



Seminar Invitation

**The Institute for Security Studies
Corruption & Governance Programme
and the
African Centre for Biosafety**



Prospects & pitfalls of farming agrofuels in Africa A civil society seminar

As a result of the ongoing pursuit of energy in the global North, deals are being struck with African countries to convert large tracts of land for the industrial farming of food crops to produce agrofuel. This comes as countries in the global North are under pressure to meet the demand of their liquid fuel dependent economies, while dealing with high crude oil prices and the detrimental impact of fossil fuel on climate change. Agrofuel production in the global South is seen to be a greener and perhaps cheaper way to meet these demands. It is also seen as a way to assist ailing African economies by providing jobs and much needed revenue for the State. While, the phenomenon has intensified across the African continent it has also drawn sharp criticism from groups across the world. In late 2007, African civil organizations called on their governments to declare a moratorium on agrofuel developments because of threats to food and water security and illegal confiscation of land. Supporting these calls, a leaked World Bank report confirms that the increase of agrofuels has caused a spiral in food prices across the world. Evidence is also emerging that production is damaging the climate.

With this in mind, and taking into account previous efforts by African civil society to deal with this critical issue, how do we as civil society now collaboratively and strategically broaden our understanding of the impacts of agrofuels production? Furthermore, how do we use research and experience in advocacy to engage our governments and people and to develop an African response? Findings from country reports including Ethiopia, and Southern Africa will be critically discussed by key representatives of African civil society organizations.

Date: December 3, 2008

**Venue: Cascades Guesthouse
174 Premier Avenue
Waterkloof, Pretoria, South Africa**

RSVP: November 14, 2008, issctevents@issafrica.org

***Please note: due to space limitations, participants will be selected on a first come first serve basis. The organizers will pay for and arrange travel & accommodation for all those selected outside of Gauteng.**

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Agrofuels Seminar Programme

3 December 2008

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
09:00	Welcome	
09:10	Presentation: Findings of the South African Scoping Report	Mariam Mayet, <i>African Centre for Biosafety</i>
10:30	Coffee Break	
11:00	Presentation: Findings of the Ethiopian report	Negusu Aklilu, <i>Forum for Environment</i>
11:30	Country Report: Uganda	Edward Nyakahuma, <i>Climate & Development Initiative</i>
12:00	Country Report: Tanzania	Abdallah Ramadhani Mkindi, <i>Envirocare</i>
12:30	Country Report: Mozambique	Anabela Lemos <i>Justica Ambiental</i>
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Open discussion on each presentation	Trusha Reddy, <i>ISS (Chair)</i>
15:00	Coffee break	
15:30	Towards a civil society strategy for 2009 & beyond?	Haidee Swanby, <i>ACB (Chair)</i>
17:00	Meeting ends	