



Dialogue on Tropical Products, Trade, Natural Resources Management and Poverty

Organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE)

3-5 December 2007, Salvador (Bahia), Brazil

FINAL AGENDA

Dialogue format: The programme will be organised around setting an agenda of research and activity that could serve as future reference for stakeholders working on the relationship between trade policy, sustainable development and regulatory frameworks. To this end, the sessions have been designed to encourage debate and generate dialogue, allowing all participants to engage fully with the issues. The lead discussants (10 minutes) and panelists (5-10 minutes) are asked to provide elements for this debate. The panelists are asked to respond and enhance the presentations given by the lead discussants. All dialogue participants are expected to actively contribute and participate in all sessions. Smaller groups will then be organised to harvest the knowledge and synthesize the results.

Sunday 2 December: Arrival of participants

Monday 3 December

9:00 - 9:30 General introduction from ICTSD and ICONE

Chair (morning sessions): Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, ICTSD

9:30 – 11:00 First Morning Session

Session 1: SETTING THE SCENE

- What are the current trends in the tropical commodity trade, the importance of tropical products for developing countries and the problems?
- How are tropical products considered and treated in Free Trade Agreements?
- What is the state of play in the WTO negotiations on the liberalization of trade in tropical and diversification products and preference erosion?
- What is the state of play in the WTO negotiations on commodities and tariff escalation?

Lead discussants: **Julio Paz**, Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) and **Marie Chamay**, ICTSD

Panelists: **Olle Östenson**, Chief, Commodities Branch, UNCTAD; **Mireya Muñoz Mera**, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the WTO; **Laurean Bategana**, Permanent Mission of Uganda to the WTO; **Ivan Mbirimi**, the Commonwealth Secretariat

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:30 Second Morning Session

Session 2: TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT

- Which tropical products would be most affected by a reduction in domestic support in OECD countries? What would be the consequences in making green box eligibility criteria more restrictive for Latin America, Asia and ACP countries?
- What are the effects of the Draft Agriculture Modalities' Text scenario regarding domestic support? Would Latin America, Asia and the ACP benefit?
- Is there a cumulative impact of trade distorting domestic support?
- How do developing countries use domestic support for tropical products?

Lead discussant: André Nassar, ICONE

Panelists: Carlos Galperin, Centro de Economía Internacional, Argentina; **Veena Jha**, Institute of Advanced Studies, Warwick University, UK and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; **Husein Sawit**, Indonesian Center for Agriculture Socio Economic and Policy Studies (ICASEPS), Ministry of Agriculture.

Discussion

13:30 – 15:00: LUNCH

15:00 – 18:30 Afternoon Session (the session will pause for coffee at the discretion of the Chair)

Chair: Johannes Bernabe, ICTSD

Session 3: TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND MARKET ACCESS

- What is the reality of market access conditions for tropical products in the main import markets for ACP, Latin American and Asian countries?
- Which of the tropical products exported by Latin American, ACP and Asian countries face tariff escalation? What are possible policy responses to tariff escalation in the context of WTO negotiations?
- To what extent do sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers represent obstacles preventing exports from Latin America, the ACP and Asian countries from entering developed country markets? How can developing countries be helped to meet SPS and TBT standards?
- Which tropical products are likely to be designated as sensitive products by the EU and the G-10? How can developing countries counteract pressures to designate these products as sensitive?
- What are the sources and impacts of preference erosion on the ACP banana and sugar sectors? What can be seen from the EU policy response to the impact of preference erosion in ACP economies and societies?
- How should the issue of the overlap between preference-receiving products and tropical products be dealt with? What are possible trade-based and non-trade based approaches for addressing adjustment burdens related to preference erosion?

Lead discussants: **David Laborde**, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and **Paul Goodison**, consultant.

Panelists: **Sara Wong**, Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral, Guayaquil, Ecuador; **María Marta Rebizo**, Fundación Instituto para las Negociaciones Agrícolas Internacionales, Argentina; **Lucas N. Saronga**, Permanent Mission of Tanzania to the WTO; **Vandana Aggarwal**, Secretariat for the Committee on Infrastructure, Government of India

Discussion

Tuesday 4 December

Chair (morning sessions): André Nassar, ICONE

8:30 – 11:00 First Morning Session

Session 4: TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY AND VALUE CHAINS

- How can supply management support rural livelihoods?
- What is the impact on sustainable development of different voluntary supply chain initiatives in tropical products? What are the limits of voluntary initiatives in addressing sustainable development challenges and where is complementary policy support needed?
- How can value chains make a difference for small-scale farmers to contribute to agri-food-fuel production?
- What are the implications of different value chain structures for small-scale farmers and labourers in the banana, sugar, palm oil and cut flowers sectors? What is the relative competitiveness of ACP and non-ACP value chains for the same four commodities?
- What are the options for improving labour conditions and the competitiveness/participation of small-scale farmers in value chains?

Lead discussant: **Charles Mather**, School of Geography, Archeology and Environmental Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Panelists: **Jamie Morrison**, Trade and Markets Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); **Peter Zuurbier**, Latin American Desk, Wageningen University and Research Centre; **Stephen Mbithi**, Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:30 Second Morning Session

Session 5: BIOFUEL PRODUCTION AND TRADE

- What are the challenges of biofuel production and trade in the tropics?
- What is the potential for biofuels to contribute to (sustainable) economic development in the tropics?
- Do WTO negotiations on tropical products and commodities have an implication on trade in biofuels?
- What are key markets, tariffs and non-tariff measures on exports of 'tropical' biofuels (sugarcane ethanol and biodiesel from palm oil)?

- What can we learn from the Brazilian experience of using sugarcane ethanol as a diversification alternative from tropical products?

Lead discussant: **Jane Earley**, consultant

Panelists: **Arioaldo Luchiari**, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa); **Riyad Insanally**, Organization of American States; **Rubén Darío Lizarralde**, Indupalma.

13:30 – 15:00 LUNCH

15:00 – 17:00 First Afternoon Session

Chair: Saulo Nogueira, ICONE

Session 6: TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- What are the impacts of trade liberalisation in tropical products on rural poverty and the environment? What policy responses can enhance the contribution of trade to promoting sustainable development?
- How can agricultural productivity and natural resource management be improved in the tropics?

Lead discussants: **Luis Fernando Laranja Fonseca**, WWF-Brasil and **Chantal Line Carpentier**, Division for Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Panelists: **Kent Nnadozie**, Southern Environmental and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (SEAPRI); **Wang Zhanlu**, Ministry of Agriculture, China; **George Alcee**, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); **Amos Wiltshire**, National Fairtrade Organisation of Dominica (**tbc**).

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee Break

17:30 – 19:00 Second Afternoon Session and dinner

Session 7: DISTILLING LEARNINGS TO FEED THE CURRENT WTO DEBATE

This session will seek to identify concrete findings from the previous discussions to help advance current talks in the context of the Doha Round. Participants will be split up into smaller groups.

Co-Chairs: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, ICTSD and André Nassar, ICONE

Open discussion

Wednesday 5 December

9:00 – 11:30 Final Session

Session 8: LOOKING FORWARD - A RESEARCH AND ACTION AGENDA FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS

This session will seek to identify knowledge gaps and priorities for action that would enable policy makers and influencers to ensure that the WTO negotiations on tropical products truly support sustainable development goals. Again, smaller groups will be organised in different configurations.

Co-Chairs: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, ICTSD and André Nassar, ICONE

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30 Synthesis

13:30 LUNCH

15:00 – 19:00 **visit of Salvador**