

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 16th – 23rd, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“But as we work to build a stronger, more stable and balanced global economy, we must renew our commitment to tackle global hunger and poverty. Because a world where more than 1 billion people suffer from hunger is not a strong or stable world. A world where more than 2 billion people in rural areas struggle to secure a livelihood is not a balanced one. We are moved to act both by our conscience and our common interests. Eradicating hunger anywhere advances humanity everywhere. Promoting economic growth abroad increases prosperity and security at home.”* – U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Remarks at the Announcement on the International Commitment to Fight Global Hunger and Poverty, April 22

NOTE: Please click on the hyperlinks in the “Contents” section if you would like to drop down to a desired section.

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
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KEY ARTICLES

Hearing on Promoting Global Food Security: Next Steps for Congress and the Administration, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, April 22

WATCH RECORDING:

<http://www.senate.gov/fplayers/CommPlayer/commFlashPlayer.cfm?fn=foreign042210&st=435>

Opening Statement by Senator Kerry

“This hearing comes at a moment when our International Affairs Budget is once again being challenged. Even in a tough budget environment, short-changing programs like these will deliver little budget relief at enormous cost to our global efforts, including food security. I am committed to protecting these vital programs.”

<http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=324061>

Opening Statement by Senator Lugar

“We live in a world where more than one billion people suffer from chronic food insecurity – a figure that has increased by nearly 100 million people since Senator Casey and I introduced legislation just last year. But we have an even bigger problem. A dangerous confluence of factors threatens to severely limit food production in some regions as the world’s population continues to expand. Between 1970 and 1990, global aggregate farm yield rose by an average of 2 percent each year. Since 1990, however, aggregate farm yield has risen by an annual average of just 1.1 percent. These trends threaten the fundamental welfare of a large share of the world’s population.”

<http://lugar.senate.gov/press/record.cfm?id=324056&&>

Statement by The Honorable Jacob Lew, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, Department of State

“The strategy for Feed the Future exemplifies our new vision for development. It starts with the recognition that food security is not just about food, but it is all about security—national security, economic security, environmental security, and human security. In too many places, agriculture has deteriorated to such a degree that people cannot grow enough to feed their families or earn an income from selling their crops. Or, if they can grow the food, they have no way of transporting it to local or regional markets. As a result, in cities and villages throughout the developing world, food is at times scarce and prices can be volatile and often beyond what people can afford.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/LewTestimony100422a.pdf>

Statement by The Honorable Rajiv J. Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

“Members of Congress, especially members of this Committee, are determined to address this problem. Increased budgets for agriculture development and continued support for global food security legislation have brought renewed attention to how agricultural-led growth can reduce poverty and hunger. The Global Food Security Act, sponsored by Senators Lugar and Casey, captures the strong commitment of the United States to align resources behind approaches that work. I would like to personally thank you both, as well as Representatives McCollum and McGovern, for your leadership on this critical initiative. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation as it moves forward.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/ShahTestimony100422a.pdf>

Statement by The Honorable Dan Glickman, Former Secretary of Agriculture; Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

“It is our firm conviction that a long-term, well-resourced commitment by the U.S. government to alleviating global food insecurity can drastically reduce global poverty, and that such a commitment is in the nation’s security, economic, and diplomatic interests. On-going U.S. leadership, at both the Executive and Congressional levels, in partnership with developing nations, other bilateral and multilateral donors, international organizations, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders, will be critical to a U.S. initiative’s success.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/GlickmanTestimony100422a.pdf>

Statement by The Honorable Catherine Bertini, Former Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program; Cochair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

“Advancing global food security will continue to be in America’s economic, security, and diplomatic interests for the foreseeable future. Agricultural development has been demonstrated as the most effective way to alleviate rural poverty over the long-term. Nearly seventy-five percent of the world’s poor resides in rural areas and depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. Moreover, the majority of population growth projected to occur between now and 2050, and therefore much of the increase in demand for food, will take place in developing countries.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/BertiniTestimony100422a.pdf>

See Also: Casey Urges Global Food Security Relief, U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr., April 22

“Global hunger and food security is a humanitarian crisis of immense proportions and also creates a national security issue because of instability arising from conflict over access to food,” said Senator

Casey. "The Obama Administration has rightly prioritized food security and political support in the Senate is growing through the Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act. Creating an environment where local farmers can produce for themselves and their communities as well as easily trade and get their goods to market is the key to fundamentally changing this ongoing crisis."

<http://casey.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=ad2d0d45-a554-4b06-b921-a3a2c4a019d9>

A Green Letter Day, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, April 22*

History was an important touchstone for much of the Earth Day clamor. "Investing in small farmers is an incredibly effective way to combat hunger and extreme poverty – history has proved it many times," Bill Gates said at the fund launch. And, as the Green Revolution proved, what works best is when everyone works together, when governments and financial institutions and universities and philanthropies and corporations are supporting the same agriculture development goals, and when these efforts are adequately funded.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/04/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire.html>

On the Front Lines of Global Hunger, *Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, Huffington Post, April 20*

Getting food to the hungry in places like Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Iraq is not like delivering boxes of cereal to supermarkets. Far from it. We often work where nobody else goes. When WFP sets out to get food to the hungry, we must overcome huge obstacles: if there are no roads, we build them, if it is too dangerous to drive food in, we drop it from the air. We are often the first on the scene of a disaster and we stay until we are confident that the people we are helping can fend for themselves. WFP has fulfilled this mandate -- and lost many in the line of duty -- since its founding, following the Marshall Plan, to help a war-ravaged Europe with food.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josette-sheeran/on-the-front-lines-of-glo_b_544674.html

African Agriculture Suffers from Erratic Climate, *Reuters, April 21*

From Africa's humid jungles and cocoa plantations to its growing semi-deserts and wilting maize fields, erratic weather linked to climate change may be ruining subsistence crops and export commodities alike. But preparing African agriculture for a warmer world will involve investing in things the fast expanding continent needs anyway, such as irrigation, roads, fertilizer and better seeds. Africa's farmers complain they can no longer predict when the rains or dry heat will come. They sow, but the rains fail, or come late. Seeds perish.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLNE63K00T20100421>

Africa Reboots, *Op-Ed, Bono, New York Times, April 17*

When I met with Ms. Diogo and her group, the less famous but equally voluble women in the room complained about excessive interest rates on their microfinance loans and the lack of what they called "regional economic integration." For them, infrastructure remains the big (if unsexy) issue. "Roads, we need roads," one entrepreneur said by way of a solution to most of the obstacles in her path. Today, she added, "we women, we are the roads." I had never thought of it that way but because women do most of the farming, they're the ones who carry produce to market, collect the water and bring the sick to the clinics.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/18/opinion/18bono.html?pagewanted=print>

Educated Women Hold the Key to Ending Poverty, *Op-Ed, Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute, David Cameron, Leader, UK Conservative Party, Independent, April 15*

Koraro is powerful evidence of how women can hold the key to development in some of the world's poorest countries – in education, enterprise, micro-finance and healthcare. Investing in women pays dividends throughout the entire community. So how can we put women at the heart of our vision for international development?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/david-cameron--jeffrey-sachs-educated-women-hold-the-key-to-ending-poverty-1947677.html>

India Raises Poverty-Rate Estimate, *Wall Street Journal, April 18*

India's top policy-planning body raised its estimate of the nation's official poverty rate to 37.2% of the population from 27.5%, a key development as the government drafts legislation to give the poorest Indians a right to state-subsidized food grains.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704508904575191550764145376.html#printMode>

See Also: As India Booms, Social Welfare Struggles to Keep up, *New York Times*, April 20

India ranked 65th out of 84 countries in the Global Hunger Index of 2009, below countries including North Korea and Zimbabwe -- hindering India's ambitions to channel its demographic dividend to fuel its global economic ambitions.

http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/04/20/world/international-uk-india-welfare.html?_r=2&pagewanted=print

See Also: India Definition of Poor May Raise Subsidy Cost by \$2.2 Billion, *Business Week*, April 19

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-19/india-definition-of-poor-may-raise-subsidy-cost-by-2-2-billion.html>

World Development Indicators 2010 Opens Data to Measure Progress, *World Bank*, April 20

The World Development Indicators (WDI) 2010 gives a statistical progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

<http://go.worldbank.org/BUFUB8ADQ0>

See Also: World Bank Group Opens Data to All, *World Bank*, April 2010

http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=241909208&message_id=986191&user_id=WorldBank

See Also: Africa Not on Track to Meet Poverty Targets, *Voice of America*, April 20

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Report-Africa-Not-on-Track-to-Meet-Poverty-Targets-91605449.html>

SPECIAL SECTION - COVERAGE OF GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY TRUST FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

United States, Gates Foundation, Partner Nations Announce Proposed Contributions to Global Food Security Trust Fund, *U.S. Department of Treasury*, April 22

A core group of finance ministers from the United States, Canada, Spain and South Korea, as well as the leadership of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, met at the U.S. Department of the Treasury to announce an initial contribution of \$880 million for a new fund to tackle global hunger and poverty and to discuss ways to foster additional contributions from the public and private sectors around the world. The new fund, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, will include a U.S. commitment of \$475 million, a key element of the Obama Administration's initiative to enhance food security in poor countries. As fellow inaugural fund contributors, Canada pledged \$230 million, Spain \$95 million, South Korea \$50 million and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation \$30 million.

<http://treasury.gov/press/releases/tg654.htm>

See Also: Fact Sheet: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *U.S. Department of Treasury*, April 22

<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Newsletter/GAFSP%20Fact%20Sheet%20FINAL%204%2022%2010.pdf>

See Also: Treasury Secretary Geithner Remarks at the Announcement on International Commitment to Fight Global Hunger and Poverty, *U.S. Department of Treasury*, April 22

<http://treasury.gov/press/releases/tg655.htm>

A New Initiative to Feed the World, *Op-Ed*, Timothy Geithner, U.S. Secretary of Treasury, and Bill Gates, Co-Chair, *The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, April 22

"Working together, we have an opportunity to create a world free of hunger and extreme poverty. Rural communities have waited too long for their farms to flourish. This time, as we return with renewed vigor and commitment to boosting agricultural development, let's sustain our focus until the job is done. Let's make history by learning from it."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704133804575197860283185140.html>

Bank, Donors Take Long-Term View on Food Security, *World Bank*, April 22

The United States, Canada, Spain, the Republic of Korea and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will together provide about \$900 million in support to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). The World Bank will serve as trustee and host of a coordination unit for the fund, and if requested, as a supervising entity.

<http://go.worldbank.org/9STX004330>

See Also: Framework Document for a Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), *World Bank, December 2009*

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/GAFSPFramework.pdf>

See Also: Remarks for Media Announcement for Launch of Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *Robert B. Zoellick, President, World Bank, April 22*

<http://go.worldbank.org/S7XXOC98C0>

See Also: The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP): Questions & Answers, *World Bank, April 22*

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/GAFSPQuestionsAnswers_ext042210.pdf

Millions Sought for Global Fund to Aid Farms, *New York Times, April 22*

The Obama administration is proposing to add \$408 million to a global fund to boost food production and encourage good farming practices in the developing world, the Treasury Department announced on Thursday. The fund, created after the Group of 20 meeting in Pittsburgh last year, will begin with contributions from the governments of Canada (\$230 million), Spain (\$95 million) and South Korea (\$50 million) and from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (\$30 million). It is meant to provide money to poorer countries, particularly in Africa, that invest in local farming programs and agricultural development to increase crop yields, administration officials said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/world/23aid.html>

See Also: US, Others Commit \$880 Mln in Food Security Funds, *Reuters, April 22*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2223668120100422>

Bill Gates and Geithner to Launch Agri-Fund for Poor, *Washington Post, April 22*

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Microsoft Corp co-founder Bill Gates said they will launch a global agricultural fund to boost food production in the developing world. The fund was first proposed by the United States at a meeting of the Group of Eight in Italy in 2008, where it urged countries to pool their resources to invest in agriculture in the world's poorest countries.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/21/AR2010042105237.html>

One More Promise Kept: The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, *World Bank, April 22*

A remarkable thing happened at the US Treasury in DC today; the United States, Canada, Spain, South Korea and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation agreed to pool resources, and as Bill Gates described it, "put small holder farmers, especially women, front and center" of a new multilateral agriculture and food security program. The Gates Foundation will contribute \$30 million.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/meetings/node/596>

"Global Trust Fund to Support Small Farmers Is Smart, Efficient Way to Coordinate Agricultural Development Efforts," Says AGRA Chairman, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, April 22*

"This renewed investment in agricultural development is excellent news for our small farmers, who face degraded soil, pests, disease, and a changing climate as they struggle to feed their families and overcome poverty," said Kofi Annan, former U.N. secretary-general and current chair of the board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). "The multi-donor trust fund is a smart and efficient way to harmonize donor support with country-led efforts that are already showing impressive results. With solid and sustained investments in agriculture and strong partnerships across sectors, we can build on this progress and create a more just and food-secure world."

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1148>

Agriculture and Food Security Trust Fund Launched, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, April 22*

FAO welcomed the launch here today of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a new multidonor trust fund managed by the World Bank to improve food security and incomes in low-income countries through assistance to agriculture.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41451/icode/>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Statements at First annual U.S. –African Union High Level Bilateral Meetings At the Department of State, Jacob J. Lew, Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, April 21

“We are also counting on the AU to support our Global Health and Food Security initiatives. As part of the Global Health and Food Security initiatives, the United States is working hard to engage African countries through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, CAADP, and the New Partnership for America’s Development, NEPAD, which is an AU initiative. We look forward to continuing to work with African partners to boost agricultural productivity.”

<http://www.state.gov/s/dmr/remarks/2010/140662.htm>

See Also: First Annual U.S. –African union High Level Bilateral Meetings, Office of the Spokesman, U.S. Department of State, April 21

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/04/140645.htm>

Testimony Before the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations Committee on Appropriations Regarding the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request United States Senate, Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, April 20

“We have also focused on generating economic opportunities for the people of Pakistan, contributing to the country’s stability. USAID programs generated more than 700,000 employment opportunities in 2009, including training more than 10,000 women in modern agricultural techniques. The funding increase in FY 2011 for Pakistan will help USAID reach approximately 60,000 more children with nutrition programs, increase enrollment in both primary and secondary schools by over one million learners, and support 500,000 rural households to improve agricultural production.”

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/ht-state.cfm?method=hearings.download&id=7274fe47-2026-4ad3-86e6-5269833a53a0>

See Also: Senator to USAID: Stop Your High-Flying Ways, Reuters, April 20

Senator Patrick Leahy said he was concerned that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) had become “distant from the trenches,” sometimes more eager to deal with foreign elites than the suffering masses who had no voice. USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah told reporters after the hearing that he saw Leahy’s remarks as “comments of support” from someone who wanted to help make USAID “the primary development agency around the world.”

<http://blogs.reuters.com/frontrow/2010/04/20/senator-to-usaid-stop-your-high-flying-ways/>

Senate Budget Committee Cuts Foreign Aid Request Despite Pleas from Everybody Involved, The Cable (blog), Foreign Policy, April 22

The Senate Budget Committee approved a resolution Thursday that cuts the foreign affairs budget by \$4 billion, to the chagrin of everyone else involved in the foreign affairs budget debate. “Our objectives in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq and the civilian component of our national security strategy depend on a strong budget and these cuts are an enormous mistake,” Senate Foreign Relations Chairman John Kerry, D-MA, said in a statement, “In this difficult budget climate, we all have to make tough choices, but the international affairs account is a smart, cost-effective investment that should be funded appropriately. Short-changing these programs delivers very little budget relief at enormous cost to our global efforts and America’s leadership in the world.”

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/22/senate_budget_committee_cuts_foreign_aid_request_despite_pleas_from_everybody_involved

See Also: Secretary Clinton’s Letters to Kent Conrad, Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Office of the Secretary of State, April 20

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/140887.pdf>

See Also: Senate Budget Committee Approves FY 2011 Budget Resolution with Cuts to Foreign Aid, Kaiser Family Foundation, April 23

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/April/23/GH-042310-Senate-Budget-Cmte.aspx>

Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Jacob Lew and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah on their Respective Trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan, *On-the-Record Briefing, U.S. Department of State, April 16*

ADMINISTRATOR SHAH: "I saw a strong civilian and military cooperation, especially at that outpost – a combined effort of providing agricultural vouchers to local farmers working to improve the irrigation system in that area, helping to improve some of the road infrastructure. Those things have really made a difference. So in an area that covered about 35,000 people east of the river there, you now see a lush agricultural environment. We visited pomegranate orchards and other environments where people are excited to be participating in a vibrant local agricultural economy."

DEPUTY SECRETARY LEW: "More important than development, ultimately, the trade relationship is very important. We can build an airstrip, but the export market that produce is going to is in India. And you were able to see that the airstrips that were built over the last couple of years are now being used to export agricultural products again. So again, it's a beginning."

http://kabul.usembassy.gov/speech_16042010.html

See Also: Shah Reaffirms USAID's Development Commitment to Afghanistan and Pakistan, *U.S. Agency for International Development, April 16*

Speaking with local farmers, Shah came to see how Afghanistan's agriculture pricing system makes it difficult for them to stay afloat. He observed first-hand how the USAID-funded Afghanistan Vouchers for Increased Production in Agriculture (AVIPA) Plus program lets farmers buy fertilizer and seeds at reduced prices from local shops, making them better-equipped to produce export-quality crops.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100416.html>

See Also: Raj Shah Back From Pakistan, Sheds New Light on U.S. Plans, *Center for Global Development, April 20*

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/04/raj-shah-back-from-pakistan-sheds-new-light-on-u-s-plans.php>

Obama's Development Reviews Still At Odds after High Level Meeting, *Foreign Policy, April 22*

Following the highest-level meeting yet on Barack Obama's as-yet-unsettled development policy, there is still no resolution of some key differences between the State Department and the National Security Council. The meeting came as some in the development community expressed a mix of encouragement at the high-level attention and frustration at the administration's failure thus far to express a clear vision laying out the overarching goals of U.S. development policy.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/22/obamas_development_reviews_still_at_odds_after_high_level_meeting

Testimony Before House Committee on Agriculture, *Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, April 21*

"In fact, it's our American farmers and ranchers who are responsible for a trade surplus at a time when our country talks only of trade deficits. American agricultural products represent a trade surplus, which provides \$22.5 billion to the U.S. economy. Moreover, estimates show that agriculture is responsible for one out of every twelve jobs in the nation."

<http://agriculture.house.gov/testimony/111/h042110/Vilsack42110.pdf>

See Also: U.S. Farm Subsidies Face Top-to-Bottom Review, *Reuters, April 20*

<https://research.tdwaterhouse.ca/research/public/Markets/CommoditiesNews?documentKey=1314-N20121608-1>

See Also: Key Players Shaping the 2012 Farm Bill, *Reuters, April 20*

<https://research.tdwaterhouse.ca/research/public/Markets/CommoditiesNews?documentKey=1314-N20199620-1>

See Also: Peterson Eyeing Major Overhaul of Crop Subsidies, *Des Moines Register, April 21*

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/04/21/peterson-eyeing-major-overhaul-of-crop-subsidies/print/>

U.S., Brazil Agree on Memorandum of Understanding As Part of Path Forward Toward Resolution of Cotton Dispute, *U.S. Trade Representative, April 21*

The United States and the Government of Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a fund for technical assistance and capacity building related to the cotton sector in Brazil.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/april/us-brazil-agree-memorandum-understanding-part-path-f>

See Also: Brazil Suspends Retaliation after US Concession, *Reuters*, April 20

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2013181920100421>

Lael Brainard Confirmed as Under Secretary for International Affairs, *U.S. Department of the Treasury*, April 20

Lael Brainard was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Under Secretary for International Affairs. In this role, Brainard will advance the Administration's agenda of strengthening U.S. leadership in the global economy to foster growth, create economic opportunities for Americans and address transnational economic challenges, including development, climate change, food security and financial inclusion.

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg648.htm>

U.S. Climate Action Report, *U.S. Department of State*, April 2010

The Fifth U.S. Climate Action Report presents a detailed outline of the actions the U.S. is taking to address climate change, contains updated projections on U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and underscores the United States commitment to address climate change.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/140636.pdf>

See Also: U.S. Climate Action Report Executive Summary, *U.S. Department of State*, April 2010

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/140010.pdf>

See Also U.S. Unveils Climate Report in Runup to Senate Bill, *Reuters*, April 19

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE63F2Q520100419>

The Environment and People's Lives Are Closely Linked, USAID Administrator Says on Earth Day, *U.S. Agency for International Development*, April 22

"For more than 30 years, this agency has supported projects that promote conservation of species and habitats in ways that reduce poverty and increase incomes. USAID works with local communities, governments and international partners to improve the management of more than 100 million hectares of natural areas annually. Biodiversity conservation plays an important role in reducing poverty and threats to the world's natural resources. The rural poor depend on forests, water, wetlands, fields and pastures for their livelihoods. The survival of about 70 percent of Africa's population is linked to conserving the continent's biodiversity."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/ps100422.html>

MCC Senior Official Visits Senegal to Reinforce Partnership to Reduce Poverty, *Millennium Challenge Corporation*, April 21

Patrick Fine, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Vice President for Compact Implementation, traveled to Senegal to meet with senior officials of the Government of Senegal to discuss MCC's \$540 million program, which is designed to unlock Senegal's agricultural productivity through the rehabilitation of major national roads and strategic investments in irrigation and water resource management infrastructure.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-042010-mccseniorofficial.shtml>

Remarks by MCC CEO Daniel Yohannes at the Inauguration of the Technical Institute of Chalatenango, El Salvador, *Millennium Challenge Corporation*, April 20

"El Salvador's commitment to education through its MCC compact is part of a much larger, integrated development strategy to change the lives of the poor for the better. The compact also invests in other public services, agricultural production, rural business development, and the Northern Transnational Highway. These development priorities transcend politics to deliver tangible results that will improve the quality of life for El Salvador's poor, today and well into the future."

http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/speeches/speech-042110-dwy_elsalvador_institute.shtml

Catherine E. Woteki Nominated for USDA Under Secretary Post, *Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities*, April 23

President Barack Obama has nominated Catherine E. Woteki to become the next under secretary for agriculture, research, education and economics at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Woteki will fill the vacant position previously held by Rajiv Shah, who left last fall to become the administrator of USAID
<http://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1584>

FOR MORE SUMMARIES OF AND LINKS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND FOOD SECURITY, PLEASE VISIT OUR [AG & FOOD POLICY LIBRARY](#)

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Public Agricultural R&D Investments and Capacities in Developing Countries, *Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators*, April 2010

Compiling up-to-date, accurate information on global trends in public agricultural R&D investments is extremely challenging because for many countries no such information exists, and for others the available information is outdated, irregular, or incomplete. The Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative strives to redress this problem, but—as a public good—ASTI focuses on developing countries (herein defined as low- and middle-income countries). In addition, based on financial and time constraints, ASTI collects data on a regional basis and over considerable intervals of time.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/gcard-backgroundnote.pdf>

Fertile Ground: How Government and Donors Can Halve hunger by Supporting Small Farmers, *ActionAid*, April 2010

Investing in women smallholder farmers is the key to halving hunger and results in twice as much growth as investment in any other sector. Less than one per cent of the agriculture budget is targeted at women in the three countries – Malawi, Kenya and Uganda - researched by ActionAid despite women's central contribution to the growing of food. At the moment, virtually nothing is being spent on research into crops grown by women, training, credit, early childhood education and access to land, despite food price hikes and shortages likely to worsen as climate change intensifies.

http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/Fertilegroundreport_webfinal.pdf

See Also: Women Farmers Can Play Big Role in Reducing World Hunger, Says New Report, *Voice of America*, April 21

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-women-farmers-hunger-21apr10-91707824.html>

See Also: Women Farmers Key in Fight Against Hunger – Report, *Reuters*, April 21

<http://uk.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=UKLDE63K0SY.CH.2420>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Dairy Sector: A Life Cycle Assessment, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, April 2010

This study assesses the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the global dairy cattle sector. The overall goal of this report is to provide estimates of GHG emissions associated with milk production and processing for main regions and farming systems of the world. These results will help to inform the public debate on GHG emissions, and will support research, development and extension efforts to improve the sustainability performance of dairy farming.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/k7930e/k7930e00.pdf>

See Also: New FAO Report Assesses Dairy Greenhouse Gas Emissions, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*, April 20

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41348/icode/>

Financing Food Assistance: Options for the World Food Programme to Save Lives and Dollars – Working Paper 209, *Center for Global Development*, April 14

The World Food Programme has world-class logistics, but its ability to manage financial risk is extremely limited. The WFP procures 100 percent of its food through spot markets, which subjects it to substantial commodity and transport price risks and significant delays delivering food. Relying on reactive emergency appeals and on donors that tend to earmark contributions and make commitments one year at a time only adds to operational inflexibility and uncertainty.

Report: http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424053_file_Ramachandran_Leo_McCarthy_WFP_FINAL.pdf

See Also: How the World Food Program Can Feed More People More Quickly with Better Risk Management Tools, *Vijaya Ramachandran, Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Development, April 19*

http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2010/04/how-the-world-food-program-can-feed-more-people-more-quickly-with-better-risk-management-tools.php?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+cgdev%2Fglobaldevelopment+%28Global+Development%3A+Views+from+the+Center%29

Indian Sugar Sector Cycles Down, Poised to Rebound, *United States Department of Agriculture, April 2010*

This report describes and analyses the current situation and outlook for supply, demand, and trade of sugar by India, the world's second largest sugar producer. A decline in sugar production has shifted India from net exporter to net importer during 2009/10, contributing to a runup in global sugar prices. A key finding is that the production decline is primarily due to a policy-induced cycle that is becoming increasingly pronounced. While output is poised to rebound in 2010/11, moderating future cyclical swings in output and trade may hinge on the success of a dialogue on policy reform between the government and the sugar industry.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/SSS/2010/Apr04/SSSM26001/SSSM26001.pdf>

Fruit Policies in Japan, *United States Department of Agriculture, April 2010*

This report reviews Japanese government programs to support domestic fruit production and how these policies affect fruit consumption in one of the largest markets for U.S. fruits. Production targets and subsidies aim to bolster the supply of domestic fruit, while phytosanitary measures and tariffs limit imports.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FTS/2010/Apr04/FTS34101/FTS34101.pdf>

From Challenge to Opportunity: A Proposal to Adjust the MCC's Candidacy Selection Method, *Center for Global Development, April 2010*

The Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) candidate selection process uses designations for low income and lower middle income countries that are impeding the overall intent of the MCC's legislated mandate to work with well-governed poor countries. Three aspects of the candidacy selection system as currently structured threaten to undermine the overall intent of the MCC legislation in a way that poses significant policy challenges to the effectiveness of the MCC.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424063_file_A_Proposal_to_Adjust_the_MCC_FINAL.pdf

Harnessing International Institutions to Address Climate Change, *Council on Foreign Relations, March 2010*

Most discussions about using international institutions to address climate change focus narrowly on the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, many other international institutions also have a significant role to play in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. This paper examines the existing climate-related efforts and capabilities, as well as the future potential, of a variety of international institutions, including those that deal with environment, energy, and economics. While there are still major shortfalls, the paper argues that there is significant existing institutional capacity to draw from in addressing climate change.

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/IIGG_WorkingPaper_2_ClimateChange.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Rescheduled

Date: May 20th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.; venue TBD

The symposium aims to build and sustain the gathering momentum for change in U.S. food security and agricultural development policy, through examining and providing constructive thinking on both the Administration's new Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative and Congressional work on these issues to-date.

Cochairs

Dan Glickman – former secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Catherine Bertini – former executive director, World Food Program

Keynotes

Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development
Senior Representative, U.S. Department of Treasury to discuss the World Bank's Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

An updated agenda will be available on the GADI [website](#) soon. Please contact [Lindsay Iversen](#), or phone (312.821.7560) for further information.

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform Meeting

Date: April 21-23, 2010

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=664>

18th Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference

Date: April 22nd – 23rd, 2010

Location: Arlington, Virginia

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc. For more information, contact [Theresa Stephens](#)

http://www.informaecon.com/Washington_Conference.asp

Innovative Finance for Aid Delivery: The Potential in Agriculture

Date: April 23rd, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Private-sector innovation to help developing country governments promote food security, help their people stay healthy, educate kids, and, overall, reduce poverty is vastly under-supplied because market failures are so common. There is currently a pilot program using an advance market commitment to stimulate private-sector interest in developing a pneumococcal vaccine for developing countries. Prizes have also been used in a range of fields to attract investments in R&D. Might these "pull mechanisms," where donors stimulate demand for new technologies, be used more broadly to complement traditional "push mechanisms," where donors provide funding to increase the supply of R&D? In particular, could these mechanisms be helpful in meeting the enormous challenge of feeding an additional three billion people over the next four decades, along with providing food security for another one billion people that are currently hungry or malnourished?

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/calendar/detail/1424040/>

2010 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group

Date: April 24th – 25th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The 2010 World Bank and International Monetary Fund Spring Meetings will be held on April 24 and 25 in Washington, DC. All CSO representatives interested in participating in the Spring Meetings must obtain individual accreditation. Representatives are encouraged to apply for accreditation which will open on Monday, March 8 and close on Monday, April 12. Those interested will be able to apply online for accreditation, and the link will be posted here on March 8.

<http://go.worldbank.org/D56FC0N900>

Roundtable on Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment

Date: April 25th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/events/event-advisory-roundtable-on-principles-for-respon.shtml>

CSIS Task Force on Global Food Security Report Rollout

Date: April 27th, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing Room, Washington, DC

CSIS will host an event launching the report of its Task Force on Global Food Security, *Cultivating Global Food Security: A Strategy for U.S. Leadership on Productivity, Agricultural Research, and Trade*. The Task Force is co-chaired by Senator Richard Lugar, Senator Bob Casey, and Rep. Betty McCollum. This report provides recommendations on three main pillars for achieving long-term global food security: boosting agricultural productivity, especially in developing countries; strategically investing in agricultural research and development to increase productivity; and energizing the trade agenda to play a strong role in improving food security.

For questions or RSVPs, please contact Kristin Wedding at kwedding@csis.org or 202-457-8779.

2010 U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference

Date: April 27th – April 29th, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

This year's conference, which is themed "Building Dynamic Growth in Africa," focuses on key economic sectors in Africa, including information and communication technology, alternative energy, and human security. The effects of climate change on Africa are also a focus, along with available instruments for project finance. Immediately following the World Bank spring 2010 meetings, the conference brings together senior U.S. and African private sector and government officials; key decision makers from leading U.S. infrastructure companies; financial institutions; and international organizations with a vested interest in infrastructure investment and growth on the continent.

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S.M3.f2a576ef-3b24-4af2-81ed-33bf7d9b760b>

Water for Food: Growing More with Less

Date: May 2nd – 5th, 2010

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Growing more food for a rapidly increasing population with limited water supplies is one of the greatest challenges facing the global community. The second international Water for Food conference will bring together experts from around the world to discuss this challenge and potential paths to solutions.

<http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/2010/>

Building Food Security in the Face of Climate Change – CCFAS Launch Conference

Date: May 4th, 2010

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

The CCAFS Launch Conference is a one day event that will bring together the research and development community, policy makers, public and private research organizations, donors, and development agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.

<http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org/ccaafs-launch-conference.php>

World Economic Forum on Africa

Date: May 5th – 7th, 2010

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The economic crisis has led to a reassessment of the systems governing global cooperation, financial architecture and policies linked to trade and climate change, and is a wake-up call to speed up implementation of long-discussed reforms. In this complex and evolving landscape, emerging markets, including those from Africa, are among the first to show signs of a recovery and are forecast to increasingly contribute to global growth in the next decade. How are leaders rising to the challenge and using the crisis as an opportunity to redesign a sustainable roadmap for Africa's future within the new global economy?

<http://www.weforum.org/en/events/WorldEconomicForumonAfrica2010/index.htm>

Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever

Date: June 29th, 2010

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

The right technological solutions combined with the right policy directions for the future can effectively contribute to a sustainable and equitable global food system. A new global food system should assure that

everybody has access to sufficient food and that poverty should be reduced significantly without doing damage to the natural environment.

<http://www.atv.dk/index.php?c=536&lang=2>

2010 Borlaug Dialogue - "Take It to the Farmers": Reaching the World's Smallholders

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Inspired by the last words of Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 2010 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food, and development this October in Des Moines – with a special focus on the world's small-scale farmers.

<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2010.htm>

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th – 12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

<http://www.ricecongress.com/cmsdetail.php?id=1>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Agriculture Is Key to the Stability of the African Continent, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), April 23*

The 6th Partnership Platform (PP) Meeting of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) opened in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting which runs from 22nd to 23rd April 2010 provides an opportunity for multi-partner peer interaction, review and experience sharing among the core institutions and partners involved in CAADP implementation.

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=675>

See Also: Agriculture Is Key to the Stability of the African Continent, *New Partnership for Africa's Development, April 23*

http://www.nepad.org/News/lang/en/sector_id/6/news/99

Ethiopia's Abundant Farming Investments Leave Many Still Hungry, *PBS News Hour, April 22*

In Ethiopia, farms backed by foreign investors are growing with abundance, while native farmers subsist on food aid. Fred de Sam Lazaro reports about the unlikely abundance in a land known for famine.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social_issues/jan-june10/ethiopia_04-22.html

Earth Day a Reminder of Agriculture's Role in Conservation, *Bill Leshner, Harvest 2050 (blog), Global Harvest Initiative, April 21*

At the GHI, we recognize the enormity of the challenge faced by global agriculture in meeting the needs of our growing and more affluent population. Land, water and habitat constraints are tightening, as recognition grows of the critical need to protect these resources for future generations. Failure to meet these expectations sustainably has implications that transcend agriculture, with enormous ramifications for political stability in many parts of the world.

<http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/harvest-2050/2010/04/earth-day-a-reminder-of-that-agricultures-role-in-conservation.php>

The Drought Ends, The Shouting Starts, *Economist, April 22*

Should Australia save its rivers or its farmers?

http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15963979

Experts Warn of Impending Phosphorus Crisis, *Der Spiegel, April 21*

The element phosphorus is essential to human life and the most important ingredient in fertilizer. But experts warn that the world's reserves of phosphate rock are becoming depleted. Is recycling sewage the answer?

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,druck-690450,00.html>

Selling Agriculture 2.0 to Silicon Valley, *New York Times*, April 21

Some venture capitalists are starting to look beyond clean technology to sustainable agriculture as the next big “green” investment.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/22/business/energy-environment/22AG.html?pagewanted=print>

The Seeds of a Profitable Crop, *Financial Times*, April 21

Down a rutted road lined by brilliant red fire trees lies the Indian village of Jarandi, a once impoverished community that is being transformed by the kind of drip-irrigation technology that made Israel's desert bloom in the 1960s.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/1ff01d3e-4d70-11df-9560-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=0c3d2eca-300c-11da-ba9f-0000e2511c8,print=yes.html

Is Food Security a Basic Right? *Wall Street Journal*, April 20

This is why it is ironic that a country that craved for freedom from colonial rule is ready to forsake freedom from hunger, a freedom that is far more important than the one we got six decades ago. A freedom that is more primal. Historically, people have survived quite well under all types of governments, but there isn't a single example of malnutrition and progress co-existing in any form.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2010/04/20/wsjidebate-is-food-security-a-basic-right/tab/print/>

New Class of PhD Students in Agricultural Science Graduate from African Centre for Crop Improvement, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa*, April 20

Seven agricultural PhD candidates sponsored by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) graduated this week from an advanced studies program in plant breeding at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. The students will employ the tools, knowledge, and experience gained from their studies to take on the challenge of improving food security against the backdrop of unstable economic systems, rising food prices and input costs, diminishing soil health, and climate change.

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1143>

7 New Rules for the Environment, *New York Times*, April 19

For affluent humans in industrialized countries, organic food is pretty much a harmless luxury. But most people in the world are not affluent, and their food budgets are limited. If they're convinced by green marketers that they need to choose higher-priced organic produce, they and their children are liable to end up eating fewer fruits and vegetables — and sometimes nothing at all, as occurred when Zambia rejected emergency food for starving citizens because the grain had been genetically engineered.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/20/science/20tier.html?pagewanted=print>

UN Based Policy of Doubling Food Production on 'Flawed Data,' *Guardian*, April 19

The Soil Association says the suggested increase in food production is closer to 70%, rather than the UN's projected 100%.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/apr/19/soil-association-food-production-increases/print>

See Also: Telling Porkies: The Big Fat Lie about Doubling Food Production, *Soil Association*,
<http://www.soilassociation.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=qbavglQPY/c%3d&tabid=313>

Cabbage Crunch Threatens Korea's National Dish, *Financial Times*, April 19

Runaway cabbage prices in South Korea are threatening supplies of kimchi, the national dish.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fbb495c2-4b84-11df-9db6-00144feab49a.html>

Cuba 'Seed Man' Wins Global Environmental Prize, *Associated Press*, April 19

Rios' wants to make Cuban farms more sustainable by giving farmers more autonomy - a radical notion in what has long been a strictly top-down planned economy where officials tell producers just what to grow, even if it isn't quite right for the soil. The prize committee praised Rios' approach for reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides, helping Cuba shift away from dependence on farm chemicals.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CB_CUBA_SEED_MAN?SITE=TXKER&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

The Coming Famine: Risks and Solutions for Global Food Security, *Science Alert*, April 18

Most of us have by now heard the forecast there will be 9.2 billion people in the world of 2050. But current projections suggest human numbers will not stop there – but will keep on climbing, to at least 11.4 billion, by the mid 2060s. Thus, global demand for food will more than double over the coming half-century, as we add another 4.7 billion people. By then we will eat around 600 quadrillion calories a day, which is the equivalent of feeding 14 billion people at today's nutritional levels.

<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/features/20101804-20862.html>

Cows on Drugs, *Op-Ed, Donald Kennedy, Former Commissioner, United States Food and Drug Administration, New York Times*, April 17

When antibiotics are given to livestock to help them grow and avoid infections on crowded farms, people face a greater threat from drug-resistant bacteria.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/18/opinion/18kenedy.html?pagewanted=print>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Gates Rethinks His War on Polio, *Wall Street Journal*, April 23

In August, experts commissioned by the WHO landed in Angola, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Nigeria to evaluate the polio program. In Africa, a team found that once polio had been ended in some countries, weak health-care systems let it return. In northern India, bad sanitation, malnutrition and other intestinal issues are believed to hurt the oral polio vaccine's effectiveness.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303348504575184093239615022.html>

World Bank Unit to Finance Chinese Africa Venture, *Financial Times*, April 22

The bank's private sector arm has signed its first deal to finance Chinese investment in Africa, a move it hopes will help discourage violations of human rights and environmental standards.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2838c558-4e2f-11df-b48d-00144feab49a.html>

Flying to Haiti, with Money and Purpose, *New York Times*, April 22

What struck Roger C. Altman the most was that such abject poverty could exist in a seascape studded by natural splendor and prodigious wealth. "Hands Together feeds more than 2,000 people a day," Mr. Altman said. "They receive rice and beans. We watched the daily dispensing of the heavy white cylinders which contain this food. Many of those picking these up were elderly women, who, sometimes, are robbed of the food before they can get very far with it. This pantry effort costs \$30,000 daily."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/nyregion/23altman.html>

WFP Pre-Positioning Food in Haiti before Rains and Hurricanes, *Voice of America*, April 22

The World Food Program says it is pre-positioning two million ready-to-eat meals and other food supplies throughout Haiti in preparation for the rainy and hurricane seasons. The rainy season in Haiti is expected to peak in mid-May and the hurricane season about one month later.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/americas/WFP-Pre-Positioning-Food-In-Haiti-Before-Rains-and-Hurricanes-91838444.html>

See Also: Haiti Wants Food Aid to Stop? *CBS News*, April 21

Of all the things you've heard about earthquake aid to Haiti, here's something you probably didn't know: Haiti's government wants large-scale food assistance and free health care to stop.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/04/21/eveningnews/main6419171.shtml>

Is Aid a Matter of Justice? *Op-Ed, Marian Tupy, Policy Analyst, Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, Wall Street Journal*, April 22

Bono and Bob Geldof blame the West for African poverty. They're wrong.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704133804575197812479587280.html#printMode>

Europe Must Rethink Aid Approach – Development Chief, Reuters, April 20

The European Union needs new ways of meeting its pledge to help the world's poor, including setting binding targets on aid and introducing innovative financing, the bloc's development chief said. Without this, Europe will lose credibility, as many of the bloc's 27 member states are not living up to promises on aid to the poorest, hungriest and least developed countries, EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs told Reuters.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/economicNews/idINIndia-47838720100420>

US Aid to Tender 300 Million Dollar Mozambique Projects, Agence France-Presse, April 19

A US aid programme will launch late this year four tenders worth over 300 million dollars to rebuild roads and improve water and sanitation in Mozambique.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hXRjvcmWYxv_CGsg4Rt85ciqkpew

Food Aid Shortfall Threatens Yemen, Al Jazeera, April 19

As the international community focuses on defeating al-Qaeda in Yemen, millions of ordinary people in the country on the south-west tip of the Arabian Peninsula are quietly starving as vital deliveries of UN food aid are severely cut due to a lack of funding.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2010/04/201041691014575757.html>

Despite Billions in U.S. Aid, Colombia Struggles to Reduce Poverty, Washington Post, April 19

That poverty, and Colombia's big gap between rich and poor, is particularly evident in towns along the Caribbean coast, such as this community of dirt roads and forlorn farms. Here in Algarrobo (population 12,000), a wealthy and influential family, the Dávilas, received \$1 million in grants through an Agriculture Ministry program that provided tens of millions of dollars to affluent farmers nationwide. The subsistence farmers in the surrounding countryside, meanwhile, have remained desperately poor, among the millions of rural Colombians left behind even as Latin America has grown richer in the last decade's commodities boom.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/18/AR2010041803090_pf.html

World Bank Gets Help from Sovereign Wealth Funds to Invest In Developing Nations, Washington Post, April 18

As the World Bank tries to rebuild after a global economic crisis that arguably boosted its reputation but left it strapped financially, the agency will get support from a new quarter: sovereign wealth funds.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/17/AR2010041702921_pf.html

Taliban Targets U.S. Contractors Working on Projects in Afghanistan, Washington Post, April 17

Within the past month, there have been at least five attacks in Helmand and Kandahar provinces against employees of U.S. Agency for International Development contractors who are running agricultural projects, building roads, maintaining power plants and working with local officials.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/16/AR2010041604521_pf.html

Sudan Food Crisis on Verge of 'Free Fall': UN, Agence France Presse, April 16

The top UN official in south Sudan warned on Friday that the impoverished region faced a major food crisis that could lead to "free fall," with half of its residents relying on aid this year

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/18/20100416/thl-south-sudan-food-crisis-on-the-verge-96993ab.html>

Parties in UK Election Race Promise Law on Aid Target, AlertNet, April 15

All three of the main political parties contesting Britain's elections have pledged to enshrine in law a commitment to provide foreign aid equal to 0.7 percent of gross national income each year from 2013.

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/20316/2010/03/15-160039-1.htm

See Also: Development, Poverty, and Climate Change in UK Elections, AlertNet, April 15

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/20316/2010/03/15-161558-1.htm

India Said to Expect Normal Monsoon, Helping Crops, *Bloomberg*, April 21

India's monsoon rains may be normal this season, two government officials said, helping the world's second-biggest producer of rice, wheat and sugar increase farm output after a drought last year damaged crops.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aAnyLrhAqdok>

See Also: The D-Word, *Wall Street Journal*, April 20

As soon as this week, the Indian Meteorological Department could make its prediction for whether the monsoon this year will be normal or not. Farmers will be watching for the prediction – most of the country's rainfall falls in the monsoon months from June till the end of September. The weather department doesn't really like the word "drought," but soon after the monsoon began at the end of May they began noting the rainfall was "deficient." By the time monsoon ended, the country had got just 78% of the long-term average, hitting the production of summer crops like rice and sugarcane.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2010/04/20/the-d-word/tab/print/>

See Also: Global Warming Reduces Grain Output in Inflation-Ridden India, *Bloomberg*, April 19

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=a4GLIV0kSFQ>

FAO Steps Up Aid to Sahel Pastoralists, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*, April 21

FAO is stepping up aid to herders and pastoralists in Niger and Chad amid a growing food crisis caused by last year's poor rains that have resulted in a steep decline in agricultural production and dried out livestock pastures.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41388/icode/>

Freshwater Scarcity: The Greatest Crisis Most Americans Have Never Heard Of, *Steven Solomon, PBS*, April 21

China's breakneck growth bid to become an economic superpower hinges partly on whether it can overcome critical water scarcity challenges that are its economic Achilles Heel -- with only one-fifth the amount of water per person as the U.S, it has had to idle factories and abandon major energy projects, and faces water pollution so severe that its waters can't even be used for agriculture. From the irrigated agricultural revolution at the dawn of civilization in Egypt, Mesopotamia and the Indus, to the steam-powered Industrial Revolution, to the 20th century's giant dams pioneered at the Hoover Dam, control of water has been a key axis of power and wealth.

<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/voices/2010/04/freshwater-scarcity-the-greatest-crisis-most-americans-have-never-heard-of.html>

Polluting Nations Downplay Goals for Cancun Climate Conference, *Bloomberg*, April 20

The biggest polluting nations are downplaying goals for climate-change talks in December after failing last year to agree on a global treaty, the top U.S. climate negotiator said. Representatives from countries emitting the most greenhouse gases agree it's important not to let "expectations far outstrip what can be done" at UN-led talks in Cancun, Mexico, Todd Stern, President Barack Obama's climate negotiator, said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aTF09vkhejkY>

South African Dairy Goes Green with Manure Power, *AlertNet*, April 20

"This project is a triple win situation," said Thandeka Mabuza, the former agricultural extension officer with the South African department of agriculture and land affairs. "I can confirm that through turning manure into energy, I have reduced my electricity bill by a quarter. And I am preventing deforestation by reducing destructive harvesting of fuel wood," a major source of power for many small farming operations.

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/60167/2010/03/20-143221-1.htm

Clear Gold: Water and the Conflict in the Middle East, *Jon Alterman, Director of Middle East Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies, World Politics Review*, April 19

The wells that feed much of the agriculture in the Middle East are a finite resource, and they are being exploited far beyond their capacity to restore themselves. Rains that fell on the earth tens of thousands of years ago are being poured into crops of cucumbers and tomatoes, figs and peaches, wheat and alfalfa. Once these underground reservoirs are used up, they are used up.

<http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/print/5429>

WOMEN

Africa and Gender Equality, *World Bank, April 21*

With the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals looming, the World Bank has boosted its support for projects, programs, research and other assistance that incorporate gender concerns into the economic arena - in infrastructure, access to credit and finance, and agriculture. Studies have shown that if women have the same advantages as men in agriculture, for instance, productivity would increase by as much as 20 percent in several African countries.

<http://go.worldbank.org/YFHJR4FL30>

See Also: In Drought-Stricken Kenya, Improving Water Access Means Empowering Women

The rolling hills of Kenya's arid Kajiado Central District are tinged with green, the gift of recent rains, but last year's prolonged drought still weighs heavy on many minds. During the drought, women and girls—the traditional water-collectors and frequently the food producers—travelled 5 km or more on foot to look for water. Many were forced to quit or curtail side businesses or even stop going to school to meet the family's needs as water grew increasingly scarce, and men brought home the dying cattle for women to hand-feed.

<http://go.worldbank.org/F7QMINMID0>

See Also: Ethiopian Women Gain Status through Landholding, *World Bank, April 21*

Asagirt Woreda, or district, is considered a food-insecure area. Despite its beauty it suffers from depleted soils, erosion and low agricultural production. But the key to reviving agriculture in the region may be a land certification effort that has reassured farmers their land won't be taken from them without compensation, as has happened in the past. Previously, women didn't have any rights to property. Divorced women could expect little more than a sack of grain as a parting gift from their former husbands. Now, they are entitled to 50 percent of the property. Wives and widows, commonly hailing from outside the community, previously had only tentative claim over their husband's land.

<http://go.worldbank.org/FAQ3NCB060>

Remarks at a Working Dinner on Maternal Health, *Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations, April 14*

"When women are healthy, and their rights are protected, they are more productive. They generate income, which helps build strong communities and societies. And when women have control over resources, they invest more in children's health, nutrition and education. Such investments can break the cycle of poverty. We need to tell people that it pays to invest in women -- that investing in the health and rights of women triggers greater progress for all."

<http://www.un.org/apps/dsg/dsgstats.asp>

See Also: United Nations Calls for More Investment on Women, *Afrique en Ligne, April 20*

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/united-nations-calls-for-more-investment-on-women-2010042048003.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Ash Cloud Highlights Gulf's Fragile Food Security, *Reuters, April 21*

Europe's ash cloud which halted air freight for more than six days exposed how fragile food security is in the Gulf region and food importers should diversify source markets, traders said. Gulf nations mainly reliant on food imports have intensified efforts over the last year to buy and lease farmland in developing nations to secure food supplies.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-47886920100421>

See Also: Europe Ash Cloud Dents Gulf Arab Luxury Food Supply, *Reuters, April 21*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63K1Y220100421>

India Halts Cotton Exports to Cool Domestic Prices, *Bloomberg, April 21*

India, the world's second-largest cotton grower, halted exports to boost domestic supplies and cool prices that have jumped 27 percent in the past year.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=ai7gre2S.zKE>

See Also: India Shuts Door; Cotton Jumps, *Wall Street Journal*, April 21

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703763904575196462809250540.html>

WTO Chief: Changing Doha Goals Would Be 'Horribly Complex,' *Wall Street Journal*, April 20

Easing the goals of the 2001 Doha negotiations to reach a new global free trade agreement would be "horribly complex" and counterproductive, the head of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy, said. Lamy made the comments after meeting in this coastal city with trade ministers and farmers from the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting nations.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100420-711649.html>

The Vital Role of China's Pork Prices, *Wall Street Journal*, April 20

While property values go through the roof in China, the price of an important consumer staple is plunging: pork. It's roiling farmers, but making some economic policymakers quite happy. The porcine price plummet has forced the government to add to its much vaunted frozen pork reserve, a series of icy warehouses around the country it set up a few years ago to stabilize pork prices.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2010/04/20/the-vital-role-of-china%e2%80%99s-pork-prices/>

Farmers Urge Doha Trade Talks Revival, *Sydney Morning Herald*, April 20

Farming groups from 19 agricultural exporting nations have called on world leaders to stop wasting time and reinvigorate the long-running Doha trade talks.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/farmers-urge-doha-trade-talks-revival-20100420-sry8.html>

With Flights Grounded, Kenya's Produce Wilts, *New York Times*, April 19

Kenya, a major supplier of gourmet vegetables and flowers to Europe, has nowhere else to send its horticultural products.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/20/world/africa/20kenya.html?pagewanted=print>

See Also: Volcanic Ash Halts S. Africa Flower Exports to Europe, *Reuters*, April 19

<http://in.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=INLDE63I1KJ20100419>

See Also: Volcanic Flight Ban Hits Kenya Farm Workers, *BBC News*, April 20

<http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8629079.stm?ad=1>

See Also: Iceland Volcano: As the Dust Settles, Kenya's Blooms Wilt, *Telegraph*, April 21

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/kenya/7612869/Iceland-volcano-As-the-dust-settles-Kenyas-blooms-wilt.html>

Ugandan Coffee Shipments May Decline 11% in April, *Bloomberg*, April 19

Coffee exports from Uganda, Africa's biggest producer of the robusta variety of the crop, may fall 11 percent this month after a drought cut yields, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority said.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2010/04/19/bloomberg1376-L14C5D0UQVI9-1.DTL&type=printable>

AGRIBUSINESS

Yara Sees 'Interesting' Indian Fertilizer Assets in 3-5 Years, *Bloomberg*, April 23

Yara International ASA, the largest publicly traded nitrogen-fertilizer maker, expects to find "interesting assets" in India within three to five years, Chief Executive Officer Joergen Ole Haslestad said. India, the biggest potash importer, ended price controls in February, allowing companies to set rates for fertilizers other than urea to ease the burden on the state of rising subsidies. Agriculture accounts for as much as a fifth of the economy.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aJo6vlh9qFek>

Supreme Court to Take First Look at Genetically Modified Crops in Case with NEPA Implications, *New York Times*, April 22

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments Tuesday involving a federal judge's temporary ban on a breed of pesticide-resistant alfalfa, setting the stage for the court's first-ever ruling on genetically modified crops. Legal experts do not expect a blockbuster decision on the merits of regulating modified plants such as Monsanto Co.'s Roundup Ready alfalfa, but the case, *Monsanto Co. v. Geertson Seed Farms*, has drawn widespread interest because the justices could issue a ruling that would raise or lower the threshold for challenges under the National Environmental Policy Act.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/04/22/22greenwire-supreme-court-to-take-first-look-at-genetically-4425.html?scp=5&sq=greenwire&st=cse>

PepsiCo's 1Q Profit Rises on International Growth, *Associated Press*, April 22

PepsiCo Inc.'s international growth pushed its first-quarter profit up 26 percent, as people in developing countries bought more of its snacks and drinks.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/PepsiCos-1Q-profit-rises-on-apf-2176677213.html?x=0>

Monsanto, DuPont Race to Win \$2.7 Billion Drought-Corn Market, *Bloomberg*, April 21

Monsanto Co., DuPont and Syngenta AG are vying for a similar windfall. After battling for a decade to corner the \$11 billion market for insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant technologies, the world's biggest seed companies are vying to develop crops that can survive drought. At stake is a new global market that may top \$2.7 billion for the corn version alone.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aOhHmNjzqqAw>

McDonald's Relies on Europe for Growth, *Financial Times*, April 20

Fast-food chain McDonald's is expected to show continued dependence for growth on Europe.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/79c4f8a2-4c08-11df-a217-00144feab49a.html>

Europe Gets Taste for British Food, *Financial Times*, April 19

Europeans' taste for Burt's crisps, Welsh sea salt and Geeta's Indian chutneys has helped British food producers export nearly £10bn (\$15.3bn) of goods during 2009.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/4985d746-48b7-11df-8af4-00144feab49a.dwp?uid=fe95602e-e821-11db-b2c3-000b5df10621.print=yes.html>

We Need Bold Action to Slow Obesity's March, *Michael Skapinker*, *Financial Times*, April 19

If the food industry wants to add details about complex nutritional composition, there is nothing to stop it. In the meantime, traffic lights are pretty helpful to those rushing around snatching food off the shelves so that they can get home to feed their families. Given the extent of the obesity crisis, they look like a proportionate response.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0d092bb0-4be6-11df-a217-00144feab49a.html>

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