



PRESS RELEASE

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THE UNION FOR ETHICAL BIOTRADE ORGANIZES A SEMINAR ON PATENTS AND BIODIVERSITY

GENEVA - The Union for Ethical BioTrade announces a seminar on Access and Benefit Sharing, patents and natural ingredients, which will take place in Geneva on 22nd October 2009.

The fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from biodiversity - one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity - is increasingly recognized as a critical aspect of sourcing natural ingredients in the cosmetics and food industries. The issue has been pushed into the mainstream by claims of biopiracy against the natural and cultural heritage of biodiversity-rich developing countries.

The seminar will be focusing on questions and concerns posed by the link between patents and biodiversity in the food and cosmetics sector. It will feature discussions on various challenges and options for developing ethical biodiversity sourcing practices by industry. The seminar will bring together internationally recognized experts, presenting their views on:

- Trends on patents for natural ingredients,
- The issue of patents, biodiversity, and biopiracy and,
- Ethical measures that companies can consider when applying for patents.

The seminar is aimed at **companies** that develop and/or use natural ingredients in the food and cosmetic sectors, and are considering or are already using patents in relation to these ingredients. Please visit our website to view the agenda and registration form.

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The Union for Ethical BioTrade is a non-profit association that promotes the 'Sourcing with Respect' of ingredients that come from native biodiversity. Members commit to gradually ensuring that their sourcing practices promote the conservation of biodiversity, respect traditional knowledge, and assure the equitable sharing of benefits all along the supply chain.

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