



RIS Diary

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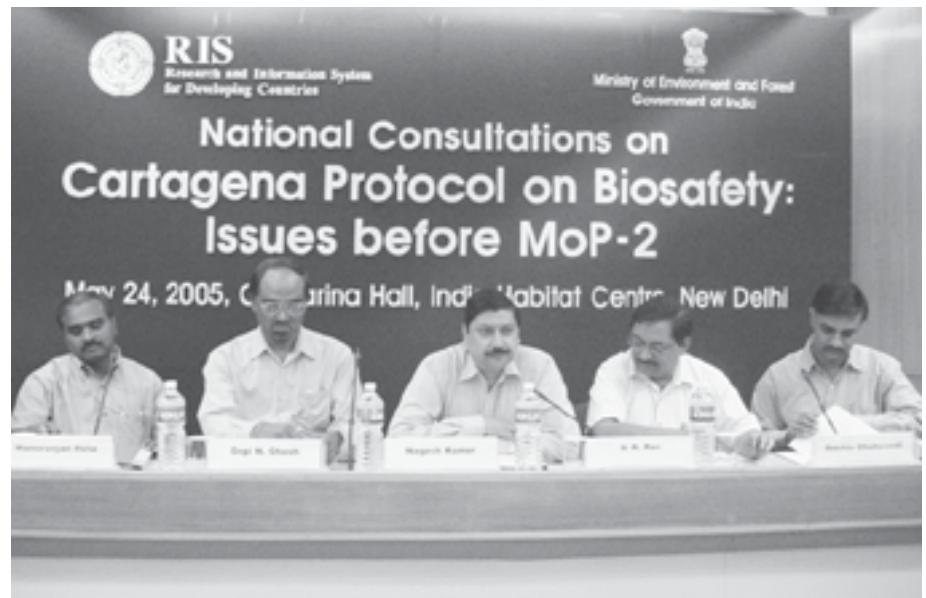
National Consultations on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Issues before MoP-2

RIS in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), organized National Consultations on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Issues before MoP-2 on May 24, 2005 in New Delhi. The programme began with the opening remarks by Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS. Dr S R Rao, Advisor to Minister of Science and Technology, Government of India delivered the keynote address on "Cartagena Protocol: Identifying the Issues of Concern". Mr. Gopi N. Ghosh, Assistant FAO Representative in India, and Dr. Manoranjan Hota, Additional Director, Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), also addressed the inaugural session. Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS extended the vote of thanks.

Dr T. V. Ramanaiah, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, chaired the first session on Precautionary Principle and Compliance Mechanism: Exploring the Policy Spaces. The main speakers in the session were Dr. Bala Krishna Pisupati, IUCN, Sri Lanka, Prof. A. Damodaran, Homi Bhabha Fellow, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and Dr. R. K. Khetrpal, Head, Plant Quarantine Division, the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources was the discussant.

The next session on Liability and Redress: International Trends and Domestic Policy Options was co-chaired by Dr. Rajiv Mehta, Member-Secretary, CACP, Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Suparas Bhandari, Chairman & Managing Director, Agriculture Insurance Company Limited. The main speakers included: Dr. Philippe Cullet, International Environmental Law Research Centre, Geneva, and Dr. R. S. Rana, Former Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources. Prof. M. M. Payak, Former Head, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and Shri R. K. Sinha, All India Crop Biotechnology Association were the discussants.

Dr. Mruthyunjaya, National Director, National Agricultural Technology Project, chaired the session on Incorporating Socio-Economic Concerns: Challenges and Policy Options. The main speakers were Dr. N.



(From left): Dr. Manoranjan Hota, Additional Director, Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF); Mr. Gopi N. Ghosh, Assistant FAO Representative in India; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS; Dr S R Rao, Advisor to Minister of Science and Technology, Government of India, and Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, RIS at the inaugural session.

Lalitha, Associate Professor, Gujarat Institute for Developmental Research (GIDR), Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow, and Dr. E. Haribabu, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad. Dr. Suman Sahai, Gene Campaign, and Dr Vibha Dhawan, Dean, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), were the discussants.

The session on International Commitments and Harmonizing Domestic Acts and Guidelines was chaired by Dr. S. R. Rao, Advisor to Minister of Science and Technology. The panelists in this session were Shri Arun Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing; Shri Prem Narain, Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture; Shri Sanjay Kumar, Director, Ministry of Commerce (MoC); and Dr. Manoranjan Hota, Additional Director, Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF).

The concluding session was chaired by Dr. Manoranjan Hota.

During the national consultation critical aspects of agricultural biotechnology were brought up. Since the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is likely to be one of the guiding principles for India's agricultural trade, it is important to tackle the policy challenges thrown up by the technology.

India's precautionary measures should take into account the need of industry and socio-economic concerns.

In the context of liability and redress, three main elements need to be considered: environmental damage, socio-economic impacts, and patent liability.

There was a general agreement regarding the need for guidelines on import and export of bulk GMOs. Socio-economic factors are important aspects of biosafety since in India a sizeable population is dependent on agriculture. However, there are stark gaps in information exchange and this leads to lack of knowledge at the taluka or the village level.

Towards an Employment-Oriented Export Strategy: Some Preliminary Explorations

India currently faces a major challenge of employment generation for its millions of unskilled and semi-skilled unemployed workers. The employment in organized sector has shrunk in the recent years despite acceleration in GDP growth. Although India has emerged as a leading global hub for the knowledge based service industry over the past decade, the services revolution could not absorb these unskilled and the semi-skilled millions. India needs an industrial revolution to complement the booming services to meet the challenge of employment creation. Some countries like China, Malaysia, Thailand among others have built export-oriented manufacturing industries and have created millions of job opportunities, while generating output and foreign exchange. This RIS study undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry explores into the role that exports can play in employment generation. It also attempted to estimate the employment resulting from exporting activity and projections on to 2010. These estimates were quoted by the Minister of Commerce and Industry in his speech on the National Foreign Trade Policy announced on April 8, 2005. The study also explores into a policy framework that could strengthen the role of exports in employment generation. A draft of the study was submitted to the Ministry in June 2005. Contact for further details: dgoffice@ris.org.in.

International Food Safety Regulation and Processed Food Exports from Developing Countries: Workshop in Australia

RIS in collaboration with multi-country and therefore multi-institutions linkage programme have undertaken a research study: "International Food Safety Regulation and Processed Food Exports from Developing Countries: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand". The project is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The core research team consists of P. Athukorala, Project co-coordinator, RSPAS, ANU; S. Jayasuriya, Project co-coordinator, University of Melbourne; R. Mehta, Leader, Indian research team from RIS; and B. Nidhiprabha, leader, Thai research team, Thammasat University, Bangkok.

As a part of this project, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and Division of Economics, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University (ANU) in

collaboration with University of Melbourne, Thammasat University and RIS organized an International Workshop on International Food Safety Standards and Processed Foods Exports from Developing Countries: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand on June 29, 2005 at ANU.

The main presenters were Prema Chandra Athukorala, ANU; Sisira Jayasuriya, University of Melbourne; Rajesh Mehta, RIS; Buddhima Lokuge, ANU; Bhanupong Nidhiprabha, Thammasat University and Razeen Sally, London School of Economics. A number of participants like: Peter Drahos, ANU; David Orden, IPFRI; Raghendra Jha, ANU; Peter Warr, ANU; Russell Hillberry, University of Melbourne; Ross Garnaut, ANU; acted as discussants.

Dr Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow and Indian Team Leader made a presentation on Indian Country Report entitled "International Food Safety Standards and Processed Food Exports: India". Some main objectives of this study were: (a) to understand more precisely how the food safety regulations applied by the industrialized countries affect India's exports of processed food to these markets (i.e. the relationship between India's exports to these markets and the prevailing FSS regulations in these countries), (b) to identify technical institutional and policy constraints faced by the firms in meeting SPS requirements, (c) to prepare a comprehensive inventory of existing SPS standards and actual practices, and compare them with international standards like Codex in order to demonstrate how the former deviate from the latter. Contact for further details: rajeshmehta@ris.org.in.

National Biosafety Guidelines and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety – Bridging the Gap

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has assumed importance in the context of trade in genetically modified (GM) products. Moreover, since this protocol has come into force in 2003 it is found that some of the provisions are in direct conflict with that of WTO. The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) approached RIS for identifying the existing gaps between the National Biosafety Guidelines, which were adopted in 1989, viz. Cartagena Protocol.

At present, national guidelines on biosafety are governed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The objective of this act is to protect the environment, nature and health in connection with the application of genetic engineering in producing GMOs. The 1989 Rules for the 'manufacture, use import, export and storage of hazardous micro organisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells'

issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests constitute the legally binding framework for GMOs in India. The 1989 rules call for the development of bio-safety guidelines, which were issued by the Department of Biotechnology in 1990. The 1989 rules mandate the creation of three competent authorities with specific functions assigned for each of them, which are Institutional Biosafety Committee (ISBC), Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC).

The MoEF study led to the specific inputs for India's position paper for Members of Party (MoP-2) which was organized in Montreal from May 29-3 June, 2005. The study recommended that, India should provide a lead to other developing countries not only in terms of articulating a position at the MoP-2 but also by adequately equipping the national legislation in this regard. The study also recommended further research on inclusion of socio-economic issues and working out various contours for an effective liability regime. Contact for further details: sachin@ris.org.in

India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

The Department of Commerce has entrusted RIS to undertake a study on "India-Malaysia Joint Study Group (JSG) for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). RIS study would review the existing bilateral trade between the two countries; identify the areas of bilateral trade interest and mutual cooperation, highlighting the areas of future trade potential and collaboration; identify existing barriers and suggest reform measures for the removal/reduction of such barriers through the proposed comprehensive economic cooperation agreement; and identify the likely impact (both positive and negative) of such a bilateral agreement. The study is to provide inputs to the work of the Joint Study Group set up to examine the feasibility of CECA between the two countries. Contact for further details: upendra@ris.org.in

Study on Third Round of Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)

The Agreement establishing the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among Developing countries entered into force on April 19, 1989. To date 44 countries, including India, have ratified the agreement. The agreement provides for exchanging tariff preferences on products of mutual interest. The

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India-US Dialogue on Trade Issues

Doha Agenda: A-USTR Visits RIS

The Delegation led by Ms. Meredith Broadbent, Assistant US Trade Representative (A-USTR), Mr. Sarah Bovin, Dy. A-USTR, Mr. Ashley Miller and Mr. Edward Dunn, International Trade Specialists, US Department of Commerce, accompanied by US Embassy officials visited RIS on 10 May 2005 to exchange views on trade policy issues particularly on NAMA. DG, RIS welcomed the Delegation and briefed them about the work of RIS on different issues.

In the discussion, DG, RIS emphasized that for their long-term sustainability it was important that multilateral trade negotiations appear to be providing real and credible benefits to developing countries rather than only pushing them to open their markets. Given the experience with the Uruguay Round, these negotiations are seen by developing countries as attempts by developed countries to push their agenda while resisting to open their markets.



(From right): Dr. Nagesh Kumar, DG, RIS, Ms. Meredith Broadbent, A-USTR, and members of her delegation at RIS.

Therefore, Director-General, RIS hoped that developed countries would show leadership in the Doha Round to restore the confidence in the system!

Seminar on an Asian Economic Community in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, DG, RIS was invited by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPFUSA) to deliver a seminar on Towards an Asian Economic Community: An Indian Perspective at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C. on 16 June 2005 under its Asian Voices programme. The Asian Voices programme has been launched by SPFUSA to promote a dialogue between the US and Asia. The Foundation invites Asian experts to deliver seminars to Washington audience of scholars and policy makers under the programme which has built up a sizable profile over the past four years.

The event was moderated by Dr. Walter Andersen, Associate Director of South Asia Studies and Professor of South Asian Studies at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University. It was commented upon by Dr. Ed Lincoln, Senior Fellow for Asia and Economic Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and Dr. Catherine Mann, Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Economics.

Dr. Kumar in his presentation highlighted how India's economy has emerged as one of the most dynamic in the world while also integrating closely with the world economy. He also showed how regional economic integration in Asia could serve as an additional engine of growth for India and other developing countries in Asia by facilitating trade and investment. Drawing upon the



(From left): Dr. Catherine Mann, Senior Fellow at the Institute for International Economics; Dr. Ed Lincoln, Senior Fellow for Asia and Economic Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations; Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director-General, RIS and Dr. Walter Andersen, Associate Director, South Asia Studies and Professor of South Asian Studies at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University (moderator) at the seminar.

ongoing work at RIS on these issues, he made a strong case for a broader Asian Economic Community built in a phased manner with Japan, ASEAN, China, India and Korea (JACIK) to which India can contribute to and benefit from. He emphasized that such an

integration would be a win-win not only for Asia but also for the world economy at large.

The presentation was received well by the audiences and also attracted comments in the media. SPFUSA will be publishing the transcript of the event.

Faculty News

Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director-General

- Nominated as a Member of the India-Japan Joint Study Group, set up by the Government of India.
- Nominated on the Governing Board of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva and participated in the Fifth Meeting of the ICTSD Governing Board held in Geneva on May 18-19, 2005.
- Nominated as convener for the subcommittee on practices of subsidizing production, distribution and consumption of fertilizer in other countries, constituted by Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizer, Government of India.
- Addressed the session on South Asian Regional Cooperation in the Colloquium in honour of Dr Lal Jayawardena organized by the Global Development Network in New Delhi on April 8, 2005.
- Made a lead presentation on Perspectives in Multilateral Economic Institution at the Third India-Canada Policy Dialogue, organized by the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi on April 12, 2005.
- Participated in the meeting to consider issues concerning RTAs, organized by the Planning Commission in New Delhi on April 13, 2005.
- Made a presentation on WTO, Development and Developing Countries: Ten Years After in the Panel Discussion on Making Trade Support Development: Global Problems and Viable Alternatives at the WTO Public Symposium, organized by the South Centre in Geneva on April 20-22, 2005.
- Made a presentation on A Development View of the Current Negotiation at the Third World Network session Development Perspective on the Current WTO Negotiations on April 21, 2005 in Geneva.
- Released and presented to the press ESCAP's Annual Publication *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific – 2005* at the UN Information Centre, New Delhi on April 25, 2005.
- Participated in the brain-storming session on Asian Economic Community, organized by the MER Division, Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on May 9, 2005.
- Made a presentation at the IDRC-UNESCAP Consultative Meeting on Foreign Direct Investment and Policy Challenges: Areas for New Research, held in Bangkok on May 12, 2005.

- Moderated a Round Table on Coping with Economic Effects of Regional Disasters at the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2005, held at ESCAP in Bangkok on May 13, 2005.
- Made a seminar presentation on Road to Hong Kong: A Development Perspective on the Doha Trade Round at UN-DESA, UN Headquarters, New York on June 13, 2005.
- Delivered a Seminar on Towards an Asian Economic Community: An Indian Perspective, organized by Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA in Washington DC on June 16, 2005 as part of their programme on Asian Voices: Promoting Dialogue between the U.S. and Asia at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (see details elsewhere).

Dr. Rajesh Mehta, Senior Fellow

- Nominated member of National Advisory Committee of "World Bank-WWF Global Alliance on Trade Liberalization, Rural Poverty and the Environment".
- Participated in the international conference on Employment & Income Security in India, organized by Institute for Human Development on April 6-8, 2005 in New Delhi.
- Participated in the Agriculture Summit 2005: Reforms for Raising Farm Income and contributed a paper on Growth Prospects of Poultry Sector presented at the Session on Growth Options for Dairy and Poultry, organized jointly with Ministry of Agriculture and FICCI on April 9-10, 2005 in New Delhi.
- Participated in the Inception Workshop on Contract Farming in Milk and Poultry in India: Logical Framework, Conceptual Design and Methodology, organized by IFPRI, South Asia Office, on April 22, 2005 in New Delhi.
- Discussant at a meeting on India-Thailand FTA organized by the Ministry of Commerce and chaired by the Commerce Secretary, on May 27, 2005.

Dr S. K. Mohanty, Fellow

- Participated in the Regional Seminar on Economic Cooperation in South Asia organized by CUTS-CITEE in association with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, New Delhi in Colombo, Sri Lanka on May 7-9, 2005.

Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Fellow

- Participated in the Design Team Meeting for the East and South Asia and Pacific Region organized by IAASTD & CASS on April 9-12, 2005 in Beijing, China.

- Presented a paper on Genetic Research and Intellectual Property Rights at the International Training Course on Health Research Ethics, organized by Fogarty International Center Bioethics Training Project on April 11-15, 2005 at Manila.
- Presented a paper on Evolving a National System of Biotechnology Innovation: Identifying New Dimensions of Public-Private Partnership at the seminar on Asia-Pacific Forum on National Innovation Systems for High-Level Policy-Makers, organized by Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of UN ESCAP on April 28-29, 2005 in New Delhi.
- Presented a paper on Doha Development Agenda and Issues before Hong Kong Ministerial: An Asian Perspective at the Asia and Pacific Regional Workshop on WTO Negotiations organized by Commonwealth Secretariat, on May 17-19, 2005 in Dhaka.
- Presented a paper on Trade Facilitation: WTO Negotiations and Beyond at the First Consultative Meeting of Trade Facilitation Project of ARTNET- UNESCAP, held on May 25-27, 2005 in Bangkok.

Dr Ram Upendra Das, Fellow

- Made a presentation for Ninth Meeting of the Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin, set up by Government of India, at Ministry of Commerce and Industry, April 7, 2005, New Delhi.
- Participated in a Conference "FRAMES 2005" organized by FICCI, April 3-7 2005, Mumbai.
- Made a presentation for Tenth Meeting of the Expert Group on Preferential Rules of Origin, set up by Government of India, at Ministry of Commerce and Industry, April 26, 2005, New Delhi.
- Participated in the Seventh Meeting of "SAARC Network of Researchers on "Global Financial and Economic Issues" organized by SAARC Secretariat on May 5-6, 2005, in Kathmandu.
- Made a presentation on "Indo-Thai FTA" organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Conference on Tamil Nadu – Leveraging Trade Agreements for Growth, June 16, 2005, in Chennai.
- Participated in the Second Meeting of the Joint Study Group (JSG) on Feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Malaysia held in Kuala Lumpur, on June 22-24, 2005.

Latest Publications

Discussion Papers

#93 *Asian Energy Outlook to 2020: Trends, Patterns and Imperatives of Regional Cooperation* by Kokichi Ito, Zhidong and Ryoichi Komiyama

With booming economic growth Asia will play increasingly important role in global economic and energy matters. World primary energy consumption is projected to expand at an average annual growth rate of 2.1 percent by 2020. About 70 percent of the increase would be accounted for by non-OECD member economies, two thirds of which are from the Asian region. The increase in demand for oil in Asia will most likely amplify the dependency on shipments from other regions (particularly the Middle East). Ensuring energy security would therefore turn out to be a vital task. In Asia (particularly East Asia), the achievement of the "three Es" (economic development, energy security, and environmental preservation) could no longer be viewed as a task to be addressed by each economy separately. Instead, it should be approached through region-wide cooperation - a goal of common interest.

#94 *India-Central Asia Economic Relations: A Report of RIS/CII Seminar*

Considering that India and Central Asian countries have held historical economic linkages and their future path of joint economic progress needs to be studied in greater detail Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi launched a research programme on 'Economic Cooperation between Indian and Central Asia'. As the first step towards meeting the objectives of the research programme RIS-CII Seminar on India and Central Asia Economic Relations was organized on October 17, 2003 in New Delhi. The Seminar was divided into two working sessions viz. (i) Geo-Strategic Perspectives and Framework for Trade and Investments which dealt with strategic and economic potential, business environment and trade linkages and (ii) Trade and Investment: Focus on the Energy Sector. The Seminar was well-attended by industry representatives, policy makers and academia. The paper contains the report of the seminar, background briefings, addresses, etc.

#95 *The Search for Regional Architecture: The Role of ASEAN as Strange Attractor* by Djisman S. Simanjuntak

There is one other important reason for arguing that a deep comprehensive ASEAN integration is indispensable under the current network of initiatives on external relations. Using ASEAN as a "strange attractor" for an East Asian integration is unlikely to bear fruits unless ASEAN is willing to set example. Even a deeply integrated ASEAN may still find it difficult to persuade the rest of East Asia on the merits of East Asian integration, given the very limited muscle of ASEAN in terms of its external trade and investments. Being a recipient rather than a donor of official development assistance ASEAN is handicapped in playing the role of champion in trade and investment liberalization. What ASEAN most realistically can do is to serve as the "hub for post offices" while major Asian countries seek to put aside differences in order to promote economic co-operation and integration. ASEAN has once missed the opportunity of playing the role of a champion of the ambitious regional integration of APEC. It should avoid committing the same mistake while endeavoring to promote an East Asian integration or even an Asia-wide integration.

#96 *Advancing the ASEAN-India Partnership in the New Millennium* by Ong Keng Yong

India has an emerging web of cooperation with East Asian countries, especially ASEAN through the ASEAN-India dialogue process, the bilateral free trade agreements with Singapore and Thailand and sub-regional initiatives such as the Mekong-Ganga cooperation and the BIMST-EC. In this discussion paper the ASEAN Secretary-General focuses on the need to develop a partnership between ASEAN and India that has the dual objectives of addressing the challenges of globalisation and working closely to reap the opportunities of the same universal phenomena. There are enough opportunities and challenges to compel ASEAN and India to work closely in maintaining peace and stability, expanding economic linkages and improving the critical human capacities. The paper also presents ten points for Advancing ASEAN-India People-to-People Partnership.

#97 *Non-tariff Barriers Affecting India's Exports* by Rajesh Mehta

The purpose of this paper is first of all to highlight that Indian exports do face non-tariff barriers in major export markets especially the US, EU, Japan and other developed countries, which significantly hinder India's exports to these markets. A second related aim is to illustrate the range of barriers,

which confront Indian exporters. A third proximate goal is to suggest policy responses.

#98 *The WTO Negotiations on Industrial Tariffs: What is at Stake for Developing Countries?* by Yilmaz Akyüz

This paper focuses on the implications of the negotiations on industrial tariffs for longer term industrialization in developing countries. It begins with a brief overview of the NAMA framework that is followed by a review of the historical experience of today's advanced countries regarding the use of tariffs in the course of their industrialization, and compares and contrasts it with the actual situation prevailing in developing countries today and the proposals put forward. Then it discusses the sectoral pattern and evolution of tariffs that may be needed in the course of industrial development in comparison with the constraints that would result from the proposals made by developed countries, and advances a simple alternative formula that can help reconcile policy flexibility with multilateral discipline. This is followed by an evaluation of various estimates of benefits of tariff cuts to developing countries. There the paper turns to the question of reciprocity from a broad developmental perspective. It is concluded with a brief summary of the key points on how the negotiations could accommodate both the immediate needs and longer-term interests of developing countries.

Journals

● *South Asia Economic Journal*, Vol. 6 No. 1, January-June 2005

Contents: *WTO Agriculture Negotiations and South Asian Countries: Concerns, Viewpoints and Consensus* by Ramesh Chand and Seema Bathla; *Agricultural Trade Policy Reforms in India* by Prema-chandra Athukorala; *Commercial Agriculture in Kerala after the WTO* by Brigit Joseph and K.J. Joseph; *Economic Growth, Appropriate Policies and Poverty Reduction in a Developing Country: Some Experience from Indonesia* by Tulus Tambunan; *Should Bangladesh Join a Regional Free Trade Area?* by Peter Warr; Notes; Review Article; Book Reviews and Document.

● *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 7 No. 2, March 2005

Contents: Editorial; *Biotechnology and IPR Regime: In the Context of India and Developing Countries* by K.K. Tripathi; *Patenting of Biotechnological Innovations* by Malathi Lakshmikumaran and Prashant Phillips; *Bi Cotton and India's Policy on IPRs* by Anitha Ramanna; *The Question of Patentability of Biotechnological Subject Matter: Issues and Options before the Policymakers* by Dinesh Abrol; *Biotechnology, Cartagena Protocol and the WTO Rules* by Balakrishna Pispupati; *Challenges of Agro-Biotechnologies, Intellectual Property Rights and Globalization* by Pranav N. Desai; Bio News; Document; Bio Web; New Arrival; Bio Stat.

● *New Asia Monitor*, Vol. 2 No. 2, April 2005.

● *RIS Diary*, Vol. 3 No. 2, April 2005.

Outside Publications of RIS Faculty Members

Books and Monographs

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2005. "Dynamics of Biotechnology Research and Industry in India: Statistics, Perspective and Key Policy Issues". *OECD STI Working paper*. Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, OECD.

De, Prabir. 2005. *India Infrastructure Database 2005*. New Delhi: Bookwell.

Other Papers

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2005. "WTO Negotiations and Environmental Goods and Standards: Some Challenges. In *Sustainable Development in India: An Interdisciplinary Perspective* by Guljit K. Arora and Arunabh Talwar (eds). New Delhi: Research and Publishing House in association with Human Resource Development Centre.

Chaturvedi, Sachin. 2005. "Evolving a National System of Biotechnology Innovation: Some Evidence from Singapore". *Science, Technology and Society*, Vol. 10:1. Sage Publication: New Delhi.

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Third Round of negotiations under the GSTP was launched in June, 2004. The negotiations are to be concluded by November, 2006. The negotiations are to be held on request and offer basis and will be multilateralised among the Round. China and other members of G-77, who have not acceded to the Agreement, have also been invited to accede to the agreement.

In order to identify member countries with whom India will engage in market access negotiations and draw out request lists to these countries, the Department of Commerce has requested RIS undertake this study.

RIS study aims to identify items on which India should seek tariff concessions under GSTP. The study also has to identify country-wise products (6 digit HS level) on which India should seek and negotiate preferential market access from the negotiating GSTP member countries by taking into account the current trends of trade with them in the bilateral as well as global context. Contact for further details: skmohanty@ris.org.in

Policy Notes prepared for the Government

- A Note on India and the East Asian Summit was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on April 19, 2005.
- Note on East Asian Summit and the Asian Economic Community: A Note for Discussion was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on May 5, 2005. It was

discussed at a inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Secretary (East) on May 9, 2005.

- Concept Paper on "Towards an Asian Economic Community" prepared on the request of MEA was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs on May 17, 2005 for the India-ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting.
- Note on India's Look East Policy and Northeast India, was prepared and sent to the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister on June 8, 2005.
- Note on Regional Trading Arrangements (RTAs) in the World and Asia: Options for India was prepared for and sent to the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister on June 11, 2005.
- Trade in Services chapter of India-Korea JSG Report, was sent to the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.
- Market Access for Non-Agricultural Product in WTO Development Round Negotiations: A Research Advisory Project: Submitted consolidated report including all the jobs submitted to the Ministry of Commerce during last two years on April 8, 2005, and submitted a Note on "Final List of Non-Agriculture Sensitive items based on Trade Statistics 2004-05 and Tariff Rates of 2005-06" to the Ministry of Commerce on April 9, 2005.
- A paper has been prepared for and submitted to the Ministry of Commerce for Inter-Ministerial Meeting on

International Trade Issues in Biotechnology.

- RIS provided inputs on Structural Dimensions of the Environment Project Approach were provided to the Ministry of Commerce.

Announcing

World Trade and Development Report 2005: Making Doha a Truly 'Development Round'

(November 2005)

RIS had launched the *World Trade and Development Report 2003: Cancun and Beyond*, on the eve of the Cancun Ministerial of WTO. This Report was received very well by the developing country policy circles. The next Report in the series is under preparation and will focus on the agenda of the forthcoming Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of WTO.

Das, Ram Upendra. 2005. SAARC Secretariat (2005), *Regional Poverty Profile 2004*, Kathmandu (Contributor).

De, Prabir. 2005. "India's Look East Policy: Implications for North East India". In Das, G., Singh, B. and Thomas, C. J (eds.). *Indo-Myanmar Border Trade: Problems, Prospects and Potentials*. New Delhi: Akansha.

Kumar Nagesh. 2005. "Multilateralism versus Regionalism: Challenges for India's Economic and Trade Diplomacy". In *India's National Security Annual Review 2004* by Satish Kumar (ed). New Delhi: India Research Press.

Kumar Nagesh and Aradhana Aggarwal. 2005. "Liberalization, outward orientation and in-house R&D activity of multinational and local firms: A quantitative exploration for Indian manufacturing." *Research Policy*. 34: 441-60.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "China-India Strategic Partnership and East Asian Integration". *Bridges Asia* published by ICTSD, SEI and CEE. May and *Bridges*, Geneva.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2005. "Indian Poultry: Globally Competitive with Insignificant Share in World Market" (co-author) in the souvenir *Agriculture Summit 2005: Reforms for Raising Farm Income*, FICCI and Ministry of Agriculture, pp.92-101, 9-10 April.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2005. "NAMA Negotiations: Products of Export Interests to Developing Countries". *WTO Focus*, special issue on NAMA, May-June, Vol. VII No.1.

Popular Articles

Das, Ram Upendra. 2005. "Does the CMP bar PSU divestment?", *The Economic Times*, Friday, June 10.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Moving towards a strategic partnership". *The Financial Express*. April 12.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Towards grater Asian economic integration". *The Financial Express*, April 26.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "No attempt to address the asymmetries". *The Financial Express*, May 10.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Making FDI work for India's development". *The Financial Express*. May 24.

Kumar, Nagesh. 2005. "Innovation policy for globalising India". *The Financial Express*. June 7.

Mehta, Rajesh. 2005. "Time for a 'Matrix Revolution': Broad basing the export basket and markets is the key", *The Financial Express*, April 8.

Mehta, Rajesh (co-author). 2005. "Indian Poultry: Globally Competitive with Insignificant Share in World Market" in the *Hindustan Times*, April 8.

Merchandise exports may create 20 m jobs

AMITISEN
New Delhi, April 18

Merchandise exports sustained 10 million jobs in India in 2004-05. The figure is likely to double by 2010 if the country can achieve the export target of \$150 billion in the next five years.

According to preliminary estimate of employment generation associated with India's merchandise exports, conducted by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), the highest number of export jobs in 2004-05 was around 10 million (7.31 lakh).

The study submitted to the commerce ministry pointed out that the share of export-oriented manufactured products in jobs created is declining due to their lower labour intensity and growing labour productivity (due to automation).

In 2001-02, the industrial sector accounted for 86% of exports and contributed 47% of direct employment associated with exports. It is projected that by 2010 the share of industrial exports is likely to reach 89% while its share in employment generation will fall marginally to 46%.

direct jobs created in logistics picking up in 2004-05, exports in favour of more

India, China prove their worthiness at WTO

AMITISEN
New Delhi, April 7

China and India might be strong competitors in the world market but the two have proved that they can jointly deliver at the multilateral forum. Their partnership on key issues in the on-going Doha round of multilateral trade talks has managed to change the face of the negotiations which have so far been dominated by the US and EU.



INDO-CHINA
THE WAY FORWARD

combine on the back-foot in the agriculture talks in Cancun, Mexico, and the areas where

JOINT POWER

- EU move on Singapore issues thwarted
- EU-US put on the back-foot at Cancun talks
- Jointly pushing for greater access in Mode 4

non-aligned and other developing countries director general Nagesh Kumar, the areas where

Dr Kumar pointed out that India and China started co-operating for the first time in WTO on the investment issue way back in 2002. "When China decided to co-sponsor our paper on investor obligation, it turned the debate on investment into a north-south debate. Together we managed to put the developed countries on the defensive and the US finally said that the investment issue did not belong to WTO," Dr Kumar said.

Asean door looks ajar

India invited to East Asia's maiden summit in Kuala Lumpur in December 2005

AMITISEN
New Delhi, April 18

India's dream of becoming a part of the proposed Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) economic community might come true with Asean foreign ministers deciding to invite it for attending East Asia's first summit in December.

The invitation, extended after a recent meeting of the foreign ministers in the Philippines, however, needs to be ratified by the three additional members China, Korea and Japan. Experts are of the view that none of the three would seek a reversal of the decision.

According to director general of Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries Nagesh Kumar, the move

FRONTPAGE

Plainly partial

Draft biotech strategy favours industry; omits biosafety

BY ANIL KUMAR

The Union government has announced its action plan for the biotechnology sector but it reads more like a wish list prepared by an industry pressure group. The draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy seeks to propel the current US \$750 million biotech industry to a US \$1-billion one, employing about one million people by 2010. The sector is growing at an estimated yearly rate of 40 per cent. But the rate of employment is showing a declining trend, suggesting the target of 1 million jobs may be far-fetched (see table: Galloping growth).

"We want this to be a road map for the next several years," said Union science and technology minister Kapil Sibal while releasing the draft on March 31, 2005. The strategy's highlights

approach of the draft is too simplistic. A close look at its salient points (see box: High hopes) would be in order.

New approach

"What is novel about the new action plan is the innovation system approach," says Sachin Chaturvedi of the Delhi-based Research and Information System for the Developing Countries (RIS), an Indian think tank. According to him, it has several suggestions to encourage innovation and entrepreneurial skills of scientists such as allowing them to work in industries for a maximum of three years to expedite commercialisation of their efforts. Besides, eligible young scientists can get travel grants approx Rs 10 lakh to go abroad to meet their mentors and industry

there could be a catch here. "Unless the intellectual property rights are properly delineated, public sector scientists may end up working for generating private goods," says Nandini Raghavan, a reader with IIT-Delhi.

Similar sentiment was expressed by Rajwanti Rain National Institute of Technology and Delhi, which is Scientific and Industrial Research Council, a document seen sector research

"A king has no friends; only interests. And a good king is one who ruthlessly follows the path that is in the best interest of his kingdom and his subjects, regardless of his personal feelings on the subject." Kautilya in Arthashastra, the 2,300-year-old Indian text on kingship, politics and economics

NEW DELHI OCCUPIES A unique geographical position. Draw an arc from the oil-rich states of West Asia to the energy-hungry nations of South East Asia and beyond, and you'll find our national capital situated smack in its middle. This

April 18, 2005

been a turning point in dropping investment from the Doha Agenda. The fact that the G-20 has emerged as a credible negotiating platform on agriculture issues is also largely due to the participation of the two most populous Asian neighbours in it. Such co-ordination should be extended to other WTO issues, such as Mode 4 in services. China and India with their substantial foreign exchange reserves should increase their role in the decision-making process of the Bretton Woods organisations, and should push for the long-pending reform of international financial architecture. Another area for co-operation is reform of the UN Security Council. China should support India's place in an expanded Security Council, which would increase Asia's clout in world affairs.

The Middle Game



Finally, China and India need to work together as the two most populous countries of Asia, need to work together for the integration in Asia and y Asia's. At the November-2004 meeting in Manila, the two countries agreed to deepen and expand their cooperation in the light of this, and several other developments.

assuming the leadership of Asia—and by extension of the entire Third World—have been causing unease in Asian capitals for some time now. India's ties with Japan assume significance in the light of this, and several other developments.

"India and Japan are natural allies," says Beakma Chellaney, Director, Centre for Policy Research, and noted strategic affairs thinker. Adds Nagesh Kumar, Director General, Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), an economic think tank under the Ministry of External Affairs: "The Japanese and Indian economies complement each other very well."

Political and strategic cooperation and deeper economic linkages will, thus, form the two axes of India's future engagement with Japan. Both sides recognise this significant shift—from a donor-recipient relationship to an equal partnership—in the direction of bilateral ties. "Japan and India share strategic interests," Koizumi told a gathering of industrialists at a function organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry,

Cabinet okays economic agreement with Singapore

Our Bureau
New Delhi, June 29

THE Union Cabinet on Monday gave its nod to the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Singapore.

- India's offer on trade in goods includes immediate scrapping of duties on 506 lines.

owns as much as 20 per cent of local companies as part of CECA. SEBI had earlier capped 10 per cent of investment by a foreign institutional investor (FII).

"We expect FII invest

Indo-Pak amity heralds hope on prospects for mutual trade benefits

NEWS ANALYSIS

G. Srinivasan
New Delhi, April 23

PAKISTAN President General Pervez Musharraf's three-day whistle-stop schedule in India and his meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, on the sidelines of a one-day cricket match between the two countries, got the attention of the international community. This is

of amity would help devote time and effort in building their economies instead of wasting precious resources in the sterile pursuit of inter-ethnic conflict. From this perspective, the joint statement issued by both the leaders credibly contended, "The peace process was now irreversible".

With the decision of both the Governments to allow inter-ethnic contacts between people living on either side of the divided Kashmir and the inauguration of the bus service between Gil-

the two neighbours would get a renewed impetus for increased trade and transaction at a reduced cost.

The Director-General of the Research & Information System (RIS) for Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, Dr Nagesh Kumar, told Business Line here that for Pakistan which is importing Indian goods through third country, the land route opening would help drastically cut down the cost to its traders who source their goods from India. This needs to be cleared

A roadmap was accordingly drawn up to complete the lingering issues pertaining to SAFTA, as also for signing of four trade facilitation pacts so that they come into force along with the SAFTA Agreement.

These agreements include, mutual administrative assistance on Customs matters, jurisdiction and protection of investments, SAARC Arbitration Council and Arbitration rules and limited multilateral trade treaty agreement on avoidance of double taxation with each other.

ere's a new t Game being ed out across a. The prize: ilitary and mic leadership ie continent. s India have

Important Visitors/Delegations Received

● Dr Simon Thomas, Senior Transport Economist, South Asia Energy & Infrastructure; and Dr Ejaz Ghani, Economic Adviser, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, South Asia Region, The World Bank, Washington on April 28, 2005.

● Three-member official delegation led by Mr Iqbal Meer Sharma, Chief Director, Department of Trade and Industry, Government of South Africa on April 15, 2005.

● Dr Michel Gressot, Economic Adviser, Multilateral Affairs Division, Trade-related development issues, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Berne and Dr Sailendra Narain, Chairman, Centre for SME Growth & Development Finance, Mumbai on June 28, 2005.

● Dr K Narayanan, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay on April 4, 2005.

● Dr Mukel Asher, Professor, LKY School of Public Policy National University of Singapore on April 7, 2005.

● Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, IPS, Colombo on April 8, 2005.

● Dr Hans Peter-Brunner, Principal Economist, ADB on April 8, 2005.

● Amb. K K Bhargava, former Secretary General SAARC on April 11, 2005.

● Shri Ashish Gupta, Asstt Editor and Shri Shailesh Dobhal, Asstt Editor, *Business Today* on April 13, 2005.

● Ms Tigist Defabachew, Senior Administrative Coordinator, Markets, Trade and Institutions Divisions, IFPRI, Washington, 21 April 2005.

● Dr Achilles C. Costales, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Philippines University of the Philippines Los Banos, Philippines, 21 April 2005.

● Mr R K Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fertilizers, on May 5, 2005.

● Dr Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission on May 6, 2005.

● Dr Ray Trewin, Research Program Manager, Agricultural Development Policy, ACIAR, Australia, and Dr Kuhu Chatterjee, ACIAR, New Delhi, May 12, 2005.

● Dr Sisira Jayasuriya, University of Melbourne, 13 May 2005.

● Ms. Bidisha Ganguly, Economist, Brics Securities Limited, Mumbai, May 20, 2005.

● Mr. Mahesh Narayan, Deputy Manager, Management Services Division, Aditya Birla Management Corporation Limited, Kolkata, May 26, 2005.

● Mr M C Banga, Joint Commissioner (PSD), Department of Fertilizers, Govt. of India on June 3, 2005.

● Mr S. Chandrasekhar, Indira Gandhi Institute of Developing Research, Mumbai on June 8, 2005.

● Prof Baladas Ghosal of JNU on June 9, 2005.

Forthcoming Events

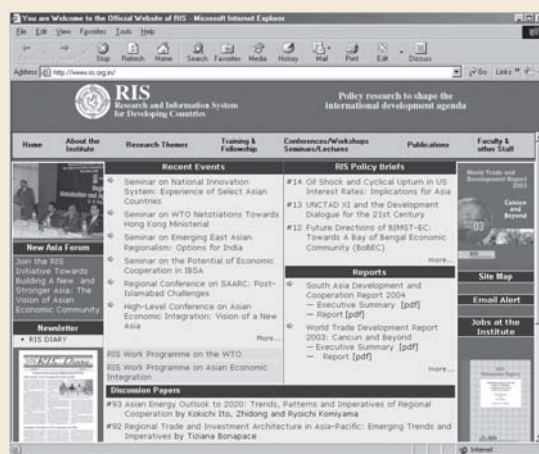
- ☛ Regional Conference on Agenda for WTO Hong Kong Ministerial: Challenges for South Asia RIS jointly with Global Biodiversity Forum, IUCN, Asia, and FICCI on August 11-12, 2005 in New Delhi.
- ☛ Workshop on International Food Safety Regulations and Processed Food Exports: A Comparative Study of India and Thailand with the support of ACIAR, ANU, University of Melbourne, and Thammasat University, Thailand on August 13, 2005 in New Delhi.
- ☛ The Third High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Community in collaboration with Shanxi University of Finance & Economics, China in Taiyuan, China on September 15-17, 2005.
- ☛ National Consultations on South-South Cooperation: Exploring Mekong Ganga Relationship, New Delhi on September 1, 2005.
- ☛ The Fourth High-Level Conference on Asian Economic Community in collaboration with prominent Think-Tanks of Asia, in New Delhi on November 17-18, 2005.

About the RIS

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is an autonomous research institution established with the financial support of the Government of India. RIS is India's contribution to the fulfilment of the long-felt need of the developing world for creating a 'Think Tank' on global issues in the field of international economic relations and development cooperation. RIS has also been envisioned as a forum for fostering effective intellectual dialogue among developing countries.

RIS is also mandated to function as an advisory body to the Government of India on matters pertaining to multilateral economic and social issues, including regional and sub-regional cooperation arrangements, as may be referred to it from time to time. RIS functions in close association with various governmental bodies, research institutions, academicians, policy-makers, business and industry circles in India and abroad. RIS has a consultative status with UNCTAD, NAM and WTO Secretariat and has conducted policy research and other activities in collaboration with other agencies, including UN-ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNU, Group of 77, SAARC Secretariat, Asian Development Bank (ADB), The World Bank, and the South Centre.

RIS publication programme covers books, research monographs, discussion papers and policy briefs. It also publishes journals entitled *South Asia Economic Journal*, *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, and *New Asia Monitor* and *RIS Diary*.



RIS Diary appears in January, April, July and October. It is available from RIS or can be downloaded from RIS website.



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