



Dear members,

We would like to thank all of you for your active participation and numerous contributions. The Forum counts today some 200 members and more than 250 messages were exchanged through it. Through this initiative, we had the chance to review the main issues touching upon origin products, ranging from the legal options available to policy-makers to protect GIs at the national level to the international negotiations at the WTO, WIPO as well as regional/bilateral level; From the 3 European Union GI Regulations covering respectively agricultural products, wines and spirits to the practical experiences in establishing GIs in developing countries. We hope you enjoyed this exercise and found it useful and inspiring.

In order not to disperse the knowledge generated by this Forum (both by the Modules and the interesting questions and comments of its users) the CTA and oriGIn have decided to finalize a "Practical GI Manual for ACP Producers and Policy-Makers". This publication, which will be available in English and French early in 2011, will regroup the various Modules sent out through this Forum, improved and updated in light of the issues raised by you during this first year. The electronic version of the Manual will be sent out through the Forum.

Moreover, given the growing interest for GIs as well as for this kind of interactive platforms facilitating the exchange of best practices (confirmed at the AGRIDEA-FAO-oriGIn expert meeting on technical cooperation programs related to GIs, held in Geneva on 11 June 2010: <http://www.foodquality-origin.org/Gineva/11june/index.html> ), we have decided to keep the E-Forum up and running for all interested people. Following the publication of Module VI, you will be able to continue posting your messages, asking questions, making comments and sharing experiences and information on GI-related issues.

We wish all the best in your attempt to set-up sustainable GIs in your respective countries and look forward to reading your contributions to the E-Forum.

Sincerely,

Massimo Vittori (oriGIn) – Vincent Fautrel (CTA)