

ETC Group - Monitoring Power, Tracking Technology, Strengthening Diversity.

CGIAR



The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is an informal network of 16 international agricultural research centres which manages approximately 600,000 agricultural seed samples. It is the most influential agricultural research body in the South, and thus affects food and agricultural development policies for resource-poor farmers worldwide. In 1994, most of the crop germplasm held in CGIAR gene banks was placed under the auspices of the FAO, to be held in trust for the world community. ETC Group is engaged in ongoing work related to the science, governance and patent policies of the CGIAR.

Latest Publications

[Who Will Feed Us? Questions for the Food and Climate Crises](#)

Type: Communiqué
Date: 12/14/2009
Language: English

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Who Will Feed Us?

2009's most important intergovernmental meeting on the climate and food crises has already happened. In October, as climate negotiators were fighting in Bangkok and as the UN food agencies were jousting over a restructured response to the food crisis and plans for the World Food Summit, the Food and Agriculture Organizations's (FAO) Commission on Genetic Resources met quietly in Rome to review the preparedness of the international community to adapt and develop crops, livestock, aquatic and microbial genetic resources used in food and agriculture to address climate change. The meeting also considered the political and corporate constraints that could prevent a major strategic shift to achieve our food security. The Rome Food Summit in November and the Copenhagen Climate Summit in December should pay attention. At stake is the answer to the most important question not being asked in... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Enola Patent Ruled Invalid: Haven't we Bean here before? \(Yes, yes, yes, yes and yes.\)](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 07/14/2009
Language: English

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104.5KB

ETC Group News Release 14 July 2009 www.etcgroup.org

Enola Patent Ruled Invalid: Haven't we Bean here before? (Yes, yes, yes, yes and yes.) On July 10, 2009, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled that U.S. patent 5,894,079 (the "Enola" bean patent), which claims a yellow bean of Mexican origin, is invalid because none of the patent claims meet the criterion of non-obviousness. The case has been closely watched by civil society groups concerned about biopiracy, the patenting of life and the corporate control of

yellow beans would have done exactly what the "inventor" Larry Proctor did: "plant the beans, harvest the resulting plants for their seeds, planting the latter seeds, and repeat the process two more times." [1] The decision concludes... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[H\(a\)LF a Loaf: Finally, in Madrid, a High-Level Forum considers Governance](#)

Type: Communiqué Date: 01/22/2009 Language: English
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 13.9MB

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 495.5KB

To Download the full report, click on Download PDF for Print-Quality version. Download PDF2 for Screen-Quality version. ETC Group Communiqué 23 January 2009 www.etcgroup.org.

Issue: The main (and much-needed) goal of the Madrid High-Level meeting is to reorganize the intergovernmental management of food and agriculture. At the last food crisis in 1974, OECD states savaged the UN's unified system and carved it into four warring factions. In the midst of today's food crisis, the four remain underfunded, weakly governed and dismayingly competitive. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the biggest "loner" in the crowd, the World Food Program (WFP), are all either suffering from harsh external reviews or major program reorganization. Complicating the problem, UN... [Read more](#)

Categories:

["Failure as Usual" Food Summit](#)

Type: Other Date: 06/26/2008 Language: English

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 457.3KB

June 2008 ETC Group Translator Ciao FAO: Another "Failure-as-Usual" Food Summit Contrary to the opinion of many, June's Food Summit actually did something. It signaled the beginning of the end for the multilateral system as we know it. Over the next six months the food emergency - and the international institutions designed to address it - could get worse. The full text offers a line-by-line interpretation of the Food Summit's final declaration. Issue: During the 3-5 June 2008 World Food Summit, governments patched together sufficient funds to keep the lid on food rebellions for a few months but all the fundamental and long-term institutional and financial problems remain. In Rome, governments opted for a mythical "techno-fix" led by agribusiness in collaboration with the Gates Foundation and other philanthro-capitalists. These "klepto-mandates" are usurping the multilateral system. There is also a clear power shift away from the... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Patenting the "Climate Genes" ...and Capturing the Climate Agenda](#)

Type: Communiqué Date: 05/13/2008 Language: English
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 766.4KB Communiqué May/June 2008 Issue # 99

Patenting the "Climate Genes"... And Capturing the Climate Agenda

Issue: The world's largest seed and agrochemical corporations are stockpiling hundreds of monopoly patents on genes in plants that the companies will market as crops genetically engineered to withstand environmental stresses such as drought, heat, cold, floods, saline soils, and more. BASF, Monsanto, Bayer, Syngenta, Dupont and biotech partners have filed 532 patent documents (a total of 55 patent families) on so-called "climate ready" genes at patent offices around the world. In the face of climate chaos and a deepening world food crisis, the Gene Giants are gearing up for a PR offensive to re-brand themselves as climate saviours. The focus on so-called climate-ready genes is a golden opportunity to push genetically engineered crops as a silver bullet solution to climate change. But patented techno-fix seeds... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[News Release: Gene Giants Grab "Climate Genes"](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 05/12/2008
Language: English

Download PDF:

 115.0KB

ETC Group News Release Tuesday, May 13, 2008 www.etcgroup.org

Gene Giants Grab "Climate Genes"

Amid Global Food Crisis, Biotech Companies are Exposed as Climate Change Profiteers A [report](#) released today by Canadian-based civil society organization, ETC Group, reveals that the world's largest seed and agrochemical corporations are stockpiling hundreds of monopoly patents on genes in plants that the companies will market as crops genetically engineered to withstand environmental stresses associated with climate change - including drought, heat, cold, floods, saline soils, and more. ETC Group's report warns that - rather than a solution for confronting climate change - the promise of so-called "climate-ready" crops will be used to drive farmers and governments onto a proprietary biotech platform. "In the face of climate chaos and a... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Svalbard's Doomsday Vault: The Global Seed Vault Raises Political/Conservation Debate](#)

Type: Communiqué
Date: 02/26/2008
Language: English

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 231.5KB

Svalbard's Doomsday Vault: The Global Seed Vault Raises Political/Conservation Debate The swarm of media attention focusing on today's opening of the Global Seed Vault in Norway's high Arctic may overshadow an even bigger news story. Yesterday, 26 February, the Norwegian government pledged to give 0.1% of money spent on commercial seed sales to support Farmers' Rights, and challenged other governments to do the same. The critical message is that even the most secure gene bank storage is not the ultimate solution. Governments must provide support to farmers to improve local conservation and breeding, and help them obtain access to far away seed accessions. Global food security depends upon a

breeding work is urgent. On the occasion of the opening of the Global Seed Vault in Svalbard, Norway, ETC Group releases a new Communique, "Svalbard's Doomsday Vault: The... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Les appareils défaillants de l'alimentation = cuisine branchée de Paris Souveraineté alimentaire – à la cartel?](#)

Type: Communiqué
Date: 02/12/2008
Language: French

Download PDF:

 894.9KB

Communiqué Janvier 2008 Numéro 97

Les appareils défaillants de l'alimentation = cuisine branchée de Paris

Souveraineté alimentaire – à la cartel? Parce que les États n'ont pas su gouverner, les grandes institutions multilatérales de l'alimentation et l'agriculture sont dans le pétrin. Si les États et les secrétariats internationaux ne coopèrent pas, ces institutions subiront des torts irréparables : les multinationales de l'agroalimentaire et les nouveaux philantro-capitalistes vont continuer de combler le vide du pouvoir créé par les États membres de l'OCDE depuis quelques décennies.

Le contexte : La souveraineté alimentaire, une doctrine politique issue de Via Campesina, est devenue un problème géopolitique branché. Pour la première fois depuis des... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Monsanto prend le contrôle de Delta & Pine Land et de la technologie des semences Terminator](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 08/16/2006
Language: French

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Categories:

[Monsanto Acquires Delta & Pine Land and Terminator](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 08/16/2006
Language: English

Download PDF:

 416.2KB

News Release ETC Group 16 August 2006 www.etcgroup.org www.banterminator.org

Monsanto Announces Takeover of Delta & Pine Land and Terminator Seed Technology (again)

it will buy the world's leading cotton seed company, Mississippi-based (USA) Delta & Pine Land, for US\$1.5 billion. Monsanto and Delta & Pine Land (D&PL) together account for over 57% of the US cotton seed market. With D&PL subsidiaries in 13 countries - including major markets such as China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Turkey and Pakistan - the takeover means that Monsanto will command a dominant position in one of the world's most important agricultural trade commodities and that millions of cotton farmers will be under increased pressure to accept genetically... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[News Release: Call for rejection of World Bank-GEF biosafety projects](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 06/27/2006
Language: English

Download PDF:

 423.5KB

Groups in Latin America and Africa call for rejection of World Bank-GEF biosafety projects

News Release / June 27th 2006

Released by: African Centre for Biosafety - <http://www.biosafetyafrica.net> ETC Group - <http://www.etcgroup.org> GRAIN - <http://www.grain.org> Red por una América Latina Libre de Transgénicos - <http://www.rallt.org>

Two World Bank projects, with funding from the GEF (Global Environmental Facility), propose to introduce genetically modified crops such as maize, potatoes, cassava, rice and cotton into five Latin American and four African countries that are centers of origin or diversity for these and other major food crops. Civil society organizations warn... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Groups in Africa, Latin America condemn World Bank biosafety projects](#)

Type: Other
Date: 06/26/2006
Language: English

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 89.5KB

The World Bank is set to secure funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for two projects that will undermine public debate and aggressively drive GM crops into the heart of peasant agriculture. The two projects, one in West Africa and the other in Latin America, will hasten the spread of GM crops into farmer seed systems and even into certain centres of origin.

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Categories:

[A ONU Mantém a Moratória sobre a Tecnologia das Sementes Terminator](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 03/31/2006
Language: Portuguese

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Campanha Terminar Terminator Comunicado de Imprensa 31 de março de 2006 www.etcgroup.org www.banterminator.org

Movimentos de Agricultores, de Povos Indígenas e de Organizações da Sociedade Civil ao Redor do Mundo Exigem Banimento

É oficial. Os governos na Convenção de Diversidade Biológica das Nações Unidas (CDB), de forma unânime, mantiveram a moratória internacional de facto sobre a tecnologia Terminator - plantas que são geneticamente engenheiradas para produzirem sementes estéreis na colheita. A 8ª reunião da CDB foi encerrada hoje, em Curitiba, Brasil.

"A CDB, acertadamente, rejeitou as tentativas do Canadá, Austrália e Nova Zelândia - apoiados pelo governo dos Estados Unidos e pela... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Captain Hook Awards for Biopiracy 2006](#)

Type: Communiqué
Date: 03/29/2006
Language: English

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 175.6KB

The Coalition Against Biopiracy exposed the globe's nastiest biopirates and rewarded the most steadfast resisters at the Captain Hook Awards on 24 March during the meeting of the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Curitiba, Brazil. This ETC Group *Communique* provides a detailed description of the 2006 award winners.

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Categories:

[News Release: Ban Terminator Campaign -- Terminator Seed Battle Begins: Farmers Face Billions of Dollars in Potential Costs](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 03/22/2006
Language: English

Download PDF:

 133.6KB

Ban Terminator Campaign News Release www.banterminator.org 22nd March 2006

Terminator Seed Battle Begins: Farmers Face Billions of Dollars in Potential Costs

Curitiba, Brazil. After a week that has seen a worldwide mobilisation against Terminator technology, the issue of Suicide Seeds is about to hit the negotiating floor of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in Curitiba, Brazil. Known to the CBD as GURTs (Genetic Use Restriction Technologies), Terminator crops are genetically modified to create sterile seeds at harvest so that farmers must buy new seed every season. Today the Ban Terminator Campaign, a global coalition of over 500 organisations, released new financial calculations indicating that Terminator seeds will impose a burden of billions of extra dollars in seed costs on some of the world's poorest nations.

The calculations,... [Read more](#)

[Whatever Happened to the Enola Bean Patent Challenge?](#)

Type: Genotype
Date: 12/21/2005
Language: English

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 134.3KB

The Enola bean patent case demonstrates that intellectual property challenges are not a viable means of "correcting" abuses in the patent system. It has been five years since the Colombia-based International Center for Tropical Agriculture filed an official challenge of the now infamous Enola bean patent in Washington, DC. Because of bureaucratic delays and diversions, it's not over yet! ETC Group provides an update on Mexican bean biopiracy.

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Categories:

[Industry Exploits New Study on GM Contamination in Mexico](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 08/11/2005
Language: English

Download PDF:

 171.1KB

ETC Group News Release Thursday, 11 August 2005 www.etcgroup.org

<!--[if !supportEmptyParas]--><!--[endif]--> The Genetic Shell Game, or, Now you see it! Now you don't! Industry exploits new study on transgenic maize in Mexico

Biotech proponents are using a new scientific study - which finds no evidence of DNA contamination from genetically modified (GM) maize in one area of one Mexican state (Oaxaca) - to claim that Mexico's native maize was never threatened, and even if it was at one time, the issue has now miraculously evaporated. One representative of agribusiness in Mexico, eagerly concluded that, "this study paves the way for the commercial planting of GM maize in Mexico."⁽¹⁾ <!--[endif]-->

According to Silvia Ribeiro of ETC Group in Mexico: "It's no surprise that the industry is using the findings to serve its own interests - as 'proof' that... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Canada Denies Visa for Africa's Top Biosafety Negotiator](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 05/18/2005
Language: English

Download PDF:

 122.9KB

Canada Denies Visa for Africa's Top Biosafety Negotiator

Montreal's status as UN's biodiversity headquarters is jeopardized

In a breathtaking display of political interference, the Canadian government has blocked entry of Africa's chief negotiator for the Cartagena (biosafety) Protocol, who was scheduled to attend UN meetings beginning next week in Montreal. The Protocol is the United Nations treaty that governs the international movement of genetically modified (GM) organisms.

Dr. Tewelde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, the Ethiopian government's chief scientist and its representative to the Montreal-based UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) had his passport returned without the requested Canadian visa yesterday, and without explanation.

The renowned... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Syngenta to let Mega-Genome Patent Lapse: "Daisy-cutter" Patent Bomb Busted](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 02/14/2005
Language: English

Download PDF:

 127.9KB

ETC Group News Release 14 February 2005 www.etcgroup.org

Syngenta to let Mega-Genome Patent Lapse: "Daisy-cutter" Patent Bomb Busted

Following 72 hours of negotiations by e-mail, telephone and in-person, the Swiss Gene Giant Syngenta confirmed to ETC Group last Friday, February 11, that it would allow its multi-genome patent application covering the flowering sequences in at least 40 plant species to lapse at the European Patent Office (EPO), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and around the world. Syngenta's announcement follows a month-long campaign launched by ETC Group and supported by farmers' organizations, trade unions and other civil society organizations.

The patent was called the "daisy-cutter" after the world's largest conventional bomb, which has parachuted from US Air Force cargo planes to clear troop-landing sites in Vietnam and during the Gulf and Iraq... [Read more](#)

Categories:

[Canadian Government to Unleash Terminator Bombshell at UN Meeting: All-out push for commercialisation of Sterile Seed Technology](#)

Type: News Item
Date: 02/07/2005
Language: English

Download PDF:

 112.8KB

ETC Group News Release 7 February 2005 www.etcgroup.org

Canadian Government to Unleash Terminator Bombshell at UN Meeting: All-out push for commercialisation of Sterile Seed Technology

Bangkok (Feb 7-11), will attempt to overturn an international moratorium on genetic seed sterilisation technology (known universally as Terminator). Even worse, the Canadian government has instructed its negotiators to "block consensus" on any other option.

"Canada is about to launch a devastating kick in the stomach to the world's most vulnerable farmers - the 1.4 billion people who depend on farm saved seed," said ETC Group Executive Director Pat Mooney speaking from Ottawa. "The Canadian government is doing the dirty work for the multinational gene giants and the US... [Read more](#)

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