

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“The importance of U.S. leadership cannot be understated. Without it, wealthy countries would not have pledged \$22 billion in assistance to food insecure countries. Without U.S. leadership, some may not stay the course. Facing a previous crisis in food security, the United States was at the forefront of the Green Revolution that had such a powerful impact in Asia and Latin America. Going forward, we can harness the expertise of the scientific, educational, and agricultural communities to create a second Green Revolution.”*—U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, Statement at a press conference with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 27, 2010

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**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

**USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah Announces 20 Feed the Future Initiative Focus Countries, U.S. Agency for International Development, April 24**

At a high-level nutrition roundtable co-hosted by Canada, Japan, the United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the World Bank, USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah announced the 20 focus countries of the U.S. Government’s Feed the Future, initiative that targets the causes of hunger and aims to reduce poverty, hunger, and undernutrition. Based on this global burden of undernutrition and other criteria

that examined the prevalence and dynamics of poverty, country commitment, and opportunities for agriculture-led growth, the 20 Feed the Future focus countries are: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia in Africa; Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Tajikistan in Asia; and Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and, Nicaragua in Latin America.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100424.html>

**Cultivating Global Food Security: A Strategy for U.S. Leadership on Productivity, Agricultural Research and Trade**, *Center for Strategic International Studies, April 2010*

These recommendations from leaders in government, business, academia, and the nongovernmental and philanthropy communities emphasize the importance of U.S. leadership and commitment to improving food security and making agriculture a priority for broader U.S. development efforts. This report provides insights and policy initiatives 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.

[http://csis.org/files/publication/100422\\_Food\\_%20Security\\_WEB.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/100422_Food_%20Security_WEB.pdf)

**Status Report on the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program**, *Christopher Delgado, Strategy and Policy Adviser, World Bank, Global Food for Thought Blog, April 27*

For a number of years, donor partners have urged poor countries to make their agricultural and food security investments more strategic, better prioritized for results, and at a technically improved level. Those few countries that have expended the considerable domestic political and financial capital necessary to do so have unfortunately typically found that bilateral and multilateral donors have not then been in a position to fund the new country-coordinated investment plans to a significant degree. effect, there is no standing multilateral pool of sectorally targeted but otherwise unallocated capital available to adequately support what donors as a group at the country level have been asking countries to do in agriculture and food security. GAFSP is one small attempt to remedy this problem, although it can only complement other, larger, forms of financing.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/04/expert-commentary-global-agriculture-and-food-security-program.html>

**The MDGs After the Crisis**, *World Bank, April 2010*

The global economic crisis has slowed the pace of poverty reduction in developing countries, and is hampering progress toward the other Millennium Development Goals, says a new report from the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. The crisis is having an impact in several key areas of the MDGs, including those related to hunger, child and maternal health, gender equality, access to clean water, and disease control and will continue to affect development prospects well beyond 2015. As a result of the crisis, 53 million more people will remain in extreme poverty by 2015 than otherwise would have.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGLOMONREP2010/Resources/6911301-1271698910928/GMR2010WEB.pdf>

**See Also: Overview: MDGs After the Crisis**, *World Bank, April 2010*

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGLOMONREP2010/Resources/6911301-1271698910928/GMR2010WEB\\_Overview.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGLOMONREP2010/Resources/6911301-1271698910928/GMR2010WEB_Overview.pdf)

**See Also: UN 2015 Poverty Target in Reach Despite Crisis: World Bank**, *Agence France-Presse, April 23*

Hunger, child and maternal health, gender equality, access to clean water and disease control were all affected by a global slump that worsened after the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers in 2008, the report said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5itmCVryYHBmaI-kbuULQd7gWeSBw>

**Fighting Hunger: Law of the Land**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought blog, April 30*

Embedding global food security as an official part of U.S. development policy to secure long-term support and funding is necessary because agriculture and food systems are built over time through investments across many sectors of a country's economy. There are no quick fixes that can be covered by funding for a year or

two. Once started, we need to follow through. Even after the current president and senators and members of Congress are no longer in office, their drive to end hunger through agriculture development must live on.  
<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/04/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-fighting-hunger-law-of-the-land.html#more>

**Attention Whole Foods Shoppers**, Robert Paarlberg, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2010

Stop obsessing about arugula. Your "sustainable" mantra -- organic, local, and slow -- is no recipe for saving the world's hungry millions.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/26/attention\\_whole\\_foods\\_shoppers?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/26/attention_whole_foods_shoppers?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full)

**See Also: Don't Panic, Go Organic**, *Foreign Policy*, April 29

Be not troubled by Robert Paarlberg's scaremongering. Organic practices can feed the world -- better, in fact, than wasteful industrial farming.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/29/dont\\_panic\\_go\\_organic?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/29/dont_panic_go_organic?page=full)

**See Also: In Africa, Organic Farming Is Not the Answer**, *New York Times*, April 29

<http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/29/in-africa-organic-farming-is-not-the-answer/>

**See Also: Food Fights**, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2010

Some of the world's most bitter conflicts have nothing to do with access to resources, ethnic chauvinism, or the balance of power. Here's a short guide to the planet's fiercest gastronomic controversies.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/26/food\\_fights](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/26/food_fights)

**Change Africa from Within**, Kanayo Nwanze, *President, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Project Syndicate*, April 29

Agriculture is the main employer, job creator, and export in most developing countries. Historically, agriculture has driven economic performance in many countries, generating growth that has been shown to be at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth in other sectors. Investment in agricultural and rural development is therefore vital to food security and sustainable economic development.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/nwanze2/English>

**See Also: Accelerating Progress toward Global Food Security: Smallholder Farms as**

**Agribusinesses**, Kanayo F. Nwanze, *President, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Remarks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies*, April 26

"Agriculture – spanning crop production, fisheries, livestock, forestry and pasture – is predominantly a rural sector activity. It is also the largest source of employment in many low-income countries. For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture provides jobs to 70 per cent of the working population, and smallholder activity is the backbone for the agricultural sector."

<http://www.ifad.org/events/op/2010/csis.htm>

**Rep. Lugar: No Mandate for Genetic Modification**, *Op-Ed, U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, The Hill*, April 28

The opinion piece by Drs. Herren and Ishii-Eiteman ("[Genetically modified crops are not the answer](#)", *The Hill*, April 23, 2010) perpetuates a falsehood about the Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act. Contrary to their assertion, the legislation does NOT include a mandate that U.S. foreign aid be spent on research into genetic modification technology. It does NOT require the use of GM technology by any farmers or government agencies. Under terms of the bill, the use of any technology is left to individual farmers, based on their particular circumstances. To be clear: There is no mandate for GM crops.

<http://thehill.com/opinion/letters/95017-rep-lugar-no-mandate-for-genetic-modification?tmpl=component&print=1&page=>

**See Also: Lugar Statement on Global Food Security**, *U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar*, April 27

"The importance of U.S. leadership cannot be understated. Without it, wealthy countries would not have pledged \$22 billion in assistance to food insecure countries. Without U.S. leadership, some may not stay the course. Facing a previous crisis in food security, the United States was at the forefront of the Green Revolution that had such a powerful impact in Asia and Latin America. Going forward, we can harness the expertise of the scientific, educational, and agricultural communities to create a second Green Revolution."

<http://lugar.senate.gov/press/record.cfm?id=324208&&>

**G8 Leaders Should Focus on Maternal and Child Nutrition**, *Op-Ed, Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of World Food Program, Toronto Star, April 26*

No issue is more urgent, or more foundational to other development goals, than getting maternal and child nutrition right. Canada is providing critical leadership on this issue as it hosts the G8 Summit. The science is now clear on what's at stake. We know that children never recover from the mental and physical stunting that occurs if undernourished in their first two years of life. By allowing under-twos to remain malnourished, we are robbing an entire generation of their very future.

<http://www.thestar.com/printarticle/800151>

**Aid Needs Help**, *Raymond C. Offenheiser, President and CEO, Oxfam America, Foreign Policy, April 30*

The U.S. foreign assistance system desperately needs reform, but first we need a better sense of what it's for.

**See Also: Fighting Global Poverty: Outdated Strategy for Foreign Aid**, *Op-Ed, Raymond C.*

*Offenheiser, President and CEO, Oxfam America, Indianapolis Star, April 25*

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20100425/OPINION03/4250335/1032/OPINION03/Fighting-global-poverty-Outdated-strategy-for-foreign-aid>

**Development Committee Communiqué**, *International Monetary Fund, April 25*

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

**See Also: Poorer Nations Get Larger Role in World Bank**, *New York Times, April 25*

Members of the World Bank agreed to support a \$5.1 billion increase in its operating capital, the largest increase in general financing since 1988, and to give developing economies a greater say in running the antipoverty institution. The bank's members said it should redouble its focus on helping the poor, especially in sub-Saharan Africa; invest in agriculture and infrastructure; promote global "collective action" on climate change, trade and other priorities; combat corruption; and prepare for crises.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/26/business/26bank.html?pagewanted=print>

**A Superpower Uses Its Power for Good**, *Financial Times, April 28*

In May 2009, Dr Shah joined the Obama administration as undersecretary of agriculture for research, education and economics and chief scientist. At the USDA, he managed more than 10,000 federal employees and a budget of more than \$2.6bn. He also produced initiatives in bio-energy, climate, global food security, childhood obesity, and food safety. He says that the biggest parallel between working for the Gates Foundation and working in the public sector is the discipline around how to spend money to get the biggest impact.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/875fba1c-52e1-11df-813e-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=ebe33f66-57aa-11dc-8c65-0000779fd2ac.print=yes.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/875fba1c-52e1-11df-813e-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=ebe33f66-57aa-11dc-8c65-0000779fd2ac.print=yes.html)

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Roundtable on Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI): Co-Chair's Summary**, *Government of the United States of America, Government of Japan, and the African Union Commission, April 26*

The Government of the United States of America, the Government of Japan, and the African Union Commission hosted a Roundtable discussion on responsible agricultural investment on April 25, 2010 in Washington, D.C., in close coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the World Bank. More than 130 invited representatives attended the Roundtable from developing and developed country governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector and civil society. The event was intended to broaden and deepen ongoing dialogue over seven proposed principles for responsible agricultural investment developed by FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD, and the World Bank. The following is a Co-Chair's summary of the major points of discussion during the Roundtable.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/141221.pdf>

**See Also: Remarks at Roundtable on Responsible Agricultural Investment**, *Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. State Department, April 25*

"The G8 and G20 commitments are critical to promoting agriculture in developing countries. We have to be honest – even with these extraordinary commitments by donor countries, there is nowhere near enough official development assistance (ODA) available to meet agricultural needs in developing countries in the short and long term. Therefore, in addition to domestic capital and ODA, foreign and domestic agricultural investment, especially from the private sector, is absolutely necessary to help developing countries reach their national food security goals and targets."

<http://www.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/2010/141006.htm>

**See Also: Remarks at Roundtable on Responsible Agricultural Investment**, *Jose W. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, U.S. State Department, April 25*

"What do we mean when we say "responsible agricultural investment?" Essentially, we are talking about investments that are done transparently and take into account the property rights of the poor, smallholder farmers and customary users of state-owned land, and that also give full consideration of the impacts to communities and to the environment."

<http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/rls/rm/2010/140980.htm>

### **Former Secretaries of State Urge Congress Not to Cut International Affairs Spending**, *Politico, April 27*

As the Senate Foreign Relations Committee begins mark up today of the first foreign affairs authorization bill in five years, all eight living former U.S. Secretaries of State have written a letter urging Congress not to cut the international affairs budget.

[http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0410/Former Secretaries of State urge Congress not to cut in ternational affairs spending.html?showall](http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0410/Former_Secretaries_of_State_urge_Congress_not_to_cut_in_ternational_affairs_spending.html?showall)

**See Also: Secretaries of State Letter to Congress**, *Madeleine Albright, James Baker, Warren Christopher, Lawrence Eagleburger, Henry Kissinger, Colin Powell, Condoleeza Rice, George Schultz, April 27*

"As former Secretaries of State who have served in either Democratic or Republican administrations, we urge you to support the FY 2011 International Affairs Budget request. Increasing the investment in our civilian international capabilities will keep America safer by, among other things, addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism, supporting key allies, and demonstrating America's proud tradition of global leadership."

<http://www.usglc.org/USGLCdocs/Secretaries%20of%20State%20Letter%20to%20Congress%20April%202010.pdf>

**See Also: Chairman Berman Expresses his Dismay with Senate Budge Resolution, Argues Cuts**

**Weaken National Security**, *U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 26*

Howard L. Berman (D-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sharply criticized the budget resolution passed by the Senate Budget Committee, which proposes \$4 billion in cuts to President Obama's international affairs budget request.

[http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/press\\_display.asp?id=728](http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=728)

**See Also: Kerry to Defend Obama's Foreign-Affairs Budget**, *Foreign Policy, April 26*

After the Senate Budget Committee took a big swipe at next year's foreign-affairs budget, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will get a chance this week to defend President Obama's request.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/26/kerry\\_to\\_defend\\_obama\\_s\\_foreign\\_affairs\\_bud\\_get](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/26/kerry_to_defend_obama_s_foreign_affairs_bud_get)

**See Also: Thursday, Bloody Thursday: Bono Calls Out Senator over Aid Cuts**, *Foreign Policy, April 29*

Add artist and activist Bono to the list of development leaders protesting the proposed cuts in foreign aid funding put forth by Senate Budget Committee chairman Kent Conrad. The U2 frontman pleaded for Washington to resist Conrad's cuts during an impassioned speech Wednesday night in Washington.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/29/thursday\\_bloody\\_thursday\\_bono\\_calls\\_out\\_senator\\_over\\_aid\\_cuts](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/29/thursday_bloody_thursday_bono_calls_out_senator_over_aid_cuts)

### **Hill Jumps into Fight over Foreign Assistance Reform**, *Politico, April 26*

The interim draft of the QDDR has been ready for a few weeks. But the upshot of the meeting was that the interim QDDR would not be distributed. Sources offer varying accounts for why – one saying that the interim QDDR was seen as being too detailed, two saying Sheila Herrling played a key role in the meeting in arguing

that it too much subverted USAID's autonomy to the State Department on development matters. Roughly, the PSD leans to strengthening USAID and its role, and the QDDR leans towards merging State and USAID's roles, various sources suggested. Meantime, some Congressional members and staff are steaming that nobody has shared hardly anything with them either on the QDDR or the PSD.

[http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0410/Hill\\_jumps\\_into\\_fight\\_over\\_foreign\\_assistance\\_reform.html?showall](http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0410/Hill_jumps_into_fight_over_foreign_assistance_reform.html?showall)

**Outcome of Re-Launched EU-US Development Dialogue: Towards Joint Action on Millennium Development Goals, Food Security and Climate Change**, *Delegation of the European Union to the United States, April 25*

The EU-US dialogue on development provides a framework for cooperation between the two largest donors in the world in their efforts to tackle poverty worldwide. This initiative has been a priority for EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah in the first few months since they both took up office. With five years remaining to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the relaunch is a sign of new political will to work together in the fight against poverty. The initial focus areas of this renewed dialogue are the MDGs, food security and climate change.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/outcome-of-re-launched-eu-us-development-dialogue-towards-joint-action-on-millennium-development-goals-food-security-and-climate-change-92062174.html>

**Speech by Deputy Secretary Wolin to the Corporate Council on Africa**, *U.S. Department of the Treasury, April 28*

"Approximately 70 percent of families in Africa are dependent on agriculture in one way or another. Achieving meaningful reductions in poverty in Africa will require significant increases in the productivity of Africa's smallholder farmers. This Administration is ready to help committed African governments achieve that goal. The President has pledged to spend at least \$3.5 billion over the next three years on agricultural development. Just last week, Secretary Geithner, his counterparts from Spain, Canada and Korea, as well as Bill Gates launched a new multi-donor trust fund focused on the agricultural sector of low-income countries, and we anticipate that a number of African nations will tap into this fund."

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg672.htm>

**Statement by Secretary Timothy F. Geithner at the Development Committee (DC) Meeting**, *U.S. Department of the Treasury, April 25*

"We see the World Bank's indispensability in its foundational efforts to confront new global challenges that require worldwide collective action. By aligning new trust funds with core programs and employing innovative financing, governance, and implementation models, the Bank will advance our shared efforts on the critical challenges of climate change and food security. I am proud to affirm our commitment to work with Congress to seek \$635 million for the Climate Investment Funds and \$475 million for the launch of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program this year."

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/201042610294618987.htm>

**Lawmakers Not Ready to Give \$5 Billion More to USAID So Easily**, *The Hill, April 25*

A key pillar in President Barack Obama's foreign policy agenda is under fire on Capitol Hill as lawmakers debate whether more money would bolster the U.S. Agency for International Development or merely pump cash into an overextended organization.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/94197-lawmakers-not-ready-to-give-usaid-5b-more-so-easily?tmpl=component&print=1&layout=default&page=>

**Progress Continues In Afghanistan**, *Voice of America, April 30*

Dr. Rajiv Shah, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan, including a visit to the Arghandab DST in Kandahar Province. "I saw a strong civilian and military cooperation. . . . 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," he said during a press conference following his trip.

<http://www1.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Progress-Continues-In-Afghanistan-92413534.html>

**See Also: Vilsack: "No Iowa Cornfield" in Afghanistan**, *Des Moines Register, April 26*

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/04/26/vilsack-no-iowa-cornfield-in-afghanistan/print/>

**African Union Leaders Meet U.S. National Security Adviser**, *Agence France-Presse, April 24*

The US ambassador to the AU, Michael Battle, said that Washington is "seeking to have a relationship with the African Union as a continental body, which does not replace the bilateral relationships we have with individual African nations." In dealing with transnational issues like drug trafficking, climate control, and food security, "the only legitimately elected voice to speak for the entire continent is the African Union Commission."

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5hezCqp0VFHangB2j5Tql7nKSvmZQ>

**Global Engagement: An Approach for Mutual Respect and Mutual Interest**, *Op-Ed, Maura O'Neill, Senior Counselor to the Administrator for Innovation, USAID, Huffington Post, April 26*

A primary focus of our foreign assistance should be the development of local institutions, communities, and partnerships to create more independence. We must insist that programs put people on a path to self-sufficiency, not long-term dependence. We are more secure in America when people around the world can feed themselves and are investing in their communities.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maura-o/global-engagement-an-appr\\_b\\_551687.html?view=print](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maura-o/global-engagement-an-appr_b_551687.html?view=print)

**House Panel Mulls Bill to Ease Cuban Embargo**, *Reuters, April 29*

Representative John Tanner, chairman of a trade subcommittee in the House of Representatives Ways and Means, called the hearing to examine a bill crafted by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Colin Peterson, a Democrat, and Republican Representative Jerry Moran. That legislation would lift restrictions on U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba and remove certain obstacles to cash agricultural sales already allowed under previous reforms. A March study by Texas A&M University estimated that approving the Peterson-Moran bill to lift the travel ban and ease agricultural export restrictions could lead to \$365 million in additional sales of U.S. goods and create 6,000 jobs in the United States.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE63S3WK20100429>

**See Also: Hearing on U.S.-Cuba Policy**, *U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Trade, April 29*

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Hearings/hearingDetails.aspx?NewsID=11147>

**Craig Mullaney to USAID**, *Foreign Policy, April 23*

A top Obama military policy advisor and Afghanistan war veteran is moving from the Pentagon to take up a senior position at the US Agency for International Development. Craig Mullaney was a key Obama campaign advisor and part of Obama's Pentagon transition team. Until today, he was the principal director for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia at the Office of the Secretary of Defense policy shop. Starting Monday, he will be USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah's senior advisor on Afghanistan and Pakistan issues.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/23/names\\_craig\\_mullaney\\_to\\_usaid](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/23/names_craig_mullaney_to_usaid)

**USDA Turns from Wunderkind to Polymath for Chief Scientist**, *Science Insider, April 23*

It will be a tough act to follow. In January, chief scientist Rajiv Shah left the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to lead the U.S. Agency for International Development. Yesterday, the Obama Administration nominated his successor at USDA: Catherine Woteki, a Ph.D. nutritionist who heads health science and food safety for Mars Inc.

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/04/usda-turns-from-wunderkind-to-po.html>

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**NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

**Weathering the Storm: Agricultural Development, Investment, and Poverty in Africa Following the Recent Food Price Crisis**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2010*

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate trends in agricultural development, performance, and spending in Africa and to track corresponding progress in key poverty and hunger indicators following the recent food price crisis. The reason for tracking this information is that the recent food price crisis has the potential to derail the progress made toward reducing poverty and hunger in many African countries. This paper draws on policy research results in the literature to highlight some of the strategic policy options available to African governments for accelerating agricultural growth in line with the principles of CAADP. In this regard, the paper provides information on CAADP's agenda by reviewing the progress of implementation and performance against a number of key benchmarks.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00965.pdf>

**China's Agricultural and Rural Development: Implications for Africa**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2009*

This paper seeks to draw lessons from China's development experiences, particularly in the areas of agricultural and rural development, to increase growth and reduce poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. It also examines China's rising economic involvement in Africa and makes recommendations for how the win-win outcomes from this involvement can be strengthened.

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

**Biofuels and Economic Development in Tanzania**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2010*

Biofuels provide a new opportunity to enhance economic development in Tanzania. Drawing on detailed cost estimates, the authors develop a dynamic computable general equilibrium model to estimate the impact of different biofuel production scenarios on growth and poverty. Our results indicate that maximizing the poverty-reducing effects of a biofuels industry in Tanzania requires engaging and improving the productivity of smallholder farmers. Evidence shows that cassava-based ethanol production is more profitable than other feedstock options. Our findings also indicate that cassava generates higher levels of pro-poor growth than do sugarcane-based systems.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00966.pdf>

**The Rain Doesn't Come on Time Anymore**, *Oxfam International, April 2010*

Climate variability in Ethiopia is not new—its diverse agro-ecological zones have brought a dazzling variety of micro-climates, and corresponding weather patterns, and people have developed ways to respond successfully to these challenges. But now, in addition to the usual struggles, Ethiopians living in poverty are suffering the effects of climate change—both more variable climate and more extreme weather events. Women, men, families, and whole communities are struggling with how to understand this new variability, identify new patterns, and establish what resources they need to be able to move beyond reacting and coping to adapting to the new realities and being resilient. Policy makers, likewise, face the daunting challenge of how to refine policies, especially investments in and related to agriculture, to focus on poverty and vulnerability reduction in context of the new realities of climate change.

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/ethiopia-rain-doesnt-come-time-anymore>

**Foreign Inflows and Growth Challenges for African Countries**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2010*

Foreign inflows are important sources of income that many African governments use to finance public investments and to support the development of manufacturing or export-oriented service sectors. Yet the recent growth experience of many African economies shows that domestic-oriented industry (construction, utilities) and services have become the largest sectors. Using Ghana and its newly found oil as an example, the authors analyze the dynamic relationship between increasing foreign inflows and economic growth and structural change by developing a multisector intertemporal general equilibrium model.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00967.pdf>

**Yemen: Comprehensive Food Security Survey - Executive Brief**, *World Food Program, March 2010*

WFP carried out a nationwide comprehensive food security survey (CFSS) between September 2009 and January 2010 with the aim to guide WFP's future interventions in 2010/11, inform Yemen's Humanitarian

Response Plan 2010 and provide a potential basis for improved geographic and socioeconomic targeting of the most food-insecure persons.

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp219040.pdf>

**See Also: Yemen: Comprehensive Food Security Survey**, *World Food Program, March 2010*

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp219039.pdf>

**Agriculture and the Economic Transformation of Ethiopia**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2010*

The Government of Ethiopia is committed to rapid growth of agriculture as a means of accelerating the economic transformation and reducing poverty. This paper examines the implications of this commitment to both growth and reduction in poverty, analyzes the progress underway, and diagnoses the critical elements of change in policy required to reach the objectives.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/esspwp010.pdf>

**Poverty Lines across the World**, *World Bank Development Research Group, April 2010*

National poverty lines vary greatly across the world, from under \$1 per person per day to over \$40 (at 2005 purchasing power parity). What accounts for these huge differences, and can they be understood within a common global definition of poverty?

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/27/000158349\\_20100427143536/Rendered/PDF/WPS5284.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/04/27/000158349_20100427143536/Rendered/PDF/WPS5284.pdf)

**Global Biodiversity: Indicators of Recent Declines**, *Science, April 2010*

Most indicators of the state of biodiversity (covering species' population trends, extinction risk, habitat extent/condition, and community composition) showed declines, with no significant recent reductions in rate, whereas indicators of pressures on biodiversity (including resource consumption, invasive alien species, nitrogen pollution, overexploitation, and climate change impacts) showed increases. Despite some local successes and increasing responses (including extent and biodiversity coverage of protected areas, sustainable forest management, policy responses to invasive alien species, and biodiversity-related aid), the rate of biodiversity loss does not appear to be slowing.

[http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/science.1187512v1?sa\\_campaign=Email/pap/29-April-2010/10.1126/science.1187512](http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/science.1187512v1?sa_campaign=Email/pap/29-April-2010/10.1126/science.1187512)

**The Role of Collective Action and Property Rights in Climate Change Strategies**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, February 2010*

Ensuring that poor people can adapt to climate change and benefit from mitigation measures such as payments for carbon sequestration requires more than technology. Key institutions must also be in place. This brief provides an overview of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, highlighting the institutional arrangements for each component, to ensure that poor people in developing countries are not excluded.

[http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/polbrief\\_07.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/polbrief_07.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Rescheduled**

*Date: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

*Location: Washington, D.C.; venue TBD*

#### **Co-chairs**

Dan Glickman – former secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Catherine Bertini – former executive director, World Food Program

**The Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security** purposes to build and sustain the gathering momentum for change in U.S. food security and agricultural development policy. **The Chicago Council on Global Affairs is pleased to announce that the event will feature the release of the *Feed the Future***

**Guide, the implementation strategy for the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative.**

**The Honorable Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development**, will discuss the *Feed the Future Guide* and how this USG initiative will be realized through partnerships with recipient countries, bilateral and multilateral donors, and civil society and private sector stakeholders. Panel discussions and keynote speakers will then provide constructive and provocative thinking on how to address policy and implementation challenges. A working agenda is available on the GADI [website](#). Please contact [Lindsay Iversen](#), or phone (312.821.7560) for further information.

**Water for Food: Growing More with Less**

*Date:* May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 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/>

**Agricultural Price Distortions, Inequality, and Poverty**

*Date:* May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

This seminar will address the effects of agricultural and trade policies around the world on national and regional economic welfare, income inequality between and within countries, and the level and incidence of poverty in developing countries.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/agricultural-price-distortions-inequality-and-poverty>

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

*Date:* May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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/ccafs-launch-conference.php>

**World Economic Forum on Africa**

*Date:* May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 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>

**CARE's 2010 National Conference and Celebration**

*Date:* May 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

During the first day of the conference, you will learn from international development experts, participate in engaging sessions, prepare for your visit to Capitol Hill and hear our keynote speakers, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. You also will have the opportunity to visit our first-ever "Marketplace and Action Center," where you will learn about CARE's three signature programs, have a chance to purchase items made by women artisans all over the world and become actively involved with CARE through our online advocacy efforts. On the second day of the conference, you will meet with members of Congress to advocate for U.S. policies that fight global poverty.

<http://careconference.org/>

### **Agricultural Price Volatility: Prospects, Challenges and Possible Solutions**

*Date:* May 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Barcelona, Spain

The agricultural sector has been deeply battered by both the food and financial crises and faces a looming climate change crisis. This seminar will examine current and projected trends in prices, review past policy responses, examine policy options available today and arrive at pragmatic recommendations on addressing volatility in the future. The meeting is being organized by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC), the University of Barcelona, and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development.

<https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/agritrade/event.jsp?event=834>

### **InterAction Forum 2010**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Featuring thought provoking plenary sessions and workshops with more than 100 experts from around the world, Forum 2010 will bring together 1000 professionals from more than 250 organizations representing the international non-profit community, government, corporate and philanthropic sectors.

<http://www.interaction.org/forum>

### **Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever**

*Date:* June 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 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>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **African States Sow Seeds of Cooperation**, *Guardian*, April 29

After 10 years of discussion and research, members of the Southern African Development Community have agreed a system to improve the regulation and sale of seeds across borders, which should improve food security across Africa, says Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/apr/29/african-seed-harmonisation/print>

**WorldStove: Transforming Haiti and the World**, *Kelpie Wilson, Communications Editor, International Biochar Initiative, Huffington Post*, April 29

Almost a third of Haiti's land has lost so much topsoil that it is not possible to grow food crops. As a result, Haiti can no longer feed itself and people have fled to the cities where they were more vulnerable during the earthquake. Biochar can be a critical factor not only in restoring topsoil to Haiti but in revitalizing the rural economy and repopulating the countryside.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelpie-wilson/worldstove-transforming-h\\_b\\_556250.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelpie-wilson/worldstove-transforming-h_b_556250.html)

**More Countries Sign on to Illegal Fishing Treaty**, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, April 29*

Five more nations have signed the FAO-brokered treaty that once it enters into force will deny access to fishing ports to ships involved in illegal fishing.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41879/icode/>

**See Also: Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*  
<http://www.fao.org/Legal/treaties/037s-e.htm>

**Agriculture Strategically Important for Latin America and the Caribbean**, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, April 29*

Speaking at a meeting of leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf has stressed the "strategic importance" of agriculture for the social and economic welfare of the region.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41867/icode/>

**Brazil to Raise Ethanol Mixed With Gasoline to 25%**, *Bloomberg, April 29*

Brazil plans to boost the amount of ethanol mixed into gasoline at the pump ahead of a record sugar- cane crop this year.

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aI8\\_gSHRKjPQ](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aI8_gSHRKjPQ)

**EU Backs Global Code for Farmland Purchases**, *Reuters, April 27*

European Union governments want to develop a global code of conduct for foreign investments in agricultural land in developing countries, according to a draft paper on food security.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USLDE63P0KH>

**Tractors Invade Paris as Farmers Protest**, *Associated Press, April 27*

More than 1,000 tractors descended on the French capital as farmers protested falling grain incomes and demanded government help -- even appealing to the not-very-rural French first lady to intervene.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2011713119\\_apeufrancefarmerprotest.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2011713119_apeufrancefarmerprotest.html)

**Israel Teaches Irrigation Methods to Senegalese Farming Students**, *Voice of America, April 27*

The university's agricultural training field is part of an ongoing cooperation between Israel and Senegal that began in 2006 and aims to reduce poverty through farming innovation.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Israel-Teaches-Irrigation-Methods-to-Senegalese-Farming-Students-92201004.html>

**See Also: Israel to Help African Farmers Fight Desert**, *Reuters, April 26*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE63P10W>

**E.U. Push on Animal Welfare May Open New Trade Front with U.S.**, *New York Times, April 26*

One of the first things the European Union's new health and consumer affairs commissioner did after taking office was to approve the planting of a genetically modified potato in Europe — riling environmentalists but giving hope to U.S. officials that an end to a long trade dispute over biotech crops might be in sight. But John Dalli, who began his first official visit to Washington on Monday, may open a new, potentially disruptive front: animal welfare.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/business/global/27dalli.html?ntemail0=y&emc=tnt&pagewanted=print>

**New Cotton Pest Reaches Florida for First Time**, *Reuters, April 26*

The cotton seed bug, a pest that has not been found in the United States, has been found for the first time in Florida, agriculture officials said. It is native to Africa, but has become established worldwide including in the Caribbean Basin and Puerto Rico. The 4-5 mm (1/4 inch) insect feeds on cottonseed making the seeds less likely to sprout and reduces cotton oil quality.

<http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=10479882>

**Singapore Boosts Local Farming for Food Security**, *Agence France-Presse, April 25*

His wife and business associates say he's mad to invest almost a million Singapore dollars in a fish farm, but Singaporean property developer Eric Cheng does not mind a bit. The 35-year-old city boy is confident his foray into aquaculture will make money as seafood-loving, import-dependent Singapore strives to boost local production and enhance its food security.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gUJ907tzkfGCYcNnTuUtopklyNzw>

**Highly Productive**, *Financial Times, April 24*

As the world's cities expand rapidly, demand for fresh, local produce increases and metropolitan authorities gradually start to ease planning restrictions, urban farming is being seen as a new source of food and more than a hobby for green-fingered apartment- and loft-dwellers.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/90d3ba1a-4d9d-11df-9560-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=7f78fdd6-300e-11da-ba9f-00000e2511c8.print=yes.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/90d3ba1a-4d9d-11df-9560-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=7f78fdd6-300e-11da-ba9f-00000e2511c8.print=yes.html)

**Peak Phosphorus**, *Foreign Policy, April 20*

It's an essential, if underappreciated component of our daily lives, and a key link in the global food chain. And it's running out.

<http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=10479882>

**See Also: Peak Phosphorus**, *New York Times, April 27*

<http://ideas.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/peak-phosphorus/?pagemode=print>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**A New Approach to Aid**, *Nicholas Kristof, New York Times, April 29*

The basic truth of foreign aid is that helping people is far, far harder than it looks. Anybody who travels in the developing world has seen projects that have been abandoned, or encountered officials who have enriched themselves. A new book from the Center of Global Development in Washington by Nancy Birdsall and William Savedoff suggests a novel approach to address some of aid's shortcomings, and I think it's worth experimenting with.

<http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/29/a-new-approach-to-aid/>

**Food Aid Hurts Haiti's Farmers**, *Voice of America, April 29*

About three hours north of Port-au-Prince, the Artibonite Valley is the center of Haiti's rice production. This season, farmer Charles Surfoad is storing his rice rather than selling it. He says food aid from the earthquake relief effort produced a glut that pushed down prices. If he sells now, he says he'll lose money. "Food aid is never good for us," he says. "As a farmer, I'm one of the first affected. You can't send that to a country where that's what they grow."

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/americas/Food-Aid-Hurts-Haitis-Farmers--92405389.html>

**See Also: Good Camp, Bad Camp: The Shortfalls of Haiti Aid**, *Associated Press, April 25*

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/cb\\_haiti\\_earthquake/print;\\_ylt=Aj9zkIfnL09HTsCVhjYnsPm9IxIF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBvajZzaTFyBHBvcwMxNQRzZWMDdG9wBHNSawNwcmludA--](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/cb_haiti_earthquake/print;_ylt=Aj9zkIfnL09HTsCVhjYnsPm9IxIF;_ylu=X3oDMTBvajZzaTFyBHBvcwMxNQRzZWMDdG9wBHNSawNwcmludA--)

**Niger – UN Warning over Total Crop Failure**, *BBC News, April 28*

Niger is threatened with total crop failure in some areas and the situation is worse than the 2005 crisis, the UN humanitarian chief has told the BBC.

<http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8648215.stm?ad=1>

**See Also: U.N. Aid Agencies Sound Alarm on Niger Food**, *Reuters, April 27*

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100427/wl\\_nm/us\\_niger\\_food/print](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100427/wl_nm/us_niger_food/print)

**See Also: UN Calls for Urgent Action in Niger Food Crisis**, *Voice of America*, April 29

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/UN-Calls-for-Urgent-Action-in-Niger-Food-Crisis-92435149.html>

**Swiss Foundation Offers Low Cost Insurance to Small-Scale Farmers in Kenya**, *Voice of America*, April 28

In Kenya, small-scale farmers are particularly vulnerable to the vagaries of weather, often losing their entire investment when droughts or floods destroy their crops. Crop insurance is usually too costly for such operations. But a Swiss-based foundation is now offering low cost insurance through a program called "Kilimo Salama," or "safe farming."

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Swiss-Foundation-Offers-Low-Cost-Insurance-to-Small-scale-Farmers-in-Kenya--92309389.html>

**International Public Sector Recruitment: Agencies Learn to Work with Private Sector**, *Financial Times*, April 28

Now, multinational corporations are developing everything from fortified foods to low-cost toiletries, while also working to include more low-income communities, such as smallholders, in their supply chains. While partnering with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and development agencies, companies have one eye on solving global problems and another on future markets for their goods and services.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/90df21cc-52e1-11df-813e-00144feab49a.html>

**Despair Grows on Devastated Street in Haiti**, *New York Times*, April 27

With the large-scale food distribution winding down, many families are subsisting on rice bought from street vendors. But several women said the free food was never easy to get, anyway; the man dispensing ration cards on Avenue Poupelard demanded sex or money in exchange. "That guy, he threw the card in the sewer if you didn't agree to his terms," Huguette Joseph, at the mechanics' lot, said, hissing, "Evil!"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/28/world/americas/28haiti.html?pagewanted=print>

**UN Official Urges Responsible Investment in Agriculture in Poorer Countries**, *United Nations*, April 26

Responsible investment in agriculture in developing countries can help them tap the enormous potential in farming in the wake of the recent food crisis, the head of the United Nations trade and development said, calling for both national and international efforts to ensure domestic economies benefit. "There is an urgent need to invest more in agriculture both to ensure food security and as the basis for long-term economic development," said Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/printnews.asp?nid=34489>

**After a Coup, Niger Resumes Business as Usual with China**, *New York Times*, April 24

For China, the transition seems smooth. Just a few months ago, China was widely derided here as the financial backbone propping up an autocratic president, Mamadou Tandja, giving him the confidence to ignore international condemnation as he chopped away at Niger's democratic institutions. But now that Mr. Tandja has been overthrown, China appears to be settling into a new role: business partner to the good-government-preaching military officers who ousted Mr. Tandja under the banner of restoring democracy.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/25/world/africa/25niger.html?th=&emc=th&pagewanted=print>

**Why Should They Believe Us?** *Editorial*, *New York Times*, April 24

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, the host of this June's Group of 8 summit meeting, said last week that "if the G-8 is to remain credible, accountability is absolutely necessary." He is right. Leaders of the world's wealthiest nations can start bolstering their credibility by explaining how they plan to fill the \$20 billion gap between the foreign aid they promised to send to developing countries and what they are actually giving.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/25/opinion/25sun2.html?th=&emc=th&pagewanted=print>

**Food Crisis Changed Attitudes to Farm Aid, UN Food Chief Says**, *Des Moines Register*, April 23

Washington has had a change of heart when it comes to aiding farmers overseas. Under pressure from commodity groups, the United States all but stopped providing agricultural aid during the 1990s and into this

decade. But the food crisis caused by price spikes in 2008 has led to significant commitments of global farm aid. This week, the Obama administration proposed spending \$408 billion in agricultural assistance to go with commitments from the Gates foundation, Canada and several other countries. Will this change of heart last? Josette Sheeran, who runs the U.N. World Food Program, thinks it will.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/04/23/food-crisis-changed-attitudes-to-farm-aid-un-food-chief-says/print/?GID=hp2yoXY6j/Nc9Yu4b+FVVCLqOmthS9BNnq1fTY4B5SA%3D>

**Roots of Peace Turns Mines into Vines in Afghanistan**, *Voice of America*, April 23

Inspired by Britain's Princess Diana, who walked the minefields of Angola and Bosnia in 1997, Kuhn vowed to continue the effort to rid the world of landmines. "I lifted my glass and said, 'May the world go from mines to vines.'" So Kuhn founded Roots of Peace, an international humanitarian organization that helps to clear landmines and restores the soil to agricultural use.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/asia/Roots-of-Peace-Turns-Mines-to-Vines-in-Afghanistan-91915954.html>

**GAFSP! U.S.-Led Food Security Fund Could Push Better Risk Management at World Food Program, Reducing Hunger**, *Vijaya Ramachandran*, *Center for Global Development*, April 22

More money for combating hunger is of course a good idea, and investments in agriculture are a crucial part of the picture. To make the most of the new money—and greatly decrease the number of poor people who needlessly suffer from hunger and malnutrition—the United States and other donors to the new fund should encourage the World Food Program (WFP) to modernize its outdated approach to procurement and risk management. The WFP annually feeds almost 100 million people around the world but buys this food—I am not making this up—almost entirely on spot markets where prices predictably spike in times of shortage.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2010/04/gafsp-u-s-led-food-security-fund-could-push-better-risk-management-at-world-food-program-reducing-hunger.php>

**See Also: How the World Food Program Can Feed More People More Quickly with Better Risk Management Tools**, *Vijaya Ramachandran*, *Huffington Post*, April 23

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vijaya-ramachandran/how-the-world-food-progra\\_b\\_543458.html?view=print](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vijaya-ramachandran/how-the-world-food-progra_b_543458.html?view=print)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**Egypt Spat Fuels Water Tension in Nile Basin**, *Reuters*, April 27

In arid Egypt, officials have long angered fellow Nile Basin countries by clinging to colonial-era water treaties giving it rights to the lion's share of water flowing down the world's longest river. But upstream nations desperate for development are hoping to break with the past, threatening to shut regional heavyweight Egypt out of a new pact and potentially deepening an already bitter struggle for water resources across this parched region. The feud could also upset the balance between poor upstream nations and Egypt, the Arab world's most populous nation, where climate change threatens a fragile farm sector and population growth may outstrip water resources as early as 2017.

<http://af.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=AFIOE63Q05C20100427>

**Experts Call for Hike in Global Water Price**, *Guardian*, April 27

World Bank and OECD say water is a finite resource that must be valued at a higher price in order to repair old supply systems and build new ones.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/apr/27/water-price-rise/print>

**Campaigners Urge Transparency on Climate Aid**, *Reuters*, April 27

A lack of transparency over rich countries' pledges to help poor nations deal with climate change means much of the cash promised is being diverted from development aid commitments, campaigners say.

<http://in.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=INTRE63P52Q20100426>

**Developing Nations Want 2011 Climate Pact Deadline**, *Reuters*, April 25

A group of developing countries, among the world's fastest-growing carbon emitters, said on Sunday a legally binding global agreement to limit climate change needed to be completed by 2011 at the latest. Environment ministers of the so-called BASIC bloc -- Brazil, South Africa, India and China -- met in Cape Town to look at how to fast-track such a deal to curb global warming.

<http://in.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=INIndia-47986020100425>

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## WOMEN

**Remarks at Breakfast With Women Entrepreneurs Attending the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship**, *Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, and Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, U.S. State Department, April 28*

SECRETARY CLINTON: "Making women a focus of our foreign policy agenda here at the State Department comes naturally to me, but it's not only the right thing to do; it is also the smart thing as well. Because as Melanne said, we believe that the evidence is overwhelming. We cannot expect countries to increase their economic standing in a sustainable way. We cannot expect there to be greater foundations built for security, democracy, opportunity, unless women are at the table."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/04/140998.htm>

**G8 Gives Thumbs up to Harper's Maternal Health Project**, *Calgary Herald, April 28*

Canada's partners in the G8 have endorsed Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plan to focus the foreign aid of rich nations on saving the lives of new mothers and their young children in the developing world. But international aid chiefs from the G8 countries wrapped up a two-day meeting in Halifax insisting that the plan should be broadened to include general improvements to health-care systems in Africa and Asia, and strict accountability standards to make sure G8 taxpayers are getting the "biggest bang for their buck."

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/gives+thumbs+Harper+maternal+health+project/2962545/story.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**China Slaps Tariffs on U.S. Chicken**, *Wall Street Journal, April 29*

China said it will impose a second set of tariffs on U.S. chicken products in less than three months, this time on the result of an investigation that found that subsidies had created an unfair advantage for U.S. chicken producers.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704423504575211590403206592.html#printMode>

**See Also: China to Hit US Chicken with New Tariffs**, *Financial Times, April 28*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c585639c-5277-11df-8b09-00144feab49a.html>

**US Subsidizes Brazilian Cotton Farmers in Latest Trade Twist**, *Voice of America, April 28*

American taxpayers may soon be subsidizing Brazilian cotton farmers in order to protect the earnings of U.S. drug companies. That's one way to look at a new agreement aimed at ending a long-running dispute within the World Trade Organization between Brazil and the United States. It's the first time the U.S. has been penalized over its farm subsidies. But the resolution leaves some agricultural trade experts scratching their heads.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/usa/US-Subsidizes-Brazilian-Cotton-Farmers-in-Latest-Trade-Twist-92327264.html>

**U.S. Makes First Major Corn Sale to China since 2001**, *Bloomberg, April 28*

U.S. exporters sold 115,000 metric tons of corn to China, its first major sale of the grain to the world's most-populous nation since 2001, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aqyEQGHX\\_8hc](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aqyEQGHX_8hc)

**See Also: China May Import 500,000 Tons Corn as Demand Grows, O'Neil Says**, *Bloomberg, April*

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China, the world's second-largest corn consumer, may buy as much as 500,000 metric tons this year, becoming a net importer for the first time in at least eight years, a U.S. agricultural economist said.  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=arqQIDmZt04>

**Iraq: Domestic Wheat, Rice Production in the Doldrums**, *Reuterst, April 28*

Iraq is planning to import 80 percent of its wheat and rice requirements in 2010, according to Hussein Ghazy, a spokesman of the state-owned Grains Company affiliated to the Trade Ministry. Most of Iraq - 78 percent - is not viable for agricultural use. Almost half of the remaining 9.5 million hectares is marginal land used mainly for seasonal grazing of goats and sheep. Agricultural output accounts for only about 4 percent of gross domestic product.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/488e3db1c21728131c1443f226aeca8d.htm>

**Cocoa Price Hits a 33-Year High over Crop Fears**, *Financial Times, April 26*

The rise comes on the back of improving demand from the chocolate industry and a disappointing crop in Ivory Coast, the world's largest grower.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0d0ffc0c4-5109-11df-aceb-00144feab49a,dwp\\_uuid=9ff9d7a4-506d-11da-bbd7-0000779e2340,print=yes.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0d0ffc0c4-5109-11df-aceb-00144feab49a,dwp_uuid=9ff9d7a4-506d-11da-bbd7-0000779e2340,print=yes.html)

**New Market Access Rules, Economic Crisis Affecting Seafood Industry**, *Food and Agriculture*

*Organization, United Nations, April 26*

Fish have gone global. They are, in fact, one of the world's most hotly traded food commodities: some 37 percent of all fish production — 53 million tonnes — is traded internationally. Exports of fish in 2008 were valued at a cool \$102 billion. The lion's share of fish being traded is imported by developed countries — 60% of it, in weight terms, and 80% of it in value terms. Europe, Japan and the United States alone account for 70% of all fish imports, in terms of value. The total value of all fish imports in 2008 was \$108 billion. For the most part, that fish is from the developing world — the source of 50 percent of all fish imports by rich nations, in value terms (\$43 billion).

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41427/icode/>

**Fishmeal Prices Scale All-Time High**, *Financial Times, April 26*

The price of fishmeal, the key feedstuff for salmon and shrimp aquaculture, has surged to an all-time high after an earthquake wiped out processing plants in Chile, the world's second-biggest exporter of the commodity, this year. The blow comes as the industry is already battling a supply squeeze caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon, which is hitting fish catches in Peru, the world's biggest fishmeal exporter.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0e6445c4-515b-11df-bed9-00144feab49a.html>

**Agriculture No Longer Doha Sticking Point: Australia**, *Agence France-Presse, April 24*

Long-stalled world trade talks may still be making little evident progress, but at least the issue of agricultural tariffs that sank a 2008 accord is not as insurmountable as it used to be, Australia's trade minister said.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g22UAcCKY7uY5tO14uwaj7\\_Fa8PA](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g22UAcCKY7uY5tO14uwaj7_Fa8PA)

**African Development Bank: Strong Economic Gains for African Economies**, *CNBC, April 23*

The economic news out of Africa is good, spurred by strong demand from global markets for African oil, minerals and agricultural products.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/36737310/print/1/displaymode/1098/>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Biotech Firms Seek Speedier Reviews of Seeds**, *Wall Street Journal, April 28*

The crop-biotechnology industry, growing frustrated as it watches the approval time for new seeds almost double under the Obama administration, is pressuring Washington to clear inventions more quickly. The logjam at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which must clear genetically modified seeds, is slowing the launch of products that could give farmers more alternatives to seeds from crop biotech giant Monsanto Co. Also, some biotech-industry executives worry the delays signal that the Obama administration, which has

painted itself as pro-biotech, is gearing up for a far tougher analysis of the potential environmental impact of these crops.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052702304159304575184360122314470.html#printMode>

**Strong Seed Sales Bolster DuPont's Quarterly Profit**, *Des Moines Register*, April 28

DuPont Co.'s agriculture division increased sales by 6 percent in the first three months of the year, driven in part by a stronger seed business.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/fdcp/?1272556169030>

**See Also: Dupont Profit Doubles on Sales of Seeds, Electronics**, *Bloomberg*, April 27

DuPont Co., the third-biggest U.S. chemical maker, more than doubled first-quarter profit and raised its 2010 earnings forecast as farmers bought more genetically modified seeds and demand for electronics recovered.

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

**Nestle Stakes Its Grounds in a European Coffee War**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 28

Sleek Nespresso coffee machines have invaded millions of upscale European kitchens over the past decade, changing the way many people make coffee and growing into a \$2.6 billion business. But trouble is brewing for Nespresso, a brand owned by Swiss food giant Nestlé SA. Similar machines have been making inroads.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704388304575202402216730116.html#printMode>

**Venezuela Takes over Brewer's Land, Sugar Mills**, *Reuters*, April 28

President Hugo Chavez has decreed the seizure of land from Venezuela's leading beer and food company and the takeover of three sugar mills in the latest government moves against private industry.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USN2816859420100428>

**Supreme Court Questions Ban of Biotech Alfalfa**, *Associated Press*, April 27

Supreme Court justices sharply questioned a lower court's decision that has prohibited biotech giant Monsanto Co. from selling genetically engineered alfalfa seeds, possibly paving the way for the company to distribute the seeds for the first time since 2007.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5isgbi9DSGVLOvoyTQ3f8M--Aw4sQD9FBG0100>

**See Also: Justices Tackle Biotech Crop Case**, *Des Moines Register*, April 27

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/04/27/justices-tackle-biotech-crop-case/>

**See Also: Oral Arguments from Monsanto Company v. Geertson Seed Farms**, *United States Supreme Court*, April 27

[http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts/09-475.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/09-475.pdf)

**John Deere Opens Russian Plant, Sees Potential**, *Reuters*, April 27

Deere & Co, the world's largest farm equipment maker, opened a manufacturing and parts distribution plant near Moscow on Tuesday, saying it was prepared to increase investment in the country.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE63P1V820100427>

**Mexico Eyes Instant Coffee Market with Robusta Push**, *Reuters*, April 26

Mexico is boosting production of robusta coffee trees as it aims to become one of the world's top producers of instant coffee, despite objections from some farmers who worry the varieties fetch lower prices, the agriculture ministry and the national coffee association said. The government is partnering with Swiss food giant Nestle to provide Mexican farmers with improved, high-yielding types of robusta to cut down on the nearly 450,000 60-kg bags of coffee Mexico imports each year.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USN2615343420100426>

**Race Is on to Quench Market for Drought-Resistant Crops**, *Calgary Herald*, April 25

Russell is planting Du-Pont Co.'s drought-tolerant corn, one of the seeds heading to market next year that's designed to thrive where water is scarce. An experimental plot in 2009 improved on the economics of the sorghum crop "by a landslide," Russell said. Monsanto Co., DuPont and Syngenta AG are vying for a similar windfall. After battling for a decade to corner the \$11-billion US 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.calgaryherald.com/story\\_print.html?id=2948787&sponsor](http://www.calgaryherald.com/story_print.html?id=2948787&sponsor)

**Smallholder Agriculture, Sustainability and the Syngenta Foundation**, *Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, March 2010*

World agriculture will undergo far-reaching economic and physical change in the coming 50 years. Population increase, urbanization and income growth will drive the demand for food while high energy prices, stress on natural resources, and climate change may act to constrain supply. To feed the world's growing population – projected to exceed 9 billion in 2050 – it will be necessary to boost the production of food and to do so sustainably. To be sustainable, agriculture will need to be intensified and its environmental footprint made to shrink.

<http://www.syngentafoundation.com/db/1/872.pdf>

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