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ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics Economics & Trade Branch

UNEP TRADE AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF TRADE-RELATED POLICIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR – SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

In furtherance of CBD COP Decision VI/5, which requests the CBD Executive Secretary “to study further the impacts of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme . . .”

In July 2005, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a four-year initiative, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to build national capacities in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP countries) to assess, design and implement policies that maximize development gains from trade in the agricultural sector while minimizing their impact on biodiversity.

As a first step in this initiative, UNEP, in cooperation with the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, is developing a *Trade and Biodiversity Assessment Reference Manual* to provide guidance for assessing the effects of agricultural trade-related policies on biodiversity. A key component of the *Reference Manual* will be the development of biodiversity indicators and valuation techniques. This work will build on related efforts by the CBD Secretariat, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), and others.

Once the *Reference Manual* has been developed in 2006, national institutions in six ACP pilot countries will customize the methodologies and indicators to fit local conditions and needs prior to undertaking national assessments of relevant agricultural trade-related policies. Based on the outcomes from these assessments, national response measures will be designed and implemented, including regulatory policies, economic instruments and voluntary measures.

Results from the assessment stage will also be used to inform the negotiations and implementation of EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Particular attention will be paid to trade flows influencing the management and use of agricultural resources and biodiversity, which are likely to be enhanced during implementation of these EPAs.

UNEP formally launched this initiative at a meeting in Geneva on 15 July 2005. Twenty-five representatives from international and regional organizations, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations provided advice on the development of the *Reference Manual*. Participants also discussed criteria for identifying potential pilot countries and highlighted agricultural sectors of key importance. Documents related to this launch meeting and the overall initiative are available on the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) website: <http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/biodivAgriSector.php>.

OVERVIEW OF THE UNEP INITIATIVE

■ MISSION

To support African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in their efforts to promote sustainable development, reduce poverty and implement the CBD by enhancing national capacities to assess, design and implement policies that maximize development gains from trade in the agriculture sector while minimizing the impact on biological diversity.

■ OBJECTIVES

The initiative will enhance national capacities to:

- Assess the impacts of agriculture trade-related policies on biological diversity
- Design and implement integrated national responses, including traditional regulatory policies, economic instruments and voluntary measures, to respond to the outcomes from the integrated assessment
- Negotiate and implement EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

■ KEY OUTPUTS

The key outputs of the initiative include:

- *A Trade and Biodiversity Assessment Reference Manual* for assessing the effects of trade-related policies
- Country Project Reports summarizing the methodologies used in the integrated assessments, the main stakeholders involved, and the findings and results from the assessment process
- National Policy Action Plans accompanied by an outline of the costs and benefits of implementation and suggestions for using the outcomes in the negotiation and implementation of the EU-ACP EPAs
- A Final Synthesis Report summarizing the results of the six country projects and the outputs from the regional and international conferences



This initiative is funded through the generous financial support of the European Union.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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