



# Bridges Trade BioRes

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

**Issue: 19 January 2007**

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## Sustainable Energy and Climate Change

### **CLIMATE CHANGE HIGH ON 2007 GLOBAL AGENDA**

The European Commission recently released a comprehensive new energy strategy, seeking to launch the union onto a climate-friendly, low-carbon path. Meanwhile, a consortium of major Asian economies agreed to cooperate on ways to enhance energy security and address climate change, in parallel with efforts to further integrate their trading sectors. Both initiatives took place in early 2007 as meteorologists were taking stock of the unusually warm weather in 2006, and warning major climate-related events, including discussions under the German G-8 presidency and the release

of a comprehensive assessment of the body of scientific knowledge on climate change.

### **EU energy overhaul set to improve sustainability, security.**

On 10 January, the European Commission launched its new energy strategy, coined "Energy for a Changing World." Efforts to combat climate change are the centrepiece of the energy package, and Commission President José Manuel Barroso stressed that "the challenges of climate change, increasing import dependence and higher energy prices are faced by all EU members. A common European response is necessary to deliver sustainable, secure and competitive energy." The strategy seeks to trigger a new "industrial revolution" in terms of developing a low carbon economy.

In concrete terms, the strategy sets a new and unilateral European target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions: the EU would cut its emissions by 20 percent under 1990 levels by 2020, or by 30 percent if other major polluters come onboard. In 2020, 20 percent of European energy would be produced from renewable sources, and biofuels would make up 10 percent of vehicle fuels. Energy efficiency would be enhanced by 20 percent in the same period. In addition, the new strategy would boost funding for research and development of new technologies, seeking to make Europe the market leader in the area of green energy technology. Funding would also be provided to improve the sustainability of existing options, such as carbon capture and storage.

Whether to use nuclear energy would be up to individual member states, although the strategy specifies that their dismantling should be accompanied by efforts to bring new renewable power online so as not to work against the climate goals.

The strategy would also improve the functioning of the internal market, and includes options for unbundling energy utilities and increasing continental inter-connections.

Energy security is another cornerstone of the new energy strategy. Currently the EU imports 50 percent of its energy, a percentage set to jump to 65 by 2020 if no action is taken. Disputes between Russia and its neighbouring countries through which gas is transferred to Europe have led to interruptions both in 2006 and this year. External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner commented that this served as a "wake-up call" to treat energy security as a "strategic question." Europe will need to find a unified voice in its dealings with the outside world in this regard, notably with its main suppliers such as Russia, which so far has dealt with Europe in a piecemeal approach. The EU has also begun to include energy cooperation as part of its wider external trade policy (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 3 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-11-03/story2.htm>).

The new energy strategy received mixed reviews in Europe. Business lobby group UNICE commented that "business needs predictability but far-reaching unilateral EU targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases are unacceptable." Friends of the Earth on the other hand said greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced by a minimum of 30 percent by 2020, and called for sector-specific renewable energy and efficiency targets.

Overall, the EU's emissions are on the rise, and without new action would increase by five percent by 2020. The union has set as a goal to limit climate change to a two degree Celsius increase, although there is now a 50 percent chance that warming will amount to 5 degrees by the end of the century.

The energy strategy must now be endorsed by the European Parliament and members states, and turned into legislation.

### **Energy part of EU trade policy**

Prior to the release of the EU energy strategy, Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson touched on some of the core issues, albeit from a trade perspective. He outlined his vision on trade and climate change in a speech on 18 December, noting that while action to address climate change can lead to upfront costs and competitiveness challenges vis-à-vis

trading partners, it will also spur technological development and position early movers as market leaders with regard to new and green technologies. He advocated "selling more green goods, shifting the whole base of our economy onto a sustainable footing; showing others how to do it, and exporting the means to do so." Citing the Stern report on the cost of climate change, he said that the costs of inaction would be many times higher than the costs of taking action now (see Bridges Weekly, 1 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-01/inbrief.htm#3>). He suggested looking at the Kyoto Protocol as a trade and investment agreement, saying that "an important hidden imperative behind Kyoto is the creation of an open global market in environmental technologies."

Mandelson provided some suggestions for how to harness the power of trade to help reach climate change goals. Firstly, he suggested reviving WTO negotiations on environmental goods and services (EGS) "in light of the climate security challenge," and advocated the phase-in of zero tariffs for industries and technologies that are key to fighting global warming. Mandelson said he would contact WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, asking him to spearhead efforts in this regard. While noting that Europe is a market leader in green technology, he also pointed to the growth in South-South trade in the sector.

Second, Mandelson said Europe should use all bilateral trade agreements to directly address trade and investment in green technologies. "These steps will encourage a better functioning global market in green goods and services. This must be trade policy's initial contribution to stabilising our climate," according to Mandelson. He strongly focused on how freer trade can provide incentives for clean technology that is needed to combat climate change, and distanced himself from the idea of imposing a climate border tax adjustment on countries that have refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. He questioned the legality and political wisdom of such a move, proposed by French president Jacques Chirac and more or less cautiously embraced of several other European leaders.

### **Asian nations to cooperate to address climate change**

Action to address climate change has recently come to fore in Asia as well. A meeting between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos,

Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam - agreed not only to deepen integration within the bloc and expand trade liberalisation, but also ended with a Declaration of East Asian Energy Security. The declaration, which Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand also signed onto at the ASEAN annual summit on 15 January in Cebu, the Philippines, deals directly with climate change.

The declaration stresses the urgency of dealing with climate change, as well as noting the growing energy needs in the region. As such, it recognises the need to strengthen the development of the renewables sector, including biofuels. The signatories agree to promote open trade and cooperation in the energy sector, and will encourage the development of both renewable energy and cleaner conventional sources, as well as energy efficiency. Specifically on biofuels - with several members being potentially large producers of both sugar-based ethanol and palm oil - they agree to "work towards freer trade on biofuels and a standard on biofuels used in engines and motor vehicles."

While the declaration set aspirational goals rather than hard targets, New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark pointed out that it serves as a useful first step, given that "Up until [now] the motivation for discussing these issues has been more on the problems arising from the price of oil and the volatility and the security questions of the issues." Clark was reportedly one of the driving forces behind getting climate change solidly on the meeting's energy security agenda. Climate change was also discussed at the energy segment at the trade meeting between the Pacific rim (APEC) nations two months earlier (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 1 December 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-12-01/story1.htm>).

### What global climate action in 2007?

According the World Meteorological Organisation, 2006 is the world's sixth-warmest year since record-taking began 150 years ago. Mainstream media has reported extensively on anomalies worldwide, including droughts and flooding in the greater Horn of Africa, the mild autumn in Europe and record wildfires in the US, and linked these and other events to human-induced climate change. While negotiations under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November last year gave scant results (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 1 December

2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-12-01/story2.htm>), talks will continue at the next Conference of the Parties in Bali at the end of this year. The current phase of reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012, and the world urgently needs the security of a replacement agreement that will follow in order to keep investments in both power production and carbon trade regimes on track.

Germany will also host talks on climate change at the Group of Eight (G8) industrialised nations summit in June, and in February the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will be releasing "Climate Change 2007" - its fourth comprehensive assessment report on the scientific body of knowledge regarding climate change. Meanwhile, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer, has asked the new UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to organise a special, high-level meeting between governments on climate change this year.

### Additional resources

Speech by Commissioner Mandelson  
[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/mandelson/speeches\\_articles/sppm136\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/mandelson/speeches_articles/sppm136_en.htm).

Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security  
<http://www.aseansec.org/19319.htm>.

ICTSD reporting; "Commission proposes an integrated energy and climate change package to cut emissions for the 21st Century," EU RELEASE, 10 January 2007; "EU Business Slams Emissions, Renewables Targets," REUTERS, 11 January 2007; "Brussels Bows to Global Warming," DER SPIEGEL, 10 January 2007; "Asian Leaders Sign Energy Pact at Landmark Summit," REUTERS, 16 January 2007; "2006 to be sixth-warmest year on record--WMO," REUTERS, 14 December 2006.

### Sustainable Land Management

#### CONFERENCE CONCLUDES INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DESERTIFICATION

Participants at a conference marking the end of the UN International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) in December 2006 explored key policy options for reversing land degradation in drylands. While trade was not on the agenda as such, participants highlighted both possible negative impacts of international trade on land management,

and trade-related factors that could enhance sustainable practices in drylands. Market incentives, new market opportunities and market access for small farmers and pastoralists -- even at the international level -- could foster investment in sustainable land management (SLM), the experts said.

The Joint International Conference "Desertification and the International Policy Imperative" took place from 17-19 December 2006 in Algiers, Algeria. The conference was convened by the United Nations University (UNU) in partner with 10 international agencies. It aimed to facilitate dialogue on desertification-related policy issues in the context of poverty reduction and threatened human security, and built on the work undertaken over the year by the international community on IYDD initiatives.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the 250 participants emphasised the importance of involving a wide range of stakeholders in designing sustainable policies for land management. They also stressed the need for political commitment and cooperation for building capacity in order to achieve this objective. Six partner research institutes present at the meeting committed to support an international master's programme for drylands at the UNU.

### **Trade an incentive for SLM?**

Throughout the three-day conference, participants made comments acknowledging that while international trade and market factors can be drivers of land degradation, this need not be the case. Market incentives and the creation of accessible and efficient markets for small farmers and pastoral products -- also at the international scale -- can contribute to enhancing SLM. Assétou Kanouté of the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Programme identified agricultural market failure of as one of the most significant constraints to reviving African agriculture. Her programme seeks to develop technologies for sustainably intensifying subsistence-oriented farming systems and smallholder sustainable production systems, and to facilitate the formulation and adoption of policies that will encourage innovation to improve the livelihoods of smallholders and pastoralists. Additionally, it aims at improving the accessibility and efficiency of markets for small farmers and pastoralists.

Some participants said there is a need to design trade policies that foster investment in SLM. In a

session on "new policy directions to mainstream desertification policies," Jonathan Davies, World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism, noted that pastoralism is the most economically viable means of managing drylands. While the economic viability of this activity is undermined by policy failures in many countries, the role of pastoralists could be enhanced through the introduction of market incentives, he said.

According to a paper by Barry Shapiro, International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), poor farmers can manage land sustainably, especially when there are emerging market opportunities. The right technologies, rural infrastructure and policies must be in place, however. His paper on "Linking Poor Farmers to Markets to Provide Incentives for SLM" explores the relationship between increasing market access for the poor and agricultural intensification, and the role of policies and investments in determining whether market integration and intensification results in land degradation or SLM. The exploitation of local comparative advantages (such as soil, climate, biodiversity, and labour), access to technologies, and improved access to growing markets are factors that foster development in dryland regions. The paper specifies that incentives for dryland dwellers to invest in SLM and improve their competitiveness and profitability include land rights, health and education, and financing and access to capital for small producers. Government policies such as food import subsidies undermine the ability of the poor to use sustainable agricultural practices.

### **Payments for environmental services**

Participants also considered the possible creation of systems for payments for environmental services in order to combat desertification and reduce climate change. Céline Dutilly-Diane, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) reflected on the potential of these new markets. She highlighted that dry rangelands, if managed well, provide environmental services (i.e. wind erosion protection, conservation of biodiversity, soil carbon sequestration, and water productivity) and suggested that payments to those who produce such services could be considered as a means to reverse land degradation in semi-arid and arid areas of West Asia and North Africa. However, to be able to evaluate the potential benefits of healthy rangelands and identify who should pay for those benefits, scientific knowledge of both the assessment of land rehabilitation and environmental

services has to improve, and numerous questions remain. For example, since most of the rangelands in arid regions are common-pool or open access resources, the task of determining who bears the costs of proper rangeland management and who should receive the payments will be difficult, she said. The use of financial services to combat desertification is a response to the view that socio-economic and market factors are a major driver of the unsustainable land use practices that cause land degradation.

### **Background: Impact of trade on land degradation**

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) report on desertification, which was published in 2005, recognised that the international trade regime and related government policies, as well as macroeconomic reforms and a focus on raising agricultural production for exports can affect the resilience of dryland ecosystems directly or indirectly. These factors may lead to inappropriate crop intensification, especially under monocropping systems; expansion of agriculture to marginal lands; inefficient and wasteful use of land and water resources and the use of farm machinery and agronomic practices that are not suitable for local soil and water conditions. Also, the growth of large-scale export-oriented agriculture often pushes small farmers onto marginal lands (those which are inherently incapable of sustaining food production) and forces them to adopt unsustainable farming practices, which in turn decrease soil fertility and exacerbate land degradation.

### **Additional resources**

The meeting documents are available at [http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/drylands/IYD\\_D.htm](http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/drylands/IYD_D.htm).

The presentation summaries are available at [http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/drylands/IYD\\_D\\_Conference\\_2006-Abstracts.pdf](http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/drylands/IYD_D_Conference_2006-Abstracts.pdf).

A comprehensive summary report by IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/africa/desert/jicd/>.

To access the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) report on desertification, visit <http://www.maweb.org/en/Products.aspx?> ICTSD reporting; ENB Vol 6, No. 1; "Better Farming Urged to Limit Deserts, Refugees", REUTERS, 15 December 2006.

### **In Brief**

#### **CITES LIFTS CASPIAN CAVIAR BAN**

The Caspian sea range states -- Russia, Turkmenistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan -- will be able to resume their caviar exports in 2007. The UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) issued export quotas for three sturgeon species on 2 January, thus ending a ban it imposed a year ago following the failure of the Caspian range states to meet requirements concerning the sustainability of the catch (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 20 January 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-01-20/inbrief.htm#2>). The five states have reached an agreement among themselves to cut the catch by 20 percent compared to levels in 2005.

The ban remains in force, however, on caviar from one Caspian sturgeon species, the beluga sturgeon. This caviar is the most expensive in the world, and the issue will be revisited at the end of the month pending further documentation from Russia. Due to sharply decreasing sturgeon populations in the Black Sea/Lower Danube, the range states in this region have not requested export quotas, but are seeking to let the species recover under fishing bans.

Local groups have questioned the sustainability of resuming Caspian caviar exports. "The allocation of quotas will be considered by our side as the approval of the caviar sale, and it means that illegal fishing and selling will occur," said Mels Eleusizov, head of the Kazakh ecological group Tabigat. "A one year of ban for caviar export is not enough to restore the stock," added Kazakhstan-based analyst Eduard Poletaev. They also pointed to problems related to oil extraction as a main reason for the sturgeon decline. Up to 90 percent of caviar is sourced from the Caspian.

The CITES argument is that increased revenues from caviar will increase the sustainability in the industry by providing incentives for creating the conditions necessary to ensure the long-term recovery of the valuable species. CITES Secretary-General Willem Wijnstekers stressed, however, that "ensuring that sturgeon stocks recover to safe levels will take decades of careful fisheries management and an unrelenting struggle against poaching and illegal trade."

In 1998, the 169 CITES member states decided to place all sturgeon species on Appendix II of the Convention, which includes species that Parties have agreed to subject to trade controls in order to ensure their survival. While wild sturgeon populations continue to decline, caviar from farmed varieties is on the increase.

“U.N. Lifts Ban on Caviar Exports from the Caspian,” REUTERS, 3 January 2007; “Caspian Caviar Export Quotas Set, but Beluga in Limbo,” ENS, 2 January 2007, “Following 2006 ban, CITES authorizes 2007 quotas for all Caspian Sea caviar except beluga,” CITES PRESS RELEASE, 2 January 2007; “Caspian Caviar Quotas Called Ineffective,” ENS, 11 January 2007.

### **EU, INDONESIA COLLABORATE TO PREVENT ILLEGAL LOGGING**

The EU and Indonesia have agreed to start negotiations on creating a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) that would ensure that EU timber imports from Indonesia have been legally harvested.

The VPA will be negotiated under the European Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme, which was established as a follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to improve developing country capacity to control illegal logging and reduce trade in illegal timber. The purpose of the VPA is to contribute to sustainable forest management, and it includes measures such as a timber licensing scheme.

The tropical forest in Borneo - shared by Malaysia and Indonesia - is the habitat of more than 75 percent of the world's orang-utan population, which has been exponentially declining in the past 20 years. Illegal logging is the main driver of the decline. Deforestation also leads to landslides that occur after heavy rains in Indonesia. Indonesia lost 28 million hectares of forest between 1990 and 2005.

The EU has already started negotiations on a VPA with Malaysia (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-10-06/inbrief.htm>). Indonesia also recently signed an agreement with the US to cooperate to prevent illegal logging.

“EU, Indonesia Target Illegal Logging Pact,” REUTERS, 10 January 2007; “Indonesia timber deal struck,” GREEN CONSUMER GUIDE,

11 January 2007; “Natural Disasters or Mass Murders,” WORLDPRESS.ORG, 16 January 2007; “U.S., Indonesia Agree to Target Illegal Logging,” ENS, 20 November 2006.

### **ENVIRONMENT NEGOTIATIONS LOW ON PRIORITY LIST OF WTO MEMBERS**

Doha Round environment Chair Ambassador Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh) expressed concern about the slow progress of the talks at a 19 December informal meeting, after Members used the first gathering of the negotiating group since the July suspension largely to restate their positions.

With regard to the Doha mandate to expedite trade liberalisation for 'environmental goods and services', some countries such as India, Egypt, Thailand, Brazil and Chile proposed that Members should work on a compromise between two main approaches proposed for doing so. The so-called 'list' approach would identify specific goods and earmark them for liberalisation; the 'project' approach would temporarily liberalise trade in environmental goods and services used in approved environmental projects. These countries, which favour the latter approach, added that they would elaborate on how to operationalise it within the WTO system (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 14 July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-07-14/story1.htm>).

On the other side, countries, such as Canada, Korea and Japan, which favour the 'list' approach, proposed to shorten the potential environmental goods lists put forward by nine Members (and compiled into an informal document by the WTO Secretariat in November 2005, TN/TE/W/63), which they suggested could enable negotiators to reach agreement.

To help move the negotiations forward, the chair suggested holding informal consultations to discuss technical issues related to environmental goods, such as special & differential treatment and non-tariff barriers. He also proposed informal talks on other aspects of the trade and environment mandate, including information exchange between the WTO and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and criteria for observer status.

In a related development, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson on 18 December called for eliminating tariffs on climate-change related goods such as renewable energy technology, saying that

this would help combat global warming and encourage investment in further innovation (see related story, this issue).

ICTSD reporting.

### **EU MEMBER STATES BACK AUSTRIAN BAN ON BIOTECH PRODUCTS**

In a resounding defeat for the European Commission, a large majority of EU member states on 18 December voted in support of Austria's right to ban two genetically modified maize varieties. While these crops have already been approved at the EU-wide level, Austria has invoked the safeguard clause under the EU's approval procedures -- allowing member states to adopt safeguard measures 'as a result of new or additional information' -- to justify the ban.

Of the 25 member states, only the UK, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Sweden backed the Commission's proposal to instruct Austria to lift the ban. A similar proposal had been defeated in 2004, but the Commission had hoped that a recent WTO ruling against the national-level biotech bans would provide the necessary political backing for its initiative.

The WTO ruling called on the Commission to bring the national marketing and import bans instituted by Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg in line with WTO obligations after concluding that they could not be justified as precautionary measures and were not based on an adequate risk assessment (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-10-04/story2.htm>).

Following member states' rejection of its proposal, the Commission will now need to consider alternative options for implementing the ruling, which could include judicial action or requesting Austria to provide a risk assessment that complies with WTO requirements.

ICTSD reporting; "Austria allowed to keep its ban on GM corn", FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 December 2006.

### **FAO: LIVESTOCK DIVERSITY DWINDLING**

The globalisation of markets is severely eroding the genetic diversity of livestock, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said on 15

December. According to the first global assessment of the status of animal genetic resources, about 20 percent of animal breeds are at risk of extinction, and one breed lost each month.

"Maintaining animal diversity will allow future generations to select stocks or develop new breeds to cope with emerging issues, such as climate change, diseases, and changing socio-economic factors," said José Esquinas-Alcázar, Secretary of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Modern agriculture has developed specialised breeds that optimise specific traits to increase productivity, narrowing the genetic base and discarding species in response to market forces. According to the FAO report, increasing international trade and the rise of integrated food chains have amplified competition, adding to the decrease in livestock diversity. The report's section on trade discusses some of the risks and benefits of such global competition for the local farmer.

The report was discussed at the FAO headquarters in Rome at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. A first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, hosted by the Government of Switzerland, is scheduled to take place in Interlaken in September 2007. The conference is set to adopt a global plan of action to halt the loss of animal genetic resources worldwide and improve their sustainable use.

### **Additional resources**

The access the draft report, titled the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources visit <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/AH473e00.pdf>.

ICTSD Reporting; "20 percent of animal breeds are at risk of extinction," FAO RELEASE, 15 December 2006; "Fifth of Farm Animal Breeds May Face Extinction-FAO," REUTERS, 18 December 2006.

### **EU AGREES MILD COD QUOTA CUTS**

Following annual end-of-year talks on fishing quotas, EU ministers agreed on 22 December to cut cod catches in 2007 by 14-20 percent and to reduce the days of fishing at sea by 8-10 percent. The ministers also agreed to reduce quotas on, among

other, southern hake, North Sea sole and plaice, ling, and herring in waters west of Scotland and Ireland. They further agreed to increase quotas for northern hake and Bay of Biscay sole, following stock recovery.

The European Commission had originally called for a 25 percent cut in cod total allowable catches (TACs), but major fishing nations objected and the 14-20 percent cut was the result of arduous talks. Joe Borg, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, stressed that "The Commission's proposal for the 2007 TACs and quotas was aimed at reinforcing the gradual but sustained approach that offers the best chance of reconciling the need to rebuild depleted fish stocks with the needs of fishers whose livelihoods depend on continued fishing activities."

Scientists have warned that the cod stock is dangerously depleted, and recommend a complete ban on cod fishing for at least one year to ensure recovery. Environmental group WWF called the new compromise a "disaster." According to the group, about 23,000 tons of cod are caught in the North Sea under current quotas, but a further 23,000 tons are discarded as by-catch of other fisheries.

"EU slashes cod fishing quotas," AFP, 21 December 2006; "Commission: Council decision on 2007 fish quotas confirms gradual approach to sustainable fisheries," EU RELEASE, 21 December 2006; "Europe's fishing quota cuts fail to ease fears," FINANCIAL TIMES, 21 December 2006.

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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>.

#### ICTSD Event

31 January-1 February, Geneva, Switzerland: EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE ON PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT THROUGH TRADE. Convened by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD in collaboration with ICTSD, this dialogue aims to promote investment in sustainable land management in dryland regions through market access, trade, and knowledge mobilisation. For

further information and to register, please contact Marie Chamay, e-mail: [mchamay@ictsd.ch](mailto:mchamay@ictsd.ch) or Eleonora Canigiani, e-mail: [e.canigiani@ifad.org](mailto:e.canigiani@ifad.org); internet: <http://www.global-mechanism.org/news-events/events/promoting-slm-through-trade-workshop/>.

### Coming up in the next two weeks

20-25 January, Nairobi, Kenya: WORLD SOCIAL FORUM. The 2007 World Social Forum is set to converge in Nairobi, Kenya for five days of cultural resistance and celebration; panels, workshops, symposia, processions, film nights and more. For further information, visit <http://wsf2007.org/>.

22 & 24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - CHAD. 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).

22-24 January, New Delhi, India: SEVENTH DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT. Organised by the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) Focusing on the sustainability of natural resources, this summit will bring together decision makers from government, business, civil society, the media, the research and scientific community to discuss and debate long term sustainable development. Themes include climate change and health, technology for the poor, prudent use of natural resources, and water management systems. For further information see <http://static.teriin.org/dsds/2007/about.htm>.

24-28 January, Davos, Switzerland: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2007: SHAPING THE GLOBAL AGENDA, THE SHIFTING POWER EQUATION. Be it in geopolitics from west to east, or in business from producers to consumers, power is shifting at a tremendous pace, raising questions of how we are to organize and operate in a changing global environment. This year's World Economic Forum Annual Meeting summit is a unique opportunity will bring together leaders from all walks of life -- business, government, the media, academia, the arts and civil society -- to examine global shifts in power -- in geopolitics from west to east, as well as in business from producers to consumers. They will address questions of how to organise and operate in a changing global environment, and seek to this shift and shape the 2007 global agenda. For further



information see  
<http://www.weforum.org/en/index.htm>.

26-27 January, Budapest, Hungary:  
FARMSUBSIDY.ORG CONFERENCE.  
Farmsubsidy.org is planning to hold a two-day conference on "Transparency in European Union Farm Subsidies." The conference will assemble current participants in the Farmsubsidy.org network and people who would like to become involved in promoting greater transparency in European Union agricultural policies. Farmsubsidy.org is a project coordinated by the Danish International Center for Analytical Reporting (DICAR) and EU Transparency, a non-profit organisation in the UK. Its aim is to obtain detailed data relating to payments and recipients of farm subsidies in every EU member state and make this data available in a way that is useful to European citizens. The project involves journalists, analysts and campaigners in more than ten countries. For further information see  
[http://www.farmsubsidy.org/budapest\\_conference](http://www.farmsubsidy.org/budapest_conference).

29-31 January, Brussels, Belgium: 2007  
EUROPEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY  
CONFERENCE. Participants will hear the  
Commissioners for Energy and Environment, Mr  
Andris Piebalgs and Mr Stavros Dimas speak on the  
future of renewables; find out about the priorities of  
the German Presidency; meet, network and be fully  
update on all the key developments in energy policy.  
For further information see  
<http://www.erec.org/default.htm>.

31 January to 2 February, Geneva, Switzerland:  
WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY -  
JAPAN. 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).

### Other upcoming events

5-9 February, Nairobi, Kenya: TWENTY-  
FOURTH SESSION OF THE UNEP  
GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL  
MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM. GC-  
24/GMEF will focus on the emerging policy issues  
of globalisation and the environment, as well as the  
United Nations reform process. For further  
information see <http://www.unep.org/gc/gc24/>.

23-27 March, Sanya, China: SECOND  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
PLANT MOLECULAR BREEDING. The

Consultative Group on International Agricultural  
Research (CGIAR) Generation Challenge Program  
(GCP) and the China Association of Agricultural  
Science Societies are sponsoring the 2nd  
International Conference on Plant Molecular  
Breeding. The event will focus primarily on applied  
plant genomics and molecular plant breeding  
technology but will also cover potential ecological  
risks related to genetic engineering as well as  
intellectual property rights (IPR) issues. For further  
information see <http://www.icpmb.org/142.html>.

14-15 May, London, UK: THE NEW POLITICS  
OF ENERGY - EUROPE IN A GLOBAL  
CONTEXT. European oil and gas import  
dependency is rising rapidly which highlights the  
need for a European response to energy security.  
The European Commission and Council will  
prepare an Energy Policy for Europe Action Plan  
for its meeting in March 2007. Current thinking is  
that energy security should be considered in the  
context of general foreign and security policy. This  
Chatham House conference will explore the rolling  
out of the 'new' EU strategy and compare the EU  
strategy with those of other countries with similar  
concerns. For further information see  
[http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5  
&cid=112](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/index.php?id=5&cid=112).

24-28 September, Belo Horizonte, Brazil:  
WORKSHOP ON BIOSAFETY OF GM CROPS  
AND THE EVOLUTION OF REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORKS. Organised by the International  
Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology,  
this workshop is aimed primarily at people who will  
be in a position to review applications for the  
deliberate release of genetically modified crops. It  
will be a training workshop on genetically modified  
organism biosafety, with formal lectures on  
biosafety and several sessions of hands-on exercises  
as in actual regulatory review process. There will  
also be a chance to analyse and discuss the near  
term evolution and challenges in genetic  
modification biosafety, namely the developments of  
genetically modified crops expressing complex  
phenotypes, non-food applications and gene-  
restriction constructs. For further information see  
<http://www.anbio.org.br/eventos/icgeb.htm>.

### 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 Malena Sell at [msell@ictsd.ch](mailto:msell@ictsd.ch).

**STAYING HOME: HOW ETHANOL WILL CHANGE US CORN EXPORTS.** By Mark Muller and Heather Schoonover. IATP, December 2006. This report looks at the growth planned for ethanol plants in the US Midwest and their potential impact on corn exports. Corn-based ethanol production in the US doubled between 2001 and 2005, and is likely to double again the next few years. The US already has 100 active ethanol plants capable of producing more than 5 billion gallons of ethanol a year. The US Department of Agriculture has stated that much of the corn for ethanol production will be diverted from exports. To access the report visit <http://www.agobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=96658>.

**WHO BENEFITS FROM GM CROPS? AN ANALYSIS OF THE GLOBAL PERFORMANCE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CROPS 1996-2006.** Friends of the Earth International, January 2007. According to this report, genetically modified (GM) crops have failed to address the main challenges facing farmers around the world, and more than 70% of large scale GM planting is still limited to two countries (U.S. and Argentina). The report also notes that the 'second generation' GM farm crops with attractive 'traits' long promised by the industry has failed to appear. According to the report, GM crops commercialised today have on the whole increased rather than decreased pesticide use, and do not yield more than conventional varieties. The environment has not benefited from them, and GM crops will become increasingly unsustainable over the medium to long term. For further information and to access there report visit <http://www.foci.org/media/2007/0109.html>.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DOMINANT GM CROPS WORLDWIDE: A REVIEW.** By Manuel Gómez-Barbero, Emilio Rodríguez-Cerezo. Institute for Prospective Technology Studies under the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, December 2006. This report examines the economic impact of genetically modified (GM) crops worldwide, and potentially within the EU. The report finds that GM crops bring farmers economic benefits from savings on herbicides, pesticides, and machinery. Yield benefits from GM crops are found to vary. A 2000 study of farmers in the U.S. state of Delaware found only a small increase in yield from the planting of GM herbicide tolerant soy compared to conventional soy. However, the IPTS study says that some other GM crops have had much higher yields than their conventional equivalents. For example, prior studies

have found yield increases of between 10 and 87 percent with the use of Bt cotton in China, India, Argentina, and South Africa. The IPTS study predicts that in France, 75 percent adoption of GM rapeseed would save farmers EUR 24 million a year in weeding costs; in the U.K. full adoption of GM herbicide resistant sugar beet would save EUR 33.5 million. It concludes, however, that these factors could possibly be counterbalanced by the costs of complying with EU guidelines for coexistence. Compliance would cost European farmers more than EUR 84 euros per hectare planted to GM crops. To access the report visit <http://www.jrc.es/home/pages/detail.cfm?prs=1458>.

**GM GRAINS IN AUSTRALIA - IDENTITY PRESERVATION.** By Max Foster, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE). December 2006. This report finds that while any requirement to keep non-genetically modified (non-GM) grain separate from GM grains will impose costs on Australia's grains industry, it appears that the costs are modest and manageable. Consumer resistance to GM grains could create the need for identity preservation arrangements in Australia aimed at ensuring the non-GM status of some grains in mixed production systems of GM and non-GM crops. The case studies undertaken by ABARE suggest that additional costs to producers of identity preserved non-GM canola would average 4-6 per cent of their farm gate canola price in a typical year. To access the report, visit [http://www.abareconomics.com/publications\\_html/crops/crops\\_06/GM\\_grains.pdf](http://www.abareconomics.com/publications_html/crops/crops_06/GM_grains.pdf)

## ICTSD VACANCY

**INTERN, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ENR) PROGRAMME.** ICTSD is looking to hire an intern for a period of six months. The objective of this position is to contribute substantively and programmatically to ICTSD's efforts to promote sustainable development in trade policy-making and trade negotiations in relation to environment and natural resources. Responsibilities will include supporting the various projects of the programme including trade and sustainable energy, environmental goods and services, fisheries and sustainable land management; writing and editing for the regular and occasional publications of the ENR Programme; as well as providing administrative and logistical support in the planning and organisation of dialogues. The application deadline is 31 January. For further information see

<http://www.ictsd.org/about/ar/TOR%20for%20Intern%20ENR%20Programme.pdf>.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN NORTH AMERICA: PUBLIC CALL FOR PAPERS ON SERVICES AND THE ENVIRONMENT. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has issued a call for papers examining trade and environmental issues related to the services sector in North America. They should examine the relationship between services sector liberalisation under NAFTA and environmental conditions and policy. Researchers are invited to submit proposals

in English, French, or Spanish no later than Thursday, 1 February 2007. Paper topics may address any service sector however, the CEC will only consider proposals that test hypotheses using robust empirical or legal analyses, or that employ new methodologies seeking to answer questions in the defined areas. Final papers will be presented by the authors at the fourth North American Symposium on Assessing the Environmental Effects of Trade in 2008. For more information or to submit a proposal, visit <http://www.cec.org/symposium>.

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