

**Federation of German Scientists (FGS) at  
COP-MOP 4 & Planet Diversity Congress  
May 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2008, Bonn**

**1. FGS Side Events at the fourth meeting of the Conference of  
the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the  
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4)  
May 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2008, Hotel Maritim, Bonn**

**a. GE trees**

Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 13.15-14.45 h

Saal Liszt, Hotel Maritim

Transgenic trees and unintended transboundary movement - a threat to global forest ecosystems? Event Description: An expert panel will examine the current state of knowledge and the potential impact of genetically engineered trees on forest biodiversity, also addressing liability and redress and discussing risk assessment methodology available for long-term and long-distance scenarios.

Angelika Hilbeck and

Ricarda Steinbrecher

**b. Crops for Fuel? The Biofuel Debate: the physical-technical  
background**

Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 13.15-14.45 h

Saal Bonn, Hotel Maritim

Much of the crop fuel-debate neglects or underestimates basic facts. Plants in general are capable to convert only 1% of the energy which comes with the sunlight into biomass. For this reason any energy policy based on renewable sources has to concentrate mainly on use of wind and sun. Biomass can play an important role, if used appropriately in decentralised context and for heat and electricity.

Hartmut Graßl

Moderator: Stephan Albrecht

**c. Crops for Fuel? „N<sub>2</sub>O release from agro-biofuel production**

Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 13.15-14.45 h

Saal Bonn, Hotel Maritim

Producing fuels from plants and crops mean not only relevant inputs of fossil energy, but also relevant emission of N<sub>2</sub>O.

N<sub>2</sub>O is a greenhouse gas much more potent and durable than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Responsible science as good as responsible energy policy has to look at the impact of N<sub>2</sub>O-releases.

Wilfried Winiwarter

Moderator: Angelika Hilbeck

## **2. Planet Diversity**

### **International Conference on the future of food and agriculture**

**May 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> 2008, Gustav-Stresemann-Institute, Langer Grabenweg 68, 53175 Bonn**

#### **Workshops hosted by the Federation of German Scientists**

##### **a. Agro-ecology - a different approach to agricultural productivity How should we understand soil productivity from a sustainable perspective?**

Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 12-16 h

Since the end of World War II the industrialisation of agricultural practices has been the leading scientific paradigm. However since Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" (1962) documented the far-reaching impact of pesticide use on plants, birds and other organisms, we have also learned about the gradual impact of mineral fertilizers and other chemical and pharmaceutical inputs on soil productivity. Soil degradation, depletion and erosion are worldwide threats to food security. Thus we need a paradigm shift regarding productivity, one that includes all natural cycles in the soil and interactions between soils and plants. We have to think in a radical new way about what productivity means, and discuss measures for sustainable management of the natural capacity of healthy soils.

Speakers:

Miguel Angel Altieri,

Ricarda Steinbrecher,

Hartmut Vogtmann

Moderator: Stephan Albrecht

##### **b. Crops for Fuels? The impact of agro-fuels and energy commodification of agriculture on hunger and diversity,**

Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 12-16 h

The rush for agrofuels is only just beginning, but it is already contributing to severe impacts around the planet. Food prices are rising sharply, forest destruction rates are increasing. Land is being taken from local people, often violently, and many are being driven away, frequently to urban slums. Agrofuels are also leading to the enclosure and destruction of common lands that include grazing and forest areas on which local communities depend for food, medicine, fuel and other materials. Further expansion of monoculture production for agrofuels would cause serious harm to biodiversity, climate and biodiverse agricultural systems.

Agrofuels are therefore one of the hottest issues with respect to the future of agriculture as well as the most severe new threat to biodiversity.

Yet governments and corporations around the world are still pushing ahead because agrofuels seem to promise a solution to the energy crisis that involves no threat to the industrialised way of life. Subsidies, targets and global speculation have made agro-fuels a darling of international companies.

Civil society organizations are increasing pressure for a halt to this runaway

development, with calls for moratoria on agrofuel monocultures in the EU, Africa and the US, and for food and energy sovereignty in Latin America.

This workshop will include speakers from the global south: Asia, Africa and the Americas, and from major consumer regions including the EU and the US. There will also be a scientific analysis to show that because plants and trees use only a small proportion of the sun's light, they can never be a major source of renewable energy. Case studies and commentaries from different regions, together with updates on campaigns and information about government positions will be presented to summarise the state of knowledge and debate.

There will then be the opportunity to discuss ways and means of global networking and co-operation on this issue. A particular priority is to ensure that the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP9 addresses the issue. A number of governments would prefer to postpone this discussion and it is vital to ensure that this does not happen.

Speakers:

Adrian Bebb,

Hartmut Graßl,

Eric Holt-Giminez,

Camila Moreno,

Marianne Klute

Moderator: Christine von Weizsäcker

### **Plenary Session**

**Diversity and Climate Change - How to reduce agriculture's global warming impact**

**Food First - campesinos, agro fuels and sustainability**

Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 9.00 h

Hartmut Graßl and

Eric Holt-Giménez

### **Workshop at Planet Diversity Congress, co-hosted by FGS:**

Diversity of science, diversity of society - Some reflections on knowledge, information, technology and power" that we would like to propose for

Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 12-16 h

Angelika Hilbeck and

Claudia Neubauer

## **3. Public Events**

### **Demonstration for biological diversity – regional, fair and GMO-free!**

Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>, starting 10.00 h, Kleine Blumenwiese, Rheinaue park along the Rhine river, Bonn

### **The Festival of Diversity**

Monday May 12<sup>th</sup>, starting 14.00 h, Kleine Blumenwiese, Rheinaue park along the Rhine river, Bonn