

**Committee on Agriculture
Special Session**

NON-TRADE CONCERNS

Issues Raised by Members in AIE Papers and Pre-Seattle Submissions

A Compilation by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the second Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture on 29-30 June 2000, it was agreed that the Secretariat would provide, *inter alia*, a background paper containing "a compilation of issues relating to non-trade concerns based on relevant AIE papers and pre-Seattle submissions" (paragraph 7(a) of G/AG/NG/2 refers). The present paper provides this information.
2. Part II of this paper briefly indicates the main issues raised by those Members which have made written submissions in the AIE and pre-Seattle context. For a full appreciation of the points made by the respective Member concerned, the original documents should be consulted. It should be noted that each comment on the various issues listed in Part II of this paper reflects the position of the Member concerned. The paper is without prejudice to the views of other Members on any or all of the issues to which it refers.
3. The Annex to this paper includes a list of the relevant documents submitted by Members to the Analysis and Information Exchange (AIE) process and in the preparations for the Ministerial Conference in Seattle.
4. In the presentation a number of categories have been used to classify different non-trade concerns. Two of these categories (food security and the need to protect the environment) are specifically mentioned in the Preamble to the Agreement on Agriculture. Additional issues were raised in the AIE process and in the preparations for the third Ministerial Conference. These issues have been classified into a number of categories for presentation purposes. The order of their presentation is not meant to convey any indication of precedence or to suggest any degree of acceptance or rejection by Members.
5. In addition to the different policy objectives listed as non-trade concerns by some Members a number of other Members also raised concerns about the ways in which these policy objectives are or should be pursued. These concerns are listed in the "General" category as the countries raising these issues were referring to many or all of the policy objectives listed by others as non-trade concerns. Other issues are listed in the categories in which they appeared to fit.
6. The discussions of the issues raised in the AIE process were reported to the Committee on Agriculture by the Chairman. The reports by the Chairman are included in the Secretariat summary reports of the Committee meetings (G/AG/R/11 - R/20 and G/L/322). These reports should also be examined for a better appreciation of the issues raised and of the discussion between Members.

II. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS IN THE PROCESS OF ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Issue	Country	Comment
A.	GENERAL	
	Argentina, United States	Subsidies for production and export distort international prices and influence decisions on investment, production, international trade and consumption. Consumers in the subsidising country and farmers in third countries are adversely affected by the resulting distorted message from the markets. (AIE/32 and 64)
	Australia, New Zealand, United States	Broad general policy measures, like production supports, are unlikely to achieve specific objectives and are more likely to cause harm in other areas and in other countries. In catering for non-trade concerns WTO Members should try to minimize the trade effects of their policies. This could be done by identifying specific objectives and using targeted policies that are decoupled from production. The range of fiscal policy instruments that should be considered could include fines and taxes as well as subsidies. (AIE/28, 34, 36 and 64)
	Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Pakistan	Under the heading of non-trade concerns of developing countries, in particular those with small and vulnerable economies, a package of measures should be drawn up aimed at improving the national food security situation, maintaining the living standards of the rural population and preserving the environment; such measures should be exempted from reduction commitments. (WT/GC/W/120 and 163)
	European Communities	<p>The OECD Committee on Agriculture meeting at ministerial level in 1998 emphasised the multifunctional character of agriculture and role of public policy where there is an absence of effective markets. (AIE/40)</p> <p>To secure the provision of public goods, and to ensure that the functions of agriculture other than the production of food and fibres will be undertaken, public intervention is necessary. Given the interdependence between the various functions of agriculture supporting the non-production related functions cannot be completely separated from the production function. (AIE/40)</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
		<p>It is essential to ensure that progress on trade issues does not damage the ability of those employed in agriculture to supply public goods, in particular as regards the environment (including combating desertification) and the sustained vitality of rural areas. Direct aid measures with no or minimal trade impact have an important role to play in this context. (WT/GC/W/273)</p>
	India	<p>Developing countries should be given the required flexibility to pursue their legitimate non-trade concerns. Developing countries need to be allowed to provide domestic support in the agricultural sector to meet the challenges of food security and to preserve the viability of rural areas. (AIE/30 and WT/GC/W/152 and 342)</p>
		<p>The hypothesis that liberalisation alone will improve food security does not take account of the problems faced by a number of developing countries. For these countries a "market plus" approach is necessary to take account of certain non-trade concerns such as food security and maintenance of the livelihood of the agrarian peasantry. (AIE/30 and WT/GC/W/152 and 342)</p>
	Jamaica	<p>A special safeguard mechanism for developing countries is essential to render liberalisation acceptable among developing countries. Such a mechanism would be an important element of the special and differential provisions for developing countries, particularly as it relates to their food security and genuine non-trade concerns. (WT/GC/W/370)</p>
	Japan, Korea	<p>Agricultural policies are determined not only by trade but also by also by geographic, political, economic, social, cultural and other factors. These factors are not taken into account in a systemic manner in the Agreement on Agriculture. (AIE/25 and 39)</p>
	Japan	<p>The World Food Summit in 1996 emphasised the multifaceted nature of food security and the OECD Agriculture Ministers' meeting in 1998 emphasised the importance of the multifunctional nature of agriculture. (AIE/25)</p> <p>As well as producing agricultural products, agriculture also contributes to food security, to the environment, to the landscape and to local communities. All of these roles are known as the "multifunctionality" of agriculture. Most aspects of multifunctionality are regarded as economic externalities and it is difficult to reflect their values properly in market prices. Though it is closely related to production, it cannot be subject to trade. Furthermore, market mechanisms alone cannot lead to the realization of an agricultural production method that will embody the multifunctionality of agriculture. Therefore, certain types of policy intervention are indispensable to place domestic agricultural production as a basis for food supply and to fulfill the multifunctional roles of agriculture. (WT/GC/W/220)</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
	Korea	<p>The Agreement on Agriculture does not fully take into account the non-trade concerns and the special requirements of small-scale subsistence agriculture and lacks balance between the interests of developed/developing and exporting/importing countries. To alleviate the difficulties of developing net food-importers' non-trade concerns, especially multifunctionality of agriculture and food security, should be fully taken into account in continuing the reform process. (WT/GC/W/170)</p>
	New Zealand	<p>All economic activity creates externalities. For agriculture the production framework creates both positive and negative externalities some of which can affect other countries such as pollution and subsidies associated with production. Continued trade liberalisation is not incompatible with pursuing different objectives, in fact in many cases it may contribute towards their attainment. A more open trading system will lead to more rational and sustainable use of resources on a global scale in agriculture as in other sectors. (AIE/28)</p>
	Norway	<p>All non-trade concerns could be characterised as positive external effects of agriculture production and subsidies are needed to correct the market failure in order to internalise the externality. Negative externalities could be corrected by taxes and other appropriate measures. (AIE/22)</p> <p>The different non-trade concerns can be characterised by (i) having public good characteristics, (ii) are often specific to the agriculture sector and (iii) are, to a large extent, provided as joint products of agricultural production activity. In low potential areas the cost of production is much higher than in high potential areas. In order to ensure that many non-trade concerns continue to be provided by agriculture production may need to be supported. For Norway, returns to farmers at world market prices would not be sufficient to enable farmers to remain in production. Measures targeted at non-trade concerns under a world market scenario would not be practically feasible and would probably involve unacceptably high administration and control costs. (AIE/68)</p> <p>Agriculture contributes to the viability of rural areas, the maintenance of agricultural landscapes and the cultural heritage, the preservation of agri-biological diversity and the maintenance of a good plant, animal and public health. These non-food dimensions, as well as the safeguarding of food security, have public goods characteristics which many justify government intervention. (WT/GC/W/238)</p>
	Switzerland	<p>An agricultural sector which has not only to produce food and fibre but also to respond to non-trade concerns is less competitive than a sector in a country where there is less or no sensitivity for non-trade concerns. (AIE/67)</p> <p>The concept of multifunctionality and trade liberalisation are not exclusive, both are means to enhance global and national welfare. In the Uruguay Round it was recognised that support and incentives to direct agricultural policies towards a recognition of non-trade concerns are acceptable as long as they have no, or minimal, impacts on production and trade.</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
		<p>The question is whether or not the present instruments are sufficient to cover all non-trade concerns or whether additional instruments are needed. Criteria that could be used to assess the measures used to address non-trade concerns could be transparency, specificity (targeting concerns and decoupling from production), proportionality (transfers sufficient to achieve desired outcome), flexibility and equity. The Committee on Agriculture could monitor such national measures. (AIE/67)</p>
		<p>The importance and weight attached to a given non-trade concern may vary between countries, depending on their particular situation and the level of public awareness. Accordingly solutions should be found which enable all these concerns to be taken into account, in particular by extending the measures allowed under Annex 2 of the Agreement on Agriculture. For Switzerland food security, the needs of a scattered rural population, protection of the environment and landscape conservation are important tasks assigned to agricultural policy. (WT/GC/W/261)</p>
	United States	<p>The Green Box of the Agreement on Agriculture already covers many of the issues that are raised under non-trade concerns. (AIE/34 and 64)</p>
		<p>The relevant issue for consideration is not the set of policy objectives but rather the impact upon production and trade of instruments designed to implement policy objectives. (AIE/64)</p>
	Uruguay	<p>All human activities are multifunctional. Policies to address the multifunctional character of agriculture and land within the framework of sustainable agriculture and rural development should be targeted, transparent and cost-effective and should not distort production and trade. Furthermore, policies in one country must not undermine the social, rural development and environmental objectives of other countries. (AIE/74)</p>
		<p>It is necessary to make every effort to ensure that policy measures do not unfairly limit market-access nor distort markets for food and agricultural exports, especially for developing countries for their development and implementation of sustainable agriculture policies. (AIE/74)</p>
		<p>A number of instruments can be used to achieve objectives including participation and leadership by rural communities; co-operation between different stakeholders to address concerns about agriculture and land-use; the existence of an enabling national policy environment; efficient and transparent flow of information between all levels; wide availability of relevant research; scientific and technical information; improvements in economic instruments; the need to address insecure access to land and land tenure; and related issues such as eradication of poverty, inheritance, education, gender issues, etc; and capacity building. (AIE/74)</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
		<p>The FAO/Netherlands Conference on Multifunctionality identified a number of issues for future action at national, regional and international level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The participants recalled the reconfirmation at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly of the financial commitments and targets for Official Development Assistance, made by industrialized countries at the Earth Summit and called for intensified efforts to reverse the downward trend in Official Development Assistance. - The participants underlined the conclusions of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly that the international community and governments must continue or increase investments in, and funding for, sustainable agriculture, especially in agricultural research, extension services and technology transfer. Adequate financial support is needed to implement sustainable agriculture at the local level. Innovative financing mechanisms include capacity building of stakeholders; diversifying rural incomes, public/private partnerships, and financial instruments in conformity with international agreements. - The participants underscored the development of frameworks to assist countries to undertake participatory land management planning and systems to improve security of land tenure. (AIE/74)
B.	FOOD SECURITY	
	Australia	<p>Food security concerns are best addressed through well functioning markets free of distortions. Diverse sources of supply are more reliable than self sufficiency as droughts or crop failures mean imports will be needed. (AIE/35)</p>
		<p>Support and protection for agricultural production in wealthy countries has a negative impact on developing countries efforts to enhance food security as it depress prices and reduce the viability of rural areas in other countries. (AIE/35)</p>
	India	<p>A liberal trade regime would not give sufficient food security without access to the foreign exchange necessary to buy the food and many developing countries do not have sufficient reserves. (AIE/44) In addition in some cases demands for imports could have a major impact on world prices and hence on other food insecure countries. (WT/GC/W/342)</p>
		<p>In many developing countries most farms are small and marginal with, therefore, limited scope to increase output. Most production is for consumption by the farm household with little left for sale. The only way in which agricultural growth can be sustained and food security attained is through increased government support in the use of inputs, infrastructural development, market support, etc. (AIE/44 and WT/GC/W/152)</p>
	India, Japan, Mauritius, Norway	<p>The 1996 World Food Summit emphasised the importance of food production in both high and low potential areas: "we will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national,</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
		<p>regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture". In other places the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action also emphasised the role of national production along with food imports, reserves and international trade, in strengthening food security. (AIE/22, 25, 44, 51, 57)</p>
	Japan	<p>Stockpiling and imports, though necessary, are only part of food security. Stockpiling is only a short-term solution while imports can be threatened by a number of factors including export restrictions in supplying countries, increasing short term food supply instability and rising demand for food. Japan is the world's largest net food-importer with a self-sufficiency ratio of only 41 per cent, a very low level of crop land per person and declining area of farmland. A further decline in food supply capability cannot be allowed. (AIE/61 and WT/GC/W/220)</p>
	Kenya	<p>Agricultural liberalisation advocated by the Agreement cannot by itself overcome the problems of food security for developing countries with sizeable rural populations. It is therefore extremely important that a certain degree of flexibility be provided to developing countries for the adoption of domestic policies with the intention of providing continued food security and employment to a large segment of the population. (WT/GC/W/233)</p>
	Korea	<p>Trade volumes in some products remain very small relative to total production and trade cannot be relied upon as the ultimate solution to food security. Korea has experienced difficulties in securing rice on the world market in times of poor domestic harvests. In times of currency devaluation agricultural imports are much more expensive and domestic production and stockpiles are vital. (AIE/39)</p>
	Norway	<p>Reducing public support to farming in low potential areas will probably result in lower production and impaired national food security. In addition, high production costs require production coupled supports. A small reduction in support might be absorbed through structural adjustment but that would result in lower farm population, more centralised production structure and degradation of marginal arable land. (AIE/22)</p>
		<p>Food security policy is made up of a number of elements including; protection of arable land, national food production; human resources and maintaining a decentralised production structure. Food security requires a multifaceted approach and should be characterised by (i) the capacity to produce, store and import food, (ii) maximum autonomy and self-determination (without implying self-sufficiency), (iii) minimise variations in access, (iv) ecological sustainability and (v) equity. (AIE/22 and AIE/57)</p>
		<p>The right to adequate food is endorsed in the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the World Food Summit 1996 called for clarification of this right. The exact obligations of individual states have not been clarified but governments should take the steps necessary to meet relevant food-related obligations. Each state should be given flexibility to optimise the combination of different measures and methods that are available to achieve food security. (AIE/57)</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
		<p>The agriculture production system is very complex with a number of long-term characteristics. If production were drastically reduced for a prolonged period it may take several decades to restore productivity and overall production. Threats to food security can arise from political crises (wars and embargoes) or from ecological crises (radiation fallout, disease, water availability or climate change). (AIE/57)</p> <p>Policy measures aimed at food production to safeguard national food security should generally be allowed, if subject to certain mutually agreed principles. (AIE/57)</p>
	South Africa	<p>Export subsidies used by richer countries constrain production in developing countries because of lower world prices which also affects upstream and downstream industries. With a large proportion of the population living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture the effect of depressed incomes is very widespread and damages food security. (AIE/26)</p> <p>Export subsidies help to concentrate production of food in countries that can afford to pay them and that do not have a comparative advantage in production. This increases the variability of production, the variability of prices and instability of global supplies. (AIE/26)</p>
	United States	<p>While export subsidies may reduce import prices for low-income food-deficit countries many of these countries keep domestic prices below world prices anyway. Furthermore, supplies of food aid to least developed countries have been closely linked to the level of surplus food stocks held by developed country governments. (AIE/26)</p> <p>Liberalised global agricultural trade will be beneficial to food security. Stronger disciplines are needed on export taxes. Temporary export taxes imposed on agricultural commodities during shortages artificially raise the prices faced by net food-importing developing countries while export subsidies implemented during periods of excess supply lower returns to farmers around the world. (AIE/47)</p>
		<p>Food self-sufficiency is not food security. Real food security is enhanced by having many sources of supply, not dependence on only one source. Trade liberalisation in general increases purchasing power and, in agriculture in particular, ensures access to multiple sources of food. Many countries depend on imports of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, fuel and other inputs for the intensive cultivation common in self-sufficiency programmes, where such inputs are imported self-sufficiency is an illusion. (AIE/64)</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
		Annex 2 provisions covering research, extension, training, infrastructure, public stockholding and domestic food aid can be used to address food security and other provisions can be used to counter the effects of natural disasters and resource depletion. For those countries that do not have the resources to make full use of Annex 2 provisions their food needs may need to be addressed within the international framework on food aid. (AIE/64)
C.	ENVIRONMENT	
1.	General	
	Argentina	Environmental resources can be under-priced either by subsidies that reduce the costs or increase the rewards of overexploitation or by the failure of markets to take the environmental cost fully into account. In agriculture, it is necessary to first remove the subsidies before taking the second step of considering market failures. (AIE/32)
	Australia	Agriculture may be beneficial for the environment but production based subsidies do not mean a better environment. In fact, more production can damage the environment. The best way to achieve environmental objectives is through specific policies targeted at specific objectives. (AIE/36)
	European Communities, Norway	While farmers can be made to comply with rules under the polluter pays principle there are also a range of environmental benefits from land use for which the provider should be rewarded (the provider gets principle). (AIE/22, 40, 48, 68 and 73)
	European Communities	The high cultural and nature values of the farmed landscape can be harmed by both the intensification of agriculture and the marginalization or abandonment of agricultural land. The polluter pays principle requires that compliance costs fall on the farmers, however, in cases where society demands more than good agricultural practice, for instance preservation of landscape features or enhancement of biodiversity, the provision of the public goods would need policy intervention. In the EC the agri-environmental payments cover only the income foregone or the cost incurred. The limits to the payments and the production constraints usually imposed to qualify for the payments reduce any production incentive effect. (AIE/73)
	Japan	The 1998 OECD Ministerial established a set of policy principles about agriculture and the environment which included "action to ensure the protection of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources in agriculture by encouraging good farming practices, and create the conditions so that farmers take both environmental costs and benefits from agriculture into account in their decisions". (AIE/25)

Issue	Country	Comment
	New Zealand	Subsidies that encourage production can damage the environment by causing deforestation, waste disposal problems and the inappropriate use of marginal land. (AIE/28)
	Norway	While high usage of pesticides, fertilizers and high levels of animal waste can be damaging to the environment the evidence linking them with high levels of supports is weak. Other environmental non-trade issues related to agriculture are soil erosion, water use, energy consumption and changes in transport volumes with possible associated environmental effects. (AIE/48)
	South Africa	Agricultural trade liberalisation may well reduce environmental damage by relocating production from marginal land in high subsidising (often high chemical input) countries, to more productive lands in low subsidising (often low chemical input) countries. Further trade reform which encourages exports of labour intensive crops instead of staples will help reduce pressure on indigenous vegetation and forests from the encroachment of subsistence farming. Any damage resulting from increased production caused by liberalisation will probably be more than offset by environmental gains in areas that decrease production plus the welfare gains arising from trade liberalisation. (AIE/41)
	United States	Annex 2 contains a number of specific provisions to mitigate agriculture's impact on the environment. Production subsidies or trade restrictions are more likely to encourage more intensive and more environmentally damaging agricultural practices. (AIE/64)
	Uruguay	Several major environmental conventions, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on the Combat against Desertification have direct implications for sustainable agriculture and rural development and strengthen the attention to the environmental impacts including costs and benefits and functions of agriculture. (AIE/74)
2.	Landscape	
	European Communities	The agricultural landscape was created by centuries of human activity, the driving force being economic necessity and the level of farming technology used at that time. As agricultural techniques have moved on the farmer whose choice is only driven by economic concerns would have to sacrifice many traditional features. (AIE/40)
	Japan	The landscape of many areas is the result of agricultural activities. A preserved and maintained landscape provides the local residents and visitors with a sense of beauty and nostalgia, together with that of the history and culture of a district. (AIE/60)

Issue	Country	Comment
	Norway	The agricultural landscape was created over thousands of years of farming. The value society attaches to the landscape arises from its recreational value, its aesthetic, cultural and historic qualities and its biological and ecological characteristics. Although made up of a many elements the value of the landscape is more than a simple sum of each of them and is closely related to its primary function of producing food and fibre. (AIE/22)
3.	Ecology	
	Australia	The issue of environmental hazards embodied in agricultural trade is best addressed through effective quarantine polices under the SPS Agreement. (AIE/36)
	European Communities	There are many environmentally sensitive sites in the EC were agriculture should be encouraged, as abandonment would lead to erosion, soil degradation and a loss of biodiversity. If cultivated land is abandoned it will not revert to wilderness. It will simply become run-down. (AIE/40)
	Japan	<p>Agriculture plays a vital role in land conservation by preventing floods (drainage control by paddy fields), soil erosion and landslides. The financial value of this role is very high. Fostering of water resources is greatly helped by croplands and the paddy field system of rice production which results in large volumes of water being held underground. (AIE/60)</p> <p>Agriculture has an important role in the preservation of the natural environment through the management of organic waste, decomposition of polluted matter, maintenance of biodiversity and absorption of polluting gases and carbon dioxide. (AIE/60)</p>
	Norway	<p>In Norway about 10-20 per cent of threatened species depend on the agricultural landscape. Structural adjustment can have an adverse impact through either more intensive production or through land abandonment. Therefore, it appears that bio-diversity would be favoured by policies aimed at structural stability and preserving the status quo. All of the seventeen countries defined as megadiversity countries based on their biodiversity are low-support countries. The expansion of agriculture in low-support countries is therefore likely to have a negative impact on biodiversity. (AIE/40 and AIE/48)</p> <p>Increased trade increases the risk of introducing infectious animal, plant and human diseases which means a cautious approach is needed especially with respect to live animals, meats and eggs. (AIE/22)</p>

Issue	Country	Comment
D.	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
	Australia	Agriculture is the back-bone of rural communities in most countries but it cannot be isolated from change. In fact policies of market support and protection have been ineffective in preventing a decline in farmer numbers. (AIE/36)
	European Communities	<p>In some remote rural areas there are few possibilities for economic diversification and agriculture remains the main activity. Maintaining agriculture in these areas is necessary to prevent depopulation and to ensure that human activities and presence are well-balanced throughout the territory. (AIE/28)</p> <p>Production supports allowed production in areas with high costs but with further reductions in price support farming in these areas could come under severe pressure. Supports are needed to ensure agricultural activities continue along with its environmental and rural functions. The supports should be designed to prevent the disappearance of agricultural land and associated rural livelihoods and not to increase agricultural production. (AIE/73)</p>
	India	Agricultural self reliance is a vital underpinning for the economic growth of agrarian developing economies as good agricultural production provides purchasing power. (AIE/30 and WT/GC/W/152)
	Japan	<p>The 1998 OECD Ministerial noted the role of agriculture in the economic life of rural areas and the need for governments to provide the appropriate framework to ensure that the agro-food sector contributed to the socio-economic development of rural areas. In many rural areas agriculture contributes to the balanced development of the national land through social and local continuation in the area. (AIE/25 and AIE/60)</p> <p>Rural areas have maintained and transmitted cultural inheritance and are an important amenity to urban dwellers and other visitors. (AIE/60)</p>
	Norway	Agriculture is the backbone of many rural economies being the main source of employment. Maintaining a minimum population level is necessary to ensure service institutions can remain. However, remote rural areas often have high production costs which makes support necessary. (AIE/22)
	South Africa	Trade liberalisation, particularly the removal of export subsidies will enhance economic activity, rural employment, income growth and subsequently improve purchasing power in developing countries. (AIE/41)

Issue	Country	Comment
	United States	The goals of maintaining rural communities and having economically sustainable small towns and villages are best achieved by measures that facilitate the creation of sustainable economic activity – both agricultural and non-agricultural – such as opportunities to earn off-farm incomes. Annex 2 contains a number of provisions that can be used to address these concerns such as education, training, resource retirement and structural adjustment programmes. (AIE/34)
E.	SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES	
	Mauritius	Small island developing states tend to rely on agriculture for a large part of their economic activity but are only able to produce a small number of different crops. For Mauritius sugar cane is the main crop which makes up a large share of total exports, and employment. Diversification is not possible for a number of reasons. Cane also contributes to electricity generation reducing dependence on fossil fuels and contributing to the environment. (AIE/51 and 65)
F.	OTHER	
<i>Food safety and quality</i>	European Communities	While WTO dispute cases have confirmed that non-discriminatory science based measures to achieve the level of safety determined by Members are in conformity with the SPS Agreement it might be useful to confirm this in a more general manner in order to assure consumers that the WTO will not be used to force onto the market products about whose safety there are legitimate concerns. As regards food quality, in any review of the TRIPs, the provision of improved protection for products whose reputation for quality is linked to their geographical origin will be a major concern. (WT/GC/W/273)
<i>Animal Welfare</i>	European Communities	In order to address increasing public concern about the conditions in which animals are kept many WTO Members have adopted detailed provisions to meet this legitimate moral requirement. Consensus should be sought on how to accommodate within WTO rules trade measures taken pursuant to any multilateral agreement that might be reached on welfare standards. (WT/GC/W/273)

ANNEX

Documents Submitted by Members

AIE Process

AIE/22; 2 June 1998, Norway, "Non-Trade Concerns in a Multifunctional Agriculture – Implications for Agricultural Policy and the Multilateral Trading System"
AIE/25; 2 June 1998, Japan, "Non-Trade Concerns on Agriculture"
AIE/28; 9 June 1998, New Zealand, "Side Effects of Agricultural Policies and Production"
AIE/30; 23 June 1998, India, "Issues of Interest to Developing Countries"
AIE/32; 27 July 1998, Argentina, "Non-Trade Concerns in the next Agricultural Negotiations"
AIE/34; 2 Sept 1998, United States, "Non-Trade Concerns and Agriculture"
AIE/36; 4 Sept 1998, Australia, "Non-Trade Concerns"
AIE/39; 22 Sept 1998, Korea, "Non-Trade Concerns in Net Food-Importing Countries"
AIE/40; 28 Sept 1998, European Communities, "The Multifunctional Character of Agriculture"
AIE/41; 26 Oct 1998, South Africa, "The Negative Effects of Export Subsidies on Developing Countries"
AIE/44; 16 Nov 1998, India, "Food Security – An Important Non-Trade Concern"
AIE/47; 2 March 1999, United States, "Food Security – The Impact of Export Taxes"
AIE/48; 2 March 1999, Norway, "Environmental Effects of Trade Liberalisation in the Agricultural Sector"
AIE/51; 10 March 1999, Mauritius, "Multifunctional Role of Agriculture in Small Island Developing States"
AIE/57; 7 June 1999, Norway, "Food Security and the Role of Domestic Agricultural Food Production"
AIE/60; 21 June 1999, Japan, "Multifunctionality in Japan"
AIE/64; 22 June 1999, United States, "The "Multifunctional" Character of Agriculture, Food Security and other Non-Trade Concerns"
AIE/65; 9 July 1999, Mauritius, "Agriculture in Small Island Developing States"
AIE/67; 17 Sept 1999, Switzerland, "The Multifunctional Dimension of Agriculture"
AIE/68; 17 Sept 1999, Norway, "Appropriate Policy Measure Combinations to Safeguard Non-Trade Concerns of a Multifunctional Agriculture"
AIE/73; 28 Sept 1999, European Communities, "Safeguarding the Multifunctional Role of EU Agriculture: Which Instruments?"
AIE/74; 28 Sept 1999, Uruguay, "The Multifunctional Character of Agriculture and Land"

Preparatory Process for the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO

WT/GC/W/120; 4 Dec 1998, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua
WT/GC/W/152; 8 March 1999, India
WT/GC/W/163; 9 April 1999, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Pakistan
WT/GC/W/170; 16 April 1999, Korea
WT/GC/W/220; 28 June 1999, Japan
WT/GC/W/233; 5 July 1999, Kenya
WT/GC/W/238; 6 July 1999, Norway
WT/GC/W/261; 20 July 1999, Switzerland
WT/GC/W/273; 27 July 1999, European Communities
WT/GC/W/342; 29 Sept 1999, India
WT/GC/W/370; 13 Oct 1999, Jamaica
