



UK Food Group Seminar on

UK FOOD GROUP

The Future Control of Food: IPRs and Trade Agreements

including the UK launch of a seminal book on this subject

THE FUTURE CONTROL OF FOOD

A Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, Biodiversity and Food Security

Edited by Geoff Tansey and Tasmin Rajotte

Published by Earthscan

11 February 2008, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Snacks and Drinks from 1:30pm onwards

Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4LT ([Click for Map here](#))

RSVP: geraldine@ukfg.org.uk

The launch will be followed by a discussion on Intellectual Property Rights and Economic Partnership Agreements

This book is the first wide-ranging guide to the key issues of intellectual property and ownership, genetics, biodiversity and food security. It covers all relevant international processes on IPRs, how these affect the direction of research and development and it provides a range of alternative futures.

More information can be found at: shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/productID/776/

Reduced price copies of the book may be purchased at this event

Agenda

2:00 Introduction by Patrick Mulvany, Chair, UK Food Group

Presentation of The Future Control of Food by Geoff Tansey

2:30 Discussants: Duncan Matthews, Queen Mary IPR Institute and Sue Branford, GRAIN

Comments and questions

3:00 Discussion on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), their impact on our food system and related biodiversity and the way they are being included in Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and other current trade agreements.

What responses by Civil Society might be effective?

Current EPA negotiations especially between Europe and Africa have stalled – the December 2007 deadline for signatures was not met by African regions and countries – however the draft EPAs still include indicative IPR clauses. If these follow the Caribbean EPA model and those of other Free Trade Agreements, there are considerable fears they will skew development. Moreover, they could further the interests of those intent on controlling our food system without liability for social and environmental costs. This seminar will explore these issues and identify approaches to change or resist this particular element of EPAs that may help CSOs in their work with developing country activists and negotiators.

Speakers: **Emily Jones**, Oxfam -author of *Signing Away The Future: how trade and investment agreements between rich and poor countries undermine development*

Geoff Tansey, Joseph Rowntree Visionary for a Just and Peaceful World

Dalinyebo Shabalala, Director, Intellectual Property and Sustainable Development Project, Center for International Environmental Law, Geneva

5:00 Ends

'Intellectual Property Rights appear mind-numbingly complex but are fundamentally important. This book outlines what the IPR and food debates are, and why we should wake up and take notice. As the world enters a critical phase over whether and how to feed people healthily, equitably and sustainably, the need to understanding IPR is central. It unlocks the struggle over who controls our food futures.'

Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy, City University, London

'This well-researched book condenses the essence of decades of negotiations concerning IPRs into a readable but disturbing narrative which juxtaposes detailed descriptions of the systems that privatise nature with examples of peoples' defence of agricultural biodiversity. For social movements and activists who want to defend food sovereignty, it is essential reading.'

Patrick Mulvany, Senior Policy Adviser, Practical Action

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