: implications for natural resources?**

The Japanese proposal (TN/MA/W/15/Add.4) calls for the creation of a new agreement on enhanced transparency in export restrictions, listing wood and minerals as two sectors where the need for related rules has been raised. Several developing countries questioned Japan's motivation behind the proposal, fearing that the proposed rules might try to limit countries' flexibilities to use export restrictions. They argued that export bans, restrictions and taxes are legitimate policy tools to, for example, prevent illegal logging, promote sustainable forest management and encourage value-added processing of fish and forest products. One observer speculated that Japan might in fact be attempting to reduce the prices of primary inputs to production, including natural resource products such as minerals, fish and forest products, by making it easier for developing countries to export them as raw materials.

A proposal from the EC addresses the related issue of export taxes -- which are also used to prevent or control the export of natural resource products in some countries -- and presented a draft agreement on the issue that calls on all WTO Members to eliminate their export taxes, "as well as internal taxes and other charges" on products that are going to be exported.

## Background

WTO Members continue to struggle with how the WTO should deal with NTBs. Many Members have notified policies, regulations or other measures to the NAMA Negotiating Group that they consider to constitute NTBs. Several of these notifications concern measures adopted to promote environmental, social and developmental public policy objectives. While WTO Members note that many of the NTBs that have been notified to the Group are legitimate public policy measures, it is still unclear how they will be examined to determine whether they are legitimate, what criteria could be used in this process and what the WTO should do to address the measures -- which in some cases are national policies or legislation -- if they are found to be "illegitimate". Members are also unclear on whether they should address all these notified measures horizontally, that is, by the type of measure, or vertically, in terms of the affected sector.

The Japanese and EC proposals are available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>

ICTSD Reporting; "EU, Japan propose new WTO treaties to prevent export taxes," TWN, 24 April 2006.

## Standards

### LITTLE PROGRESS ON RISK ANALYSIS STANDARDS AT CODEX

The Codex Alimentarius Committee on General Principles (CCGP) at its meeting from 10 to 14 April in Paris, France decided to send Proposed Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for governments to a newly established working group for examination before considering them again at the next meeting of the CCGP. Although disagreement on the need for the Principles blocked movement on the text, sources suggested that an agreement could be reached if Members avoid detailed descriptions of controversial ideas such as the role of precaution in risk analysis.

#### New working group to discuss principles to guide government policy

To overcome deadlock on the role of precaution in risk analysis, the CCGP agreed in 2002 to develop two separate standards on Risk Analysis, with the first applying solely as guidance for Codex itself and the second to apply to governments (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 2 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-05-02/story2.htm>). The decision enabled the adoption in 2002 of Working Principles for Risk Analysis for application within the framework of Codex, and shortly thereafter the CCGP began new negotiations on the standard for governments using the Codex framework text as a guideline.

In April 2005, the CCGP decided to reopen the Proposed Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for governments by discarding the existing draft and starting discussions on a new one, after deadlock on the role of precaution in the principles (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 15 April 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-04-15/story2.htm>). In order to restart drafting the Principles, countries were invited to make proposals on the objective and scope of a future Codex document, as well as the elements that should be included in it, and an electronic working group put together a draft text based on these proposals.

In its comments on the draft, Argentina suggested that work on the document be discontinued since discussions show that there is no consensus to make progress. Brazil also recommended that this work should be suspended because document already approved by the Commission on Risk Analysis to the Codex system applies also to governments. Canada proposed a much simplified document, but supported the creation of the new text, saying that they would provide a framework to assist governments in developing a consistent, systematic approach to risk analysis.

At the meeting, the EC supported the development of Principles for Risk Analysis, especially insofar as they could help Members develop national standards compliant with the provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), and noted the importance of the legal status of Codex guidelines at the international level. A representative from the WTO Secretariat pointed out that if a national requirement is not based on a specific international standard, the WTO Member adopting the requirement must justify its measures by a risk assessment that takes into account the risk assessment techniques developed by Codex, the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in accordance with Article 5.1 of the SPS Agreement. Since the OIE and IPPC had developed guidance on risk analysis for their areas of jurisdiction (see below), and since Codex could build on the risk analysis document adopted for Codex process and make reference to the recently-released FAO/WHO Risk Analysis Manual, the WTO delegate suggested that "similar guidance by Codex could be useful to governments".

However, several developing countries who the EC argued would benefit from internationally-agreed standards for risk analysis were opposed to developing them. The Indian and Argentinean delegations, supported by several other developing countries, said they were opposed to the development of a document on risk analysis for governments. China suggested consulting with other Codex committees on the issue, while Cameroon argued that the CCGP should use the original mandate for the risk analysis principles for governments that had been adopted at the 22nd session of the CCGP.

As proposed by Argentina, Members agreed to convene a working group meeting between CCGP

sessions, likely in September or October 2006 in Brussels, chaired by Canada with Chile and Norway as co-chairs. The group will discuss and articulate the rationale for guidance to governments related to the application of risk analysis by governments, based on the discussion at the CCGP meetings; describe the output that Codex may require to respond to this rationale; and draft, for further discussion, some simple and horizontal principles on the implementation of risk analysis by governments.

### Background

While Codex standards are only voluntary, the Codex Alimentarius Commission is recognised by the SPS Agreement as the international organisation responsible for standard-setting related to food safety. WTO Members "shall base" their measures related to human and plant health on Codex's standards, guidelines or recommendations. Such measures "shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life of health, and presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions" of the SPS Agreement. The other two international standard-setting body recognised in the SPS Agreement are the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health and the Office International de Epizooties (OIE) for animal health.

### Additional Resources

Report of the Twenty-Third Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, 10-14 April 2006, Paris, France, can be accessed  
[http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/656/al29\\_33e.pdf](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/656/al29_33e.pdf)

Proposed Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety can be accessed here  
[ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccgp23/gp23\\_03e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccgp23/gp23_03e.pdf).

Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods can be accessed here  
[ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccgp22/cl04\\_57e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccgp22/cl04_57e.pdf).  
 ICTSD Reporting.

### In Brief

#### WTO MEMBERS TO MISS APRIL DEADLINE

WTO delegates on 24 April said that they would not meet an important end-April deadline for a framework deal on cutting agricultural tariffs, farm subsidies and duties on industrial goods as part of the Doha Round of negotiations. Citing wide divisions in the agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) talks, they agreed with WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy's assessment that it would be pointless to summon national trade ministers to Geneva for a high-level meeting at the end of the month, as suggested by a previous deadline, since there was no realistic chance of striking a substantive agreement. Instead, Lamy asked delegates to engage in non-stop negotiations in the weeks to come on technical issues, such as exemptions from reduction commitments in agriculture and NAMA talks. This would, he suggested, allow ministers to make the necessary political decisions about the extent of tariff and subsidy cuts. Getting to text-based negotiations as quickly as possible should be Members' "immediate objective", he said.

The WTO chief did not specify any new deadlines, but warned that waiting until the end of July for detailed parameters in the two areas "would guarantee failure". In the agriculture negotiations, Chair Ambassador Crawford Falconer of New Zealand has outlined a schedule for six weeks of continuous negotiations that will be based on 'reference papers' that describe areas of agreement and divergence and are expected to evolve into draft text. NAMA Chair Ambassador Don Stephenson of Canada will also resume consultations next week. The priority assigned to these two negotiating areas by many Members, and the relatively slow progress in reaching consensus on the basic parameters of new rules ("modalities"), will in coming weeks lead delegations to focus their time and efforts on these talks, potentially at the expense of so-called "endgame" issues such as special and differential treatment or environmental goods and services.

For additional information on current negotiations at the WTO, see Bridges Weekly, 26 April 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-04-26/index.htm>

ICTSD Reporting.

## THAILAND FILES NEW COMPLAINT AT WTO ON US SHRIMP DUTIES

On 24 April, Thailand filed a request for consultations under the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding regarding the antidumping measures that have been imposed by the US against shrimp from Thailand since January 2005 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 11 November 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-11-11/story1.htm>). The consultations will attempt to address Thailand's complaints against the US' use of a 'zeroing' methodology to calculate anti-dumping duties and its bond requirement. Thailand has argued that zeroing is inconsistent with the WTO Anti-dumping Agreement because it distorts the determination of dumping margins by leaving out negative dumping margins and only including positive dumping margins when calculating anti-dumping duties (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 25 November 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-11-25/story1.htm>). A WTO Appellate Body ruling released on 18 April has indicated that the US zeroing methodology is WTO-illegal, a finding that Thailand will undoubtedly draw upon. Additionally, Thailand has charged that the US requirement that exporters give the US government 10 percent of the value of annual exports for holding for a year (the "bond") is not allowed by the WTO. The new case is the third that has been filed at the WTO regarding the US anti-dumping measures on shrimp. Thailand filed a first request in December 2004 (WT/DS/343/1), but as it was limited to the zeroing complaint and did not include the bond complaint Thailand decided to file this new, second case. Similarly, in November 2005 Ecuador filed a complaint with the WTO on the use of zeroing in calculating the shrimp duties, on which negotiations have been proceeding on the sidelines of the US-Ecuador free trade agreement talks. Dozens of exporting companies from Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Thailand and Vietnam have asked for the duties that were imposed on their countries in January 2005 to be reviewed by the US Department of Commerce (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 April 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-04-03/inbrief.htm#5>). As well, India is currently involved in legal proceedings before a US Federal Court where they are addressing issues similar to those raised by Thailand.

According to WTO dispute settlement procedures, the parties now have 60 days to complete the consultations after which, if unsuccessful, Thailand can file a request for the establishment of a panel.

ICTSD Reporting.

## UNCTAD HIGHLIGHTS TRADE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Stringent environmental, health and safety standards for everything from electronics to food are making it harder for developing countries to export products to lucrative markets in the developed world, according to UNCTAD's recently released Trade and Environment Review (TER) 2006. On a positive note, the report also noted that with the right approach countries could overcome many of these barriers and even turn some into trade opportunities. The TER recommends that developing countries adopt a strategic, anticipatory approach to new requirements in place of their current reactive, "fire-fighting" approach. Such a strategy has two key elements: firstly, developing country producers and exporters should actively participate in consultative processes on the development and review of new environmental, health and safety requirements created by Western governments or companies. Secondly, developing country governments should look beyond the costs of compliance to the domestic opportunities and benefits that may be gained. For example, establishing expertise in products such as organic agriculture could boost exports and provide domestic benefits such as improved soil fertility, reduced pollution and improved yields, while the removal of heavy metals from electronics manufacturing could reduce national levels of toxic waste and the health and environmental dangers associated with it. The Review recommends that developing-country governments gather and quickly analyse information on new requirements, forge effective partnerships with domestic businesses to devise adjustment strategies and identify market opportunities and work with other governments and organisations to share experiences on best adjustment practice.

The review is available at <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=6768&intItemID=1397&lang=1>

ICTSD Reporting.

## CITES ANNOUNCES LIMITS TO TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN 2006

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on 10 April published a list of how much trade in the species covered by the Convention will be allowed in 2006. Included in the list is 150,000 kg of allowed exports of agarwood and 8,000 live humphead wrasse from Indonesia, but no quotas for the great white shark or hoodia plant, all of which were added to Appendix II of the Convention at the most recent Conference of the Parties (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 21 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-10-21/story1.htm>). On the controversial question of shared caviar stocks in the Caspian Sea, the Secretariat decided that only Iran will be allowed to export. The decision to allow Iran to export up to 44,370 kilogrammes of caviar comes after CITES decided in January 2006 to stop issuing certificates necessary for legal import of caviar from the region, saying that it did not have enough information to ensure that any country would be able to export and sustainably manage their stocks of sturgeon (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 January 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-01-20/inbrief.htm>). While the other Caspian Sea countries, namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan, failed to provide the required information proving that illegal harvesting and trade are not adversely affecting wild specimens, Iran's documentation passed the grade in April, and as such will be allowed to fish and export from the shared waters. According to CITES rules, potential exporters of threatened species protected under Appendix II of the Convention have to provide satisfactory information about the effectiveness of management and the sustainability of their use of the species based on scientific surveys and a regional conservation strategy in order to qualify for trade quotas backed up by certificates.

The listing of export quotas for trade in CITES species is available at <http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2006/ExportQuotas2006.pdf> and for caviar at <http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2006/Sturgeon2006.pdf>

"Hold the caviar: UN-backed body bans export of most endangered sturgeon", UN News, Service, 17 April 2006; "CITES finalizes 2006 caviar export quotas", CITES, 13 April 2006.

## Events & Resources

### EVENTS

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

### Coming Up In the Next Two Weeks

1-5 May, Ottawa, Canada: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING, 34TH SESSION. For further information, contact: the Codex Secretariat, tel: (+39 06) 5705 2287; fax: 5705 3369; email: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/current.jsp?lang=en>.

1-12 May, New York, USA: FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) will meet at UN Headquarters in New York from 1-12 May. As the first year of the second implementation cycle, CSD-14 will review progress in the following areas: Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air pollution/ Atmosphere; and Climate Change. For further information contact the Division for Sustainable Development, tel: (+ 1 212) 963-8102; fax: 963-4260; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm>.

1-5 May, Geneva, Switzerland: SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION (POPS COP-2). This meeting will consider the phasing-out of use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), including DDT, and exemptions to the restrictions on use and trade. Other topics to be discussed include best available techniques and best environmental practices, dioxin and furan releases, and measures to reduce or eliminate release of wastes. For further information, contact the Convention Secretariat, tel: (+41 22) 917 8191; fax: 797 3460; email: [ssc@pops.int](mailto:ssc@pops.int); Internet: [http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/oewg\\_nc/notice.htm](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/oewg_nc/notice.htm)

3-4 May, Bosnia and Herzegovina: THE FIRST IFOAM CONFERENCE ON ORGANIC WILD PRODUCTION. The conference, put on by the Agriculture Institute of Republic of Srpska, will focus on the harvesting of wild vegetable products from forest, "natural" lands, pastures and uncultivated land in the agriculture landscape. It will concentrate on current production that enters the organic market stream, but will also extend to other concepts, such as Fair Trade, sustainable forest management certification and Good Manufacturing Practices. For further information contact

the Conference secretariat, e-mail:  
polj.institut.bl@blic.net; Internet:  
<http://www.sdgateway.net/events/default.asp?EventID=3386>.

8-12 May, Rome, Italy: STANDARDS COMMITTEE. The Standards Committee (SC) was established by the Third Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM), in 2001. The SC manages the standard-setting process and assists in the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) which have been identified by the ICPM as priority standards. For further information, contact the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat; tel: (+39-06) 5705-4812; fax: 5705-4819; e-mail: IPPC@fao.org; Internet:  
<https://www.ippc.int/servlet/CDSServlet?status=ND0xMzM1NS40MzA5NSY2PWVujjMzPWV2ZW50cyYzNz1pbmZv>.

9 May, London, UK: IUU FISHING MEETING. Organised by Chatham House, this is the first in a regular series of Update and Stakeholder Consultation meetings held on the issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The meeting aims to allow speakers to provide updates on and discuss key initiatives on IUU fishing. International and national processes will be covered, as well as new research findings and industry and NGO initiatives. For further information contact Gemma Green, tel: (+44 20) 7957 5711; fax: 7957 5710; email: ggreen@chathamhouse.org.uk; Internet:  
<http://www.illegal-fishing.info/>.

10-12 May, Bad Blamau, Austria: WORKSHOP ON REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. This workshop, put on by Joanneum Research, will consider methodological and policy approaches to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries--an issue taken up during the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Montreal in December 2005. The matter will be taken up officially at the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies meetings taking place in Bonn later in May 2006. For further information contact Neil Bird, tel: (+43 316) 876 1423; e-mail: neil.bird@joanneum.at; Internet:  
<http://www.joanneum.at/REDD/>.

11 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO LAW, SCIENCE AND RISK COMMUNICATION: THE MEANING OF RISK COMMUNICATION IN PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW. Risk communication represents one of the three elements of risk analysis, the other two being risk assessment and risk management. This element has received far less attention than the other two. The Roundtable will make a contribution toward a better understanding of its importance and its complexity. e.g. regarding GMO products and the relationship between the WTO, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

For further information contact Urs Thomas, tel: (+44 22) 379-8491; email: Urs.Thomas@droit.unige.ch; Internet: <http://www.EcoLomics-International.org>.

### Other upcoming events

15-17 May, Buenos Aires, Argentina: RESOURCES OF THE SEABED AND SUBSOIL - LEGAL, SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ITS EXPLOITATION AND CONSERVATION. This international workshop, organised by the National Commission on the Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf (COPLA) and the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI), will bring together experts of different organizations involved in geological, geophysical, hydrographic, legal and economic aspects related to the outer limit of the continental shelf, and to the exploitation and conservation of the resources of the seabed and subsoil. For further information contact COPLA, e-mail: [copla@mrecic.gov.ar](mailto:copla@mrecic.gov.ar).

25-27 May, New Delhi, India: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY. This conference, organised by the TERI School of Advanced Studies, will focus on issues relating to food and nutritional security for our population and the impact of modern agricultural practices on the environment are two major challenges that need to be addressed in the coming years. It will be designed as a forum for formulating a road map for food and nutritional security and sustainable agricultural practices in the twenty-first century. For further information contact Vibha Dhawan, Ph.D., tel: (+91) 11-24682100/24682111; e-mail: [vibhad@teri.res.in](mailto:vibhad@teri.res.in); Internet: [http://www.scidev.net/misc/Tentative\\_Agenda\\_Feb\\_28.doc](http://www.scidev.net/misc/Tentative_Agenda_Feb_28.doc).

20 May - 2 June, Santiago de Compostela, Spain: COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE. This meeting, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), is expected to discuss proposed FAO guidelines for responsible fish trade; new safety and quality requirements for imports of fish and fishery products; labelling of fish to promote responsible trade and "traceability" systems for tracking fish "from net to table"; the role of fish trade in strengthening food security in the developing world; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and its implications for international fish trade; and rehabilitation and reconstruction of fisheries in tsunami-affected countries. For further information contact William Emerson, e-mail: [William.emerson@fao.org](mailto:William.emerson@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org/events/index.asp>.

31 May, Berne, Switzerland: SYMPOSIUM ON DESERTIFICATION AND GLOBAL CHANGE. Within the framework of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD), the Symposium will

present an opportunity for an open debate involving researchers and development practitioners. It aims to capitalise on the recent experience from development and research in order to identify novel, promising approaches to better management of scarce resources and improving livelihoods in arid and semi-arid areas. For further information contact Franziska Joehr, e-mail: [franziska.joehr@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:franziska.joehr@cde.unibe.ch); Internet: <http://www.nccr-north-south.unibe.ch/event/event.asp?contextID=130>.

29 June - 2 July, Ravello, Italy: AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY: FACTS, ANALYSIS AND POLICIES. This conference, organised by the International Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology Research (ICABR), will focus on the following topics: the impact of agricultural biotechnology on international trade; industrial organisation; public acceptance; impact of science; intellectual property rights; biotechnology & developing countries; regulation of biotechnology; biomasses and new products; governance issues for the biotechnology sector; biotechnology, trade and development; and ecogenomics and ecoproteomics. For further information contact Vittorio Santaniello, tel: (+39) 06-7259-5843; e-mail: [icabr@economia.uniroma2.it](mailto:icabr@economia.uniroma2.it); Internet: <http://www.economia.uniroma2.it>

26-28 September, Bergen, Norway: IMPLEMENTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES. This international conference, organised by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the governments of Iceland and Norway, will review experiences made and constraints encountered so far in order to identify strategies and best practices that will facilitate further implementation in practical fisheries management. For further information contact Per Sandberg, e-mail: [per.sandberg@fiskeridir.no](mailto:per.sandberg@fiskeridir.no); Internet: <http://cieaf.imr.no/>.

25-26 October, Amsterdam, Netherlands: NANO AND MICROTECHNOLOGIES IN THE FOOD AND HEALTHFOOD INDUSTRIES. This conference, organised by the Institute of Nano Technology, will showcase the applications of micro and nanotechnologies to the food and healthfood industries in Europe. The themes of the conference include: the role of nanotechnology in food processing, monitoring, labelling, storage, distribution and related issues; meeting the challenges of technology in food for nutrition and food for health; nanotechnology in rapid safety testing, and prevention of food borne disease Safety and regulatory issues related to nanotechnology; and public awareness and understanding of the role of nanotechnology in food, related health issues and disease avoidance. For further information contact Carrie Smith, tel: (+44) 1786-447520; e-mail: [carrie.smith@nano.org.uk](mailto:carrie.smith@nano.org.uk); Internet: [http://www.nano.org.uk/conferences/food\\_health/flyer.pdf](http://www.nano.org.uk/conferences/food_health/flyer.pdf)

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

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES AND TRADE: INTEGRATING PREVENTION MEASURES AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE RULES. By the Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy, January 2006. This report provides a general overview of the relationship between trade rules and invasive species. It includes sections on measures for preventing introductions of invasive species; an overview of international trade law including relevant agreements and jurisprudence under the WTO; and principles and recommendations for future work in the area. To access this paper, visit <http://www.cleanttrade.net/>

THE BRAZIL - RETREADED TIRES CASE: BACKGROUND PAPER. By the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), March 2006. The European Commission (EC) is currently challenging Brazil's ban on the importation of retreaded tires at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This briefing examines the environmental and legal aspects of the case, including the grounds of the dispute and potential outcomes. A WTO Panel was established on 20 January 2006 to examine the case. To access this paper, visit [http://www.ciel.org/Publications/Brazil\\_Tires\\_3Apr06.pdf](http://www.ciel.org/Publications/Brazil_Tires_3Apr06.pdf).

THE IMPACT OF DISASTERS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE. By Martin Gassebner, Alexander Keck and Robert The (WTO), March 2006). This paper examines the impact of major disasters on international trade flows using a gravity model. The panel data consists of more than 170 countries for the years 1962-2004 yielding approximately 300,000 observations. The authors find that the driving forces determining the impact of such events are the democracy level and, to a lesser extent, the area of the affected country. The less democratic and the smaller a country the more are its trade flows reduced in case it is struck by a disaster. It is also possible to distinguish between the effect of a disaster on an importing and an exporting country. To access this paper, visit [http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/reser\\_e/ersd200604\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/ersd200604_e.pdf).



**WHY THE GATS IS AN INADEQUATE FRAMEWORK FOR WATER SERVICES.** By Shiney Varghese (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, March 2006). This paper argues that the WTO-administered General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) poses an increasingly serious threat to the sustainable and equitable management of scarce water resources globally, and in developing countries in particular. The paper suggests that there are many ways in which GATS can impact water resource use and management. These include requests to open market access and investment in other water service sectors such as sanitation and sewage services, or water related services such as irrigation, environmental management and tourism development. It is therefore critically important, the article argues, that target countries analyse the environmental implications of the commitments they are requested to make before making commitments in any sector. To access this paper, visit <http://www.waterobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=78807>.

**A GUIDE TO BIODIVERSITY FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR: WHY BIODIVERSITY MATTERS AND HOW IT CREATES BUSINESS VALUE.** By the International Finance Cooperation (World Bank), 2006. This publication is a web-based guide for companies operating in emerging markets to understand, manage and benefit from biodiversity. It is designed to help companies operating in emerging markets better understand their relationship to biodiversity issues and how they can effectively manage those issues to improve business performance and benefit from biodiversity. To access this guide, visit <http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/enviro.nsf/Content/BiodiversityGuide>.

**VALUING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.** By Edward Barbier and Geoffrey Heal in 'The Economists' Voice 3:3, 2006. The authors explain an emerging field aimed at valuing ecosystems, whose purpose is to help policy makers improve the efficiency of resource allocation, facilitate the consideration of environmental externalities in public and private decision-making and illuminate the connections between ecosystems and their services. things like how best to get New York clean water or the role that expanded wetlands might play in limiting storm damage in New Orleans. To view this article, visit <http://www.bepress.com/ev/vol3/iss3/art2/>.

**TRANSGENIC CROPS, EU PRECAUTION, AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** By Kym Anderson and Lee Ann Jackson, University of Adelaide and World Trade Organization, Int. J. Technology and Globalisation, 2006. Agricultural biotechnologies have the potential to offer higher incomes for farmers in developing countries and lower-priced and better-quality food, feed and fibre. That potential is being heavily compromised, however, because of strict regulatory systems in the European Union and elsewhere governing transgenically modified (GM) crops. This paper examines why the EU has taken the extreme opposite policy position on GM food to equally affluent North America, what has been the impact on developing country welfare of the limited adoption of GM crop varieties so far, and what impact GM adoption by developing countries themselves could have on their economic welfare. To view this article, visit [http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA\\_content/documents/ijtganderson.pdf](http://bcsia.ksg.harvard.edu/BCSIA_content/documents/ijtganderson.pdf).

**LIVING THE PROMISE? THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN ENABLING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM AGRO-BIOTECH.** By Diane Osgood, International Journal of Technology and Globalisation, 2006. Biotechnology and transgenic crops (tGMOs) hold great promises as part of integrated solutions for poor and small-scale farmers. The private sector, which to date controls most releases of tGMOs globally, has combined philanthropy and commercialisation to this end. Yet few benefits have materialised. This narrative paper surveys and provides a framework for how multinational companies transfer GMOs. It analyses the companies' limitations, including internal incentives, indemnity and intellectual property rights. To access this paper, visit [http://www.inderscience.com/search/index.php?action=record&rec\\_id=9125&prevQuery=&ps=10&m=or](http://www.inderscience.com/search/index.php?action=record&rec_id=9125&prevQuery=&ps=10&m=or).

**GLOBAL ACTORS, MARKETS AND RULES DRIVING THE DIFFUSION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CROPS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** By Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, International Journal of Technology and Globalisation, 2006. The theme of this special issue – genetically modified (GM) crops – goes to the heart of the process of globalisation, technology and development. This introductory essay explains how this new technology is being driven by the actors (multinational corporations), markets (large

global markets) and rules (intellectual property) of globalisation. But it is also shaped by the other national and global actors (farmers, research scientists, anti-globalisation and environmental NGOs), markets (national priorities) and rules (national biosafety). To view this issue, visit [http://www.inderscience.com/search/index.php?action=record&rec\\_id=9123&prevQuery=&ps=10&m=or](http://www.inderscience.com/search/index.php?action=record&rec_id=9123&prevQuery=&ps=10&m=or).

**WIPO-UNEP STUDY ON THE ROLE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THE USE OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE.** By Anil K. Gupta, World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), 2006. This publication uses three detailed case studies from Nigeria, India and Mali to consider the role of the existing intellectual property system in providing benefit-sharing mechanisms for local communities and individual innovators. To view this study, visit [http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/publications/769e\\_un\\_ep\\_tk.pdf](http://www.wipo.int/tk/en/publications/769e_un_ep_tk.pdf).

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.** By Antonella Ingrassia, Daniele Manzella and Elsbietta Martyniuk, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), 2005. This study provides an overview of the main relevant legal instruments at both international and national levels (including e.g. the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety). The regulatory framework of the European Union is presented as an example of an integrated regional legal framework. A general assessment of the status of national regulatory frameworks is given as well as general recommendations for the development of national legislation. To view this study, visit <http://dad.fao.org/en/refer/library/reports/LegalStudy89.pdf>.

**THE FIRST DECADE OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.** By Jorge Fernandez-Cornejo and Margriet Caswell, with contributions from Lorraine Mitchell, Elise Golan and Fred Kuchler, Economic Information Bulletin No. (EIB-11), April 2006. Ten years after the first generation of genetically engineered (GE) varieties became commercially available, adoption of these varieties by U.S. farmers is widespread for major crops. Driven by farmers' expectations of higher yields, savings in management time, and lower pesticide costs, the

adoption of corn, soybean, and cotton GE varieties has increased rapidly. Despite the benefits, however, environmental and consumer concerns may have limited acceptance of GE crops, particularly in Europe. To view this report, visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB11/>.

**COPMARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEMS IN EAST AFRICA.** By Gregory Jaffe (International Food Policy Research Institute, January 2006). This paper analyzes the current and proposed biosafety systems in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda using a set of components and characteristics common to functional and protective biosafety regulatory systems. It also assesses how those systems take into account the major international legal obligations that relate to biosafety, such the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol. The paper identifies certain areas in each country's biosafety regulatory systems where further development and clarification would improve the biosafety system, making it more functional and protective. To access this paper, visit <http://www.ifpri.org/divs/eptd/dp/eptdp146.asp>

**HIDDEN UNCERTAINTIES: WHAT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DOESN'T WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT THE RISKS OF GMOS.** By Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, April 2006. The European Commission has released new documents that question the safety of genetically modified foods and crops. The papers form the basis of the European Communities' (EC) scientific arguments in the current trade dispute at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). These new documents however show a different picture; one of uncertainties, lack of data and subjective judgements that have to be made about the safety GM crops and food. To view this report, visit [http://www.foeeurope.org/biteback/download/hidden\\_uncertainties.pdf](http://www.foeeurope.org/biteback/download/hidden_uncertainties.pdf).

## VACANCIES

**DIRECTOR GENERAL, IUCN - THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION.** The position is responsible for leading an organization with over one thousand members across 140 countries. The outgoing Director General, Achim Steiner, is leaving IUCN at the end of May after being appointed as the new head of the UN Environment

Programme. The deadline for applications is 7 May. Further information can be found at <http://www.iucn.org/dgsearch/>.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSIONAL OFFICER, CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH. This CIFOR position is specifically targeted at developing policy relevant research on adaptation in Burkina Faso, Mali and Ghana. The deadlines for application have been extended to 12 May for Dutch and developing country candidates residing in the Netherlands and to 19 May for other candidates. Further information can be found at [http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/trofcca/attachment/E-mail\\_Advert\\_Dutch\\_APO\\_CIFOR\\_\(ENV\).pdf](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/trofcca/attachment/E-mail_Advert_Dutch_APO_CIFOR_(ENV).pdf).

ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME OFFICER, UNEP. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is seeking two associate programme officers, designated as P-2 UN positions. One will be located in the Finance Initiative Unit of the Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP Division on Technology, Industry and Economics in Geneva, Switzerland. The closing date for applications for this position is 30 May 2006. Further information can be found at <http://hq.unep.org/vacancies/Display.asp?PostID=604144>. The second post is located in UNEP's

Division of Regional Cooperation, in Nairobi, Kenya. The deadline for applications is 1 May 2006. Further information can be found at <http://hq.unep.org/vacancies/Display.asp?PostID=604390>.

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONAL, WORLD FISHERIES TRUST. The WFT is currently in need of an intermediate to senior level development communication consultant (IEC specialist with at least 10 years experience) who speaks English and Portuguese fluently (C level, preferably Brazilian Portuguese) and holds a Canadian passport or is a permanent resident of Canada (funder restrictions). WFT, together with its Brazilian and Canadian partners, is implementing a Canadian International Development Agency financed project designed to improve sustainable livelihoods and conservation of Brazil's inland fisheries in the São Francisco River. Key elements of this project are to improve fisheries management practices, enhance social support programs and economic opportunities for fishing families in riverine communities, and upgrade the conservation status of fish stocks, including improving environmental conditions. Further information can be found at <http://www.comminit.com/vacancy2677.html>

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