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INVITATION

BIOFUELS DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OR STRENGTHENING CORPORATE CONTROL?

19 APRIL 2008 (exact time to be confirmed) – BRITISH COUNCIL AUDITORIUM, ACCRA, GHANA

The worldwide rush to large-scale biofuels production is reaching Africa. Many African governments have cleared the way for their countries to be a part of the race, and ambitious investors are taking advantage of this opening. In the meantime, groups engaged in promoting sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty are raising some fundamental questions about the opportunities and risks that biofuels actually represent for Africa.

ACORD, PELUM, ROPPA, IATP, CCDF, Action Aid, FoodSpan, CIDSE and SEATINI invite interested civil society groups to come and share experience, concerns and ideas around biofuels development in Africa. The ultimate objective is to jointly identify the best possible ways to strengthen our advocacy in favor of sound agriculture policies and food sovereignty.

Venue: UNCTAD XII Civil society forum – British Council Auditorium, GHANA

We will in particular:

- Look at the impacts of biofuels on small and medium producers, consumers, and on the perspectives for sustainable development (food vs fuel debate, land distribution challenges, etc.). The idea is to explore / highlight the links with the flaws of the spreading agro-industrial model of agriculture;
- Examine trade and investment dynamics around biofuels (Cf. activities by companies like BP in Southern Africa);
- Exchange ideas and experiences with groups engaged on biofuels in other regions to improve mutual understanding and strengthen our advocacy in favor of sound agriculture policies around the world.

Interpretation provided: EN, FR, SP