

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 2nd - 9th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *"Food insecurity is first and foremost a moral issue. We should all feel a humanitarian imperative to take on the challenge and ensure that children do not go to sleep hungry. But it goes beyond that. No matter where they live, children will only realize their full potential if they have regular access to food. Giving a child the opportunity for a brighter, more productive future, affects not only the individual child, but the community where that child is raised, the country where he or she lives, and all of the world. Working to eliminate food insecurity across the globe will provide incredible economic benefits to developing and developed countries alike. It will increase political stability in conflict and poverty-stricken regions, and put these countries on a path to future prosperity."* – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, Remarks at the Global Food Symposium in Tokyo, Japan, April 7, 2010.

For more information:

- The [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.
- Background information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, can be found on the Initiative's website: www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.
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KEY ARTICLES

21st Century Agriculture, Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State, April 2010

The human population today stands at an estimated 6.8 billion, of whom an estimated 1.02 billion are undernourished. How we fashion a 21st-century agriculture capable of feeding them is the subject of this *eJournal USA*. The voices collected here include scientists, administration officials, and Indian and American winners of the World Food Prize.

<http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0310.pdf#popup>

How Science Could Spark a Second Green Revolution, *Christian Science Monitor*, April 6

With world population expected to grow by nearly 50 percent to more than 9 billion people by midcentury, farmland is going to need to be much more productive. Even today, nearly 1 out of every 6 people in the world – more than 1 billion – are going hungry, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. With most good farmland already under cultivation, any new acreage would likely be in marginal land with either poor soil conditions or little rainfall. What's more, climate change is expected to make some regions drier or hotter, which may send crop yields plummeting. What the world needs, say Dr. Lynch and others, is a new Green Revolution that can increase yields in the face of challenging and changing conditions.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/layout/set/print/content/view/print/290327>

Global Food Security: The U.S. Strategy under Development Should Address Data Weaknesses and Mitigate Risks Posed by A Host Country-Led Approach, *Expert Commentary by Thomas Melito, Director, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office, Global Food for Thought Blog*, April 6

Global hunger continues to worsen and more than 1 billion people are estimated to be undernourished worldwide. The international community has set ambitious goals toward halving global hunger by 2015, and major donors, including the United States, have made a commitment to increase aid for agriculture and food security by \$22 billion in the next 3 years. [In a recent report \(GAO-10-352\)](#), we examined (1) the types and funding levels of global food security programs and activities of U.S. agencies and (2) progress in developing an integrated governmentwide strategy to address global food insecurity and the strategy's potential vulnerabilities.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/04/expert-commentary-melito-gao.html>

Putting Principles into Action: A US-Africa Forum on Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa, *Partnership to Hunger and Poverty in Africa*, February 2010

The objectives of the Forum were to take stock of the progress made over the past year, discuss the main challenges affecting the ability of the US to respond swiftly to country-determined food security priorities and the other principles endorsed at the Rome summit, and to identify options for addressing these challenges to achieve significant progress over the next 12-24 months. Speakers, discussion group leaders, and Forum participants repeatedly affirmed the importance of this moment, their support for global commitments to agricultural development and food security, and for revitalized US leadership backing these commitments with funding and human resources. Participants emphasized, however, the challenge of "getting it done."

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/sites/default/files/Summary%20Report%20February%202010%20Forum.pdf>

See Also: Priorities for Action on Food Security in Africa, *Policy Brief, Partnership to Hunger and Poverty in Africa*, April 2010

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa recommends that the US Government (USG) take the following policy actions to address current food security challenges, based on a conference convened in February, 2010.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/sites/default/files/Policy%20Brief%207%20Priorities%20for%20Action%20on%20Food%20Security%20in%20Africa.pdf>

Water: A Special Issue, *National Geographic*, April 2010

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/table-of-contents>

Tibetan Plateau

As the rivers dwindle, the conflicts could spread. India, China, and Pakistan all face pressure to boost food production to keep up with their huge and growing populations. But climate change and diminishing water supplies could reduce cereal yields in South Asia by 5 percent within three decades. "We're going to see rising tensions over shared water resources, including political disputes between farmers, between farmers and cities, and between human and ecological demands for water," says Peter Gleick, a water expert and president of the Pacific Institute in Oakland, California. "And I believe more of these tensions will lead to violence."

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2010/04/tibetan-plateau/larmer-text>

Parting the Waters

One day last April, Bromberg led me to the natural spring that provides water to Auja, a Palestinian village of 4,500 people that climbs the barren hills a few miles west of the Jordan River near Jericho. Fed by winter rains, the spring was flowing from a small, boulder-strewn oasis, and we trekked along the narrow concrete trough that transports water to the village, several miles away. "Auja is totally dependent on this water for agriculture," Bromberg said. "As soon as this spring dries up, there'll be no more water for farming."

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/parting-the-waters/belt-text>

The Last Drop

Industry, too, is adapting to less certain water supplies. Frito-Lay will soon recycle almost all its water at its plant in Casa Grande, Arizona; Gatorade and Coca-Cola remove the dust and carton lint from beverage containers using air instead of water; and Google recycles its own water to cool its giant data centers. This is all reassuring—until you remember that irrigated agriculture accounts for 70 percent of the fresh water used by humans. Given this outsize proportion, it seems obvious that farmers have the greatest potential to conserve water.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/last-drop/royte-text>

The Burden of Thirst

If the millions of women who haul water long distances had a faucet by their door, whole societies could be transformed.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/water-slaves/rosenberg-text>

Freshwater Species

Freshwater animals are vanishing faster than those on land or at sea.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/freshwater-species/chadwick-text/1>

The Plumpy Crusader, *Newsweek*, March 30

Plumpy'nut, a squeezable package of fortified peanut-butter-based paste—no bigger than a granola bar—is used to feed severely malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women. Since Nutriset, the French company she teamed up with, created Plumpy'nut a decade ago, aid groups have hailed the Plumpy products as revolutionary and carted the packets around the world in droves—with good reason: the paste can bring an emaciated child on the brink of starvation back to life in just four to six weeks, eliminating or reducing the need for a costly stay at an emergency feeding center. There's just one problem: while the United States is the largest donor of food aid in the world, spending some \$2 billion on it each year, practically none of that money has been allowed to go toward the miracle foods—by law.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/235648/output/print>

See Also: Legal Fight Over Plumpy'nut, the Hunger Wonder-Product, *BBC*, April 8

Should a revolutionary humanitarian food product be protected by commercial patent, when lifting restrictions might save millions of starving children?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8610427.stm>

Defusing Threats, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, April 9

So one mortal threat was diminished, but another – the one Dr. Borlaug had defused, only temporarily it turns out, back in the 1960s – still hangs over us more menacingly than ever. While the number of American and Russian nukes pointed at each other shrinks, the number of hungry in the world swells; while the nuclear weapons threaten to kill millions, hunger actively does. The widespread hunger that destabilizes societies and rocks our conscience remains a great threat to world peace today. As Borlaug often said, "You can't build peace and democracy on an empty stomach."

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

"Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know," Robert Paarlberg, Oxford University Press, March 2010

The politics of food is changing fast. In rich countries, obesity is now a more serious problem than hunger. Consumers once satisfied with cheap and convenient food now want food that is also safe, nutritious, fresh, and grown by local farmers using fewer chemicals. Heavily subsidized and under-regulated commercial farmers are facing stronger push-back from environmentalists and consumer activists, and food companies

are under the microscope. Meanwhile in developing countries, agricultural success in Asia has spurred income growth and dietary enrichment, but agricultural failure in Africa has left one third of all citizens undernourished. The international markets that link these diverse regions together are subject to sudden disruption, as noted when an unexpected spike in international food prices in 2008 caused street riots in a dozen or more countries.

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Politics/AmericanPolitics/PoliticalSociology/?view=usa&ci=9780195389609>

State Opens New Office to Combat Global Hunger, *Politico*, April 7

The State Department has opened a new office on hunger and food security. Amb. Patricia Haslach, a former assistant chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, will serve as the deputy coordinator for diplomacy, and William Garvelink, U.S. ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, will serve as the deputy coordinator for development, in the new office, starting in May, according to a memo issued by the secretary of state's office today.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0410/State_opens_new_office_to_combat_global_hunger.html?showall

See Also: State Department to Open New Hunger, Food Security Office, *Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report*, April 8

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/April/08/GH-040810-State-Office.aspx>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Vilsack Addresses Partners in Agriculture Global Food Security Symposium, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, April 7

The symposium provided a unique opportunity for government, academic, and civil society leaders from the United States and Japan to come together to discuss the challenge of ensuring food security in the face of a rapidly growing global population and climate change. Vilsack is in Japan to promote stronger ties between the United States and Japan in the area of agriculture as part of President Obama's efforts to expand U.S. exports through the National Export Initiative.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/04/0171.xml>

Development Community Gears Up for State Department Review, *Foreign Policy*, April 8

Development-community leaders are gearing up for the release of the first peek at the State Department's overall policy review, amassing their forces in case the news is not of their liking. The interim report for State's first-ever Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review has been delayed a few times, but now outside observers are being told the release is imminent. They are also being told to brace for some bad news (or at least what they would consider bad news) about the direction the review is headed in terms of development organization and policy.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/08/development_community_gears_up_for_state_department_review

World Health Day Remarks, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, April 7

"Disease is both a symptom of poverty -- with over-crowding, inadequate infrastructure and lack of health care increasing transmission and susceptibility -- and also a contributor to poverty. Poor health shreds communities, undermines economic opportunity, and holds back progress. And it denies children around the world the opportunity to live up to their full God-given potential. We have also seen that oceans and borders are no defense against the pandemics that threaten us all. These are global challenges that demand a global response."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/04/139594.htm>

See Also: Statement from USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah on the Occasion of World Health Day, *U.S. Agency for International Development*, April 7

"The growth of slums, which results from poorly managed urban growth, can give rise to the spread of both chronic and infectious diseases. Poor air quality, lack of access to potable water, limited

sanitation, and poverty can lead to higher rates of infant and child mortality, higher rates of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, and poor nutrition.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/ps100407.html>

U.S., Brazil Agree upon Path toward Negotiated Solution of Cotton Dispute Would Avoid Imposition of Countermeasures against U.S. Exports, U.S. Intellectual Property Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture, April 6

Today, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced that the United States and Brazil have agreed upon a path toward a negotiated settlement with Brazil over the Cotton dispute.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/04/0168.xml>

See Also: Chairman Collin C. Peterson and Ranking Member Frank Lucas Issue Joint Statement on Cotton Case Announcement, House Committee on Agriculture Republicans, April 7

<http://agriculture.house.gov/republicans/pr100407.shtml>

See Also: Lincoln-Chambliss Statement on Cotton Case Announcement, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, April 6

http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2033&Itemid=2

See Also: U.S. Brazil Reach Agreement on Cotton Dispute, New York Times, April 7

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/07/business/07trade.html>

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

Throughout the United States, Americans are taking action to address the grave challenge of climate change, and to promote a sustainable and prosperous clean energy future. These efforts are occurring at all levels of government, in the private sector, and through the everyday decisions of individual citizens. This U.S. Climate Action Report—2010 (2010 CAR) sets out the major actions the U.S. government is taking at the federal level, highlights examples of state and local actions, and outlines U.S. efforts to assist other countries’ efforts to address climate change.

<http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/climate-change/post-carbon/documents/CAR-5-full.pdf>

See Also: U.S. Climate Communiqué, Washington Post, April 8

For those looking for a sneak preview of how the United States might conduct itself in the upcoming U.N. climate talks, look no further than its draft Fifth National Communication to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<http://views.washingtonpost.com/climate-change/post-carbon/2010/04/us-climate-communicue.html>

Statement of Secretary Tom Vilsack on Meeting with Japanese Minister Hirotaka Akamatsu, U.S. Department of Agriculture, April 8

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack issued the following statement following a meeting with Hirotaka Akamatsu, Japan’s Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. “Today, Minister Akamatsu and I had the opportunity to discuss many aspects of the U.S. – Japan bilateral trading relationship in agriculture. Among other topics, we addressed the issue of Japan’s import conditions for U.S. beef and beef products. The discussion was a useful exchange of respective views.”

http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/PressRelease/pressrel_dout.asp?Entry=valid&PrNum=0078-10

See Also: USDA Eyes Japan Beef Import Talks, Denies Pressure, Washington Post, April 7

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/06/AR2010040605034_pf.html

See Also: Japan Says It Has No Plans to Ease US Beef Restrictions, Agence France-Presse, April 6

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100406/bs_afp/usjapantradebeefpolitics_20100406064743 **See**

Also: U.S. Presses Japan on Beef, Wall Street Journal, April 7

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303720604575169634264259628.html>

Obama to Show Bangladesh As Model of Food Security, Daily Star, April 9

The US President Barack Obama has selected Bangladesh as a model for food security and will present it in the next G-8 summit. In that light, the US will provide Bangladesh with a good portion of the assistance of

\$100 million pledged for food security of the developing nations, said US Agriculture Attaché David Leishman to Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque at his office yesterday.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=133603>

Rebuilding Haiti: A Global Response to A Global Crisis, *Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, Huffington Post, April 7*

In cooperation with the Haitian government, the UN and international community have moved quickly to help provide temporary shelter, food, sanitation and medical assistance. The United States expressing support for Haiti's long-term recovery pledged \$1.15 billion over the next two years. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated, "This money will go toward supporting the Government of Haiti's plan to strengthen agriculture, energy, health, security, and governance."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/esther-brimmer/rebuilding-haiti-a-global_b_528790.html

Introduction to the Office of Protocol's State of the Administration Speaker Series, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, April 6*

"I want to thank most of the countries here for the generous support you have extended to Haiti. And I look forward to working with you in a number of other initiatives such as the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, the Global Health Initiative, and of course, I can't speak to any distinguished group without saying that the more we do to empower women, the more successful societies become. That is a given."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/04/139572.htm>

Signing Ceremony for the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, April 6*

"And fourth, we will focus on food security and agricultural development. We want to help provide Nigeria's farmers with the tools they need to feed their people and lift rural families out of poverty."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/04/139571.htm>

See Also: Nigeria Pledges to Work with U.S. on Energy, Security, *BusinessWeek, April 6*

The U.S. and Nigeria announced an initiative to expand cooperation on energy, food security and governance in an effort to strengthen ties between the West African nation and one of its biggest oil customers.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-06/nigeria-pledges-cooperation-with-u-s-on-energy-security-ties.html>

Gains for Pakistan Bear Kerry's Mark, *Boston Globe, April 5*

"Senator Kerry cares about Pakistan," said Husain Haqqani, Pakistan's ambassador in Washington. "A lot of Pakistanis recognize that." So does the White House. As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Kerry has been the president's point man on providing billions of dollars in aid to Pakistan aimed at improving the US image there and strengthening the uneasy alliance with Islamabad. Both goals are considered essential for US success next door in Afghanistan.

http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2010/04/05/gains_for_pakistan_bear_kerrys_mark/?page=full

Stop 'Big Corn,' Editorial, *Washington Times, April 5*

The Environmental Protection Agency wants to dump more corn into your fuel tank this summer, and it's going to cost more than you think. The agency is expected to approve a request from 52 ethanol producers known collectively as "Growth Energy" to boost existing requirements that gasoline contain 10 percent ethanol to 15 percent. The change means billions more in government subsidies for companies in the business of growing corn and converting it into ethanol. For the rest of us, it means significantly higher gasoline and food prices.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/apr/05/stop-big-corn/>

See Also: Ethanol Tax Credits Face Stiff Fight, *St. Louis Today, April 3*

Ethanol's extended run of taxpayer backing could be in jeopardy.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/politics/story/F0609E9C4BA4CF9F862576FA0001F356?OpenDocument>

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

Pulling Agricultural Innovation Into the Market, *Center for Global Development, March 2010*

Feeding three billion additional people over the next four decades and improving food security for one billion people who are currently hungry or malnourished—all in an era of worsening land and water scarcity, climate change, and declining crop yields—is a dire challenge. Meeting it will require a giant leap in agricultural innovation in developing countries, similar to the 1960s Green Revolution.

<http://www.cgdev.org/userfiles/foodandag/Pulling%20Agricultural%20Innovation%20into%20the%20Market.pdf>

Please note: The authors of the paper are accepting comments on the above paper. Comments received by April 14 will be considered for incorporation into a revised draft to be shared with potential funders.

Provide comments at: http://www.cgdev.org/section/topics/food_and_agriculture/incentivesforaginnovation

Rethinking the Global Food Crisis, *International Food Policy Research Institute, March 2010*

From 2003 to their peak in mid 2008, the nominal prices of maize and wheat roughly doubled, while those of rice tripled in a matter of months rather than years. In this paper, the authors revisit the trade story by closely examining monthly data from the largest export markets for rice (Thailand), wheat, maize and soybeans (the United States). In each case, the authors find that large surges in export volumes preceded the price surges. The presence of these demand surges, together with back-of-the-envelope estimates of their price impacts, suggest that trade events played a much larger and more pervasive role than previously thought. This further implies that improving the international grain markets should be a central focus of the international policy agenda going forward.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00958.pdf>

Neoliberal Policy, Rural Livelihoods, and Urban Food Security in West Africa: A Comparative Study of the Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Mali, *PNAS, April 2010*

This study examines the impact of two decades of neoliberal policy reform on food production and household livelihood security in three West African countries. The rice sectors in The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mali are scrutinized as well as cotton and its relationship to sorghum production in Mali. Although market reforms were intended to improve food production, the net result was an increasing reliance on imported rice.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/107/13/5774.short>

Putting Poverty and Hunger Solutions to the Test, *International Food Policy Research Institute, March 30*

Published three times a year, IFPRI's newsletter, IFPRI Forum, offers clear, easily accessible feature articles and commentary on major food security and poverty reduction issues, as well as interviews with leading figures in global development efforts.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpriforum2010vol1summary.pdf>

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Promises and Realities of Community-Based Agricultural Extension, *International Food Policy Research Institute, March 2010*

This paper discusses the conceptual underpinnings of community-based extension approaches, highlights theoretical and practical challenges inherent in their design, and assesses the evidence available so far on

their performance. The paper concludes that, just as for the state and the market, communities can also fail in extension delivery. Hence, the challenge for innovative approaches in agricultural extension is to identify systems that use the potential of the state, the market, and communities to create checks and balances to overcome the failures inherent in all of them.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00959.pdf>

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in an Era of Global Uncertainty, *End Poverty 2015*, April 2010

This is the latest in a series of reports for Asia and the Pacific on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Coming in the midst of the global financial and economic turmoil, it should offer a unique opportunity to redress the information balance – to register the impact on the poor and the implications for the achievement of the Goals.

[http://www.endpoverty2015.org/files/Regional MDG Report 2009-10.pdf](http://www.endpoverty2015.org/files/Regional%20MDG%20Report%202009-10.pdf)

See Also: Crisis? What Crisis? *Foreign Policy*, April 5

It seemed logical to expect that the economic crisis of 2008 would throw millions of people around the world back into poverty. But it hasn't really happened.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/05/crisis_what_crisis

Capacity for Change: Reforming U.S. Assistance Efforts in Poor and Fragile Countries, *Brookings Institution and the Center for Strategic and International Studies*, April 2010

The U.S. government is in the midst of a serious review of how to engage more effectively in developing countries. From destabilizing conflicts to climate change, pandemics, and food insecurity, daunting transnational challenges are having particularly large impacts on poorer countries. National security leaders, including the President, the Secretaries of State and Defense, and the newly confirmed head of USAID, have emphasized the need for strengthened civilian capacity to address the challenges of poor and fragile countries. Yet no broad strategy has been developed for providing assistance to developing nations to enable the United States, together with its allies, to address these interwoven foreign policy challenges. This report describes the context for reform and examines the key issues for decision by policymakers in an effort to inform a coherent and effective national approach to both stabilization and broader development.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/04_aid_unger/04_aid_unger.pdf

Public Financing of Health in Developing Countries: A Cross-National Systemic Analysis, *Lancet*, April 9

Government spending on health from domestic sources is an important indicator of a government's commitment to the health of its people, and is essential for the sustainability of health programmes. The authors aimed to systematically analyse all data sources available for government spending on health in developing countries; describe trends in public financing of health; and test the extent to which they were related to changes in gross domestic product (GDP), government size, HIV prevalence, debt relief, and development assistance for health (DAH) to governmental and non-governmental sectors.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60233-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60233-4/fulltext)

Climate Change: Grazing and Nitrous Oxide, *Nature*, April 8

Most emissions of nitrous oxide from semi-arid, temperate grasslands usually occur during the spring thaw. The effects that grazing has on plant litter and snow cover dramatically reduce these seasonal emissions.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v464/n7290/pdf/464843a.pdf>

See Also: Cows Absolved of Stoking Warming with Nitrous Oxide, *Reuters*, April 7

Grazing by cows or sheep can cut emissions of nitrous oxide -- a powerful greenhouse gas -- in grasslands from China to the United States, according to a study that overturns past belief that farm animals stoke releases.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6364BS20100407>

The Remitting Patterns of African Migrants in the OECD, *World Bank*, April 2010

Recorded remittances to Africa have grown dramatically over the past decade. Yet data limitations still mean relatively little is known about which migrants remit, how much they remit, and how their remitting behavior varies with gender, education, income levels, and duration abroad. This paper constructs the most

comprehensive remittance database on immigrants in the OECD currently available, containing microdata on more than 12,000 African immigrants.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/05/000158349_20100405093038/Rendered/PDF/WPS5260.pdf

Open Markets for the Poorest Countries, *Center for Global Development, April 2010*

Many rich countries provide special market access for exports from least developed countries (LDCs), but the trade preferences are often inhibited by tough restrictions and do not extend to the products that matter most to poor countries. Improving these programs could make a major difference in the lives of the poor with only minimal effects on production or exports in preference-giving countries. Now is the time to make preferences work for development. To that end, the Center for Global Development convened a working group made up of members from the academic, nongovernmental, and business communities, as well as observers from key governments, to study the weaknesses in existing preference programs and suggest improvements.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423918_file_OpenMarkets_Final.pdf

See Also: CDG Brief: Making Trade Preferences Work for the Poorest Countries, *Center for Global Development, April 2010*

Extending comprehensive, usable, and predictable quota-free market access to all least developed countries could provide a critical boost to the world's poorest people with only trivial effects on preference-giving countries. G-20 leaders should embrace trade preference reform this year to promote growth and stability in the world's poorest countries.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424016_file_Trade_Preferences_brief_FINAL.pdf

Fisheries in the Economies of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, *Asian Development Bank, April 2010*

The fishing industry benefits the people and economies of the Pacific in various ways but the full value of these benefits is not reflected in the region's statistics. Records may be maintained but they are not complete, or accurate, or comparable. The research summarized in this report reaffirms the importance of this sector to the economies and societies of the Pacific island countries.

<http://www.adb.org/documents/studies/pacific-fisheries/pacific-fisheries.pdf>

An Evaluation of World Bank Support, 1997-2007: Water and Development, *World Bank Independent Evaluation Group, April 2010*

Faced with mounting shortages of water, a worsening trend in water pollution and growing damages from climate change, the international community must find additional ways to support countries in managing their water resources. The challenge, according to the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group, is to meet today's water needs while putting in place innovative strategies to address water stress -- manifested in shortages projected in the order of 40 percent by 2030 according to some calculations.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTWATER/Resources/water_overview.pdf

[Volume I](#)

[Volume II](#)

See Also: Water: World Bank Report Recommends Ways to Improve Access to Clean Water, *New York Times, April 4*

Ethiopia, Haiti and Niger are facing the world's worst water shortages, but 700 million people in 43 countries are under "water stress," according to a new report released by the World Bank.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/06/health/06glob.html?pagewanted=print>

Aid for Trade, Infrastructure, and the Growth Effects of Trade Reform: Issues and Implications for Caribbean Countries, *World Bank, April 2010*

This paper examines how aid-for-trade programs can help to magnify the growth benefits that developing countries can reap from trade reform and global integration, with a special emphasis on the Caribbean region.

[http://www-](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/07/000158349_20100407160813/Rendered/PDF/WPS5265.pdf)

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/07/000158349_20100407160813/Rendered/PDF/WPS5265.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/07/000158349_20100407160813/Rendered/PDF/WPS5265.pdf)

A Preliminary Analysis of the Impact of a Ukraine-EU Free Trade Agreement on Agriculture, World Bank, April 2010

Agriculture including food products is of particular interest for Ukraine. However, in free trade agreements involving the European Union, agriculture is always given special treatment and subject to less and slower liberalization than other sectors. This paper employs the standard Global Trade Analysis Project model in order to assess how World Trade Organization accession affects agriculture in Ukraine, and how potential bilateral tariff cuts may interact with potential productivity gains within Ukrainian agriculture.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/06/000158349_20100406083430/Rendered/PDF/WPS5264.pdf

Annual Report, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, April 2010

Although the effect of the crises that started in 2008 still rippled strongly for most of 2009, it provided IITA with terrific opportunities to demonstrate the effectiveness of its R4D strategy in mitigating its impact on African farmers and help them cope with the ever-changing agricultural landscape.

<http://annualreport.iita.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/iita-annual-report-2009-10.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.

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

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/D56FCO900>

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 – November 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

Kenya Protests Block GM Maize Shipment n Mombasa, *BBC, April 8*

A shipment of genetically modified (GM) maize has been blocked at the Kenyan port of Mombasa after protests by environmentalists. The cargo came from South Africa - whose maize exports mainly go to Kenya - and contained maize varieties developed by US multinational Monsanto.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8609316.stm>

Urban Farms Herald Green City 'Revolution,' *CNN, April 8*

As the world's urban population continues to grow at a rapid rate, communities around the world are increasingly turning to "city agriculture" to produce cheap, locally grown fruit and vegetables. Among skyscrapers and housing estates, previously vacant lots are being used to produce millions of tons of organically grown food that experts say are "greener" and cheaper than commercially grown produce. But while many countries are in the early stages of their urban agriculture development, China, Japan and Cuba have had successful city farms for decades.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/europe/04/08/urban.farming.city.growing.food/>

U.S. Now Focused on Getting Rid of Taliban Instead of Opium Crops in Afghanistan, *Washington Post, April 8*

Thousands of Afghan migrant workers expected here in the next few weeks for the spring opium harvest will find at least as much work as last year. A multimillion-dollar U.S. program that was started last fall to persuade farmers to plant wheat instead of opium poppies did not make a dent in the amount of cultivation in Helmand province, the heart of Afghanistan's poppy region, according to a recent U.N. survey.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/07/AR2010040704410.html>

Postcard from Zimbabwe, *Op-Ed, Nicholas Kristof, New York Times, April 7*

"It would have been better if whites had continued to rule because the money would have continued to come," added a neighbor, a 58-year-old farmer named Isaac. "It was better under Rhodesia. Then we could get jobs. Things were cheaper in stores. Now we have no money, no food." Western countries have made the mistake of focusing their denunciations on the seizures of white farms by Mr. Mugabe's cronies. That's tribalism by whites; by far the greatest suffering has been endured by Zimbabwe's blacks.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/08/opinion/08kristof.html>

Alain de Janvry On Everything from GMOs to the Green Revolution, *Africa Reporting Project, April 7*

Aude Lorriaux interviews the economist about how GMOs can revolutionize agriculture and why the Green Revolution didn't work in Africa.

<http://africareportingproject.org/2010/04/07/alain-de-janvry-on-everything-from-gmos-to-the-green-revolution/>

African Land Grab Not a Cure to Arab Food Concerns, *Reuters, April 7*

As desertification dries up farmland across the Arab world, the region's governments cannot remedy concerns about food security solely by looking to Africa for agricultural production, a regional expert said. Desertification threatens 20 percent of the already dry Middle East and North Africa, pushing many states to invest in African farmland to feed growing populations, said Wadid Erian of the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE6360F320100407>

See Also: Of Biofuels, Land Grabs, and Food Prices, *New York Times, April 5*

ActionAid, an antipoverty group, has stepped up a campaign against European Union policies aimed at encouraging consumers to use fuels grown from crops to power their cars. The group last week staged mock "land grabs" in which members worked the soil and erected models of gasoline pumps in front of the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen. They also demonstrated in Milan and near the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/05/of-biofuels-land-grabs-and-food-prices/?pagemode=print>

Food Bill Rides on a Headcount of the Poor, *Wall Street Journal*, April 6

The debate over food security legislation in India boils down to this: no one can agree on how many poor people there are. That fact is causing utter confusion in the policy-making process. The definition of poverty will determine how many Indians get an assist from the central government as food prices rise. It will also determine the cost of the bill, which itself could prove controversial if it gets too high. After all, this year's budget was supposed to signal a return to fiscal responsibility.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2010/04/06/food-bill-rides-on-a-headcount-of-the-poor/tab/print/>

Out of the Demographic Trap: Hope for Feeding the World, *Fred Pearce, Yale Environment 360*, April 5

In Africa and elsewhere, burgeoning population growth threatens to overwhelm already over-stretched food supply systems. But the next agricultural revolution needs to get local — and must start to see rising populations as potentially part of the solution.

<http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2261>

Food Security for a Billion Poor, *Science*, March 26

The main battlegrounds for poverty reduction are Asia and Africa, where 97% of the world's food-insecure reside. Although international food prices have declined from their peak in 2008, they have remained higher than the trend in developing countries, reflecting a supply/demand imbalance. Contributing to the problem, cereal yields growth has declined. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a 2°C increase in temperature could lead to a further 20 to 40% fall in cereal yields, mostly in Asia and Africa. Lifting a billion people out of poverty and feeding an extra 2.3 billion by 2050 will require increasing cereal production by 70%, doubling the output of developing countries.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/327/5973/1554.pdf?ijkey=m3wEA6q4ZZHpA&keytype=ref&siteid=sci>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Core Reform Principles for Rebuilding a Stronger Haiti, *Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network*, April 2010

U.S. efforts to support Haitian reconstruction will be most successful if they build on the best practices currently emerging from the Washington debate on how to more broadly reform U.S. global development policy and practice. Specifically, our efforts to support reconstruction in Haiti must: Be designed, allocated, and spent transparently and accountably, both to U.S. taxpayers and Haitian citizens; Make long-term, strategic investments in the capacity of the Haitian national government, local government, and local civil society to meet the needs of Haitian citizens; and Give the Haitian government and all citizens the lead role in setting priorities and managing the effort to rebuild their country, and build an inclusive, pluralistic society and economy that respects Haitian human rights and can fulfill Haitian human needs.

http://modernizingforeignassistance.net/documents/MFAN_Haiti_Principles.pdf

Emaciated Children Signal Crisis in Southern Sudan, *Associated Press*, April 8

Emaciated babies and young children throughout the ward bore the signs of hunger: exposed ribs and distended stomachs. Outside, old villagers reclined motionless in the shade, too frail to walk. The U.N. calls this the "hungriest place on Earth" after years of drought and conflict, with aid agencies already feeding 80,000 people here. A doctor says the worst is yet to come. Two years of failed rains and tribal clashes have laid the foundation for Africa's newest humanitarian crisis.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ggGbSNCzQDVVzq3T7QeMMDm--4oQD9EV35KG0>

U.N. Seeks \$133 Million to Combat Niger Food Crisis, *Reuters*, April 7

The United Nations needs an extra \$133 million to tackle food shortages and malnutrition in Niger that have already triggered massive displacements of people from their villages.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63649620100407>

See Also: Famine Closes Schools in Southern Niger, *Agence France-Presse*, April 2

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iYZc1nE52Y2kUK5TD2TGM6WY7X9Q>

US Can Give Better Aid to Haiti, *Nancy Birdsall, President, Center for Global Development, Huffington Post*, April 6

Last week at a United Nations conference, donors pledged more than \$10 billion to finance reconstruction and development investments in Haiti. The United States promised a hefty \$1.15 billion. But pledging money is the easy part. The United States, the lead donor and friend with the greatest interest in Haiti's future development, can do much more, in two ways: its own aid programs can be more effective; and it can take steps beyond aid that are far more critical to long-run prosperity for Haiti's people.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nancy-birdsall/us-can-give-better-aid-to_b_526676.html

Foreign Aid Reform: The Road, *Editorial, Carol Peasley, President of CEDPA, Huffington Post*, April 6

Over the past two years, experts on global development have come to a consensus that the current system for managing U.S. foreign aid is outdated, is insufficiently coordinated, and lacks an overarching strategy. These shortcomings have made aid less effective than it should be. Reforming foreign aid is thus now on the map, thanks to many groups including the Center for Global Development, Oxfam America, the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, and InterAction, among others. The question is, how can we get to our destination?

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carol-peasley/foreign-aid-reform-the-ro_b_527567.html

S. Korean Aid Group to Send Food to North, *Agence France-Presse*, April 6

A South Korean aid group said it would send 300 tons of flour and other supplies to needy North Koreans this week amid reports that dire food shortages are worsening.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g5AqNjMYFPBeO4sfACTHbCge_EEQ

Human Rights Report Threatens Aid to Pakistan, *Washington Post*, April 6

The Pakistani army has allegedly committed hundreds of retaliatory killings and other ongoing human rights abuses in the Swat Valley since the end of its successful anti-Taliban offensive there in September, threatening billions of dollars in U.S. military and economic aid to a crucial ally in the fight against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Since 2002, the United States has provided \$11.6 billion in military aid and \$6 billion in development assistance, according to Congressional Research Service figures. The administration has requested an additional \$3 billion in combined aid for 2011.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/05/AR2010040504373_pf.html

Marines Tap Social Sciences In Afghan War Effort, *National Public Radio*, April 5

The project is called Human Terrain System, or HTS, and it is run by the Department of Defense. It uses researchers such as Kristin Post, who does analysis for U.S. Marine units in Marjah, a farming region in Helmand province that was seized from the Taliban in February. Post stood out at a recent meeting that Marine and Afghan army commanders held with local farmers and shopkeepers. When the Marine commander suggested holding another meeting with elders at 10 on a Friday morning, Post politely reminded him that his plan would interfere with prayer time for the Muslim farmers. Post said she spent much of her time interviewing local farm families, trying to get a sense of the people and their relationships to one another.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125502485>

A "New Day" for U.S.-Pakistan Relations: Now Here is the Way, *Center for Global Development*, April 5

Even in the wake of a successful U.S. – Pakistan Strategic Dialogue that saw significant agreement on what U.S. development aid to Pakistan should finance, key questions remain on how this aid should be delivered. Last

week, CGD president Nancy Birdsall issued an open letter that makes four recommendations on how the United States can deliver large amounts of aid effectively in Pakistan.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/04/a-%E2%80%9Cnew-day%E2%80%9D-for-u-s-pakistan-relations-now-here-is-the-way.php>

See Also: Open Letter to U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke, Nancy Birdsall, *Center for Global Development*, March 29
http://www.cgdev.org/doc/March_29_open_letter_Holbrooke.pdf

Promises for and from Haiti, *Editorial, New York Times*, April 3

This week's donors conference for Haiti at the United Nations was strikingly hopeful, in good part because of what participants pledged not to do. The promises of action were important: Nearly 60 nations and organizations said they would give \$5.3 billion in the next two years, and almost \$10 billion in the next decade, to help Haiti rebuild from the Jan. 12 earthquake. The United States committed \$1.15 billion, in addition to the \$900 million it has already spent. Along with that generosity, major donor countries promised not to repeat the old failed strategy of poorly coordinated projects that wither through waste and neglect.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/03/opinion/03sat2.html?th=&emc=th&pagewanted=print>

See Also: Help Falls Short for Haiti's Farmers, *Voice of America*, April 2

Many who lost tools, seeds wait for help.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/americas/Help-Falls-Short-for-Haitis-Farmers-89768522.html>

See Also: Interview: Raymond A. Joseph, *Foreign Policy*, April 2

Haiti's ambassador on his hopes for the more than \$5 billion pledged in aid at this week's donor conference -- and why Haiti can't be rebuilt as a republic of NGOs.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/02/interview_haitian_ambassador_raymond_a_joseph?page=full

Is this the Hungriest Place on Earth, *BBC News*, April 2

Aid agencies are warning of an impending food emergency in South Sudan, where "unexpected and alarming" malnutrition rates in one region, devastated by drought and tribal conflict, have prompted an appeal for urgent extra funding.

<http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8589136.stm?ad=1>

World Bank's Zoellick Said to Be Near Securing Capital Increase, *Bloomberg*, April 1

The World Bank president is close to winning backing from shareholders, with talks focused on raising at least \$3.5 billion for the unit that lends to developing nations, according to people with knowledge of the talks. His effort to raise as much as \$2.4 billion for the bank's private-sector unit may not be as successful.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=amSgHGhL51nY>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Countries Launch New Round of Climate Talks, Disagree on Future Course After Copenhagen, *Chicago Tribune*, April 9

Differences emerged Friday at the outset of the first U.N. climate conference since the disappointing Copenhagen climate summit, as delegates from 175 countries began mapping out a path toward a hoped-for global warming deal by the end of this year.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-climate.0,3331101.story>

See Also: U.N. Climate Talks Resume, Scant Chance of 2010 Deal, *Reuters*, April 8

Climate negotiators meet in Bonn on Friday for the first time since the fractious Copenhagen summit but with scant hopes of patching together a new legally binding U.N. deal in 2010.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6372AT20100408?feedType=RSS&feedName=everything&virtualBrandChannel=11563>

The Coming Crisis Over the Mekong, Unconstrained Development, Natural Droughts and Climate Change, *Peter Gleick, Pacific Institute, AlterNet*, April 8

While the Middle East has the longest history of water-related violence by far, my biggest worries today are elsewhere: in Asia.

http://www.alternet.org/water/146382/the_coming_crisis_over_the_mekong_unconstrained_development_natural_droughts_and_climate_change

Washington to Host Major Economies Meeting on Climate, *Reuters, April 8*

The United States will host a meeting of major economies on April 18-19 in Washington to advance talks on a global deal to fight climate change, the top U.S. climate negotiator said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6365XH20100408?feedType=RSS&feedName=everything&virtualBrandChannel=11563>

Bangladesh Calls in Army to Distribute Water, *AlertNet, April 7*

Bangladesh deployed troops to distribute drinking water among the capital's more than 12 million people, after lawmakers had warned that growing public discontent over a water crisis could lead to unrest. A falling water table and lack of power to run water pumps have caused a serious shortage of drinking water in Dhaka, with hundreds of residents marching in the streets daily with empty pitchers and demanding government action.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SGE63608R.htm>

Bangladesh Tries to Raise Livelihoods, Without Sinking in Climate Deluge, *Washington Diplomat, April 2010*

Bangladesh, with nearly 155 million people jammed into an area smaller than Wisconsin, has seen more than its share of disasters. Floods, droughts, tornadoes and cyclones have plagued this sad little country ever since its creation 39 years ago, killing millions of people and leaving many more homeless. If the experts are right, it's about to get much worse.

http://www.washdiplomat.com/April%202010/a5_04_10.html

WOMEN

700 Children Die A Day from Hunger: DR Congo Minister, *Agence France-Presse, April 6*

The Democratic Republic of Congo health minister said that at least 700 children under the age of five were dying from hunger a day in five of the strife-ravaged country's provinces. More than a million women aged between 15 and 49 were also malnourished in the five provinces, which together account for 51 percent of the population of the vast central African country, Health Minister Victor Makwenge said.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100406/hl_afp/drcongohealthchildrenfood_20100406172205

Addressing a Critical Constraint for Girls Education In Yemen: Contracting Female Teachers, *World Bank, April 2010*

Despite recent declines, Yemen has one of the highest fertility and population growth rates in the world. As a result, nearly 70 percent of the population is less than 25 years old and over one-third is between 6-14 years old. Expansion of educational opportunities has been a priority of the Yemen government: in the last 30 years, Yemen has impressively expanded education, halving the illiteracy rate from 90 percent to 45 percent.

Between 1977, and 2000, enrollments in basic education increased six-fold, from approximately half a million to over 3 million. Given Yemen's demographic, geographic, and economic challenges, this expansion is truly remarkable. However, despite these advances, many challenges remain. There are 1.8 million children out of school, many from rural areas and marginalized groups; girls remain under-represented; and boys' enrollments appear to be stagnating.

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/06/000333038_20100406011009/Rendered/PDF/537800BRI0MNA010Box345626B01PUBLIC1.pdf

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

U.S. Wants Japan Beef Talks ‘As Soon As Possible,’ *Bloomberg, April 9*

The U.S. wants to resume talks with Japan “as soon as possible” on easing the country’s restrictions on American beef imports imposed because of mad-cow disease concerns, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=alf7c3lQBqBA>

China Insists on “Gradual” Reduction of Soy Imports from Argentina, *Merco Press, April 7*

China’s soybean oil traders may “gradually” delay or cancel imports from Argentina after the country toughened inspections.

<http://en.mercopress.com/2010/04/07/china-insists-on-gradual-reduction-of-soy-imports-from-argentina>

Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association Welcomes Ethanol Import Tariff Cut by Brazil’s Government, *Sugarcane Industry Association, April 5*

The announcement that the Brazilian government has unilaterally eliminated its tariff on imported ethanol is a major step forward in building a global biofuels marketplace, according to the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA). The Brazilian Chamber of Foreign Trade (CAMEX) has announced the temporary reduction of the 20% tariff charged by Brazil on ethanol imports. UNICA has made it clear to the Brazilian government it hopes the tariff reduction is permanent, particularly should other countries, namely the United States, reduce their trade distorting tariffs on ethanol imports. Unless the U.S. Congress decides otherwise during the course of 2010, the current U.S. tariff on imported ethanol expires at the end of this year.

<http://english.unica.com.br/noticias/show.asp?nwsCode=EC014028-3D11-48E1-A4A8-A2AA8CFA2FBA>

SEE COVERAGE OF U.S. – BRAZIL TRADE DISPUTE IN “RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES” SECTION

AGRIBUSINESS

Kraft Backs Cadbury Café Plan, *Financial Times, April 9*

Kraft Foods has thrown its support behind a national chain of Cadbury-branded cafés that will offer afternoon teas and a dedicated chocolatier service to compete with high street coffee shops. Cadbury had been in discussions about the outlets long before Kraft made its hostile bid last September and signed off the deal at the end of January - just before the US company took control of the confectioner.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/76e246fa-436e-11df-833f-00144feab49a.html>

Summit Partners Bets on Indian Agriculture, *AltAssets, April 9*

Growth equity firm Summit Partners has closed its inaugural India deal, investing \$30m in Krishidhan Seeds, a developer, producer and distributor of hybrid seeds for the farming industry.

<http://www.altassets.com/private-equity-news/by-region/asia/india/article/nz18324.html>

Low-Cost Rivals Force Change In Monsanto’s Core Strategy, *Financial Times, April 8*

Monsanto, the world’s biggest seed company, said it was abandoning core parts of its business strategy due to aggressive low-cost competition. The company, which produces seeds and licenses technology, scrapped its target of doubling profits within five years and signalled it would be more aggressive on seed pricing, reversing a commitment to keeping prices up to reflect its superior technology.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9dcfee62-42a5-11df-91d6-00144feabdc0.html>

Deere Targeted by Right for Backing Climate Bill, *Des Moines Register, April 7*

Deere & Co. is coming under pressure to drop its support for legislation aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/04/07/deere-targeted-for-climate-bill-support/print/>

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