

# Forum International Green Week 2009

## Technical Forum

The interest for food products produced following traditional processes and with a defined geographical origin or indication (GI) is growing and consumers are increasingly demanding such products. In addition, modern rural development approaches regard GI products as a tool to support rural economies by adding value to locally available resources, diversifying the rural economy, while contributing to the preservation of biodiversity and landscape, an important resource for rural tourism. In our discussion panel, renowned experts will focus on to what extent GI products can contribute to increased rural incomes and improved food security, or if GIs are limited to niche markets with good access to wealthy consumers in developed countries.

### Geographical Indication and its contribution to food security

Organiser: FAO

Date: Friday, 16.01.2009 from 09.00 till 11.00 h

Venue: Hall 8 International Congress Centre (ICC) Berlin

The key-questions this Panel will address are:

1. Are GIs a viable option for the sustainable development of rural areas?
  - economic diversification, income and employment creation
  - preservation of traditional knowledge (including farming systems)
  - safeguarding of biodiversity and maintenance of genetic resources
  - maintenance of the landscape and its positive effect on tourism
  - contribution to food security
2. What are the limits/threats to GIs' contribution to the development of rural areas?
  - intellectual property rights are not respected, e.g. products copied
  - specialisation and economic dependency
  - jeopardized carrying capacity of the territory (environmental and social aspects)
3. What are the policy options to support GIs?
  - existing international legal frameworks, WTO/CAP/Codex Alimentarius/WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), etc.
  - support policies:
    - developing appropriate national frameworks for registration and protection
    - specific measures under rural development policies

The Panel will be composed of experts from the following institutions/field:

- Gianluca Brunori, Professor of Rural Development, University of Pisa
- Didier Chabrol, Senior researcher in Social Sciences of Food, CIRAD
- Cinzia Scaffidi, Director of the Slow Food Study Centre, Slow Food
- Christoph Spennemann, Legal Expert, UNCTAD
- Emilie Vandecandelaere, Food Quality Project Officer, FAO Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division
- Massimo Vittori, Secretary General, OriGIn

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## Contact

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