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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **LDC Sugar Producers Support PANGEA As Link For African Biofuels**

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (June 9, 2008) -- Trade ministers from sugar-producing Least Developed Countries gave their resounding support on Sunday, June 8 2008, to PANGEA-- a new trade association based in Brussels, Belgium working to promote the development of African Biofuels.

Meeting as part of the ACP Council of Ministers meeting in Addis Ababa, the subcommittee expressed the desire to support Partners for Euro-African Green Energy (PANGEA) in its work to increase awareness and investment in the growing biofuels industry in Africa as well as to encourage market participation in Europe.

Opportunities exist for investment in biofuel production in Africa that will not only help local communities benefit from the value-added product for local use and increase opportunities for foreign exchange earnings through export, but to do so in a sustainable manner that does not compete with food production, using feedstocks like



sugarcane, sweet sorghum and jatropha.

As the industry in Africa begins to develop, it is important for producers and investors to be aware of land use issues and find ways to work with local farmers and communities without damaging the environment from the very beginning, the ministers said. They agreed that PANGEA should be used as a meeting place for African producers and European consumers to plan for issues concerning food security, environmental and social sustainability as well as a knowledge base for market analysis of both consumers and producers.

"PANGEA is working to develop market analysis of the EU member states so those looking at investing in African biofuel production for export know exactly where their potential consumers are. But the same goes for potential local consumption, where significant opportunities for investment and development exist hand-in-hand. For us, that is the next step," says Meghan Sapp, Secretary General of PANGEA.

The EU market analysis will be available to members and the press from August 1. More information about PANGEA can be found at [www.pangealink.org](http://www.pangealink.org).

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Note to editors:

\*LDCs are the world's 50 Least Developed Countries as designated by the United Nations. LDCs benefit from duty-free, quota-free access on nearly all products except for weapons and ammunition into the European Union market under the Everything But Arms agreement. Nearly 20 LDCs are sugar producers who have traditionally supplied to the EU market. After the 2005 reform of the EU sugar market, the EU encouraged LDCs as well as other developing countries exporting sugar into the European market to transition out of sugar and into other byproducts, including biofuels.

\*The European Union has set a mandate for 10% biofuel use by 2010, of which 20% or more is expected to be supplied by imports.