



inside this issue:

Animal Agriculture Workshop in Brussels

Oilseeds Paper published

IPC Chairman Robert Thompson on the 2007 US Farm Bill & the DDA

Preview of the 36th IPC Seminar in Hanoi, Vietnam

IPC news in short

IPC announcements

a quarterly newsletter from the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council

IPC holds animal agriculture workshop in Brussels

On September 14, the IPC held a workshop in Brussels on animal agriculture. The workshop, held together with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), brought together parties interested in animal health, animal welfare and public health.

Two main presentations were discussed at length. Dr. Andreas Schneider of CEPS focused on the impact of food policy regulation on animal agriculture in Europe in his presentation "Time for Good Meat: Challenges for Animal Agriculture". Dr. Ulrich Sperling of Safe Food Solutions (SAFOSO) presented his paper entitled "Beef, Pork and Poultry Production in 2020: Key Issues in Animal Health, Food Safety and Animal Welfare" in which he explained the interrelationship between animal health, food safety and animal welfare. In addition to the two main presentations, Emma Cardy-Brown of Rabobank gave an overview of market trends in the world meat market. IPC member Jiro Shiwaku also provided an insightful update on the deliberations of the Japanese Food Safety Commission on the conditions for reopening the Japanese market to US beef.

Key issues which emerged from the discussion were the role of governance in animal agriculture (e.g. the need for a strong and independent global standard-setting body) as well as the importance of international dispute-settlement mechanisms.

Participants of the workshop included a range of different animal agriculture stakeholders, coming from the meat and livestock industries, animal feed producers, policy makers from the area of animal health and welfare as well as trade associations. Among the participants were representatives from the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV), Meat and Wool New Zealand, Provimi, Elanco, the Dutch Dairy Association, the European Commission's Unit on Animal Health and Welfare Zootechnics, the US Department of Agriculture as well as the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH).

This workshop was the first stage of the IPC's study on animal agriculture. Participants in the workshop helped to refine the initial commissioned papers and identify additional issues and stakeholders that need to be included in the Council's work.

Following the workshop, IPC Chief Executive M. Ann Tutwiler said that she hoped to broaden the conversation on this topic in the future, to possibly include a stronger focus on Brazil and China. The study could also be expanded to include WTO and SPS measures as well as an angle on new and emerging technologies to improve productivity and safety in food production.

IPC Calendar

October 24, 25: Presentation of 2007 US Farm Bill & DDA Paper in Brussels and Geneva

October 28-31: 36th IPC Plenary Session and Seminar, Sofitel Plaza Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

December 13-18: 6th WTO Ministerial Conference, Hong Kong

IPC in Hong Kong

Over a dozen IPC members will be in Hong Kong to attend the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference held from 13 - 18 December. Details on the planned IPC events during the Ministerial will be available on the IPC website soon: www.agritrade.org

Preview of IPC's 36th Seminar in Hanoi, Vietnam

The IPC will hold its 36th Seminar in Hanoi, Vietnam, on October 31, 2005. The seminar is held in partnership with the National Committee for International Economic Cooperation (NCIEC), WWF Indochina's Vietnam Programme Office and the WWF's Macroeconomic Programme Office. Entitled "International Agricultural Trade and Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia", the seminar will look at Vietnam's agricultural policy in terms of how development can remain sustainable while satisfying both domestic goals and international commitments.

Participants in the seminar will include high-ranking Vietnamese government officials and ministers, farm leaders, trade associations, business groups, NGOs with projects in the region, academics and representatives from foreign embassies.

The seminar will be split into two main themes. Morning sessions will cover issues in agricultural trade and the progress of multilateral negotiations, with specific attention on Vietnam's accession to the WTO. The afternoon sessions will focus on domestic and regional issues such as rural development, building local competitiveness into global value chains and environmental concerns.

Agenda highlights include an address by the Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Cao Duc Phat, on building a sustainable future for agriculture in Vietnam. Eric Coull, Director of WWF Indochina, will discuss the balance between economic and environmental pressures in the Greater Mekong Region.

Given the overall theme of sustainable development, a session will deal with how concerns of rural areas can be addressed in the context of agricultural policies in Vietnam. Turning towards

international agricultural trade issues, another session will focus on the impacts of trade reform and what Vietnam can do to make its agricultural sector competitive in the long run.

With the WTO's Ministerial in Hong Kong approaching, an update will be given on the progress of the Doha Round negotiations, with different perspectives coming from Geneva, Europe, the United States and the G20.

The final session will look at the production of cocoa with regards to social/environmental sustainability and the governance of the supply chain.

For more information on the seminar and online registration visit:

www.agritrade.org/Plenary/Hanoi/Hanoi05.htm



IPC Chairman Robert Thompson on the 2007 US Farm Bill and the WTO

The IPC has published a paper by chairman Dr. Robert Thompson, analyzing the link between the 2007 US Farm Bill and the Doha Round negotiations of the WTO. The paper argues that while the drafting of the next US Farm Bill and the Doha Round negotiations are proceeding on parallel tracks, both have a significant impact on one another. The paper, which grew out of a number of presentations given by Dr. Thompson in recent weeks, gives an overview of recent developments in US farm policy and analyzes the influence of international agricultural trade agreements on domestic legislation – and vice-versa.

After examining different factors that will play a role in the drafting of the 2007 US Farm Bill, Thompson concludes that because of the need for a

successful outcome of the Doha Round and due to domestic factors such as the Federal budget deficit and the recognition that farm programs are not achieving their stated objective, there is a good chance that fundamental change in US farm policy is possible.

He argues that this year, the United States has an historic opportunity to seize the initiative to craft an ambitious outcome that will set the stage for real farm policy reforms that take account of new realities in US agriculture and that will encourage the rest of the world to increase access to the growth markets of the future.

The IPC will present this paper at various workshops and meetings in the coming weeks, starting with seminars in Brussels and Geneva at the end of October.



IPC to release first sustainability program commodity study

From the second phase of the IPC's Sustainability Program comes an initial study on oilseeds by Thomas Earley, Jane Earley, and Matthew Straub. The study describes the environmental effects of trade reform in the major oil crops – soy, palm oil and rapeseed – by assessing the policies at work in some of the top producing countries using a matrix approach.

In terms of oilseed production, consumption and trade, the study finds that the impact of the Doha Development Round will be far less than either long-term demand or biodiesel policies. The analysis does however, conclude that the Doha-related policy changes will provide producing countries with an opportunity to revisit development policies to benefit both their continued ability to supply world markets and to serve environmental goals with a minimum of further disruption to challenged eco-

and social systems. The oilseed sector will continue to be an important driver for environmental changes taking place in palm oil and soy producing countries, particularly those where good management practices and environmental law enforcement ability are challenged by the rapid pace of development spurred by high oilseed prices. This study provides a useful tool for national policy-makers to evaluate the environmental effects of their decisions as they confront the challenges ahead.

• The second commodity study of the IPC's sustainability program will be on sugar. It will focus on the implications of trade reform on sugar production and the resulting effects on the environment. The study will follow the same format as the oilseeds study. Thomas and Jane Early will be consultants on this project.



Other IPC news in short:

- IPC Chief Executive M. Ann Tutwiler has been asked by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) to present the IPC's views on the link between trade reform and poverty alleviation, to a meeting of the European Union's trade and development ministers in Brussels in October. The talk will also spell out the necessary components of a WTO agreement on agriculture for developing countries.
- IPC Chairman Robert L. Thompson is co-chairing a Farm Bill task force, convened by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. IPC Chief Executive M. Ann Tutwiler is also a member of this task force, which will generate concrete ideas for farm policy reforms.
- In conjunction with IPC member Jikun Huang and Dr. Nicholas Kalitazandonakes, the IPC will be assessing China's potential costs of compliance with the Biosafety Protocol. Pending funding, the IPC hopes to conduct similar studies in other developing countries.

• IPC Chairman Robert L. Thompson, Chief Executive M. Ann Tutwiler and IPC members Joe O'Mara and Rob Johnson, were appointed by the USDA and USTR to serve as advisors on respective agricultural trade policy advisory committees.

News release available at:
www.agritrade.org/Home.html

• IPC Chief Executive M. Ann Tutwiler traveled to Brazil and Argentina in August to meet with leading members of trade and agricultural ministries of the respective governments. In Brazil, she met with the Brazilian interagency trade policy group, an informal task force comprised of representatives from the Ministries of Trade, Agriculture and Rural Development, along with the major farmers' associations. She also presented the IPC's advice on the July Framework agreement to a seminar hosted by ICONE in Sao Paolo. In Argentina, she had conversations with senior executives, government leaders and with the country's negotiating team in the Ministry of Trade.

IPC Announcements

IPC Chief Executive M. Ann Tutwiler was appointed to the board of the International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development.

IPC Welcomes New Staff

The IPC welcomes its new interns Alex Goyes and Sarah Brechbill to the IPC secretariat in Washington DC. Alex Goyes will be working on biofuels-related trade issues and Sarah Brechbill will be contributing to the IPC's Sustainability Program, focusing on the environmental implications of sugar and trade.

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***Promoting an Open and
Efficient Food and Agriculture
System***

www.agritrade.org

The IPC's Mission

The International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) is dedicated to developing and advocating policies that support an efficient and open global food system, that promotes economically and environmentally sustainable production and that distributes safe, accessible food supplies to the world's growing population.

The IPC's Members

IPC members represent the geographic diversity of the global food system, and the entire food chain from producer to consumer. IPC members are influential and experienced leaders in agricultural trade policy who are committed to finding solutions to global food and agricultural trade challenges.

Robert L. Thompson (Chair), United States

Piet Bukman (Vice-Chair), The Netherlands

Allen Andreas, United States
Bernard Auxenfans, France
Malcolm Bailey, New Zealand
Andrew Burke, United States
Csàba Csàki, Hungary
Pedro de Camargo Neto, Brazil
Luis de la Calle, Mexico
H.S. Dillon, Indonesia
Cal Dooley, United States
Franz Fischler, Austria
Michael Gifford, Canada
Ahmed Goueli, Egypt

Huang Jikun, China
Heinz Imhof, Switzerland
Rob Johnson, United States
Hans Jöhr, Switzerland
Timothy Josling, United Kingdom
Guy Legras, France
Rolf Moehler, Belgium
Raul Montemayor, Philippines
Donald Nelson, United States
Joe O'Mara, United States
Nèstor Osorio, Colombia
Michel Petit, France

Per Pinstруп-Andersen, Denmark
Henry Plumb, United Kingdom
Marcelo Regunaga, Argentina
Eugenia Serova, Russia
Hiroshi Shiraiwa, Japan
Jiro Shiwaku, Japan
Jim Starkey, United States
Jerry Steiner, United States
Ajay Vashee, Zambia
Anthony Wylie, Chile
Jorge Zorreguieta, Argentina

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