



World
Trade
Institute

Rights to Animal Genetic Resources

Workshop organised by the NCCR Trade Regulation

November 27-28, 2008

World Trade Institute, University of Bern

The landscape in animal breeding and animal production is changing: new technologies and the option of bioengineering have simplified transfer and reproduction of genetic information. With trade incentives favouring selection for high productivity, diversity of animal genetic resources is decreasing.

Animal resources trading and innovation occur in an environment which - compared to plant resources - has been relatively free of intellectual property rights so far. With bioengineering being applied, the question of *patent* rights also becomes more important in the field of animal genetic resources. At date, however, there is no system for the protection of animal breeds similar to the *plant breeders rights* and the *farmer's rights*.

The workshop aims at taking stock of current developments and debates at the interface of animal genetic resources, trade and property rights, and at identifying core questions and further research needs.



The following questions will be in the centre of the discussions:

- How are rights to breeds and their progeny dealt with in conventional breeding and in indigenous farming contexts?
- What are the differences between breeding animals and plants?
- What are the current trends in biotechnology and animal breeding? Do they influence the diversity of animal genetic resources?
- Does concentration and lacking competition in some sectors of industrial breeding impede diversity of breeds?
- How does the protection of biotechnological innovation influence the flow of AnGR?
- Do we need specific rights to animal genetic resources, analogous to the *plant breeders rights* and the *farmer's rights*?
- Do we need an obligation for a *sui-generis* right at the international level?

For information on the programme and registration, please visit our website:

www.nccr-trade.ch/IP09 - biotechnology/
Workshops & Seminars