

I WISH TO RESERVE A PLACE/PLACES AT THE CONFERENCE

Name

Organisation

Address

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Phone no (work)..... (home)..... (mobile).....

Email

Conference Fee (please tick or insert number if booking more than one place)

€25 members

€35 non-members

€15 students and unwaged

Asylum-seekers on direct provision are free

I enclose €

Please return form to
Comhlámh Action Network,
55 Grand Parade
Cork

If you can't attend the conference but would like to come to the reception,
please contact us.
Tel: 021 4275881
Email: comhcork@iol.ie

Agriculture Beyond the WTO Hong Kong Talks

Friday 13th January 2006
9.15am– 4:30pm
Silver Springs Moran Hotel, Cork



The World Trade Organisation has had a significant impact on farming in both the developed and developing world over the past decade. It has established a framework within which agricultural policy can develop in the future. Yet many farms, and especially those in developing countries, have been adversely affected by policies adopted under the liberalisation agenda. But this is not just a developing country issue. Many Irish farmers find their incomes under pressure from cheap imports and low prices, and Irish farm numbers are declining rapidly.

Following the generally negative reaction to the outcome of the WTO Hong Kong talks, Comhlámh presents a one-day conference bringing together farmers, researchers, academics, politicians, NGOs and activists to explore whether there is a coherent way forward for agricultural policy to the advantage of producers in the developed and developing world.

AGENDA

9.15–9.45 *Registration*

9.45 CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Alan Dukes

10.00 SETTING THE SCENE

by the organisers, Comhlámh Action Network, Cork

PART 1 – THE WTO FARM TALKS

10.15 FARMERS' VIEWS ON HOW THE WTO AFFECTS THEM

Dharamkumar Seeraj *Guyana Rice Producers' Association*

Dr Mike Matsebula *Swaziland Sugar Association*

Ruaidhri Deasy *Irish Farmers' Association*

11.00 *Coffee Break*

11.30 WHAT HAPPENED AT THE WTO HONG KONG TALKS?

Those who attended give their views...

Conall Ó Caoimh *Comhlámh Policy Officer*

Colin Roche *Oxfam/Trade Matters*

Pongtip Samaranjit *Local Action Network, Thailand*

12.30 VOICES FROM THE FLOOR *Questions and Answers to the Panel*

1.00 *Lunch Break*

PART 2 – BEYOND THE HONG KONG TALKS

2.00 THE IMPACT OF CAP REFORM AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Paul Goodison *European Research Office, Brussels*

2.30 THE IMPACT OF US FARM POLICY AND THE POTENTIAL FOR A HUMAN-RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO THE WTO

Carin Smaller *Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Geneva*

3.00 *Coffee Break*

3.30 IS THERE A WAY FORWARD TO THE COMMON ADVANTAGE OF FARMERS EVERYWHERE?

Speakers' Panel

4.00 Q&A SESSION

4.30 CONCLUSIONS AND WRAP-UP

by chairperson & Comhlámh Action Network, Cork

6.00–8.00 POST-CONFERENCE RECEPTION

A chance to discuss the day's proceedings and meet the speakers.

If you cannot attend the conference but would like to come to the reception, please contact us.

WHY THE FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE?

Agriculture is of great importance to developing countries as it represents the main source of food and income for the majority of the world's poor.

Liberalising trade (which is the mandate of the WTO) has a significant impact on smaller scale farmers especially in the developing world, where there is generally little or no access to additional income support; such farmers cannot compete against subsidised imports from industrialised countries.

This is not just a developing country issue. Smaller scale farmers in Ireland are also in decline, with many feeling the pressure to compete with cheap food imports.

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

The WTO was established 10 years ago with the aim of raising living standards, ensuring full employment and increasing incomes through the mandate of free trade.

The Agreement on Agriculture, which is part of the WTO's set of rules, also came into effect 10 years ago and aimed to establish a more market orientated agricultural trading system.

In the years since its establishment, people in the Majority World are becoming increasingly concerned about the negative implications arising from the implementation of trade agreements. So-called 'free trade', as it is being practised, is proving unjust towards poorer countries.

COMHLÁMH ACTION NETWORK

Comhlámh's mission is to challenge society on the root causes of global poverty and inequality. The Comhlámh Action Network has been campaigning for 10 years on food security and trade to ensure that developing country interests are taken into account in global agricultural and trade policies

