

## Discover the Newsletter of the Lascaux Program !

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### Latest news from the Lascaux Program



During the last month, the Lascaux team gathered several times. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, **Brice HUGOU** presented his thesis on *“The legal aspects of formation of prices in speculative contracts on agricultural commodities”*.

Then we welcomed **Otto HOSPES**, Professor at the Department of Social Sciences of Wageningen University, in The Netherlands, who worked with the Lascaux Program from March 7<sup>th</sup> to March 18<sup>th</sup>. During his stay, the PhD students had the chance to present their thesis and debate with him on several issues. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Otto HOSPES also led a discussion on the notion of **food sovereignty**. This gave the Lascaux team the opportunity to work on a subject which is both polysemous and complex, but also crucial regarding the Program.

On a side note, several members of the team have been working for a couple of weeks on possible answers to give for the questionnaire of the **“XXVI<sup>th</sup> European Congress and Colloquium of rural law”**, which will take place in Bucarest from September 21<sup>st</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This questionnaire deals with the issues of agriculture and sustainable development, and it will be used as a basis for the writing of a national report on these questions.

### Arrival of a new member in the Lascaux team

On March 16<sup>th</sup> we welcomed **Sylvestre YAMTHIEU** in the team. Sylvestre comes from Cameroun and he is currently doing a PhD, but in the past he has also been a trainee lawyer and then a collaborator in a law firm approved by the “African Regional Organization for Intellectual Property” (ARIPO). For three years, he has been in charge of tutoring at the University of Ngaoundéré in Cameroun. In October 2008, Sylvestre published a Master’s Research Paper on *“Plant variety rights in the OAPI area”*. He

demonstrated that the transposition of the “International Convention for the protection of new varieties of plants” (UPOV Treaty) by the legislator of Bangui was mainly profitable to seed companies, to the detriment of food security in Africa, and raised concerns about the globalization of intellectual property law. His PhD thesis on *“Food and intellectual property law”* is in the continuity of his work. It is co-directed by Jean-Pierre CLAVIER, Professor at the University of Nantes, and Josphe FOMETEU, Professor at the University of Ngaoundéré.

In the following months, Sylvestre will therefore have the opportunity to offer his knowledge and experience on issues relating to food and intellectual property to contribute to the Lascaux Program.

### Worldwide agri-food activities and news ([click here](#) for further information about current news)

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Olivier DE SCHUTTER, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food presented his new report **“Agro-ecology and the right to food”** before the UN Human Rights Council. In this report, he encourages the States to turn to agroecology as a way to deals with the issues of poverty and difficulty of access to sufficient, healthy food. Cf. the report in French (also available in [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#) and [Russian](#)), and the [Press release](#). For an opinion paper on agroecology, see François COLLART DUTILLEUL’s [blog](#) (in French).

### To follow us

If you want to follow the work of the Lascaux Program, you can subscribe to the [RSS feeds](#), follow us on Lascaux’s [Facebook](#) account or [Twitter](#) account.

We would also like to point out **the launching of a blog run collectively by all the members of the Lascaux team**, which will take over and pursue the initial [blog](#) that was created by François COLLART DUTILLEUL, Director of the Lascaux Program.

And finally, **Lascaux’s website has been redesigned!** Come and take a look!