oriGIn Flash

"oriGIn at WTO for a more effective protection of GIs at the multilateral level "

On 9 and 10 May, a Conference on "Protection of ACP Geographical Indications" (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) – took place at the WTO premises in Geneva (the program is available at: http://acp-mts-programme.org/assets/docs/150/235/5c0ab96-8afd7eb.pdf). The event was organized by the ACP Group of States in Geneva, with the support of the ACP-MTS Programme.

The goal of this meeting was to present and discuss the findings of a recently completed Empirical Study entitled: "*The Protection of Geographical Indications (GI): Generating Empirical Evidence at Country and Produce Level to Support African ACP Country Engagement in the Doha Round Negotiations*" (available at http://acp-mts-programme.org/en/contents/geographical-indications-conference-documents). Moreover, the conference aimed at preparing a road-map to facilitate the decisions on GIs to be taken by the ACP group in the framework of the Doha Round.

oriGIn actively participated in this conference. Mr. Leo Bertozzi, Director of « Consorzio del Formaggio Parmigiano-Reggiano » and Vice-President of oriGIn, delivered a presentation on the PDO « Parmigiano-Reggiano ». Mr. Bertozzi insisted on the key factors for a GI to be successful, with emphasis on the collective approach and close cooperation among producers. This is crucial for GIs in ACP countries, which are in the process of being structured. Mr. Massimo Vittori, Secretary General of oriGIn, stressed - on the one hand - the high potential for GIs in Africa and, on the other, the increasing number of misappropriations affecting African geographical names. Mr. Vittori encouraged then the ACP countries to support the extension of the protection of TRIPS Agreement Article 23 to all products (which will make it easier to fight such misappropriations) and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to strengthen technical assistance projects in the GI sector.

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