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4 January 2002

NOTIFICATION

Peer review of a document on the impact of trade liberalization on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its fourth meeting, held in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 4 to 15 May 1998, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision IV/6 on agricultural biological diversity. In paragraph 10 of the decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties on the impact of trade liberalization on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity in consultation with relevant bodies, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). In response to this decision, the Executive Secretary has prepared a study entitled "Assessing the impact of trade liberalization on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agricultural Biological Diversity".

At its seventh meeting, in Montreal, from 12 to 16 November 2001, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) recommended to present the study on the issue for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting (Recommendation VII/7, Annex 1, table 2).

The document is open for comments by the scientific community at large as part of a peer review process.

I have the pleasure to invite you to take part in the peer review process of the document, which is available on the Convention Website on <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/reviews/rev-agr-trade-01-en.doc>. The purpose of this peer review is to get your comments on the overall balance and soundness of the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects covered by the document and to obtain possible additional elements, which should be included in the documentation.

I would be grateful if you could review the attached document and submit your comments at your earliest convenience, but no later than 31 January 2002.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National focal points
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