



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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The WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) met from 24-25 June, with Members raising specific export-related concerns with regard to health and safety standards set by other Members. The meeting was preceded by informal consultations on 23 June.

Discussion on private sector standards to continue, divisions remain on form

A number of developing countries are highly critical of the use of private sector standards, saying they reduce the efficacy of the SPS regime by creating higher standards outside of government control. These countries stress that the standards are arbitrary and end up penalising developing countries and small farmers exporting to the North since they lack capacity and funding. Many developing countries argue that governments should take responsibility for standards set by private-sector actors within their boundaries. Others, especially developed countries, say that private sector standards fall outside the remit of the WTO and its SPS Agreement. This debate has been going on since 2005 (see *Bridges Weekly*, 6 July 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/05-07-06/story3.htm>).

Standards

SPS COMMITTEE CONSIDERS ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUP ON PRIVATE SECTOR STANDARDS

The WTO Committee that deals with food safety and animal and plant health measures recently considered the option of creating a new group to look at the controversial issue of private sector standards. Members also discussed procedures for using the Chair's help to find a solution in cases where parties are in disagreement with regard to the use of specific trade-related sanitary or health standards.

Uruguay, one of the proponents of further discussions on how to rectify problems posed by private sector standards, made a submission outlining the terms of reference for a Working Group on Private Standards (G/SPS/W/225, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) just prior to the latest session of the SPS Committee. According to the submission, the Working Group would be charged with coming up with concrete recommendations to the SPS Committee within a defined timeframe. It would be chaired by a developing country representative. The scope of its work would be limited to SPS aspects of private sector standards, although a joint workshop could be held with the Commission on Technical Barriers

to Trade (TBT). The Working Group would: undertake a study of the differences between standards set by the private sector and the official standards in the same area; address government responsibilities with regard to private sector standards; communicate and coordinate with the SPS reference organisations (Codex Alimentarius, the International Animal Health Organisation and the International Plant Protection Convention); and undertake a legal analysis of the consistency between private standards and the SPS Agreement.

Members discussed how to move the work forward during an informal meeting on 23 June. While several countries supported the proposal by Uruguay, others felt that it prejudged any work by taking a negative approach to private standards. During the discussions, disagreements surfaced around the areas of work suggested by Uruguay, and also over practical issues, such as the size and chairmanship of the group.

Following the meeting, the Secretariat will send Members a questionnaire about the organisation of further work on private standards. Based on the replies, countries will continue informal discussions on the way forward in conjunction with the next SPS Committee meeting.

Using the “good offices” of the Chair

During the formal meeting of the SPS Committee from 24-25 June, Members continued considering ways to facilitate their own work. Members have the option of using the Chair’s “good offices,” or mediation, to help resolve differences and conflicts that occur between trade partners with regard to health and safety standards. This option provides a middle way between an airing of concerns within the SPS Committee and a full-fledged dispute. However, mediation is seldom used, so the group discussed the development of concrete guidance on the practicalities of using the Chair’s assistance when needed.

Both the US and Argentina had put forth proposals in this regard since the last meeting of the SPS Committee (G/SPS/W/227 and G/SPS/W/219). Both papers set out concrete timelines and steps to be taken in case the Chair’s mediation was needed. Both also emphasised the technical and scientific nature of the consultations, and suggested inviting expert input from the Codex Alimentarius, International Animal Health Organisation or

International Plant Protection Convention as needed. The Geneva-based consultations would be voluntary and confidential in nature, although the Chair would provide a general report to the SPS Committee at the end of the consultations.

The US and Argentina said they would work on consolidating their two drafts in advance of the next meeting of the SPS Committee. This meeting is scheduled to take place from 8-9 October 2008.

ICTSD reporting.

Intellectual Property

TRIPS COUNCIL CONSIDERS DISCLOSURE ISSUES; DIVISIONS REMAIN

WTO Members continued to disagree on biodiversity-related issues at the latest Council on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), held on 17 June.

Members' disagreements centred on a proposed amendment to the TRIPS Agreement, which would incorporate a ‘disclosure of origin’ requirement for biological resources (IP/C/W/474, available at <http://docsonli.wto.org>), as well as on whether intellectual property (IP) issues should be included in upcoming ‘horizontal’ negotiations on modalities in agricultural and non-agricultural market access within the Doha Round.

Disclosure on the agenda - again

As has been the practice in previous Council meetings, the agenda items on patenting, biodiversity and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore had been scheduled to be discussed together. However, the debate focused on three subjects, only one of which was included in this framework. Continuing an ongoing informal dialogue (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 13 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/08-06-13/inbrief.htm#1>), delegates discussed the development of a register for geographical indications (GI), the extension of high-level protection to GIs other than wines and spirits, and the possibility of amending the TRIPS Agreement to include a disclosure of origin requirement in patent applications.

Disclosure turned out to be the most contentious issue at the meeting. Also considered in informal consultations chaired by WTO Deputy Director-General Rufus Yerxa, disagreement on the topic centred on the possibility of amending the TRIPS Agreement to bring it in line with commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Specifically, the proposed amendment would require that patent applications disclose the origin of genetic material or traditional knowledge used in inventions. The current debate is over whether this amendment is the most effective way to stop the misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Consequently, the issue of 'parallelism' was raised. Parallelism refers to the question of whether all three of the IP issues in question - the GI register, its extension and disclosure - should be included in forthcoming horizontal negotiations on market opening in the agricultural and industrial sectors. Those in favour of parallelism want the negotiations to include all three IP issues, while those against it argue that more technical discussion and empirical evidence is required before moving to text-based negotiations. Those opposed further maintain that parallelism would substantially delay progress in the Doha negotiations.

Members' positions remain unchanged

Proponents of disclosure and parallelism, which include Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, the group of least developed countries (LDCs), Peru and Thailand, re-emphasised that the support extended to the disclosure proposal amounts to over two-thirds of the WTO Membership. They urged the Council to push forward and proceed with text-based negotiations.

The Philippines and South Africa spoke against parallelism but in favour of disclosure; Taiwan, while undecided on disclosure, opposed parallelism.

Sources report that critics of both parallelism and disclosure, which include Argentina, Australia, Canada, Korea, Japan, Singapore, and the US, argued that disclosure is not the most effective way of dealing with misappropriation. Those delegations further maintained that including the three controversial IP issues with the other subjects would jeopardise the negotiations on agriculture and industrial products.

Korea, Singapore and the US reiterated that they did not believe that an amendment of the TRIPS Agreement constituted the most effective way to address Members' concerns related to bio-piracy, referring to alternatives such as a database system proposed by Japan (IP/C/W/504 and IP/C/W/472). They maintained that further facts-oriented discussions in the Council were necessary on the issue.

Bolivia, on behalf of its indigenous peoples, declared that it was strongly opposed to the concept that natural resources could pertain to the domain of private property rights, and that patents did not constitute the appropriate means of protection.

With respect to enforcement, the EU repeated its view that sanctions for a violation of the disclosure of origin requirement should be sought outside of patent law, as a revocation of patents would endanger the viability of the patent system.

Members also discussed with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) should be granted observer status. Brazil, China, Ecuador and India expressed strong support for such a move. The Chair, Ambassador Gail Marie Mathurin (Jamaica) announced that immediate consultations on this matter would be held with the CBD Secretariat.

The meeting concluded with the announcement that a new chairperson will be sought, as the current chair will be taking on new duties in Jamaica.

ICTSD reporting.

In Brief

BRAZIL SIGNS SUSTAINABLE ETHANOL DEAL WITH SWEDEN

Brazilian ethanol firms Cosan, Guarani, NovAmerica and Alcoeste have signed a deal to export 115 million litres of certified sustainable anhydrous ethanol to Sweden-based Sekab. The agreement marks the first shipments to Europe with strict social and environmental standards.

The standards include zero tolerance for child and slave labour, with the requirement that mills have 100 percent mechanised labour by 2014. The private-sector regulations are meant to ease European consumer concern about ethanol's

sustainability and its environmental, social and economic implications. The trading company SCA, which will manage the exports, says this represents a major step toward realising an international standard for sustainable ethanol.

Though there is discussion worldwide about certification criteria for sustainable ethanol, no decisions have been made yet (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 18 April 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/08-04-18/story2.htm>). Overall, the sustainability of the biofuels sector is increasingly being questioned, especially following the recent rapid rise in food prices (see related story, this issue, and Bridges Trade BioRes, 13 June 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/08-06-13/story1.htm>).

In related news, Brazilian president Lula da Silva has said that Brazil expects rapid expansion of its ethanol industry and is preparing to address growing concerns about its ethanol production. Lula met with US president George Bush in Washington following the early June Rome Summit on World Food Security. During the discussions, Bush said the US planned to raise its consumption from 5 billion to 35 billion gallons by 2017, using both domestic corn-based products and sugar-based imports from Brazil. The US currently subsidises its domestic ethanol industry, as well as maintaining tariffs on ethanol imports from Brazil.

ICTSD reporting; "Brazil signs deal to export sustainable ethanol," REUTERS, 25 June 2008; "Biofuels: Brazil disputes cost of sugar in the tank," GUARDIAN, 10 June 2008.

OXFAM: BIOFUELS THREATEN THE POOREST

The diversion of food crops and land use for the production of biofuels accounts for up to 30 percent of the recent rise in food prices, severely impacting the poorest, a recent report from humanitarian group Oxfam International claims.

The 25 June report, entitled "Another inconvenient truth: How biofuel policies are deepening poverty and accelerating climate change," urges the EU to reconsider its controversial target to make biofuels 10 percent of transport fuel by 2020 (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 18 April 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/08-04-18/story2.htm> and 25 January 2008,

<http://www.ictsd.org/biores/08-01-25/story1.htm>). It claims the target has created a supply scramble in the South, exposing the most marginalised communities to land grabbing, exploitation and deteriorating food security. Higher food prices have pushed 105 million more people into poverty and have threatened the livelihoods of almost 300 million, Oxfam says.

Subsidies and tax exemptions for biofuels, as well as import tariffs in the EU and US that prevent the entry of feedstock, make it more profitable for farmers to grow biofuel instead of staple crops, the report finds. The clearing of forests for biofuel crops also has resulted in a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Oxfam estimates that the EU target could increase carbon emissions by 70 times by 2020 because of changing land use in exporting developing countries.

While the EU target is currently spurring a troubling agro-industrial model, the report argues, biofuels hold promise. There are opportunities in biodiesel for poor, rural areas -- particularly in smallholder production crops such as oilseeds.

"The EU must ensure that transport emissions reductions do not come at the expense of poor people's livelihoods," Oxfam writes. "If not, it must accept that the ten percent target will not be reached sustainably, and therefore should not be reached at all."

The report, "Another inconvenient truth: How biofuel policies are deepening poverty and accelerating climate change," is available at: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/files/AnotherInconvenientTruth.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting; "Biofuel use 'increasing poverty'," BBC, 25 June 2008; "Biofuels pushing 30 million into poverty," REUTERS, 25 June 2008.

G-8 FINANCE MINISTERS SUPPORT CLIMATE INITIATIVE INVESTMENTS

With the G-8 Summit of the world's largest economies fast approaching, G-8 finance ministers met in Osaka for two days in mid-June to discuss a broad range of issues including the world economy, surging oil prices, development and climate change.

Soaring commodity prices and lingering damage from the 2007 sub-prime mortgage crisis in the US

has made the ministers' "policy choices more complicated," the group said in a joint statement, but they "will remain vigilant, and will continue to take appropriate actions, individually and collectively, in order to secure stability and growth in our economies and globally."

The G8 finance ministers backed Britain, Japan and the US in their support of the World Bank's new and controversial Climate Investment Funds (CIF), which are meant as an interim financial mechanism for combating climate change until a permanent post-2012 framework is agreed upon under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The funds, according to World Bank chief Robert B. Zoellick, are a "concrete step forward toward meeting the challenge of global climate change".

However, because the funds would support "clean coal" power plants, some lawmakers and environmentalists argue that the CIF will do little to combat climate change. "Clean coal is a false solution," Janneke Bruil of Friends of the Earth International said. "It has nothing to do with renewable energy."

The CIF has two components, a 10-billion dollar Clean Technology Fund and another multi-billion dollar Strategic Climate Fund. The Clean Technology Fund aims to decrease emissions in the developing world by bankrolling the transition to low carbon economies. The Strategic Climate Fund will finance adaptation and mitigation costs for those countries most vulnerable to climate change.

In their joint statement, the ministers noted the importance of market mechanisms in addressing climate change and sustainable development policies, including emissions trading, tax incentives, performance-based regulation and consumer labelling. They also called for WTO negotiations that would reduce trade barriers for environmental goods and services and permit access to clean technologies.

The CIF will be made available by mid-July, following a World Bank Board of Directors meeting that will formally create the funds.

The G-8 Summit is scheduled for 7-9 July in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan.

For documents released by the G8 finance ministers, see the archives for 14 June at <http://www.mof.go.jp/english/whatsn.htm>.

"Bush, World Bank pushing bogus 'clean energy' funds", IPS, 14 June 2008; "G8 finance ministers remain optimistic about world economy", Xinhuanet, 14 June 2008; "G8 frets over commodity shock", Reuters, 14 June 2008; "G8 members push for new climate investment funds", Asia-Pacific News, 13 June 2008; "New funds meant to tackle climate change efficiently", Business Daily Africa, 24 June 2008; "World Bank chief says CIF a concrete step forward in tackling climate change", Xinhuanet, 13 June 2008; "US, Japan, Britain urges support for global warming fund as G8 meet", World Bank Group, 13 June 2008; "US urges support for global warming fund", AP, 13 June 2008.

US AND CANADA APPEAL WTO BEEF HORMONE DISPUTE RULING

In the most recent development of an ongoing transatlantic dispute, the US and Canada have filed appeals to a WTO panel ruling that found fault with the two countries' method of implementing trade sanctions.

The US and Canadian claims, both submitted on 9 June, follow an appeal filed by the EU late last month (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 30 May 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/08-05-30/inbrief.htm#5>). In that claim, Brussels protested the panel's finding that its ban on imports of hormone-treated beef was illegal. The EU also faulted the panel for stopping short of explicitly ordering Washington and Ottawa to remove the extra duties they had imposed in retaliation to the ban.

In a ruling circulated in March, the panel found fault with all three parties involved in the dispute (see Bridges Weekly, 2 April 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/08-04-02/story1.htm>).

For the EU, the panel ruled that a lack of adequate scientific risk assessment meant that the import ban on hormone-treated beef, which Brussels modified in response to an earlier panel ruling, still failed to comply with the requirements of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The panel further ruled that the US and Canada had not followed proper procedures in continuing their trade retaliation against the ban. Washington and Ottawa have retained over US\$125 million in annual

sanctions on EU exports, such as Dijon mustard and Roquefort cheese, based on their unilateral determination that the EU's modifications to its ban were not sufficient to bring it into compliance with a 1998 WTO ruling. The panel maintained that the US and Canada should have initiated legal proceedings to determine whether the import ban still violated WTO rules in order to maintain the sanctions.

In its appeal filed last week, the US stated that the panel's finding on that topic "is in error and is based on erroneous findings on issues of law and legal interpretations."

The dispute began more than a decade ago, when a WTO panel first ruled that the US and Canada could impose punitive tariffs on European products to retaliate against Brussels' ban on imports of beef produced with six growth-promoting hormones that are common in the US and Canada.

ICTSD reporting: "EU appeals WTO ruling over US beef hormone ban," EU BUSINESS, 2 June 2008.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

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

Coming up in the next two weeks

29 June to 4 July, Kushiro, Japan. WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Co-organized by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Kushiro International Wetland Centre, in partnership with Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund and the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, this workshop aims to support the sharing of scientific facts and policies on biodiversity, wetlands and climate change, provide analytical knowledge to understand and practically use the scientific data and documentation, facilitate exchange of ideas and strengthen the Kushiro/UNITAR network of experts in wetlands, biodiversity and climate change. For more information contact: e-mail: hiroko.nakayama@unitar.org; Internet:

<http://www.unitar.org/hiroshima/programmes/kuhiro08/>

30 June to July 2, Paris, France: ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WORKSHOP. The International Energy Workshop (IEW) is a network of global energy experts who meet annually to discuss a wide range of topics, with particular emphasis on global as well as regional issues. The annual IEW meetings focus on energy assessment and try to understand the reasons for diverging views of development in the energy sector. Internet: http://www.internationalenergyworkshop.org/Pre_announcement_2008.html

30 June to 4 July, Geneva, Switzerland: 31ST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION. Internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/current.jsp?lang=en>

1 July, London, UK. FOOD PRICES: WHERE NEXT? Global food prices have risen by 83 percent over the last three years, triggering riots in more than 30 countries, high-level political attention and unease about the longer term outlook. The speakers will give an insight into what has been driving rising prices, whether the current situation is a blip or a 'new normality', and look at possible future scenarios both in the UK and internationally. For further information, please refer to <https://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/875/>.

1-2 July, New Delhi, India. NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE POLICY OF INDIA: WHY CIVIL SOCIETY'S INVOLVEMENT IS REQUIRED. This National Conference aims to serve as a common platform for discussions and debate among the participants who will hail from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, elected representatives and Government officials from the states, Chambers of Commerce, Research Institutions, representatives of Trade Unions and CSOs and International Development Organisations. It will address the need for Civil Society's involvement in the implementation as well as formulation of national foreign trade policy and make recommendations to the policy makers to ensue pro-poor changes in the existing policy. For further information, please refer to <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm#event02>.

7-9 July, Tokyo, Japan. G8 SUMMIT 2008. At July's G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, world leaders will discuss the world economy, environmental concerns, African development and other pressing issues that must be tackled. For further information, please refer to <http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/index.html>.

7-11 July, Bangkok, Thailand. 28TH MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER. Contact: Ozone Secretariat; tel: +254-20-762-3850/1; fax: +254-20-762-4691; e-mail: ozoneinfo@unep.org; internet: <http://ozone.unep.org/>.

Other upcoming meetings

6-9 August, Manado, Sulawesi Indonesia: 2ND REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM MEETING OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION. Hosted by the Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission together with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia, the regional forum acts as a space for agreeing on actions needed to adapt to the emerging challenges to fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region. The primary focus of this meeting is to look at the promotion of effective arrangements for managing fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The theme for forum meeting is "Adapting to emerging challenges – promoting effective arrangements for managing fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region."

28-31 October, Hong Kong: ECO EXPO ASIA. Over 5,000 visitors from 89 countries/regions were attracted to Eco Expo Asia 2007, with 135 exhibitors who came from 18 countries/regions. Entering into its third year, Eco Expo Asia continues to expand and thrive within its realm and is making great progress in introducing innovative environmental ideas and solutions to the public. Eco Expo Asia is a specialised and professional marketing platform for manufacturers and suppliers of environmental goods and services who wish to access the dynamic green market. With Asia's awareness of environmental protection growing at an immense rate, numerous business opportunities exist on every level, from governmental and commercial, to individual consumption. Eco Expo Asia in Hong Kong allows exhibitors to gain exposure for their brand, examine environmental

trends and meet with international and local buyers. Four topics will be focused on this year: air quality, eco-friendly products, energy efficiency and waste & recycling. Internet: <http://ecoexpoasia.hktdc.com/index.htm>.

RESOURCES

GREEN HARBOURS: HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN REDUCING MARINE AND PORT-RELATED EMISSIONS. By Veronica Galbraith, Lynne Curry and Christine Loh, Civic Exchange, June 2008. This report outlines the threats to public health caused by rising toxic emissions from the rapid growth of marine-related activities in Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It also identifies a number of short-, medium- and long-term solutions for tackling the problem, and calls on the Hong Kong SAR and Shenzhen Governments to develop a strategy to reduce the threats based on best practice from around the world. To access the paper, please refer to http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/upload/files/200806_Gports.pdf.

THE ECONOMICS OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY – AN INTERIM REPORT. European Communities, 2008. Inspired by the momentum created by the Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change, and proposed by the German Government and endorsed by the G8+5 leaders in 2007, this study was designed to "initiate the process of analyzing the global economic benefit of biological diversity, the costs of the loss of biodiversity and the failure to take protective measures versus the costs of effective conservation." Under the leadership of Deutsche Bank's Pavan Sukhdev, several partners worked during the first phase of the study to demonstrate the huge significance of ecosystems and biodiversity and the threats to human welfare if no action is taken to reverse current damage and losses. The second phase of the study will expand on this and show how to use this knowledge to design the right tools and policies. Preliminary findings included in this interim report were presented to the High-Level Segment of the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP9). Final results will be presented at CBD COP10 in 2010. The report is available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/pdf/teeb_report.pdf.

A PRICE TOO HIGH: HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

Civic Exchange, 11 June 2008. The study – conducted by leading health, science and public policy experts – reveals new regional data on the health costs of poor air quality. Annual deaths attributable to air pollution – based on 2006 data – are estimated at 10,000 in Hong Kong, Macau and the Pearl River Delta. In spite of the enormous health costs of deteriorating air quality, there is surprisingly little research in the region into the links between air pollution and poor health. The report argues the current air pollution indexes used in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta are not merely insufficient but misleading as they are not directly linked with health protection. The report can be accessed at http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/upload/files/200806_pricetoohigh.pdf.

KEY ELEMENTS OF A GLOBAL DEAL ON CLIMATE CHANGE. By Nicholas Stern, LSE, 2008. Nicholas Stern, of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), proposes key elements of a global climate policy that seek to satisfy three basic principles: effectiveness, efficiency, and equity. Among the specific proposals outlined in this paper are calls for developed countries, at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP15 meetings in 2009, to commit to cutting emissions by 80-90 percent from 1990 levels by 2050, together with credible interim targets; developing countries to commit to enhanced energy efficiency policies, cheaper technologies and reduced deforestation; by 2020, developing countries, subject to developed country performance, to take on appropriate and binding national targets; working towards an international cap-and-trade system; integrating forests into global carbon trading in the medium to long term; globally coordinated standards, coordinated public funding and targeted concessional finance to increase technology diffusion and adoption; and integrating adaptation assistance into development spending to deliver development goals in a climate-resilient manner. The paper also suggests undertaking further work in the following areas to take this programme forward: targets, the role of developing countries in mitigation and trade; international emissions trading-cap-and-trade; deforestation; technology; and adaptation.

RECONCILING FOOD SAFETY WITH IMPORT FACILITATION OBJECTIVES: HELPING DEVELOPING COUNTRY PRODUCERS MEET US AND EU FOOD REQUIREMENTS THROUGH TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION.

International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC), June 2008. This report takes two foods – green beans and shrimp – as case studies for examining the challenges faced by developing countries' food producers in meeting United States (US) and European Union (EU) requirements for food safety and for plant or animal health. The focus is not a comparison of the requirements of the US and EU, because these are two key markets for food exporters, particularly for producers in developing countries, but also because the EU and the US wish to pursue regulatory cooperation. Green beans and shrimp were selected as case studies because these are produced in many developing countries and because a market exists for both products on both sides of the Atlantic. The report demonstrates that exporting horticultural products to the EU is an easier proposition for developing country producers whereas the US market is more accessible for seafood producers in developing countries. To access the position paper, please refer to <http://www.agritrade.org/Publications/documents/IPCStandardsPositionPaper.pdf>.

SUSTAINABLE PERFORMANCE. By Arthur D. Little, June 2008. Arthur D. Little argues that, by continuing to focus on traditional business objectives and paying little more than lip service to environmental issues, many companies risk losing out on the opportunities presented by sustainability – not least the opportunity to run a more competitive business and to attract the attention of investors who increasingly recognise environmental performance as an indicator of long-term success. Download at http://www.adl.com/reports.html?&no_cache=1&view=233.

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