

ENVIRONMENT



Amazon rainforest at sunrise, untouched by human activity

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Looking at Research on Bt Cotton in Southern India

Bacillus Thuringiensis, or Bt, was discovered in 1901 in Japan, and 1911 in Germany by Ernst Berliner. It is a bacteria high in what is known as cry toxins, which act against certain species of moths, flies, mosquitoes, and beetles, thus Bt has become an integral source for the production of genetically modified crops. The article entitled, "Looking at Research on Bt Cotton in Southern India," addresses the use of genetically modified organisms in India's traditionally agriculture based southern regions, and the implications of utilizing such controversial means of farming for agricultural production. A nation such as India, which is quickly becoming accustomed to utilizing technological advances, has been polarized by this issue, with both sides of the GMO debate heating up. Cotton is a vital part of India's agricultural economy, and as more farmers protest the use of increasingly expensive means of production, the controversy surrounding the use of Bt cotton is sure to remain.

Bang or Bust: Environmental Degradation and the World Trade Organization

Environmental degradation is a threat to human existence on a global scale. Over-population and over-utilization of the earth's natural resources has led to the destruction of many ecological systems around the world. Globalization has compounded this problem by creating global markets that are highly competitive, offering little incentive for nations

to produce in a globally conscious fashion. This article proposes that the World Trade Organization (WTO), with its growing global presence, should act as the transnational governing body in regard to environmental change, enforcing trade laws that help to stop practices of production deemed harmful to the environment. Globalization has posed a huge environmental dilemma that was unforeseen only years ago. Should the WTO, also the world's largest proponent of globalization, step in to put a stop to environmental degradation?

Losing the Rainforest: The Economics and Ecology of Cattle in the Brazilian Amazon

In Brazil, the conversion of forest lands for cattle pasture has been the driving force behind deforestation in the Amazon. At one point in Brazil's rich history, the Brazilian government encouraged the use of the land for cattle grazing as a means of growth. This large volume of deforestation has been taking place for years and has recently grown as increased demands for Brazilian beef has led to more citizens taking up the trade. The environmental impact of forest clearing has been recognized by the Brazilian government, as they have attempted to enact measures in order to slow down the destruction of Brazil's land. These measures have been largely unsuccessful due to the paradoxical enforcement of Brazil's land use laws, intertwined with a stance of forest conservancy. Brazilian laws state that all land must be put to use or it may be appropriated by the government, yet the growing impact of the cattle industry has damaged the global carbon cycle and threatened Brazil's forests.