



**AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES IN THE WTO GREEN BOX:
AN OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING ISSUES FROM A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
VIEWPOINT**

Venue: Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic, Montreux. **Date:** 15-17 April 2007

15 APRIL

19.30 RECEPTION

16 APRIL

09:00-9:30

**INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT-SETTING: TREATMENT OF
AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

Ricardo MELÉNDEZ-ORTIZ, Chief Executive, International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

Panos KONANDREAS, FAO Geneva

9:30 - 11:00

**SESSION 1 : HOW MUCH IS IN THE BOX? THE EXTENT AND
FOCUS OF GREEN BOX SPENDING**

This session will seek to identify how much is spent on Green Box subsidies by different countries and regions, in the context of overall subsidy spending. It will also identify the types of programmes through which support is allocated, identify broad trends and patterns in Green Box spending, and explore relevant data collection and notification issues.

Chair: Maria F.M. ALBERTO-CHAU HUU, Permanent Mission of the
Philippines

Speakers:

Green Box subsidy spending in OECD countries, an overview

Jesús ANTÓN LOPEZ

Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, currently on secondment from the
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The reform of the EU CAP

Alan SWINBANK

University of Reading

The review of the US Farm Bill

David ORDEN

International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C.

Discussants:

Jack THURSTON, Farmsubsidy.org, London

Anastassios HANIOTIS, European Commission

11:00-11:20 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

11:20-12:30 MODERATED DISCUSSION

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

14:00 -15:30 **SESSION 2: THE SOCIAL IMPACTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF GREEN BOX SUBSIDIES**

Subsidy payments have been both defended and criticised on the basis of the extent to which they enable countries to fulfil socio-economic objectives. However, there are concerns that the current subsidy regime is failing to promote the achievement of these objectives in industrialised countries as well as in countries in the developing world. This session explores how Green Box subsidies could better support social objectives in rich and poor countries, by examining issues of rural poverty, the unequal distribution of subsidy payments, and the potential for subsidies to contribute towards social goals in both developed and developing countries.

Chair: [Harmon THOMAS](#), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Speakers:

Green Box subsidies as a tool to achieve public policy objectives in developed countries

[Alan MATTHEWS](#), Trinity College Dublin

Developing country use of Green Box subsidies: supporting food security, poverty alleviation and rural development policies

[PENG Tingjun](#)

China Agriculture Trade Promotion Centre, Beijing

The socio-economic effects in developing countries of developed countries' Green Box subsidies

[Sofia BONILLA](#)

Independent consultant, Lima.

Discussant:

[Gonzalo FANJUL](#), Intermón Oxfam, Madrid

15:30-16:00 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

16:00-17:30 MODERATED DISCUSSION

17 APRIL

09.00-10:30

SESSION 3: THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF GREEN BOX SUBSIDIES

While the Green Box explicitly provides for payments under environmental programmes, critics also charge that some Green Box payments may alter production and price levels, thereby influencing trade patterns or encouraging intensive forms of agriculture which may have harmful environmental effects. This session will explore how Green Box subsidies can be supportive of environmental objectives in both developed and developing countries. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the extent to which Green Box support might negatively affect the environment and explore possible ways to mitigate those effects.

Chair: Alan MATTHEWS, Trinity College Dublin

Speakers:

The environmental impacts of agricultural subsidies in the WTO
Green Box: exploring the linkages

Charles TSAI and Ron STEENBLIK

Global Subsidies Initiative of the International Institute for Sustainable Development,
Geneva / Winnipeg

Agri-environmental policies in the WTO Green Box in OECD
countries: an overview

Dimitris DIAKOSAVVAS

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

10:30-10:45

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

10:45-12:30

SESSION 3, CONTINUED

Speakers:

The role of Green Box subsidies in pursuing agri-environmental
policies in the US

Kenneth COOK

Environmental Working Group, (EWG), Washington D.C.

The role of Green box subsidies in pursuing agri-environmental
policies in the EU

Ariel BRUNNER

Birdlife International, Brussels

Discussant:

Jane EARLEY, WWF-US, Washington D.C.

MODERATED DISCUSSION

12:30-14:00

LUNCH

14:00 - 15:30 **SESSION 4: NEGOTIATION AND LITIGATION AS TOOLS FOR PROMOTING GREEN BOX REFORM: HOW CAN CHANGE HAPPEN?**
The Doha Round mandates a 'review and clarification' of Green Box criteria. What can reasonably be achieved in the context of the Round and what would need to be addressed as part of a possible built-in agenda on the Green Box remains unclear. In the absence of substantial progress on the negotiating front, the success of the Brazilian challenge to US cotton subsidies has led Members to consider the possibility of using litigation as a tool for achieving change. This session will seek to explore the extent to which WTO negotiations and litigation might be effective in aligning Green Box subsidies more closely with sustainable development objectives.

Chair: [Christophe BELLMANN](#), Programmes Director, ICTSD

Speakers:

The role of litigation in promoting change

[Niall MEAGHER](#)

Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL)

The role of negotiations in promoting change

[Rajesh AGGARWAL](#)

Senior Advisor -International Trading System, International Trade Centre

Discussants:

[Carlos GALPERÍN](#), Centro de Economía Internacional, Buenos Aires

15:30-15:45 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

15:45-16:30 MODERATED DISCUSSION

16:30-17:30 **SESSION 5: LOOKING FORWARD: A RESEARCH AND ACTION AGENDA ON GREEN BOX SUBSIDIES**
This session will seek to identify knowledge gaps and priorities for action that would enable policy makers and influencers to ensure that the evolving farm subsidy regime becomes truly supportive of sustainable development goals.

Speakers:

[Maria F.M. ALBERTO-CHAU HUU](#), Permanent Mission of the Philippines

[Harmon THOMAS](#), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Alan MATTHEWS](#), Trinity College Dublin

[Christophe BELLMANN](#), Programmes Director, ICTSD

Concluding remarks