



Special Products and Special Safeguard
Mechanism after the July Framework: How do we
Move Forward?

An ICTSD Informal Roundtable

30 September 2004
World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Salle C-2
Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda and Invited Participants

9:00 – 9:15	Welcoming Remarks by ICTSD
Background:	On 1 August 2004, WTO Members agreed on a framework for agriculture, which will constitute the basis for the negotiations of full modalities in the next phase of the negotiations. Included in this agreement was the recognition that “Developing countries will have the flexibility to designate an appropriate number of products as Special Products (SP), based on criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development needs.” In addition, a Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) will be established for use by developing countries.
9:15 – 9:40	<p>SPs/SSM a Situational Analysis – Introduction by Chris Stevens</p> <p>If appropriately designed, SP/SSM might be effective tools to mitigate the potential negative impacts associated with further agriculture liberalisation in a number of cases. Recognising that economic and social conditions may vary widely across countries, this session will identify various possible situations in developing countries where the flexibilities provided by the SP/SSM concepts are necessary to ensure food security, livelihood security and rural development.</p> <p><u>Resource Person:</u> Chris Stevens (Institute of Development Studies)</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Jamie Morrison (FAO); Anwarul Hoda, Member of the Planning Commission (India); Nicole Clarke (Permanent Mission of Barbados)</p>
9:40 – 10:45	Open Discussion
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:25	<p>Possible Criteria for SPs and SSM – Introduction by Luisa Bernal</p> <p>This session will focus on possible selection criteria and treatment of SPs, and on the parameters for selecting products to be protected by the SSM. As WTO Members flesh out these concepts in the coming months, developing countries need to ensure that the definition and selection criteria, which will ultimately be adopted, address their specific needs and effectively contribute to promoting food and livelihood security and rural development. They must also bear in mind the need to avoid possible abuses of the SP/SSM concepts in order to win the support of other WTO Members.</p> <p><u>Resource Person:</u> Luisa Bernal (South Centre)</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Tim Ruffer (Oxford Policy Management); H.E Gusmardi Bustami (Permanent Mission of Indonesia); H.E Gomi Senadhira (Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka)</p>
11.25-12:30	Open discussion
12:30-12.45	Wrap-up and Closing Remarks (ICTSD)