

International Journal of Technology and Development Studies
Volume 1, Issue 1 (2010), pp. 1-3
URL: www.ijtds.com
ISSN: 2211-0313

Editorial

© Some rights reserved / Creative Commons license

EDITORIAL

We are happy to announce the first issue of the International Journal of Technology and Development Studies, IJTDS. The journal establishes a forum for academic debate on technology and development issues, and aims to give voice to researchers and analysts from both academic and practitioner backgrounds.

The International Journal of Technology and Development Studies is both old and new. It is old insofar as it is the continuation of Tailoring Biotechnologies, a journal published between 2005 and 2009. Though its name suggested natural sciences content, Tailoring Biotechnologies was mainly concerned with critical analyses of technology and development. The International Journal of Technology and Development Studies will keep this focus, maintaining the interest in issues of contemporary hegemonic technology and development discourse. IJTDS will continue to investigate current trends and immanent conflicts, and to consider alternative paradigms and new models, critical approaches that aim to rethink and redo technology and development, both in the way that these are conceived and experienced, and their realization in practical systems of production and application. The journal is new by its name, more clearly articulating its fields of interest, and the free and full online availability under a creative commons license of the contributions published in the two issues each year.

2

The first issue of the International Journal of Technology and Development Studies contains three articles. The first, ***Participatory Power Mapping: A collective identification of development actors in a small cattle village of Chiapas, Mexico***, by Francisco Guevara-Hernández, Jesús Ovando-Cruz, Nils Max McCune, René Pinto-Ruiz, Francisco J. Medina-Jonapá and Heriberto Gómez-Castro, aims to explain how power is embedded in multi-layered social relations in a village in Chiapas, southern Mexico. The authors argue that conventional anthropological research approaches are not very useful for analyzing power relations, and propose a new approach which they term *participatory power mapping*, a method to imagine graphically the importance of actors in terms of their ability to affect decisions made. Moreover, the tool is used to identify the spaces, formal and informal, where decisions are made. Employing this methodology, the authors seek to explain how power is defined and exercised in daily life by the various actors in the village.

The second article, ***Linking Upstream Genomics Research with Downstream Development Objectives: The challenge of the Generation Challenge Programme*** is written by Wietse Vroom and discusses the work of the Generation Challenge Program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The article analyzes the

relationship between genomics research performed under the auspices of the Generation Challenge Program and the ambition to meaningfully contribute to agricultural development and poverty alleviation. Vroom's discussion takes place against the background of debates on the socio-political bias or content of technology, in the sense that ideas about the nature of social relations in agricultural production, how to produce and what a farm looks like are embedded in the technological artifact. If one would like to make technology work for particular target groups, one should tailor that technology to their needs. This represents a break with the paradigm of modernization, hegemonial through most of the 20th century, and which only really envisaged the calibration of agricultural production with markets. Vroom uses the concept of *appropriate technology development* to draw attention to the idea that in the process of technology development we should include notions of relevant diversity and multiple trajectories. The Generation Challenge Program is assessed as a valuable example of how diversity and multiplicity in innovation trajectories can take shape.

The third and final article, ***Creative Dissent with Technoscience in India: The Case of Non-Pesticidal Management (NPM) in Andhra Pradesh***, comes from Julia Quartz, whose main concern is the development of alternative pest management practices through a process she calls *creative dissent*, which is dissent from dominant trajectories in science and technology through the development of alternatives. The fieldwork for her study has been conducted in the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, with pest-management strategies developed in the context of small-scale, village-based production systems (and not, that is, in the abstract space of conventional research programs). In her article Quartz discusses the current non-pesticide pest management systems against their historical backgrounds and primary objective of reducing the livelihood vulnerability of farmers in marginal areas. Through the case-study of the NPM project in Andhra-Pradesh, Quartz describes creative dissent as a dynamic and analytical concept, marked by three distinct phases.

The Editors
Wageningen & Kyoto
December 2010