



Bridges Trade BioRes

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

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International Transport

SHIP EMISSIONS UNDER REVIEW

The marine shipping industry is coming under increased pressure to clean up its act. International negotiations are underway to tighten rules for harmful emissions of sulphur oxide, particulate matter and nitrogen oxide from shipping. Meanwhile, a new study has revealed that greenhouse gas emissions from ships are almost three times higher than previously believed.

Sub-committee drafts stricter rules for ship pollution. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) met from 4-8 February to revise its marine pollution regulations to reduce the emissions of sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter from ships.

As the meeting opened, a number of environmental groups called for major changes to address unnecessary, premature deaths resulting from the current use of dirty fuels for marine shipping. "The IMO cannot continue to ignore mounting evidence that action to reduce air pollution from ships could avoid tens of thousands of premature deaths each year," said David Marshall, senior counsel at the Boston-based Clean Air Task Force. Joao Viera, policy officer with the Brussels-based European Federation for Transport and the Environment added that "It is a disgrace that thousands are dying needlessly as a result of the IMO's intransigence on air pollution." The groups cited research by scientists at the University of Delaware in the US, released in November last year showing that approximately 60,000 lung- and heart-related deaths in 2002 were linked to the pollution and chemicals emitted by large shipping freighters (see Bridges Trade BioRes, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-11-16/inbrief.htm>).

Following lengthy negotiations, participants at the IMO Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases narrowed down six existing options for improving fuel standards to address sulphur oxide and particulate matter to three. The final decision will be taken at a meeting of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in October. Some participants worried that refiners might have problems providing higher-grade bunker fuels at large quantities within a tight timeframe as a result of new rules.

In terms of nitrous oxide emissions, the sub-committee discussed options for requiring stricter technical standards for engines, both new and those already in use.

The next session of the MEPC, scheduled from 31 March to 4 April, will continue discussing the draft amendments.

Leaked study shows high carbon emissions

Meanwhile, a leaked IMO study looking at carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, found that emissions from ships are three times higher than previously calculated. In fact, annual emissions from the world's merchant fleet have already reached 1.12 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, or nearly 4.5 percent of all global emissions. In addition, emissions are set to rise by a further 30 percent by 2020, and shipping will become one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions, following transport, housing, agriculture and industry. The study was produced by Intertanko, the global association of tanker owners, and the data collection methodology was more sophisticated than that used for previous studies.

Reacting to the information in the leaked report, Dr Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said: "This is a clear failure of the system. The shipping industry has so far escaped publicity. It has been left out of the climate change discussion. I hope [shipping emissions] will be included in the next UN agreement. It would be a cop-out if it was not. It tells me that we have been ineffective at tackling climate change so far."

The report also said that emissions of sulphur oxide and particulate matter are rising fast.

Peter Smith, managing director of Intertanko, claimed his industry was taking steps to cut emissions. "World trade and ship numbers have seen a steady increase, but in parallel there have been economies of scale with larger, more efficient ships. Individual ships have steadily been reducing their fuel consumption for the last 20 years. One litre of fuel on a modern very large crude carrier moves one tonne of cargo more than 2,800km; this is more than twice as far as 20 years ago," said Smith.

Background

The worldwide fleet of 90,000 ships transports 90 percent of the world's goods. Shipping has grown by three percent annually on average over the last three decades, and shipping emissions are projected to grow by more than 70 percent by 2020, as global trade expands.

In the last couple of decades, the international community has taken steps to reduce emissions from other sectors, but the shipping industry has been left behind. Efficiency and environmental standards on shipping fuel have been largely ignored due to the distance between the ships and the externalities they create. The freighters travel the open seas, leagues away from the coastal inhabitants who fall ill.

Maritime transport is coming under increased pressure, however, to improve practices and decrease pollution levels. In October last year, a number of environmental groups and Attorney Generals in the US petitioned the US Environmental Protection Agency to start regulating greenhouse gas emissions from ships travelling in US waters (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 5 October 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-10-05/story2.htm>). Representative of the shipping industry have said they prefer a global approach to dealing with shipping emissions.

ICTSD reporting; "Acting on Ship Emissions Can Save Lives - NGOs," REUTERS, 5 February 2008; "Ships' Carbon Output Twice Previous Estimate - Study," REUTERS, 14 February 2008; "True scale of CO₂ emissions from shipping revealed," GUARDIAN, 13 February 2008.

Biotechnology

GMO ROUNDUP: DISPUTE UPDATE, ANNUAL GM REPORTS RELEASED, BRAZIL APPROVES CORN VARIETIES

Dispute Update

Time has officially run out for the EU to comply with a WTO ruling against its application of its approval system for genetically modified (GM) crops. However, the EU and the victors of the case - the US, Canada and Argentina - are engaged in ongoing discussions on compliance, they told a meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB).

The case dates back to 2003, when the US, Canada and Argentina initiated WTO dispute proceedings with the EU in regard to its policies on genetically modified food imports, claiming the EU had in place a de facto moratorium on the approval of GM products. In 2006, the panel ruled in favour of the complainants. In November 2006, the EU was given twelve months to comply with the report (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 6 July 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-07-06/story1.htm>). This deadline was later modified and extended.

The EU has restarted an approval process for GM plants, and told the DSB that 17 varieties had been approved over the last four years. However, the US felt the process was still too slow. "A handful of approvals over a nine-year period is, unfortunately, of little commercial significance," according to a US official.

Due to continued member state resistance to GMOs and the existence of member state biotech bans, the EU faces additional difficulties in complying with the WTO ruling (see Bridges BioRes, 25 January 2008, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/08-01-25/story4.htm>).

The US has reserved its right to retaliate as the trading partners continue to discuss how the EU can come into compliance with the WTO ruling. Should further negotiations prove futile however,

the US said it will resume a suspended arbitration process.

GMOs or pesticide use on the rise?

In its annual report, the International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications (ISAAA) - a biotech industry group - said biotech crops were planted on 282.4 million acres, 12 percent more than the total acreage planted in 2006. Twenty-three countries, eight of which were in the EU, grew these crops. The report concluded that GMOs had "delivered significant economic, environmental, health and social benefits to both small and large farmers in developing and industrial countries."

The chairman of the ISAAA, Clive James, said GMO's were the "fastest-adopted technology in agriculture as far as crops [were] concerned." He expected Asia to be the place "where you are going to get significant growth in new hectares from 2006 to 2015."

As in previous years, GM-sceptic organisations criticised the report. In a counter report, environmental group Friends of the Earth, said that GMOs "have led to a large increase in chemical use and have failed to increase yields or tackle world hunger and poverty." For example, there has been a 15-fold increase in the use of the glyphosate herbicide (weed killer) in the US between 1994 and 2005, leading to an "epidemic of weeds resistant to the chemical." Opponents also stressed that the GMO crops were not being used to alleviate hunger, but as animal feed in developed countries.

Brazil approves GM corn varieties

Two GMO corn varieties, MON810 and LibertyLink were approved by Brazil's National Biosafety Council, the highest authority with regard to biosafety, on 12 February. This council had undertaken a final review of the social and economic aspects of GMOs. Brazil's science minister, Sergio Rezende, said that "from the science and technology point of view, it was considered that the approved seeds are safe for human and animal consumption, and for the environment." These two GM corn varieties are the first for which the full approval process has

been completed following the entry into force of a new biosafety law.

Although one of the world's largest growers of GM crops, this decision was met with resistance in Brazil. Farmers' group Via Campesina said that the studies relied on were "completely inadequate and insufficient to guarantee the safety of these products in terms of human health" and the "government had acted with 'great irresponsibility.'"

ICTSD Reporting; "France to Formally Request GMO Ban at EU Level," Reuters, 8 February 2008; "EU Lawyers Take Action against Poland Over GMO Ban," Reuters, 1 February 2008; "Poland to Hamper GMO Planting Despite Lifting Ban," Reuters, 11 February 2008; "US Seeks to Retaliate Against EU in GMO Case," Reuters, 31 January 2008; "EU, US Seek Arbitration in Biotech Crops Row," Reuters, 11 February 2008; "Factbox - Report Says GMO Crops on Rise Globally," Reuters, 14 February 2008; "GMO Industry Group Sees Growing Global Acceptance," Reuters, 14 February 2008; "GMO Plantings Rise, Greens Cite Environment Risks," 14 February 2008; "Brazil Gives Final Permit for GMO Corn Varieties," Reuters, 13 February 2008; "Brazil Authorizes Genetically Modified Crops," Agence France-Presse, 13 February 2008; "US, EU in Talks to Solve Biotech Crops Dispute," Reuters, 20 February 2008; "UK Chief Scientist Sees Role for GMO Crops," Reuters, 20 February 2008; "Analysis - Food Supply Fears Heighten UK Debate on GMO Crops," Reuters, 20 February 2008.

In Brief

NEW STUDY LINKS FIFTH OF GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS TO TRADE

A new study has added data to a growing body of literature on the so-called 'embodiment' of carbon in international trade.

Highlighting the role of international trade in the carbon emissions profiles of various countries, the study entitled "CO₂ Embodied in International Trade with Implications for Global Climate Policy" concluded that international trade

embodies approximately twenty percent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Responding to the new findings, Chris Field of the Carnegie Institution of Washington noted that, "if you're trying to figure out an international regime for managing carbon, especially if you have one like Kyoto... there are a number of ways that a country that faces binding limits might appear to reduce its emissions by essentially [importing] emissions from another country." This is particularly the case for developed countries that are net importers of carbon dioxide emissions, which is being fuelled by their consumption patterns and the outsourcing of production to developing countries.

To eliminate carbon leakage problems affiliated with climate mitigation strategies premised on production-based emissions inventories, and to link a countries' consumption with the global production system, the study advocated a switch away from production-based emissions inventories, as currently used in the Kyoto Protocol, to a consumption-based emissions inventory.

Overall, the authors - Glen Peters and Edgar Hertwich at Industrial Ecology Programme at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology - stressed that "a better understanding of the role that trade plays in a country's economic and environmental development will help design more effective and participatory climate policy post-Kyoto."

In related news, another recent study published by WWF Norway and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology looked at the link between Norwegian consumption and Chinese pollution as an example of how OECD imports generate carbon dioxide emissions in developing countries. The study found that Norway's carbon footprint has increased by 65 percent from 2001 to 2006 in developing countries, with the largest footprint and growth in China. It also found that imports from China have led to "more than 2 million tonnes of annual carbon dioxide emissions from coal fired power plants in China." One of the recommendations was for Norway to take "an amount equal to the cost of its carbon dioxide footprint in developing countries" and place it "in

a pilot climate venture capital fund providing risk capital to new companies focusing on providing low carbon solutions, in order to stimulate innovation.”

Additional information

Copies of “CO2 Embodied in International Trade with Implications for Global Climate Policy,” can be accessed at <http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/sample.cgi/esthag/asap/pdf/es072023k.pdf>

The study “Norwegian Consumption, Chinese pollution: An example of how OECD imports generate CO2 emissions in developing countries,” is available at http://www.ntnu.no/eksternweb/multimedia/archive/00030/Norwegian_Consumptio_30439a.pdf

ICTSD reporting; “Carbon embodied in international trade,” ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ONLINE, 30 January 2008.

ACTIVISTS URGE END TO LIVE ANIMAL TRADE

‘Handle With Care’ - a coalition of over 900 animal welfare charities from 147 countries - has initiated a campaign to “end the transportation of millions of animals over long distances for slaughter.” Their aim is for animals to be “taken to slaughterhouses near where they are reared,” putting an end to the unnecessary trade in live animals.

The transport of live animals can occur over thousands of miles. For example, sheep are exported from Australia to the Middle East and pigs from Canada to Hawaii. The coalition claims that tens of thousands of animals die each year as a result of disease, hunger and poor transportation conditions, and is calling on governments to end the trade. After two years of filming, the group has released undercover footage of the journeys.

Leah Garces, campaign director for the World Society for the Protection of Animals said, “we were determined to show people the truth of this hidden and brutal traffic in animals: if you see it for yourself, you just know it must be stopped.” Philip Lymbery, chief executive of Compassion in

World Farming, added “the cruelty these animals endure is completely unacceptable in the 21st century.” In fact, the technology exists to replace live animal transport with transport fresh chilled and frozen meat.

Australia has become a main target of this new campaign, with the government criticised for opposing Japanese whaling while supporting live animal exports. Lyn White of campaign group Animals Australia said “we cannot condemn these terrible animal atrocities perpetuated by other nations when we are the world leader in this horrendous trade in animals.” Australia has the world’s largest live animal trade with annual exports valued at over AUS\$1 billion.

‘Handle with Care’ is particularly concerned with Australian exports of live animals to the Middle East. However, Cameron Hall, chief of LiveCorp, a company involved in the trade, and Tony Burke, Australia’s minister for agriculture, both supported the trade as a way to “[improve] animal welfare standards in the region through training.”

Additional information

For more detail on the campaign, see <http://www.handlewithcare.tv/>

“Cruel’ Animal Transport Targeted,” BBC, 12 February 2008; “Australia Faces Hypocrisy Charge over Live Exports,” THE AGE, 13 February 2008; “End of Animal Transportation Urged,” THE PRESS ASSOCIATION, 12 February 2008.

SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY HOTSPOTS FOR NEW DISEASES

A recent study has identified global hotspots for new infectious diseases. The emergence of novel diseases has quadrupled over the last 50 years, and thanks to massive increases in trade and travel, these diseases make their way around the globe at unprecedented speed.

Sixty percent of the new diseases have been zoonoses, or diseases transmitted from animals (primarily wild animals) to humans. According to the scientists behind a three-year investigation “the next pandemic is likeliest to come out of poor tropical countries, where burgeoning human

populations come into contact with wildlife.” Their results were published on 21 February in the online version of the journal *Nature* in an article entitled “Global trends in emerging infectious diseases.” Study co-author Marc Levy of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network said, “we are crowding wildlife into ever-smaller areas, and human population is increasing” and “where those two things meet, that is a recipe for something crossing over.” Examples of zoonoses include HIV/AIDS, SARS and bird flu.

The implications of emerging zoonoses for international trade are significant. Millions of animals are traded legally and illegally each year. A previous study has estimated that “at least some multiple of 1 billion direct and indirect contacts among wildlife, humans, and domestic animals result from the wildlife trade annually.” Each contact allows for the potential transmission of infectious agents.

A series of outbreaks has already interrupted international trade, costing the global economy “hundreds of billions of dollars,” and the “[destabilization of trade].” For example, mad cow disease, bird flu and other disease outbreaks led to meat embargoes estimated at one-third the global meat trade by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Peter Daszak, Executive Director of the Consortium for Conservation Medicine at the Wildlife Trust and one of the co-authors of the *Nature* article, stressed that “the priority should be to set up monitoring networks in developing countries that would identify a threat from the outset and circumscribe it, rather than let it spread like wildfire around the globe thanks to jet travel and trade.”

ICTSD reporting; “Next Human Plague Likely to Come From Wildlife,” AFP, 21 February 2008.

BIOFUELS MAY BE INCREASING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, NEW STUDIES SUGGEST

The growing popularity of biofuels may actually be hurting the environment, according to two papers recently published in the journal *Science*.

Biofuels have long been considered ‘carbon-neutral’, as the emissions from consumption are believed to be offset by the plants from which the fuel is made. The studies argue that this conception is overly simplistic, and fails to account for the carbon costs of biofuel-related land use changes.

Both studies focus on cropland. The first study finds that converting rainforests or grasslands to produce biofuels releases much more carbon dioxide into the air than the plants are able to absorb. Similarly, using currently productive farmland to grow biofuel crops will also use more carbon than it saves, according to Princeton’s Timothy Searchinger, the lead author of the other study.

Ten prominent ecologists authored a letter to US President George W. Bush in response to these new findings, asking for new a policy “that ensures biofuels are not produced on productive forests, grassland or cropland,” according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Last year, legislation was passed in the US calling for the production of ethanol, derived mostly from maize, to double over the next 10 years.

The UN announced the formation of a panel to analyse the study’s findings, saying that biofuels could still be useful in the global environmental effort. Bob Dinneen, the president of the Renewable Fuels Association, issued a statement saying that, despite the new studies, “we must all remember where we are today, how world demand for liquid fuels is growing, and what the realistic alternatives are to meet those growing demands. Biofuels like ethanol are the only tool readily available that can begin to address the challenges of energy security and environmental protection.”

Searchinger’s study says that the “extraordinary productivity” of Brazilian sugarcane means that it would need only four years to “pay back the upfront carbon emissions” when grown on tropical grazing land. However, this payback period would rise more than ten-fold if displaced ranchers then proceed to convert rainforest to grazing land.

“The Science articles underscore the great risks of unintended consequences associated with subsidising and mandating biofuels”, noted Tara Laan, Assistant Researcher of the Global Subsidies Initiative. “The implications of the study by Searchinger et al. are especially important - namely, that developing sustainability standards for biofuels that do NOT account for indirect GHG emissions arising from the displacement of crop production is about as effective as re-arranging deck chairs on the Titanic.”

The abstracts of the two papers can be found at <http://www.sciencemag.org>

ICTSD reporting; “Biofuel crops increase carbon emissions online,” LOS ANGELES TIMES, 8 February 2008. “Simplistic View of Land Use Change Excludes Consequences of Continuing Petroleum Dependence,” RFA NEWS RELEASE, 7 February 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

25-27 February, New Delhi, India: INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON MOVING TOWARDS GENDER SENSITISATION OF TRADE POLICY. The seminar will provide a forum to international trade and gender experts, policy makers, academia and civil society to discuss gender concerns in the context of trade liberalisation and globalisation, with particular reference to India and generally to developing countries. Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intItemID=2068&lang=1&m=15066&year=2008&month=2>

25-29 February, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL

KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE : 12TH SESSION. The Committee, hosted by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, will focus in particular on issues faced by local and indigenous communities. Internet:

http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=14802

3-4 March, London, UK: HIGH VISIBILITY? AIRLINE EMISSIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY. This Chatham House event will tackle the dominant issue of 2008: airline emissions. It will address the steps which need to be taken by policymakers, the aviation industry and the investment community to address this fundamental issue. Internet: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/airlines>

4 March, Brussels, Belgium: WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA FOR BIOFUELS. Recent scientific evidence suggests that CO2 efficiency of biofuels is questionable - in particular if land use changes are taken into account. The European Parliament ENVI Committee, the TAUW Consulting and Engineering Company together with the EP's ENVI Committee Secretariat and the EP's Policy Department A will be organising a workshop on "Sustainability criteria for biofuels". For further information and to register, contact Jurgen Ooms, email: Jurgen.Ooms@tauw.nl

3-7 March, Arusha, Tanzania: UNDERUTILIZED PLANTS FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, INCOME AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The symposium will be organised around four main areas of importance for underutilised plants: food security; nutrition and health; income generation; and environmental sustainability. Participants will be invited to share and discuss reasons for the successes and failures of diverse types of approaches to promote underutilised plants. The meeting seeks to provide a global forum for exchange and debate on issues related to the promotion of underutilised plants. The symposium is an activity of the newly formed ISHS working group on underutilised plant genetic resources (PG3). Internet: <http://www.icuc-iwmi.org/Symposium2008/>

4-6 March, Washington, D.C., United States: WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL

RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE (WIREC) 2008. WIREC 2008 is the third global ministerial-level conference on renewable energy, following events in Beijing in 2005 and Bonn in 2004. It is comprised of a Ministerial-level meeting co-located with the Trade Show and Business Conference. Internet: <http://www.wirec2008.org/>

Other upcoming meetings

14-16 March, Chiba, Japan: GLENEAGLES DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, CLEAN ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. The Gleneagles Dialogue is a multi-year, multi-government, public-private policy dialogue on climate change and clean energy issues, the findings of which will be submitted to the G8 summit process at this meeting in Japan. Internet: <http://www.do-summit.jp/en/about/summary02.php>

25-28 March, Helsinki, Finland: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, THEIR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. This event will provide an opportunity for an in-depth study of opportunities and challenges of responses to climate change for indigenous and local communities from the Arctic, and the comprehensive consideration of these climate change related issues that can be integrated into related work carried out by the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as other relevant agencies, including their programmes, policies and strategies. Internet: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the Bridges staff to Malena Sell at msell@ictsd.ch.

A CUT ABOVE: BUILDING THE MARKET FOR FAIR TRADE TIMBER. By Duncan McQueen. International Institute for Environment and Development, 2008. Unlike coffee and cotton, timber has yet to become a fair trade commodity. But now its time has come.

Rights over forest resources are increasingly ceded to small-scale community forest enterprises (CFEs), as large-scale industrial logging is now largely discredited in the sustainable development context. The fair trade emphasis on just pricing for poorer producers is exactly what CFEs need as incentive to invest in sustainable forest management - and secure environmental and poverty reduction benefits at one stroke. With fair trade timber, CFEs could boost their entrepreneurial capacity using democratic business models with in-built social and environmental responsibility. The Fair Trade Labelling Organizations International and Forest Stewardship Council are exploring the ways and means through a new partnership, but more is needed. Consumers must be made aware of why paying higher prices is key to creating CFE incentives for sustainable forest management and poverty reduction. Time and money are needed for consumer education and installing fair trade timber in producer country forest policies, market segregation and procurement policies at all levels. For more information, see <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=170331IED&n=1&l=71&c=trade>

POLICY BRIEF: PROTECTING FARMERS' RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL IPR REGIME: CHALLENGES AND OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Regine Andersen (SAWTEE, 2007). Upholding and developing legal space for farmers' customary practices related to agro-biodiversity; creating support mechanisms for farmers' contributions to the global pool of genetic resources; and enabling farmers' participation in relevant decision-making processes are the three core challenges for countries to implement farmers' rights. This policy brief deals with the first two challenges, suggesting some policy options that developing countries in particular have in protecting farmers' rights in the context of global intellectual property right regime. Download at http://www.sawtee.org/pdf/Farmers%20Rights_IPR%20Regime_Regine.pdf

ISSUE PAPER: IPRs IN AGRICULTURE: THE LAW AND ITS USE IN DEVELOPMENT. Niels Louwaars (SAWTEE, 2007). There is a lot of discussion about the different options for the design of intellectual property right (IPR)

regulations in developing countries, notably patents on pharmaceuticals and life forms. Key to the debate about plant breeders' rights and patents on plants is how innovation may be stimulated while avoiding the negative impact on seed systems that support development objectives. Relatively little attention is paid, however, to the questions that arise in the public and civil society organizations relating to the use of legal protection of their own innovations. This Issue Paper highlights some critical policy issues that national policy makers need to consider while designing intellectual property rules. Download at http://www.sawtee.org/pdf/IPR%20in%20agriculture_Neils_2007.pdf

PATENTS: TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN PLANS FOR A GLOBAL BIOFUELS MARKET. Steve Suppan (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2007). Weak patent law could allow global corporations to take many of the benefits from the fast-growing biofuels sector. Download at <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?refid=100449>