

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 30th – May 7th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Because of your commitment to sustainable agriculture, we’ve seen the most dramatic increase in food production in history, and we’ve helped you prevent starvation -- seen you prevent starvation around the world. But as my husband, the President, and Raj have said -- that the ultimate job, the ultimate objective here is to create the condition that you are no longer needed. That’s ultimately what you’re working to do. Ultimately your goal is to make it possible for the child in El Salvador to go to school; for the family in the Sudan to live free from fear; and for the woman in Ghana to be able to put food on the table.”*—Remarks by First Lady Michelle Obama at USAID Agency Visit, May 5, 2010.

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

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

A New Way Forward on Global Development, *Draft Version of the Presidential Study Directive on Global Development, National Security Council, The White House, April 2010*

The Obama Administration recognizes that the successful pursuit of development is essential to our security, prosperity, and values.

http://foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/100503_2010_05_03_10_46_51.pdf

See Also: The Rebirth of USAID, Patrick Cronin, Senior Advisor and Senior Director, Asia-Pacific Security Program, Center for a New American Security, Daily Caller, May 5

The restoration of USAID will take herculean reform and uncommon patience, if it is even possible at all. No doubt leaking the Presidential Study Directive this week, in advance of the National Security Strategy and months before the completion of the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, was deliberate.

<http://dailycaller.com/2010/05/04/the-rebirth-of-usaid/print/>

See Also: White House Proposed Taking Development Role Away from State, Foreign Policy, May 3

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/03/white_house_proposed_taking_development_role_away_from_state

Malawi President Calls for Greater Cooperation in Africa to Improve Food Security, Guardian, May 4

As delegates prepare to meet at the World Economic Forum on Africa, Bingu wa Mutharika, chairman of the African Union, explains why leaders need to work closer together to improve agriculture and food security across the continent.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/2010/may/04/bingu-wa-mutharika-food-security-africa/print>

“USAID’s Approach to High Impact Development” Town Hall with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, US Agency for International Development, May 5

“Enormous progress has been made toward meeting the MDGs, and we should recognize, celebrate, and support these achievements. But much more remains to be done, and the road ahead will likely be more difficult than the road already traveled. For this reason, we will be even more determined, strategic, and analytically grounded as we strive to meet the MDGs in five years. We’re doing this through excellence on our two major development initiatives in global health and food security both of which focus on lagging indicators. And we’re doing it through a renewed emphasis on innovation and sustainability.”

http://www.politico.com/static/PPM145_link_050510.html

See Also: Kerry, Lugar Applaud New Policy Bureau at U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Senator John Kerry, May 5

<http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=324702>

See Also: USAID Gets Policy Shop, Politico, May 5

USAID Administrator Raj Shah will announce the creation of a new USAID policy bureau.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0510/USAID_gets_policy_shop_.html?showall

See Also: Shah Doles out Tough Love for USAID in Policy Speech, Foreign Policy, May 5

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/05/05/shah_doles_out_tough_love_for_usaid_in_policy_speech

Urgent Reminders from Niger, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought blog, May 7

The looming famine in Niger is a gripping reminder of the urgency of the task at hand: ending hunger through agriculture development. The current Niger crisis adds to the growing body of evidence that the U.S. food aid policy – which mandates that assistance must be American grown food shipped on U.S.-flagged vessels – needs to be reformed to also provide cash aid for such local purchases when famine flares. Yet, despite the mounting evidence, local purchase continues to be opposed by some in Congress and the agriculture industry who insist on “keeping food in food aid”, as is their mantra.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/05/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-famine-niger.html>

See Also: Famine Persists in Niger, But Denial Is Past, New York Times, May 3

Once again Niger is facing a food crisis, a grimly familiar predicament in a vast desert country with an explosive birthrate and rudimentary agriculture. Rains and crops failed last year — rainfall was about 70 percent below normal in the region — and now half the population of 15 million faces food shortages, officials say. Thus it was in 2005, 1985 and 1974. But there is a big difference this year: the new military government here is acknowledging serious hunger, trying to do something about it — and asking for help.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/world/africa/04niger.html?pagewanted=print>

Obama Administration Wants to Stretch the Food Basket, *IRIN, May 5*

Most major food aid donors, like the European Union, have officially opted to feed people in needy countries by means of a selection of response tools, such as cash or vouchers for food, but the US has remained the exception, and still largely ships food produced at home as aid. Barack Obama administration's hands are tied by domestic policies like the Farm Bill, which governs American food aid and is updated every five years, but it is making efforts to keep up with the rest of the donors. "We are increasing our humanitarian 'tool kit' through cash for local and regional procurement that can support local markets and, in some cases, reach beneficiaries sooner," said Ambassador William Garvelink, Deputy Coordinator for Development at the US government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative (GHFSI). The tool kit includes "voucher programmes, which means vulnerable households can purchase food directly in local markets".

<http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=89038>

The Debate Over Foreign Aid, *Laurie A. Garrett, Senior Fellow for Global Health, Council on Foreign Relations, May 6*

Debate over the FY 2011 federal budget has heightened in the Senate, as the Budget Committee voted on April 23 to cut foreign assistance spending by \$4 billion--a 7 percent reduction in the already frugal White House proposed budget of \$58.8 billion. Most of the budget is for nonmilitary programs in the frontline states, with less than a quarter--\$14.6 billion--for global challenges like health, food security, climate change, and humanitarian assistance.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22061/debate_over_foreign_aid.html

Agricultural Aid a Smart Way to Fight Global Poverty and Hunger, *Editorial, Seattle Times, May 4*

President Obama is proposing \$408 million as part of a multilateral fund to aid in agricultural development. The fund would be an important way to reduce global poverty and hunger.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/editorials/2011779148_edit05agriculture.html

Feeding India Is Becoming a Difficult Task, *Devinder Sharma, Huffington Post, May 1*

At a time when its economy is poised to grow at 8.5 per cent this financial year, and with its granaries overflowing and food stockpiles rotting in the open, India is finding it difficult to feed its hungry millions. Given the unresolved debate over the percentage of population living in hunger, and all out efforts to reduce the burgeoning food subsidy, feeding India remains a distant dream.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/devinder-sharma/feeding-india-is-becoming_b_557522.html?view=print

See Also: High Food Costs Force Indians to Do More with Less, *Associated Press, April 30*

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100430/ap_on_re_as/as_india_going_hungry/print:ylt=AnUShS4mAZ6gfbvf7Dh55kX9xg8F;ylu=X3oDMTBvajZzaTFyBHBvcwMxNQRzZWMDdG9wBHNsawNwcmludA-

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Anthony Lake Takes Over as UNICEF Chief, *Agence France-Presse, May 1*

Anthony Lake, a former US national security advisor, formally took over as executive director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), pledging to uphold the rights of children everywhere.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jaCBtYwR1EQwX5sCZplVc9JtuFxA>

See Also: Anthony Lake Begins his Tenure as UNICEF's Executive Director, *UNICEF, May 1*

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_53480.html?q=printme

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by the First Lady at USAID Agency Visit, *Michelle Obama, White House, May 5*

"Because of your commitment to sustainable agriculture, we've seen the most dramatic increase in food production in history, and we've helped you prevent starvation -- seen you prevent starvation around the world. But as my husband, the President, and Raj have said -- that the ultimate job, the ultimate objective here is to create the condition that you are no longer needed. That's ultimately what you're working to do. Ultimately your goal is to make it possible for the child in El Salvador to go to school; for the family in the Sudan to live free from fear; and for the woman in Ghana to be able to put food on the table."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-first-lady-usaid-agency-visit>

Opening Remarks: MCC CEO Daniel W. Yohannes at the Initiative for Global Development Event Hosted by Brookings Institution, Millennium Challenge Corporation, May 3

“In Africa alone, MCC is investing more than 5 billion dollars, 60 percent of which supports infrastructure development and agricultural productivity. We invite the private sector to consider procurements resulting directly from the implementation of MCC-funded projects. While we’ve made progress, our sights are set on doing more to help partner countries achieve their development goals through private sector-led growth. We are still thinking through all the dynamics.”

http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/speeches/speech-050310-dwy_businessdevelopment.shtml

Maximizing MCC’s Partnerships in Africa, Daniel W. Yohannes, Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, CEO Blog, April 30

“Africa’s future is up to Africans,” said President Barack Obama during his historic first visit to sub-Saharan Africa. By partnering effectively with African countries on their homegrown antipoverty strategies, MCC puts this powerful truth into practice. With over 70 percent of MCC’s portfolio benefiting the people of Africa, we are investing in solutions for long-term prosperity that Africans themselves are designing. These include building transportation networks, increasing agricultural productivity throughout the entire value chain, improving water supply and sanitation, expanding health, education, and community services, and broadening access to finance for greater enterprise development.

<http://www.mcc.gov/pages/ceoblog/entry/maximizing-mccs-partnerships-in-africa>

Healthy Mothers Nurture Hope, Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, US Agency for International Development, Huffington Post, May 3

Immunization, polio eradication, nutrition, diarrhea and pneumonia care, and maternal and neonatal health are fundamental components of USAID’s maternal and child health program, which has been producing remarkable results for decades. But with so many women in danger merely because they are mothers-to-be, it’s clear there is a lot more to be done. USAID has contributed to significant reductions in maternal mortality and, with continued support for family planning and maternity services, more than a million women could be saved in the years ahead.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rajiv-shah/healthy-mothers-nurture-h b 561068.html?view=print>

Quarterly Progress and Oversight Report on the Civilian Assistance Program in Pakistan, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State, and Department of Defense, May 2010

The Department of Agriculture plans to make a \$30 million Food for Progress grant to a U.S.-based NGO to implement a new Pakistan Agriculture and Cold Chain Development Project. The project aims to help modernize agriculture in the Balochistan Province of southwest Pakistan, where poor storage infrastructure is an important constraint to higher value added activities and access to urban markets. By linking private sector participants in the perishable goods value chain with new cold-chain facilities and enhanced production techniques, the project will improve food quality and supply, support higher farm gate prices for producers, and ensure a higher value end product to consumers.

http://www.usaid.gov/oig/public/special_reports/pakistan_quarterly_report_as_of_march_31_2010.pdf

See Also: Inspectors General Issue First Quarterly Report on the Civilian Assistance Program in Pakistan, U.S. Agency for International Development, May 5

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100505.html>

Key GOP Senator Objects to Cash for Brazil’s Farmers, Des Moines Register, May 3

An influential Senate Republican is raising objections to a key part of the Obama administration’s deal to avert retaliation by Brazil over U.S. cotton subsidies – a \$147 million payment to Brazilian cotton industry. In a letter to the White House, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., said the money should come out of the U.S. cotton program, since that was the source of the trade dispute.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/05/03/lugar-opposes-cash-for-brazils-farmers/print/>

See Also: Two Ends of Cotton ‘Swab-sidy’ Cleaning Taxpayers’ Wallet, U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, May 4

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar says U.S. taxpayers should not be paying Brazilian cotton producers \$150 million a year because the same U.S. taxpayers are also paying subsidies to U.S. cotton farmers.
<http://lugar.senate.gov/press/record.cfm?id=324640&&>

Hearing on the Meaning of Marjah, *Senate Foreign Relations Committee, May 6*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/20100506/>

Statement by Frank Ruggiero, U.S. Senior Civilian Representative, Regional Command-South, U.S. Department of State

"There are other important, ongoing activities in Marjah: construction of a new government center has begun; roads are under construction; over 2,000 farmers have benefited from the poppy transition program; and about 4,000 water pumps and agricultural support packages will be distributed by USAID under the Afghanistan Vouchers for Increased Production in Agriculture (AVIPA) Plus program. Public services such as health, education, water, and dispute settlement are starting to be provided."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/RuggieroTestimony100506a.pdf>

SFRC to Authorize \$3.5 bn for Haiti Reconstruction, *Politico, May 5*

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee plans to introduce Haiti legislation that authorizes \$3.5 billion over five years to support Haiti's rebuilding and reconstruction. The legislation, co-sponsored by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), directs USAID to develop a comprehensive rebuilding and development strategy for Haiti, proposes a policy framework to address critical priorities, and calls for a Senior Haiti Policy Coordinator, responsible for advising, overseeing, and coordinating U.S. policy towards Haiti.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0510/SFRC_to_authorize_35_bn_for_Haiti_.html?showall

See Also: Haiti Empowerment, Assistance and Rebuilding Act (HEAR) of 2010, *Politico, May 5*

http://www.politico.com/static/PPM145_hear.html

See Also: U.S. House Clears Haiti Trade Bill, *IPS, May 5*

It calls for the adoption of a strategic policy framework to address four critical priorities: good governance, including security sector reform; economic growth and economic sustainability, including investment in infrastructure, urban management, and agricultural development; environmentally sustainable programmes designed to restore Haiti's natural resources; and "investments in people, particularly women and children".

<http://www.ipsnews.net/print.asp?idnews=51329>

Honda: Embargo on Cuba No Longer Makes Sense, *Op-Ed, U.S. Representative Mike Honda, Roll Call, May 4*

Although it's infamous for socialism, cigars and salsa, few people know that Cuba was recently the United States' largest rice export market, is the fifth-largest export market in Latin America for U.S. farm exports and holds \$20 billion in trade with America over a three-year term. Our economy could benefit mightily from better relations, yet we alienate this potential ally.

http://www.rollcall.com/issues/55_126/ma_congressional_relations/45782-1.html?type=printer_friendly

Indigenous Peoples of Colombia, Panama and Peru, *Written Statement of Janet C. Ballantyne, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development, April 29*

"Over 30 million Latin Americans are indigenous. In countries such as Guatemala, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, close to half the population is indigenous. In Latin America, indigenous peoples have, in general, not received the full benefit of development. They suffer from high childhood mortality rates, lack of education, low income levels, and high rates of crime and violence against women. They are often caught in the crossfire between opposing governmental factions and in Andean countries, targeted by narco-traffickers who pressure them to develop coca rather than sustainable licit agricultural products."

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/ty100429.html>

Feds Investigate Major Meatpackers as Obama Administration Looks for Tougher Antitrust Action, *Associated Press, May 3*

The federal government is conducting an investigation into whether the handful of large meatpackers that slaughter most of the nation's cattle are illegally or unfairly driving down cattle prices, according to an official

representing independent beef producers nationwide. The investigation is under way as the Justice and Agriculture Departments hold a series of antitrust hearings on competition in agriculture, and the USDA is expected to release sweeping antitrust rules covering the meat industry this spring.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-food-and-farm-meatpacker-probe,0,6557194,print.story>

The War on a Weed Killer, *Wall Street Journal*, May 3

Atrazine is the nation's second-most common herbicide. For 50 years it has been the farm industry's primary crop protector. In the U.S., the weed killer is used in the production of 60% of corn, 75% of sorghum and 90% of sugarcane. Organizations such as the Natural Resources Defense Council have spent years ginning up claims that atrazine in groundwater causes cancer, birth defects and other maladies. Manufacturers such as Syngenta have been required to conduct millions of dollars worth of studies investigating these alarmist claims. EPA staff routinely review the studies in atrazine's favor. But now the Obama Administration has begun to fill such agencies with hires who are either sympathetic to, or even hail from, these activist groups.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703630404575053510187558820.html#printMode>

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

Smallholder Agriculture in East Africa: Trends, Constraints and Opportunities, *African Development Bank*, April 2010

Smallholder agriculture continues to play a key role in African agriculture. This paper investigates trends, challenges and opportunities of this sub-sector in East Africa through case studies of Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania. In these agriculture-based economies, smallholder farming accounts for about 75 percent of agricultural production and over 75 percent of employment. However, contributions of smallholder farming, and agriculture in general, to the region's recent rapid growth during 2005 - 08 have remained limited.

Instead, growth was driven by services, in particular trade. This paper finds that at the national level, weak institutions, restricted access to markets and credit. These factors, including inadequate infrastructure, have constrained productivity growth of smallholder farming.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/WORKING%20105%20%20PDF%20d.pdf>

Climate Change Implications for Food Security and Natural Resources Management in Africa, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*, May 2010

The primary objective of this paper is to serve as a background document for the 26th Regional Conference for Africa. It synthesizes the work already ongoing in FAO and other key players by reviewing the current state of knowledge on the vulnerability, impact and adaptation of African agriculture and natural resources to climate change. It presents a summary of the key issues and challenges that climate change will bring to African food security and indicates potential steps that need to be taken by African governments in order for agriculture to adapt to the climate change challenge.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/018/k7542e.pdf>

See Also: Climate Change Threat to Africa, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*, May 4

Climate change can significantly reverse the progress towards poverty reduction and food security in Africa, according to a paper presented to the FAO regional Conference for Africa being held in Luanda, Angola this week. The main consequence of higher temperatures and more unpredictable weather was a likely reduction in crop yields – 6.9 percent in the case of maize, an important staple – and a heightened risk of food insecurity.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41937/icode/>

Trade Policy for Food Security: Farm Policies of Developed Countries, *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, April 2010*

Farm Policies in developed countries have been widely blamed for creating problems for food security in developing countries. These problems have included high barriers to developing country exports, low prices in world markets for staple foods, unstable prices that inhibit investment, and more generally an imbalance between agricultural progress in developed and developing countries. Many of these criticisms are well aimed, and this note will not attempt a defense against those arguments that are less than persuasive.

<http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/05/farm-policies-of-developed-countries.pdf>

Towards Purposeful Partnerships in African Agriculture, *International Fund for Agricultural Development, April 2010*

Agriculture and rural development are key elements in African economies and provide an important route towards achievement of the critical development goals of promoting growth and reducing poverty in Africa. Yet the sector presents a challenging development agenda. This report presents the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of a major evaluation of assistance to agriculture and rural development (ARD) in Africa provided by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

<http://www.ifad.org/evaluation/jointevaluation/docs/africa/africa.pdf>

Price Volatility in Afghanistan's Wheat Market, *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 2010*

This report analyzes the role imports have played in stabilizing Afghan wheat prices by mitigating the effects of shortfalls in domestic production and assesses whether Afghanistan's internal wheat markets are sufficiently connected with international markets to cope with volatility in domestic output.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WHS/2010/04Apr/WHS10D01/WHS10D01.pdf>

Technology Gap and Efficiency in Cocoa Production in West and Central Africa: Implications for Cocoa Sector Development, *African Development Bank, April 2010*

This paper applies the recently developed metafrontier function technique to investigate productivity potentials and efficiencies in cocoa production in West and Central Africa. The methodology enables the estimation of national technology gap ratios (TGRs) by using a decomposition result involving both the national production frontiers and the (regional) metaproduction frontier.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/WORKING%20104%20%20PDF%200d.pdf>

Aid Quality and Donor Rankings, *World Bank, May 2010*

This paper offers new measures of aid quality covering 38 bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as new insights about the robustness and usefulness of such measures.

<http://go.worldbank.org/K21ULX9H80>

See Also: Diversity in Donorship: Field Lessons, *Overseas Development Institute, May 2010*

In the past few years there has been increased attention paid to the role of non-DAC donors in humanitarian action, however little work has been done to understand how these donors engage in responding to specific crises. The study finds that non-DAC donors are often some of the first donor respondents on the ground, and that they prefer to channel assistance through host-state mechanisms.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4802.pdf>

China, Africa and the International Aid Architecture, *African Development Bank, April 2010*

This paper analyzes China's growing foreign aid and export credit program as an element of the changing international aid architecture. The paper finds that practices governing Chinese aid and development finance diverge from clear OECD standards and norms on transparency and definitions, the management of concessional export credits, and the management of sovereign debt.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/WORKING%20107%20%20PDF%200d.pdf>

Innovation in Action: Policies to Accelerate Development and Delivery of Global Health Tools, *Global Health Technologies Coalition, 2010*

The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) launched its first annual report on global health research and development. The report focuses on the GHTC's three priority areas—US policies related to public financing, regulatory pathways, and incentives and innovating financing. It highlights the role US agencies and policymakers play in advancing innovation for global health products, as well as makes policy recommendations to help accelerate the development of new global health technologies.

<http://www.ghtcoalition.org/files/ghtc-report.pdf>

See Also: Summary of "Innovation in Action," *Global Health Technologies Coalition, 2010*

<http://www.ghtcoalition.org/files/ghtc-summary.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Rescheduled

Date: May 20th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.; venue TBD

Cochairs

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.

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>

Causes and Consequences of Global Agricultural Productivity Growth

Date: May 11th-12th, 2010

Location: ERS Conference Center, Washington, DC

The purpose of this conference is to share new research findings on agricultural productivity measurement and analysis from different countries and regions of the world. The papers and presentations will address the measurement of agricultural total factor productivity (TFP), analysis of the factors driving TFP change, and consequences of TFP growth on welfare, competitiveness, poverty, environment, etc. Another topic we will discuss at the conference is forming a global network of economists who are doing research on agricultural productivity issues. The purpose of the network will be to promote sharing of results, methods, and data, in order to further understanding of agricultural productivity changes in the world agricultural economy.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/globalagproductivity/>

See Also: Conference Agenda

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/globalagproductivity/agenda.htm>

CARE's 2010 National Conference and Celebration

Date: May 11th – 12th, 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 26th – 27th, 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 2nd – 4th, 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>

Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development Annual Conference 2010

Date: June 6th – 9th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

If we are to reach Millennium Development Goal #1, Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger, agricultural development professionals will need to work in new ways, across disciplines, with many others who can contribute to this goal. This meeting will be dedicated to examining critical agriculture-nutrition-health collaboration necessary to more quickly reach the goal of eradicating hunger.

<http://aiard.org/meetings/2010annual/index.htm>

Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever

Date: June 29th, 2010

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

The right technological solutions combined with the right policy directions for the future can effectively contribute to a sustainable and equitable global food system. A new global food system should assure that *everybody has access to sufficient food* and that *poverty should be reduced significantly without doing damage to the natural environment*.

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

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

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th –12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

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

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Arab World Needs \$144 Billion to Meet Food Needs, Official Says, *Bloomberg, May 7*

Arab countries need to invest \$144 billion in agriculture between now and 2030 to meet the demand for food for their growing populations, said an Arab official. Arab states need to secure half of this amount from private investors to meet the demand of the combined population that is expected to reach 550 million in 2030, said Tareq al- Zadjali, director general of the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development in an interview in Jeddah this week.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-07/arab-world-needs-144-billion-to-meet-food-needs-official-says.html>

African Food Security Needs Urgent, Undivided Attention, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, May 6*

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf called for urgent attention to be directed at Africa’s present food security situation. “In sub-Saharan Africa, since 2009, over 265 million people are malnourished and 30 percent of the population suffers from hunger,” Diouf said in his opening statement for the Ministerial Segment of the 26th session of FAO’s Regional Conference for Africa in Luanda, Angola. “This situation clearly demands our urgent and undivided attention,” he added.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41994/icode/>

See Also: U.N. Food Agency Urges Africa to Invest in Farming, *Reuters, May 6*

Under-investment in agriculture has left many governments across Africa struggling to feed their people, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization director-general Jacques Diouf said on Thursday.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE6455YL20100506>

See Also: UN Official Shines Spotlight on Hunger and Malnutrition in Africa, *UN News Centre, May 6*

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34616&Cr=fao&Cr1=africa>

Agriculture: World-Class Farmers Stymied by Heavy Costs of Bad Roads, *Financial Times, May 6*

Brazil has already emerged as an important force in global agriculture. Brazil has become the world’s biggest exporter of a host of agricultural commodities including beef, chicken, orange juice, green coffee, sugar, ethanol, tobacco and the “soya complex” of beans, meal and oil, as well as the fourth-biggest exporter of maize and pork. Nevertheless, farmers in central Brazil have long suffered from the huge cost of getting their produce to port.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fb1d2bf4-571b-11df-aaff-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=b9c736f0-5715-11df-aaff-00144feab49a.html

See Also: Banco de Brasil: Latin America’s Biggest Bank Leads Development Charge, *Financial Times, May 6*

In agriculture, he says the bank’s role is vital: 70 per cent of agriculture finance comes from Banco do Brasil. Among other things, small producers in the sector rely on credit to make it to harvest.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0cf69c34-571c-11df-aaff-00144feab49a.html>

Agriculture Way Out of Africa Rural Poverty: Agency, Reuters, May 6

African governments need to help smallholders turn a profit if they are to feed their hungry and stop young people deserting the countryside, a U.N. agricultural agency said. Peasant farmers produce 80 percent of food consumed on the continent but governments have failed provide the infrastructure they need to develop, said Kanayo Nwanze, President of the U.N. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

<http://af.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=AFJOE6450G620100506>

See Also: Tanzania Hosts World Economic Forum on Africa, Voice of America, May 4

The president of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is calling on African heads of state and governments to invest in agriculture ahead of the three-day World Economic Forum on Africa, scheduled to begin in Tanzania Wednesday.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Tanzania-Hosts-World-Economic-Forum-on-Africa-92825789.html>

Agriculture and Food: The Genetically Modified Crop Marches On, Financial Times, May 4

In agricultural biotechnology, the big theme is still the march of genetically modified crops across the world's farmland. While farmers have yet to adopt genetic engineering or cloning of animals to a significant extent – even in the GM-friendly US, fears of consumer resistance to biotech meat and milk outweigh any likely benefits – they have embraced biotech plants in some of the world's most important growing regions.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/766a7a56-5649-11df-b835-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=583ab98a-564c-11df-b835-00144feab49a.print=yes.html

Paper Reveals EU Plan to Boost GM Crop Cultivation, EurActiv.com, May 4

Europe faces a major overhaul of the way it deals with genetically modified (GM) crops, after the European Commission sparked controversy with new plans to circumvent its cumbersome legislative review process. The EU executive wants to let national governments decide whether or not to grow genetically-modified crops without a long drawn-out review of the bloc's current GM legislation, an initial impact assessment seen by Reuters showed.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/print/cap/paper-reveals-eu-plan-boost-gm-crop-cultivation-news-493647>

Senegal to End Subsidy to Peanut-Oil Producers Amid Record Crop, Bloomberg, May 4

Senegal will end subsidies to peanut- oil producers as scheduled on May 7, even after purchasers sought an extension because of a record crop this year, the Agriculture Ministry said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-04/senegal-to-end-subsidy-to-peanut-oil-producers-amid-record-crop.html>

Sub Saharan Africa Recovery Strengthens: World Bank, Reuters, May 4

Sub-Saharan Africa will grow by up to 4.2 percent in 2010 after expansion of 1.7 percent last year, helped by booming telecoms and commodity sectors, said Obiageli Ezekwesili, the World Bank's vice president for Africa. She said many of the region's economies would benefit from boosting private sector involvement in key sectors. Investing in the agricultural sector's productivity would have a positive impact on the broadest section of the region's population, she said. The Washington-based bank is expected to invest around \$1 billion in agriculture in Africa in 2010, down from last year's \$1.5 billion, she said.

<http://af.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=AFJOE64309320100504>

See Also: Africa Boom Lures Investors as Growth Set to Double, Bloomberg, May 3

Agricultural loans are another area of growth on the continent, where farming employs 65 percent of the labor force and accounts for 32 percent of gross domestic product, according to the World Bank. Agriculture is being spurred by foreign investment, such as Indian food processing company Karuturi Global Ltd.'s leasing of 300,000 hectares in Ethiopia to produce food for export. Farming "tends to outperform other economic sectors during a recession with excellent repay ability and low impairments," said Louis von Zeuner, deputy chief executive officer and head of retail operations at Johannesburg-based Absa.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-03/africa-boom-lures-investors-as-growth-set-to-double-update1-.html>

Pinstripes, Pitchforks, and Profits, Reuters, May 3

In Wall Street terms, the heartland is hot. Increasingly, big-city investors emerging from a bruising economic downturn sparked by the collapse of esoteric financial products are putting money into Illinois corn fields, California cranberry bogs and Brazilian sugarcane. Overseas, African farms, as well as ones in Australia and Eastern Europe, have emerged as financial opportunities. The World Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) cited the trend in a report in January, noting a "sharp increase" in agricultural investments the world over. Such private investment could offer significant benefits to the sector -- not to mention the human race -- by helping modernize farming tools and techniques, the agencies said.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE64233320100503>

Fish in Haiti Are Almost as Rare as Trees, *Joseph B. Treaster, Huffington Post, May 3*

Haiti has been seriously fished out. As the impoverished country's population has risen to more than 10 million, more and more people have turned to the sea for food. It is against the law in Haiti to take under-size fish. But no one is enforcing the law and many Haitians are hungry.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-b-treaster/fish-in-haiti-are-almost_b_558445.html

Chávez Decaffeinates Venezuela, *Opinion, Mary Anastasia O'Grady, Wall Street Journal, May 3*

The late Milton Friedman once quipped that "if you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand." Friedman was using hyperbole to make a point about central planning. Or so I thought until Hugo Chávez put himself in charge of Venezuela's coffee sector. Last year, for the first extended period of time in the country's history, Venezuela did not produce enough of the little red berry to satisfy domestic demand. It has now become a coffee importer and is facing serious shortages

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704302304575213951124955326.html#printMode>

Big Catch to Japan's Bluefin Tuna Triumph, *Financial Times, May 2*

There was no mistaking the pride and delight of Japanese officials after their victory in blocking a ban on trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna. "It's a result even better than we imagined," said Hirotaka Akamatsu, agriculture and fisheries minister. In defeating a trade ban intended to save the Atlantic bluefin tuna from commercial extinction, critics say Japan is perpetuating the over-exploitation of our oceans.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/19836404-560a-11df-b835-00144feab49a.html>

Fears for Crops as Shock Figures from America Show Scale of Bee Catastrophe, *Guardian, May 2*

The world may be on the brink of biological disaster after news that a third of US bee colonies did not survive the winter.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/may/02/food-fear-mystery-beehives-collapse/print>

Peanut butter and progress, *Op-Ed, Danielle Nierenberg and Bernard Pollack, News and Observer, May 1*

By training more than 650 "lead" farmers to train other farmers, COMACO hopes not only to protect the environment and local wildlife, but also to help farmers increase their incomes by connecting them to the private market. The organization supports creation of regional processing centers and trading depots to make it easier for farmers to process their crops and transport them to market. It also offers a higher price to farmers who grow rice and other products organically and for those who use the conservation farming techniques they've learned from trainers and lead farmers.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/05/01/461459/peanut-butter-and-progress.html>

Africa Needs Speedy and Effective Measures to Eradicate Poverty and Hunger, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, April 30*

The 6th Partnership Platform Meeting of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) took place recently in Johannesburg, South Africa. In reviewing progress towards ensuring food security and reducing poverty on the African continent, recent trends across regions and individual countries showed that 10 countries had met the 6% agricultural growth rate in 2008. The decline in the average malnutrition rate was encouraging but was still high at 29%. About 13 countries were making progress towards the hunger or poverty targets but only Ghana was on track to achieve both the targets by 2015.

<http://www.caadp.net/news/?p=692>

See Also: Communique of the Sixth Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform Meeting, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme*, April 2010

[http://www.caadp.net/pdf/Communique%20to%20the%206th%20CAADP%20PP%20\(English%20Final\).pdf](http://www.caadp.net/pdf/Communique%20to%20the%206th%20CAADP%20PP%20(English%20Final).pdf)

Interview with Papa Abdoulaue Seck, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research*, May 2010
Papa Seck, Director General of the Africa Rice Center, warns of the continent's continuing vulnerability to food crises and describes vigorous measures being taken to strengthen domestic production.

<http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/may2010.html>

Bomb Scare, *Charles Kenny, Foreign Policy*, May/June 2010

Ever since Parson Thomas Robert Malthus wrote his 1798 essay on population, it has been trotted out by millenarians and self-styled Cassandras as the basis for predicting famine and global woe. The recent food crisis -- which pushed 100 million-plus people worldwide into absolute poverty -- has elevated Malthus's reputation as a prognosticator to the Delphic levels of a Nostradamus or an Al Roker. Within Malthus's lifetime, however, the quantity of land stopped being the primary determinant of a country's output: We began making a lot more stuff in a lot less space.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/26/bomb_scare?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Canada's G8 Health Plan Receives Praise and Criticism, *Lancet*, May 8

By pushing the G8 for a wide focus on both child and maternal health involving a major new framework for nutrition and several integrated health interventions, Harper's Conservative Government has won praise. But by promising the government's largely rural, evangelical Christian powerbase that Canada will no longer support abortion in its international health efforts, it triggered a storm of anger across a largely urban and secular country where elective abortion has been a routinely available procedure for decades.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673610606861/fulltext?rss=yes>

Chad Must Protect Convoys in Food Crisis – World Food Programme, *Reuters*, May 6

Chad must protect food convoys, aid workers and civilians if peacekeepers are withdrawn from the drought-hit country where up to 2.5 million people lack adequate nutrition, the World Food Programme said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE6451MB.CH.2400>

Let Haitians Implement Recovery Plans, *Op-Ed, David Beckmann, Co-Chair, Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, Miami Herald*, May 3

While the focus of attention over the past three months has been on earthquake-relief efforts in Haiti, long-term reconstruction and development in the devastated island nation will be a test case for reforming an outdated U.S. foreign-assistance system. Simply stated, success in Haiti requires a completely new foreign assistance framework. We need to make sure aid is reaching the Haitian people and is delivered with greater efficiency. There is no better time than now.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/05/03/v-print/1610703/let-haitians-implement-recovery.html>

North Korea's Food Aid Will Run Out Next Month, UN Agency Says, *Bloomberg*, May 3

United Nations food aid to North Korea will run out the end of next month following a drop in international donations after the country detonated a nuclear device, the World Food Program said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-03/north-korea-s-food-aid-will-run-out-next-month-un-agency-says.html>

See Also: Kim Jong-il Arrives in China, *New York Times*, May 3

North Korea needs Chinese aid urgently as it faces a particularly harsh spring with food shortages.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/world/asia/04korea.html?pagewanted=print>

Successful Model for Foreign Aid Is IDEA-NEW, *Opinion, Trudy Rubin, Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 2

You've all heard horror stories of U.S. aid funds misused by big contractors on failed projects with high overhead in war zones. The U.S. military insists the war can't be won by guns, yet our civilian-aid programs have floundered. They've been undercut by shifting goals and the fact that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has shrunk to little more than a contracting agency. So I was looking for U.S. civilian-aid programs in Afghanistan that actually work, and offer Afghans the help they need to improve their lives. On this trip, I found such a program in eastern Afghanistan, called IDEA-NEW, which runs agricultural projects. What makes this program so unusual is that it consults Afghans at every stage of its operations - and makes use almost entirely of Afghan staff.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/currents/20100502_Worldview_Successful_model_for_foreign_aid_is_IDEA-NEW.html

Agricultural Development Team Begins Work in Zabul, *North American Treaty Organization, April 30*
ISAF forces in Zabul Province gained a new tool in the agricultural redevelopment process this month as the Zabul Agriculture Development Team (ADT) started operations. The ADT, made up of approximately 60 members of the Arkansas National Guard, arrived in the provincial capital earlier this month and has been establishing relationships with governmental leaders, agencies, organizations and military representatives who have a stake in redevelopment throughout Zabul Province. The ADT members bring formal education and practical farming experience in areas such as soil science, irrigation and water management, large and small animal health, poultry production, crop and farm management, marketing, storage and public health.
http://www.isaf.nato.int/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2626&pop=1&page=0&Itemid=83&lang=en

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Can Drip Irrigation Break Africa's Hunger Cycles?, *Reuters, May 6*

As the world's aid agencies scramble, yet again, to feed millions of hungry in Africa's Sahel, some smallholders in the semi-arid region are reporting bumper harvests of onions, potatoes and tomatoes. The reason? Drip irrigation systems made up of water tanks and rows of black pipes, an Israeli innovation that some predict could end the area's aid dependency. Others however, including supporters of the system, warn of caveats.
<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USLDE63R1NF.CH.2400>

Tap that Water: Controversy Surrounds the Argument for Dam-Building in Africa, *Economist, May 6*
Africa is the "underdammed" continent. It is the least irrigated and electrified, yet it uses only 3% of its renewable water, against 52% in South Asia. So there is plenty of scope for an African dam-building boom. Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, for instance, is so proud of the new Merowe dam in the north of his country that he made it a selling-point in his recent election campaign. If all goes well, it may even fulfill an old dream to irrigate swathes of farmland in northern Sudan, while sending electricity to run the thirsty air-conditioners of Khartoum. And all without dirtying the atmosphere, once the dams have been built.
http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=16068950

Warmer Nights Threaten India's Rice Production, *New York Times, May 5*

Climate change has made nights warmer in India over the past decade, an ominous sign for the nation's vital rice crop. This development could have a far-reaching impact on the yield of rice, causing a shortfall in an important staple crop in a crowded country already grappling with food security and inflationary issues, said Krishna Kumar Kanikicharla, a scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, India.
<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/05/05/05climatewire-warmer-nights-threaten-indias-rice-productio-30379.html?pagewanted=print>

As Weather Tracks with Climate Scientists' Grim Forecasts, an African Nation is Awash in Misery, *New York Times, May 4*

Two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen, water is the molecular compound that binds urban sanitation with energy, tourism, agriculture and other sectors throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya's agricultural sector is beginning to recover with the onset of the long rains this spring, but some southwestern Kenya farmers are abandoning tradition in the face of unpredictability. "People used to have organized planting and harvesting

sessions, but now it is impromptu," said Jacob Olonde, a native of the agricultural hub of Migori. "People plant by trial and error." Some farmers have switched from planting maize and other food staples to planting hearty bamboo, the 22-year-old student explained.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/05/04/04greenwire-as-weather-tracks-with-climate-scientists-grim-26206.html?pagewanted=print>

Climate Talks in Bonn Made Some Progress, Envoys Say, *Bloomberg*, May 4

Mexican and German efforts to bring together delegates from more than 40 countries helped push climate negotiations forward even though they produced no tangible achievement, Germany's environment envoy said today.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aTi7qUSs4yb0>

Gates Foundation CEO Calls for Efficient Water Use, *Associated Press*, May 4

The head of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said it has a simple mantra as it works to address world hunger and a looming water shortage: More crop per drop. Foundation CEO Jeff Raikes told participants at an international water conference that scientists are making major strides in developing high-yield crops and improving farming practices. The key will be getting that technology to the places where it's needed most, such as poverty-stricken sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia, he said.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Gates-Foundation-CEO-calls-apf-236440636.html?x=0&v=1>

Kyoto Risks Collapse; U.N. Urges Government Action, *Reuters AlertNet*, May 3

Governments must confront risks that the U.N.'s Kyoto Protocol for fighting climate change will collapse because of splits about a successor treaty, the U.N.'s top climate official said. Yvo de Boer also said that 194-nation climate negotiations in 2010 were likely merely to lay the "groundwork" for a new legally binding pact to slow global warming after a U.N. summit in Copenhagen in December fell short with a non-binding accord.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE64217D.htm>

See Also: UN: No Comprehensive Climate Deal this Year, *New York Times*, May 3

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/05/03/world/AP-Climate.html?_r=2&pagewanted=print

12 Experts to Review U.N. Climate Panel's Work, *New York Times*, May 3

Harold T. Shapiro, a former president of Princeton University and the University of Michigan, will lead a 12-member panel that will review the practices of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has been criticized for errors.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/05/03/12-experts-to-review-u-n-climate-panels-work/>

WOMEN

Women on the Front Lines of Health Care: State of the World's Mothers 2010, *Save the Children*, May 2010

With a focus on the critical importance of community health workers, the 2010 State of the World's Mothers Report recommends effective solutions to this challenge. The 11th annual Mothers' Index (based on the latest data on health, nutrition, education and political participation) ranks 160 countries - both in the industrialized and developing world - to show where mothers fare best and where they face the greatest hardships

http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/what_we_do/every_one/reports/SOWM2010_Report.pdf

Nearly Half of Somali Women, Children Have Anaemia, *IRIN*, May 7

Nearly half of all women and children in Somalia have anaemia and Vitamin A deficiency, a recent study indicates. The study - conducted by the Food Security Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU-Somalia) in conjunction with the UN Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme and under the technical leadership of the Institute of Child Health, University of London - said: "Somali women and children are suffering from shocking levels of anaemia and Vitamin A deficiencies."

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89058>

See Also: National Micronutrient and Anthropometric Nutrition Survey: Somalia 2009, *Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organization, et al, May 2010*
<http://www.fsnao.org/fileadmin/uploads/1663.pdf>

Invest in Women to Halve Africa's Hunger, *Op-Ed, Nixon Otiemo, Global Post, May 4*

Up to now, women farmers have been virtually ignored and discriminated against by governments and donors — despite producing up to 80 percent of food in Africa, women own only one percent of the land and receive only 7 percent of extension services and one percent of all agricultural credit.

<http://www.globalpost.com/print/5546214>

A Girls Summit to Parallel the G-20 Summit, *Toronto Star, May 4*

Girls from the G-20 nations — whose members include Argentina, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., Germany, China, France and Canada — are being asked to represent their country at a Toronto summit that will take place before the June gathering of global leaders. They'll be expected to talk about problems that plague girls in their homeland and have ideas on how to solve them.

<http://www.thestar.com/print/article/804523>

Tall Girls, More Cattle, *Los Angeles Times, May 4*

A Sudanese tribal chief explains one of the realities of his village, where daughters are still traded for longhorns.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-tall-short-20100505.0.349742.print.story>

Maternal Health: A New Study Challenges Benefits of Vitamin A for Women and Babies, *New York Times, May 3*

Giving women vitamin A capsules did not save their lives or the lives of their new babies, according to a surprising new study from Ghana reported this week by the medical journal *Lancet*. The results contradicted an earlier study in Nepal that showed a huge drop in deaths among child-bearing women taking vitamin A, and disappointed experts who hoped pills could be a cheap, easy lifesaver. Scientists did establish in the 1980s that giving vitamin A to malnourished children prevented stunting and deaths from measles and diarrhea.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/health/04glob.html?pagewanted=print>

See Also: Effect of Vitamin A Supplementation in Women of Reproductive Age on Maternal Survival in Ghana (ObaapaVitA), *Lancet, May 4*

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60311-X/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60311-X/fulltext)

Mothers Have Delivered for Us – Now Let's Deliver for Them, *Op-Ed, Dr. Mark Dybul, Former U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Co-director, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Huffington Post, May 2*

Women and mothers are the entry point for well-educated, productive, happy, healthy families, communities and nations. In other words -- they are the entry point to deliver on the MDGs. They are the key to our future. We can celebrate the gains, but we cannot rest until those gains are assured and we have ensured the health of every woman, mother, child, family and person. That vision is not owned by a political party -- it is a fundamental expression of our humanity. We can disagree about methods to get there, but it is a moral imperative that we find common ground and make the vision a reality.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amb-mark-dybul/mothers-day-mothers-have_b_557219.html?view=print

Food Security Comes to Capitol Hill, Part Two: Women's Edition, *New Security Beat, April*

The focus on food security on Capitol Hill continued with the House Hunger Caucus panel, "Feeding a Community, Country and Continent: The Role of Women in Food Security." According to panel organizers Women Thrive Worldwide, "over half the food in developing countries--and up to 80 percent in sub-Saharan Africa--is grown by women farmers, who also account for seven in ten of the world's hungry."

<http://ewsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/2010/04/womens-edition-food-security-comes-to.html>

Africa Seeks Quick Separate Trade Deal: WTO's Lamy, Reuters, May 6

African states have floated the idea of a separate trade deal package to address their concerns while big countries wrangle over full global agreement, the head of the World Trade Organisation said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E6450V920100506?sp=true>

China Corn Buying Unlikely to Affect Prices, Rabobank Says, Bloomberg, May 6

China's purchases of U.S. corn this year won't be significant enough to have a major impact on global prices, even after its unexpected purchase last month, Rabobank NV said in a monthly report.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=afaz0CMZG86o>

Boost in Intra-African Trade to Ride Out Economic Storm, Agence France-Presse, May 5

Many African countries' economies hinge on subsistence agriculture, farm produce and mineral exports to the West, while trade within the continent is underdeveloped. Africa is the continent least prepared for economic crisis, already riven by long-standing conflicts and civil wars as well as by widespread disease and hunger.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h5dkqaG1kCazg_l7dX8Z8RGCGdCA

India Must Curb Food Prices to Slow Inflation, Sakakibara Says, Bloomberg, May 4

India needs to control food inflation that remains a "major problem" even as the central bank raises interest rates, said Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's former top currency official.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=axTal3bEX1jo>

Agriculture Negotiators Prepare to Resume After Stocktaking, World Trade Organization, May 3

Chairperson David Walker told negotiators on 3 May 2010 that he would adapt his plans for the farm talks later this month, to take into account their suggestions. The 3 May meeting was the first time agriculture negotiators had met since the end-of-March "stocktaking" sessions in the Doha Round, and was intended as an opportunity to discuss how the farm talks should proceed.

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/agng_03may10_e.htm

AGRIBUSINESS

Cadbury Helps Kraft to 26% Rise in Revenues, Financial Times, May 6

Kraft Foods reported net revenues of \$11.3bn for the first quarter 2010, a 26 per cent gain over the comparable period in 2009, much of it fuelled by the US food company's acquisition of Cadbury, completed in February, and aided by favourable currency exchange rates.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a153ff94-595f-11df-99ba-00144feab49a.html>

CME to Launch Cheese Futures, Financial Times, May 5

Big food producers reliant on cheddar, mozzarella and gouda will be better able to manage the costs of future supplies after the CME Group, the world's largest futures exchange, said that it would launch cheese futures next month. The new contract reflects an apparent return of cheese-love in the US as well as a growing appetite for cheese in emerging markets such as Asia and Latin America, where demand has helped boost US food processors.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c286f1f2-58a7-11df-a0c9-00144feab49a.html>

ADM Calls for Incremental Increase to US Ethanol-Blend Rate, Dow Jones Newswires, May 4

While the ethanol industry continues to lobby the federal government to increase the portion of ethanol allowed in gasoline motor fuel to 15% from 10%, Archer Daniels Midland Co.'s (ADM) chief executive said a smaller increase would be easier to implement in the short term.

http://news.morningstar.com/newsnet/printNews.aspx?article=/DJ/201005041232DOWJONESDJONLINE000423_univ.xml

Increasing 'Crop per Drop' Critical, Says Monsanto's Fraley, Press Release, Monsanto Company, May 4

Speaking before the University of Nebraska's Water for Food Summit, Monsanto Company Chief Technology Officer Dr. Robb Fraley echoed his company's commitment to help farmers double crop yields by 2030 while

conserving natural resources, all while helping to improve the lives of farmers around the world. "As the world meets the challenge of feeding itself while the population is growing, the efficient use of water will be a significant limiting factor," said Fraley. "The widespread adoption of improved agronomic practices, advances in breeding and improvements and adoption of biotechnology will help farmers squeeze more from every ounce of water to meet the demands of a hungry, growing world."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/increasing-crop-per-drop-critical-says-monsantos-fraley-92774424.html>

DuPont Leader: Innovation Key to Addressing Climate Change, *Press Release, DuPont, May 3*

Innovative technologies that help growers adapt to changing environmental conditions will be key to increasing agricultural productivity, conserving natural resources and addressing the potential impacts of climate change, a DuPont leader told attendees at the annual BIO International conference. "Understanding current and potential new challenges to a crop within specific geographies is key to a successful plant breeding program," said Paul E. Schickler, president – Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business. "That system of working closely with farmers to understand their conditions and testing new varieties in local environments will help ensure we have seed to address the impact of climate change."

http://vocuspr.vocus.com/VocusPR30/Newsroom/Query.aspx?SiteName=DupontNew&Entity=PRAsset&SFPRAsset_PRAssetID_EQ=113652&XSL=PressRelease&Cache=False

Farmers Cope with Roundup-Resistant Weeds, *New York Times, May 3*

Just as the heavy use of antibiotics contributed to the rise of drug-resistant supergerms, American farmers' near-ubiquitous use of the weedkiller Roundup has led to the rapid growth of tenacious new superweeds.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/business/energy-environment/04weed.html?th=&emc=th&pagewanted=print>

Pacific Fisheries Seek Closer Links to Consumers, *Reuters, May 1*

Tuna fishers in the Pacific Ocean should develop closer links to consumers in Europe and the United States to bolster their fragile economies and protect threatened fish stocks, a leading trader said on Saturday.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE64010Y20100501>

For Corn Syrup, the Sweet Talk Gets Harder, *New York Times, April 30*

Hunt's ketchup is among the latest in a string of major-brand products that have replaced the vilified sweetener. Gatorade, several Kraft salad dressings, Wheat Thins, Ocean Spray cranberry juice, Pepsi Throwback, Mountain Dew Throwback and the baked goods at Starbucks, to name a few, are all now made with regular sugar. As a result, sales of the ingredient have fallen in the United States. Charlie Mills, an analyst at Credit Suisse, says that the combined United States sales of high-fructose corn syrup for Archer Daniels Midland, Tate & Lyle and Corn Products International were down 9 percent in 2009, compared with 2007. A further decline is expected this year, he says.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/02/business/02syrup.html?pagewanted=print>

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