

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 9th – 16th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Africa missed out on the manufacturing revolution that lifted East Asia’s economies out of poverty and into prosperity. But Africa no longer needs to be left behind. What would it take? As a first step, the 80 percent of Africans earning \$2 a day or less need to earn enough income so they will be able to buy basic consumer goods. Agriculture is the main source of jobs and an early opportunity to boost productivity and income. To do so, investment is needed all across the agricultural value chain: property rights; seeds; irrigation; fertilizer; finance; basic technologies; storage and getting product to market. Since about two-thirds of African farmers are women, we need to help them get legal and property rights, and access to services.”*—Robert Zoellick, President, World Bank Group, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, April 14, 2010

For more information:

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

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

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Building: 419 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Witnesses

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

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

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

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

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/20100422/>

How to End Hunger, Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of UN World Food Program, *Washington Quarterly*, April 2010

Make no mistake: the battle against global hunger vulnerability is winnable. The risk paradigm that has long placed the burden of managing food uncertainty on the hungry poor can be transformed to build lasting resilience. Combined with strong national policy frameworks and essential farm trade and subsidy reforms through a successful Doha round of global trade negotiations, these initiatives can drive investments in food and agriculture. This transformation and these investments will be a victory for all nations, especially for small and medium enterprises and for women farmers across the world, both of which must serve as pillars of sustainable access to food.

http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_Sheeran.pdf

The End of the Third World? Modernizing Multilateralism for a Multipolar World, Speech by Robert Zoellick, President, The World Bank Group, April 14

“Africa missed out on the manufacturing revolution that lifted East Asia’s economies out of poverty and into prosperity. But Africa no longer needs to be left behind. What would it take? As a first step, the 80 percent of Africans earning \$2 a day or less need to earn enough income so they will be able to buy basic consumer goods. Agriculture is the main source of jobs and an early opportunity to boost productivity and income. To do so, investment is needed all across the agricultural value chain: property rights; seeds; irrigation; fertilizer; finance; basic technologies; storage and getting product to market. Since about two-thirds of African farmers are women, we need to help them get legal and property rights, and access to services.”

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,print:Y~isCURL:Y~contentMDK:22541126~pagePK:34370~piPK:42770~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

See Also: ‘Third World’ Concepts No Longer Relevant: Zoellick, *Reuters*, April 14

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE63D0QF20100414>

Development Aid Rose in 2009 and Most Donors Will Meet 2010 Aid Targets, *Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development*, April 14

New OECD figures show continuing growth in development aid in 2009, despite the financial crisis. Total net official development assistance (ODA) from the donors in the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) rose 0.7% in real terms, but the rise was 6.8% once debt relief, a volatile item, is excluded.

http://www.oecd.org/document/11/0,3343,en_2649_34487_44981579_1_1_1_1,00.html

See Also: DAC Member’s Commitments and Performance: Summary Tables of OECD Secretariat Projections, *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*, April 2010

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/17/12/44981982.pdf>

See Also: DAC member’s net ODA 1990 - 2009 and DAC Secretariat Simulations of net ODA to 2010, *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*, April 2010

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/17/57/44982834.pdf>

See Also: OECD Says Development Aid Keeps Rising Despite Crisis, *Wall Street Journal*, April 14

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304798204575183443302701072.html>

What Aid Can’t Buy in Africa, Tony Blair, *TIME Magazine*, April 19

I am confident I will see a prosperous and exciting Africa in my lifetime. By supporting the new generation of pro-reform, pro-business leaders and harnessing the investment potential of the private sector, Africa will go from aid to trade, from ambition to action, and by doing so will bring millions of people out of poverty in the process.

<http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1978716,00.html>

All Together Now, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, *Global Agriculture & Food Policy*, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, *Global Food for Thought Blog*, April 16

It's all the same really, the clamor over hunger, climate change and environmental preservation. The common goal: improve food production and nutritional quality to feed the planet's ever-expanding and more prosperous population while adapting to climate change and protecting delicate eco-systems. Yet the attention of policymakers is often divided as if these are unique problems with separate solutions.

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

Sub-Saharan Africans Want Government Focus on Agriculture, Jobs, Gallup, April 15

As the United Nations prepares for its September summit on the Millennium Development Goals, Gallup surveys in sub-Saharan Africa find residents are most likely to spontaneously mention agriculture (20%) and jobs (19%) as the most important issues their governments should address in the next 12 months. A median of 14% across 18 countries surveyed name poverty and 10% mention the economy in general.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/127355/Sub-Saharan-Africans-Gov-Focus-Agriculture-Jobs.aspx?version=print>

With Health Reform Now Law, U.S. Should Address Global Health, Climate Change, and Food Security,

Thomas Lovejoy, Board Member of Population Action International, Jim Harkness, President of Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Minneapolis Post, April 13

Farmers and poor countries are confronting increasing droughts, floods and erratic growing seasons. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that yields in many African countries could drop by 50 percent by 2020, potentially further exacerbating existing social inequities for women and poor communities. Unlike the divisiveness of health-care reform, Americans have always stood behind efforts to improve food security, climate, and global health.

<http://www.minnpost.com/community-voices/2010/04/13/17316/with-health-reform-now-law-us-should-address-global-health-climate-change-and-food-security>

World Agriculture: Problems and Potential, World Agriculture, Spring 2010

Global embassies converged in London last week for the launch of the independent journal *World Agriculture*, a peer-reviewed, completely independent, non-profit, journal, which will explore scientific, economic and social evidence concerning agriculture and its interaction with forestry, climate change, population growth, migration, disease and ecology.

http://issuu.com/wharncliffe/docs/world_agriculture

World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, Economic Research Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, April 9

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/waob/wasde/2010s/2010/wasde-04-09-2010.pdf>

See Also: U.S. Corn-Surplus Estimate Increased on Reduced Feed Demand, BusinessWeek, April 9

The U.S. corn surplus before the next harvest will be 5.6 percent larger than estimated a month ago as livestock-feed demand slows because of smaller herds, the government said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-09/u-s-corn-surplus-estimate-increased-on-reduced-feed-demand.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Combating Climate Change in Africa, Hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, April 15

http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/hearing_notice.asp?id=1170

Franklin Moore, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, United States Agency for International Development

"Because of its wide-reaching impact on agriculture and landscapes, climate change is inextricably linked to food security. Studies carried out by USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) have found that, since the early 1980s, total rainfall in east Africa has seen a sequence like the last five consecutive poor years. Since 1980, total rainfall during east and southern Africa's long rainy seasons has declined an estimated 15 percent. Extreme heat and flooding sparked by climate change will also reduce crop productivity or increase the risk of crop failure."

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/moo041510.pdf>

Jonathan Pershing, Deputy Special Envoy, Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change, United States Department of State

“Approximately 70% of families in Africa are dependent on agriculture in one way or another. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects with high confidence that agricultural production and food security in many African countries and regions are likely to be severely compromised by climate change and climate variability. Significant reductions in yield are expected to be seen by 2020 in some countries – and without major new programs, net crop revenues could fall by as much as 90% by 2100, with small scale farmers being the most affected.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/per041510.pdf>

Leon M. Rajaobelina, Chairman of the Board, Madagascar Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity

“Adaptation responses that improve the ability of the rural poor to cope with events for which they cannot plan are clearly going to be needed to create social and economic resilience to climate change. For Madagascar, this will require a strong focus on improving household level food security by facilitating the adoption of improved, appropriate agricultural techniques and sometimes even new crops or crop varieties that are better suited to new or more variable climatic conditions. In the dry south of Madagascar, USAID programs are already working to introduce drought resistant crops.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/raj041510.pdf>

Fred Boltz, Senior Vice-President, Global Strategies, Conservation International

“Crises in food and water scarcity, health and conflict will be further exacerbated by climate change, leading to substantial humanitarian impacts that will have profound implications for regional and global security. The already-stressed natural resource sector across Africa will be further complicated by climate change, which threatens to exacerbate resource scarcity, endanger food security, increase extreme natural events such as droughts, and heighten the vulnerability of local populations, particularly the rural poor.”

<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/bol041510.pdf>

Hearing- Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, April 14

http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees/sub_sfo.shtml

Opening statement by Chairwoman Lowey

“As the MCC enters its sixth year of operation, we must examine accomplishments, shortfalls of the concluding country compacts, and lessons learned for future compacts. Although I share your belief that the MCC model holds tremendous potential to bring transformative change, reduce poverty and support sustainable long-term economic development, this committee needs to hear today about the results achieved with the over \$7 billion that has already been committed to the 20 compacts and 21 threshold programs.”

http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Lowey_Opening_Statement.4.14.10.pdf

Testimony by Daniel W. Yohannes, Chief Executive Officer, MCC

“Five-year investment programs like ours produce outputs similar to those of other institutions. While we can already report on the number of farmers trained, hectares under production, agricultural loans made, irrigation systems under contract, roads built, and land titles issued, this does not go far enough to show how MCC is improving the lives of the poor.”

http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness_testimony/SFOPS/Daniel_Yohannes.4.14.10.pdf

Readout of the President’s Meeting with Indian Prime Minister Singh, White House, April 11

President Obama and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met on the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C. The two leaders vowed to continue to strengthen the robust relationship between the people of their countries and looked forward to the upcoming U.S./India Strategic Dialogue as the next step in that process. They agreed on the need for India and the United States to work together on global development issues, including economic infrastructure, food security, and poverty reduction.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/readout-presidents-meeting-with-indian-prime-minister-singh>

Remarks at Signing Memorandum of Understanding Establishing the U.S.-South Africa Dialogue, U.S. Department of State, April 14

SECRETARY CLINTON: "This memorandum of understanding represents the breadth of our partnership and the strength of our friendship. It establishes the framework, guidelines, and priorities for a strategic dialogue that will focus on the full range of our common concerns, including but not limited to health, education, food security, trade and investment, nonproliferation, and disarmament. This is the culmination of a very productive year."

FOREIGN MINISTER NKOANA-MASHABAN: "Because South Africa, Africa has the potential to provide food security to our people in the continent, but also to the world. We really cannot continue to become the net importer of food products when our people are best in doing exactly the same."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/04/140237.htm>

See Also: U.S., South Africa Sign Strategic Dialogue Deal, Agence France-Presse, April 14

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hoBE9VID8zXVhtXCo9tom4W6xEuw>

Remarks to the Press at Conclusion of Rehearsal of Concept Drill, U.S. State Department, April 11

Shah: "We've had expansion of programs in agriculture, and most notably helping farmers get access to seed and fertilizer, improving the canal and the quality of the irrigation. All of that -- helping to improve the road -- all of that's been done with the community, in consultation with the local government, and it's making a real difference. I had a chance to actually visit the farmers and talk to them and they're saying they appreciate these programs. The programs are done in coordination with the government. In fact, the government agriculture extension officer was there talking to and helping and supporting farmers."

http://www.state.gov/s/special_rep_afghanistan_pakistan/2010/140010.htm

See Also: Shah Reaffirms USAID's Development Commitment to Afghanistan and Pakistan, USAID, April 16

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

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Passes Legislation to Create USAID Office of Water, Kaiser Family Foundation, April 15

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved legislation [by voice vote] Tuesday launching a government effort to provide 100 million people in the world's poorest countries with first-time access to safe drinking water and modern sanitation. The bill would establish an Office of Water under USAID, which would work on country-specific water projects. It would also provide a special coordinator for international water within the State Department to coordinate the diplomatic policy of the United States on global fresh-water issues.

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/April/15/GH-041510-Water-Office.aspx>

Obama Administration Officials Reflect on Details, Implementation of Global Health Initiative, Kaiser Family Foundation, April 14

Three senior Obama administration officials with global health-related portfolios spoke about the details and implementation of President Barack Obama's Global Health Initiative during a forum Wednesday at the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, D.C.

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/April/14/GH-041410-GHI.aspx>

See Also: The U.S. Global Health Initiative: Issues and Perspectives, Webcast, Kaiser Family Foundation, April 14

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Multimedia/2010/April/14/gh041410video.aspx?CFID=20841462&CFTOKEN=25053052&jsessionid=60309877d229f19b213e12b544b55162f204>

US Faces Hurdles in Aid Spending in NW Pakistan, Associated Press, April 14

The U.S. is spending far less than it wants on developing Pakistan's Taliban-riddled tribal areas, but expects to ramp up its projects there and throughout the country while relying more on Pakistani institutions to handle billions more in aid dollars pledged for the coming years, officials said. As the U.S. prepares to pump in \$7.5 billion over the next five years in aid programs targeting the whole country, it will prioritize signature projects in areas such as water, agriculture and energy, said Rajiv Shah, the new U.S. AID administrator. Those intertwined sectors have suffered in recent years in this South Asian country.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hkiMxbHNNH0BqgpWA2ZG6VD6wVTmAD9F2UCFO2>

See Also: U.S. to Channel More Aid via Pakistan Government, *Reuters*, April 14

<http://in.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=INIndia-47691920100414>

See Also: Pakistani Prime Minister: U.S. Aid Money Goes through Me, *Cable (blog)*, *Foreign Policy*, April 12

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/04/12/pakistani_prime_minister_us_aid_money_goes_through_me

U.S. Must Lead on Climate Change, *Op-Ed*, *Senator John Kerry*, *Roll Call*, April 12

It has been three months since President Barack Obama and the United States took an important step toward leading the world in developing the Copenhagen Accord, a breakthrough new global agreement among almost 120 nations, including China and the developing world, to reduce emissions, increase transparency and support international climate change investments.

http://www.rollcall.com/features/Energy-Environment_2010/energy_environment/44979-1.html

Democrats File Cloture on Lael Brainard, *Washington Independent*, April 15

The Senate filed cloture on the nomination of Lael Brainard to become undersecretary for international affairs, one of the highest ranking positions in the Treasury Department.

<http://washingtonindependent.com/82511/democrats-file-cloture-on-lael-brainard>

Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States (FATUS): Monthly Summary, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*, April 15

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FATUS/MonthlySummary.htm>

See Also: World Agricultural Production, *USDA*, April 2010

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/wap/circular/2010/10-04/productionfull04-10.pdf>

See Also: Cotton: World Markets and Trade, *USDA*, April 2010

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/cotton/circular/2010/April/cottonfull04-10.pdf>

The USDA Says It May Relax Sugar Quotas, *Wall Street Journal*, April 14

The U.S. Department of Agriculture indicated it will allow a small increase in U.S. sugar imports this year, a decision that is likely to do little to quell complaints from confectioners and processors about tight supplies.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304604204575182443053015112.html>

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

Agricultural Innovation for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in the 21st Century: Issues for Africa and the World, *Eco Agriculture Partners*, April 2010

Worldwatch Institute's *State of the World 2011* (SOW11) report, "Innovations that Nourish the Planet," seeks to highlight innovations that can address these challenges: innovations that will reduce hunger, improve environmental and agricultural sustainability, improve the lives of women and girls, and be both economically feasible and scalable for farmers and the donor/investment community. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the issues, numbers, disputes, and approaches so that contributors to SOW11 can share a common framework and consider how the innovations they describe fit into the larger international discourse.

http://www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/SOW11%20Issues%20Paper_Full%20Version_Final.pdf

Can Aid for Food Security Show the Way for Broader Aid Reform? *Oxfam America*, April 2010

President Obama has launched the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative (GHFSI) as a bold vision that could make US foreign aid a better tool for improving food security abroad. The GHFSI provides a tangible

sector-level illustration of key principles that are driving the debate on broader aid reform. Can the GHFSI show the way for broader aid reform by putting these principles in practice? Or does a piecemeal approach to aid reform delay or even undermine progress?

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/2010-mar-aidnow-ag.pdf>

Are Borders Barriers? The Impact of International and Internal Ethnic Borders on Agricultural Markets in West Africa, *Center for Global Development, April 2010*

This paper addresses two important economic issues for Africa: the contribution of national borders and ethnicity to market segmentation and integration between and within countries. The authors find evidence of an international border effect between Niger and Nigeria for both a grain and a cash crop. The international border effect is lower, however, if the cross-border markets share a common ethnicity. Ethnicity is also linked to higher price dispersion within Niger; there is a significant intranational border effect between markets in different ethnic regions of the country. The authors provide suggestive evidence that the primary mechanism behind the internal border effect is related to the role of ethnicity in facilitating access to credit in agricultural markets. These results are robust to the use of regression discontinuity techniques.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424038_file_Aker_et_al_Borders_FINAL.pdf

Potential Impact of Investments in Drought Tolerant Maize in Africa, *International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, April 2010*

The study evaluates the potential impacts of the Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) project run by CIMMYT and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in 13 countries of eastern, southern and West Africa: Angola, Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and Ghana. It describes cumulative economic and poverty-reduction benefits to farmers and consumers in those countries over 2007-16, from higher yields and from diminished season-to-season yield fluctuations, through the adoption by farmers of improved, drought tolerant maize varieties.

<http://libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/93558.pdf>

See Also: Study Says Drought Tolerant Maize Will Greatly Profit African Farmers, *International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, April 2010*

Maize is life to more than 300 million of Africa's most vulnerable inhabitants, and the most important food staple on the continent. Recurrent droughts in the region ruin harvests, lives, and livelihoods. A new study shows that the development, deployment, and cultivation of drought tolerant maize varieties can significantly profit sub-Saharan Africa's maize farmers and consumers, reducing their vulnerability.

<http://www.cimmyt.org/english/wps/news/2010/apr/study-dtma.htm>

Risk and Risk Transfer in Agriculture, *Oxfam, April 2010*

The current food crisis has manifested itself in high prices of most major food crops, posing the risk of serious hardship for consumers, and especially the most vulnerable poor. The crisis has prompted a search for measures that might boost the supply of food crops. But why would such interventions to boost production be necessary? Shouldn't the dramatic increase in prices provide a sufficient market incentive for producers to right the balance?

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/risk-and-risk-transfer-in-agriculture.pdf>

Asian Development Outlook 2010: Macroeconomic Management Beyond the Crisis, *Asian Development Bank, 2010*

The annual Asian Development Outlook provides a comprehensive analysis of economic performance for the past year and offers forecasts for the next 2 years for the 45 Asian economies that make up developing Asia. This edition sees developing Asia emerging from the recent crisis and posting a strong recovery in the next 2 years, as a moderate global recovery supports a modest revival in global trade. Investment is expected to remain strong and private consumption is anticipated to improve. Inflation will pick up, but at manageable levels. Beyond the crisis, developing Asia faces the challenge of adjusting its monetary, exchange rate, and fiscal policies to foster macroeconomic stability and sustained growth within the broader direction of a return to prudence and discipline.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2010/ado2010.pdf>

Adapting for Future Resource Challenges: Food, Water, and Energy, *Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 2010*

The linkages between adaptation and mitigation efforts are extensive, and smart policy must consider both when developing a risk management approach to dealing with climate change. Nowhere are these linkages more important than in the already stressed natural resource and infrastructure systems that govern food, water, and energy production. Climate change will undoubtedly have an impact on these systems in three fundamental ways: direct effects of a changing environment, human responses and measures to adapt these systems in the face of emerging stress factors, and the societal efforts to reduce the emissions profile of these activities. In addition, it is important to consider the geopolitical implications of these societal responses. The complex nature of these linkages with climate change and among the three sectors require a careful review and consideration of how companies, policymakers, and society can best prepare to respond to these looming challenges.

http://csis.org/files/publication/100412_Posner_FutureResourceChallenges.pdf

Agriculture Public Spending and Growth: The Example of Indonesia, *World Bank, April 2010*

This note analyzes the trends and evolution of public spending in the agriculture sector in Indonesia, as well as its impact on the growth of agriculture during the period 1976–2006. Public spending on agriculture and irrigation had a positive impact on agriculture growth during that period, whereas public spending on fertilizer subsidies had the opposite effect. As Indonesia continues its efforts to revitalize the agriculture sector, public spending should be directed at improving the provision of public services rather than at subsidizing private inputs.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP9.pdf>

The Impact of Genetically Engineered Crops on Farm Sustainability in the United States, *Committee on the Impact of Biotechnology on Farm-Level Economics and Sustainability, National Research Council, April 2010*

The Impact of Genetically Engineered Crops on Farm Sustainability in the United States is the first comprehensive assessment of the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the GE-crop revolution on U.S. farms. It addresses how GE crops have affected U.S. farmers, both adopters and nonadopters of the technology, their incomes, agronomic practices, production decisions, environmental resources, and personal well-being. The book offers several new findings and four recommendations that could be useful to farmers, industry, science organizations, policy makers, and others in government agencies.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12804

See Also: Modified Crops Touted, *Wall Street Journal, April 14*

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12804

See Also: Study Says Overuse Threatens Gains from Modified Crops, *New York Times, April 13*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/14/business/energy-environment/14crop.html?pagewanted=print>

See Also: Biotech Seeds Help Farmers, Study Says, *Des Moines Register, April 13*

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/fdcp/?1271347358589>

The U.S. Global Health Initiative: Key Issues, *Kaiser Family Foundation, April 2010*

This policy brief analyzes several key issues and questions on the Obama administration's new Global Health Initiative (GHI), a six-year, \$63 billion proposed effort building on existing disease-specific initiatives to combat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, while increasing attention to other areas, including maternal and child health, family planning and reproductive health, nutrition, neglected tropical diseases, and the strengthening of underlying health systems.

<http://www.kff.org/globalhealth/upload/8063.pdf>

Financing the Response to Climate Change, *International Monetary Fund, March 25*

This note outlines a scheme for mobilizing financing to help developing countries confront the challenges posed by climate change. The idea is to create a "Green Fund" with the capacity to raise resources on a scale commensurate with the Copenhagen Accord (\$100 billion a year by 2020). By providing a unified resource mobilization framework, with up-front agreement on burdensharing and the capacity to meet the financing needs identified at Copenhagen, the Green Fund could facilitate progress toward a binding global agreement

on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and allow developing countries to begin scaling up their climate change responses without delay.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/spn/2010/spn1006.pdf>

See Also: Special Drawing Rights to Jump-Start a Green Fund: Still a Good Idea, *Center for Global Development*, March 30

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2010/03/sdrs-to-jumpstart-a-green-fund-still-a-good-idea.php>

Sanitation as a Key to Global Health: Voices from the Field, *United Nations University*, April 2010

In October 2008 the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health invited international representatives from NGOs, government, academia and the UN to a meeting to discuss barriers and to identify breakthroughs to providing sanitation for all. This document has been compiled to summarize our discussions, place them within the current global context, illustrate them with stories from the field and provide recommendations for addressing the global sanitation crisis. Progress is needed at all scales in order to achieve sustainable improvements in sanitation: service delivery, funding and institutional development.

http://www.inweh.unu.edu/documents/2010_Sanitation_PolicyBrief.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Rescheduled

Date: May 20th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.; venue TBD

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

Cochairs

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

Catherine Bertini – former executive director, World Food Program

Keynotes

Rajiv Shah, administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Senior Representative, U.S. Department of Treasury to discuss the World Bank's Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

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

Biodiversity: Challenges, Strategies, and Opportunities

Date: April 19, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The International Food Policy Research Institute invites you to celebrate this International Year of Biodiversity at a policy seminar that addresses the challenges, strategies, and opportunities to safeguard the variety of life on earth.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/biodiversity-challenges-strategies-and-opportunities>

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform Meeting

Date: April 21-23, 2010

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

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

18th Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference

Date: April 22nd – 23rd, 2010

Location: Arlington, Virginia

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

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

Innovative Finance for Aid Delivery: The Potential in Agriculture

Date: April 23, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

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

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

Date: April 24th – 25th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

<http://go.worldbank.org/D56FCO900>

CSIS Task Force on Global Food Security Report Rollout

Date: April 27th, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing Room, 419 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC

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

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

2010 U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference

Date: April 27th – April 29th, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

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

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

Water for Food: Growing More with Less

Date: May 2nd – 5th, 2010

Location: Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

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

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

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

Date: May 4th, 2010

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

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

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

World Economic Forum on Africa

Date: May 5th – 7th, 2010

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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

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

Sustainable Food Systems – Food for All Forever

Date: June 29th, 2010

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

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

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

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

Date: October 13th-15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th – November 12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

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

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

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

China Investment in Australian Farms Rises 10-Fold, Agents Say, Bloomberg, April 15

Chinese investment in Australian farms increased 10-fold in the past six months, real estate agents said, as Australia relaxed rules governing residential property purchasing and buyers see opportunities in agriculture.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aLr5dhP113ZU>

Burkina Faso's Economy to Grow 4.4%, Led by Farming, IMF Says, Bloomberg, April 15

Burkina Faso's economy will probably expand 4.4 percent this year, boosted by agriculture and mining, the International Monetary Fund said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aq09IeM67los>

Farmers on the Fringe of International Agriculture Policy? Inter Press Service, April 14

How's this for short-sighted: A billion people go hungry every day, food prices have climbed 30 to 40 percent, climate change is reducing agricultural production - and for the past two decades, the world has slashed investments in publicly-funded agriculture until it is a pittance in most countries.

<http://ipsnews.net/print.asp?idnews=51036>

Is a 'Green Revolution' for Africa Possible? Reuters, April 14

Sir Gordon Conway, an agricultural ecologist and professor of international development at Imperial College London, discusses how the first 'Green Revolution' in Asia and Latin America came about, and looks at Africa's unique set of challenges, and potential solutions, toward achieving its own agricultural revolution to boost food security and cope with the challenges of climate change.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/127125151934.htm>

Zimbabwe's Accidental Triumph, Op-Ed, Douglas Rogers, Author of "The Last Resort: A Memoir of Zimbabwe," New York Times, April 14

But in 2000, within weeks of losing a constitutional referendum to entrench his power, Mr. Mugabe began the catastrophic land invasions that resulted in the eviction of almost all the country's 4,500 white farmers and the ruin of what was once a model post-colonial African country. All but ignored was the other major target of the land grabs: black farm workers.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/15/opinion/15rogers.html?pagewanted=print>

Sudan's Growth Buoy a Leader Reviled Elsewhere, New York Times, April 14

Of course, Mr. Bashir remains a highly polarizing figure in some parts of Sudan, like Darfur in the west, and in the semiautonomous south, which fought a long war against him. But here in the agricultural heartland of central Sudan and in Khartoum, the capital, the vast majority of people interviewed said they would vote for him. World Bank executives say Sudan has some of the sharpest economic policy makers on the continent, who have invested wisely in infrastructure, education and the country's agriculture industry.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/15/world/africa/15sudan.html?pagewanted=print>

'PC' Disease Devastating African Palm Plantations, Seattle Times, April 13

Standing amid hundreds of African oil palms, their gray and desiccated fronds drooping to the ground, Edgar Barrera shakes his head and speaks of their death sentence. Barrera is referring to a mysterious, fast-spreading and deadly disease called "PC" that has devastated African palm plantations here in the Magdalena River valley area 200 miles north of Bogotá, the capital, and elsewhere in Colombia. More than 60 percent of Bucarelia's palm trees are dead or dying because of it, he said. The ravages of PC go beyond agriculture; the damage extends to Colombia's drug fighting and energy policies.

[http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/cgi-](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/cgi-bin/PrintStory.pl?document_id=2011597413&zsection_id=2003905675&slug=palmoil14&date=20100413)

[bin/PrintStory.pl?document_id=2011597413&zsection_id=2003905675&slug=palmoil14&date=20100413](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/cgi-bin/PrintStory.pl?document_id=2011597413&zsection_id=2003905675&slug=palmoil14&date=20100413)

In India, Wal-Mart Goes to the Farm, New York Times, April 12

Establishing good relations with farmers is a centerpiece of Wal-Mart's expansion strategy.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/13/business/global/13walmart.html?pagewanted=print>

India Develops Transgenic Chicken, Wall Street Journal, April 12

India has developed a transgenic chicken variety that is not only fleshier than normal breeds sold in poultry shops, but can also be used in the treatment of diseases.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304168004575177292924453612.html>

Escaping India's Pesticide Trap, *Guardian*, April 12

India's rejection of GM aubergines shows a shift in emphasis towards cultural exchange as a solution to agricultural problems.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/apr/12/india-pesticide-trap-gm-aubergines/print>

Syrian Farmers Find Drought Relief, *United Press International*, April 12

Syrian farmers ravaged by pervasive drought found some relief by installing drip-irrigation systems on their fields, the United Nations said. Drip-irrigation employs a series of perforated pipes that reduces the amount of water lost to overflow. Farmers through the microfinanced program used 30 percent less water in 2010 than in the previous year.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/04/12/Syrian-farmers-find-drought-relief/UPI-85821271080324/

African Farmers Growing Organic Foods for European Market, *Voice of America*, April 11

African farmers are making more money producing organically grown crops for European markets, where demand for healthier food is growing.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/African-Farmers-Growing-Organic-Foods-for-European-Market-90572984.html>

Warrantage Scheme Boosts Niger Farm Incomes, *UN Food and Agriculture Organization*, April 12

An ingenious financing scheme designed by FAO to allow African smallholder farmers to make more money is to be scaled up in Niger, where it was pioneered, and extended to Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/40281/icode/>

See Also: UN Agency Expands Credit Farming Scheme in West Africa, *UN News Centre*, April 12

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34330&Cr=&Cr1=>

Rare Genetic Variant in Maize Gives Grain More Pro-Vitamin A, *International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center*, April 2010

Naturally-occurring alleles of a gene in the biosynthesis pathway for beta-carotene—a substance in vegetables like carrots that is converted to vitamin A in human digestion—have been linked to increased beta-carotene in maize grain, according to a recent report in *Nature Genetics* online.

<http://www.cimmyt.org/english/wps/news/2010/apr/vitaminA.htm>

See Also: Rare Genetic Variation at *Zea Mays crtRB1* Increases Beta-Carotene in Maize Grain, *Nature Genetics*, March 21

<http://www.nature.com/ng/journal/v42/n4/full/ng.551.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Aid Isn't Perfect, But It Is Transforming Lives, *Op-Ed*, Barbara Stocking, Chief Executive of Oxfam, *Telegraph*, April 15

Finally, there is a political consensus that Britain must give 7p in every £10 of its national income to the world's poorest.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/7593345/Aid-isnt-perfect-but-it-is-transforming-lives.html>

Rebuilding Haiti, Dreaming Beyond the Rubble, *Economist*, April 15

Aid dependence means that the government lacks the means to pursue development policies. Take the Ministry of Agriculture. Its sources of funding are so many, dispersed, small, and fickle that Michel Chancy, the deputy minister, says he is unsure of its total budget. "The entire structure of foreign aid must be overhauled" if rebuilding is to help, rather than hinder, Haiti's development, Mr Chancy said.

http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15910909

Handling the Next North Korean Famine, *Kay Seok*, *Human Rights Watch*, *Wall Street Journal*, April 14

When Pyongyang needs food aid, donors can—and must—insist on meaningful monitoring.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304609504575179042564359122.html>

Aid Worker Diary – Zimbabweans Must be Allowed to Thrive, Not Just Survive, *Op-Ed, Karen Palmer, Oxfam Canada, Huffington Post, April 14*

Before arriving in Zimbabwe, our humanitarian program officer had provided me with a food report showing about 40 per cent of the country's crops had failed. The number hid the imbalance: some of Zimbabwe's provinces saw only a 10 or 20 per cent rate of failed crops. But in other places, in the western Matabeleland area, for example, that figure spikes to 80 or 90 per cent. Starving the unity government will ultimately starve the people. The people of Hobotwane, now locked in a downward spiral, have lost livestock and food aid. Let's not let them lose hope.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/louis-belanger/aid-worker-diary---zimbab_b_537688.html?view=print

Afghan Officials Want to Direct More Foreign Aid, *Associated Press, April 13*

When U.S. officials talked at the conference about setting up agricultural credit banks, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Asif Rahimi shot down the idea. Rahimi said the money would be better spent on something else besides the credit banks, which he said were too complicated and often failed, according to a U.S. official who was there.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gQaBZsd5eHM_DEwes7pWLF220-1QD9F216H00

How Corrupt is the World Food Programme? *The American, April 11*

The UN's World Food Program claims that allegations of a scandal in Somalia are overblown and isolated. But such problems may be far more widespread than reported, and more transparency is needed.

<http://www.american.com/archive/2010/april/how-corrupt-is-the-world-food-program>

Foreign Aid Industry Inherently Flawed, *Christian Hennemeyer, Vice President, Bridging the Divide, Global Post, April 9*

Most NGOs are locked in an endless race to win USAID grants, then try to adhere to impossible standards of compliance.

<http://www.globalpost.com/print/5538495>

What Does An Effective Multilateral Donor Look Like? *Overseas Development Institute, April 2010*

Recipients have their own views on who are the most effective multilateral donors, and feel that it is depth of commitment, responsiveness to country circumstances and support for recipient-driven policy that are critical. This Project Briefing summarises findings from ODI research on recipient stakeholder perceptions of multilateral donor effectiveness. It draws on evidence from three separate studies, finding that recipients and donors agree, in general, on what makes aid effective, but some crucial differences in perspective remain.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4800.pdf>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

U.N. Puts Price on China Emissions Effort, *Wall Street Journal, April 15*

In the face of rising energy needs from a wave of unprecedented urbanization, China will have to spend up to \$86 billion a year to reach ambitious greenhouse-gas reduction targets, a United Nations report says in one of the first estimates of how much China's global warming targets will cost.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304628704575185872266409444.html>

S. Africa Looks to Sea to Meet Growing Water Demand, *Reuters, April 15*

South Africa will increasingly use desalinated seawater to meet growing demand for drinking water in coastal towns facing the worst drought in 150 years, the country's water minister said. South Africa is a water-scarce country with an average rainfall of 450 millimetres -- compared to a world average of 860 mm -- and conditions are expected to worsen as a result of global climate warming.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE63E0FN20100415>

Academic Experts Clear Scientists in 'Climate-Gate,' *Washington Post, April 15*

In the face of rising energy needs from a wave of unprecedented urbanization, China will have to spend up to \$86 billion a year to reach ambitious greenhouse-gas reduction targets, a United Nations report says in one of the first estimates of how much China's global warming targets will cost.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/14/AR2010041404001.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzhead

See Also: A Place in the Sun, *Economist*, April 15

The scientists in "climategate" did not fudge the data, a report finds.

http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15905891

See Also: U.K. Panel Says East Anglia Scientists Didn't Act Improperly, *Wall Street Journal*, April 1

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304798204575183551431897436.html>

Global Warming Graph Attacked By Study, *Financial Times*, April 14

A key piece of evidence in climate change science was slammed as "exaggerated" by the UK's leading statistician, in a vindication of claims that global warming sceptics have been making for years. Professor David Hand, president of the Royal Statistical Society, said that a graph shaped like an ice hockey stick that has been used to represent the recent rise in global temperatures had been compiled using "inappropriate" methods.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/162b0c58-47f5-11df-b998-00144feab49a.html>

Climate Treaty Realities Push Leaders to Trim Priority Lists, *Washington Post*, April 13

As prospects for a binding global climate treaty this year have evaporated, leaders and environmental advocates have focused their efforts on reaching agreement on a few top priorities, including preserving tropical forests and helping developing countries cope with climate change.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/12/AR2010041203822_pf.html

New U.N. Battles Loom over Copenhagen Climate Accord, *Reuters*, April 12

Delegates from 175-nations agreed on two extra sessions of U.N. climate control talks this year at the end of a tortuous meeting in Bonn that presaged big battles ahead over the non-binding Copenhagen Accord.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE6372AT20100412>

See Also: The Climate Path from Copenhagen through Cancun, *Dot Earth (blog)*, *New York Times*, April 12

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/12/the-climate-path-from-copenhagen-through-cancun/>

See Also: Skirmishes Renewed at UN Climate Conference, *Washington Post*, April 11

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/11/AR2010041101491_pf.html

Children at Risk of Severe Malnutrition in Sahel, *Voice of America*, April 10

The United Nations Children's Fund warns nearly 860,000 children under age five in Africa's Sahel region are at risk of severe malnutrition. UNICEF says five countries in the Sahel are facing a food crisis because of bad harvests brought on by an ongoing drought.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Children-at-Risk-of-Severe-Malnutrition-in-Sahel-90496294.html>

Building Back a Better Haiti: The Need for Cooking Fuel, *Erin Patrick*, *Senior Program Officer for the Women's Refugee Commission's Fuel and Firewood Initiative*, *Huffington Post*, April 9

Even before the earthquake, the demand for cooking fuel had put Haiti in a precarious environmental situation. More than 70 percent of the population was reliant on charcoal and firewood to cook its food; with only two percent of Haiti's forest cover remaining, this was clearly an unsustainable practice. Yet, despite increasingly urgent reports from the World Bank, the UN Development Program and others, no large-scale, sustained initiatives had been undertaken to assist the women of Haiti to switch to a cleaner, healthier, cheaper and more sustainable fuel.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/erin-patrick/the-people-of-haiti-need_b_531739.html

WOMEN

Power, Voice and Rights, A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific, *United Nations Development Programme, April 2010*

While Asia and the Pacific can take pride in the region's vibrant economic transformation in recent decades, this has not translated into progress on gender equality. Discrimination and neglect are threatening women's very survival in the Asia-Pacific region, where women suffer from some of the world's lowest rates of political representation, employment and property ownership. Their lack of participation is also depressing economic growth.

http://www2.undprcc.lk/ext/pvr/pdf/Main_Report.pdf

See Also: Report Overview

<http://www2.undprcc.lk/ext/pvr/pdf/Overview.pdf>

Sharpening the Focus on Gender in Agriculture, *UN Food and Agriculture Organization, April 15*

A new FAO toolkit aims to sharpen the focus of anti-hunger and development efforts by helping countries gather more accurate information on differences between men and women in agriculture.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/41208/icode/>

WHO Launches Commission on Women's Health in the African Region, *World Health Organization, April 14*

President Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia has urged African governments to step up efforts in partnership with other multilateral and bilateral institutions to address the issue of women's health, gender and human rights in order to achieve a tangible impact in Africa.

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/2271-who-launches-commission-on-womens-health-in-the-african-region.html>

Banks Making Big Profits from Tiny Loans, *New York Times, April 13*

In recent years, the idea of giving small loans to poor people became the darling of the development world, hailed as the long elusive formula to propel even the most destitute into better lives. But the phenomenon has grown so popular that some of its biggest proponents are now wringing their hands over the direction it has taken. Drawn by the prospect of hefty profits from even the smallest of loans, a raft of banks and financial institutions now dominate the field, with some charging interest rates of 100 percent or more. The overriding question facing the industry, analysts say, remains how much money investors should make from lending to poor people, mostly women, often at interest rates that are hidden.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/14/world/14microfinance.html?pagewanted=print>

Maternal Mortality for all 181 Countries, 1980-2008: A Systematic Analysis of Progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5, *Lancet, April 12*

Maternal mortality remains a major challenge to health systems worldwide. Reliable information about the rates and trends in maternal mortality is essential for resource mobilisation, and for planning and assessment of progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5), the target for which is a 75% reduction in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) from 1990 to 2015. The authors assessed levels and trends in maternal mortality for 181 countries.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60518-1/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60518-1/fulltext)

See Also: Around world, Fewer Women Die in Childbirth, *Washington Post, April 14*

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/14/AR2010041404974_pf.html

See Also: Maternal Deaths Decline Sharply Across the Globe, *New York Times, April 13*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/14/health/14births.html?pagewanted=print>

Double Victims: The Earthquake through Haitian Women's Eyes, *Mark Schuller, Huffington Post, April 12*

On top of this gender wage gap is the fact that, like almost everywhere in the world, women are given primary roles in raising families, a "second shift." Because of this, women are not as mobile as men, and because of this, donors have made policy decisions to favor women, for example in microcredit and food aid. Said a USAID employee, "you give money to a man and he's as likely to spend it on beer or a lover as on his family."

But if you give to a woman, you're guaranteed that she will prioritize feeding herself and her children." Since the earthquake, donors and large NGOs have adopted the World Food Program's guidelines to give food aid exclusively to women, in a form of cards distributed beforehand.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-schuller/double-victims-the-earthq_b_534974.html?view=print

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Brazil 'Ready' to Profit on China, Argentina Soy Spat, *Bloomberg*, April 15

Brazil, the world's second-largest soybean oil exporter, said it's "ready" to boost sales to China after the Asian nation blocked shipments of the commodity from Argentina, the biggest global supplier.

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a6_Rcom1lkFc

See Also: Argentina Acts to Revive China's Soybean-Oil Trade, *Wall Street Journal*, April 13

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304506904575179751929746206.html>

BRICs Divided on Global Agenda, Look to Mutual Trade, *Reuters*, April 14

In the absence of a far-reaching external agenda, the BRICs will focus on strengthening trade and investment ties with delegations of business leaders, bankers, cooperatives, and state development banks exploring business opportunities. As a major food exporter, Brazil wants to cut trade barriers on agriculture, something that India has been reluctant to do. Russia, a major oil producer, is unlikely to embrace any ambitious emissions reductions.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE63D40320100414>

See Also: China and Brazil to Boost Co-operation, *Financial Times*, April 16

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/70515bc4-48ef-11df-8af4-00144feab49a.html>

South Africa Secures Corn Deals to Prevent Collapse, *Business Week*, April 13

South Africa, preparing to reap the biggest corn harvest since 1982, won deals to sell excess grain to the World Food Program and nations such as Kenya as the state aims to halt a price slump threatening to wipe out local farms.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-13/south-africa-secures-corn-deals-to-prevent-collapseupdate1-.html>

See Also: S. Africa Finds Market for 2009/10 Bumper Maize Crop, *Reuters*, April 13

<http://af.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=AFJOE63C0CX20100413>

Obama Has a Beef with Tokyo, *Wall Street Journal*, April 12

President Obama has been stepping up his push to open foreign borders to U.S. products, and if there's one export market ready for some hope and change, it's the market for beef in Japan. American ranchers used to ship beef worth up to \$1.4 billion to the Land of the Rising Sun, before Tokyo cut off the exports in December 2003 over mad-cow fears.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304168004575177292924453612.html>

Why the U.S. Is Also Giving Brazilians Farm Subsidies, *Time*, April 9

What could be more outrageous than the hefty subsidies the U.S. government lavishes on rich American cotton farmers? How about the hefty subsidies the U.S. government is about to start lavishing on rich Brazilian cotton farmers? If that sounds implausible or insane, well, welcome to U.S. agricultural policy, where the implausible and the insane are the routine. Our perplexing \$147.3 million-a-year handout to Brazilian agribusiness, part of a last-minute deal to head off an arcane trade dispute, barely even qualified as news. If you're perplexed, here's the short explanation: We're shoveling our taxpayer dollars to Brazilian farmers to make sure we can keep shoveling our taxpayer dollars to American farmers — which is, after all, the overriding purpose of U.S. agricultural policy.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1978963,00.html>

See Also: US-Brazil Cotton Case Deal of the 5th of April: What Does It Mean for Brazil, the US, the Multilateral Trading System and the African Countries, *Ideas Centre Geneva*, April 9

<http://www.ideascentre.ch/documents/Newsletter85CottonBrazilvsUSA.pdf>

AGRIBUSINESS

Farmers to Sow Seeds of Corporate Openness, *Financial Times*, April 15

This is the changing face of Brazilian agribusiness. Over the past couple of decades the country has emerged as a global agricultural powerhouse. It is now the world's biggest exporter of a host of food commodities, including beef, chicken, orange juice, green coffee, sugar, ethanol, tobacco and the "soya complex" of beans, meal and oil, as well as its fourth biggest exporter of maize and pork.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/861fff0-4827-11df-b998-00144feab49a.html>

Jury Awards Ark. Farmers \$48M in Lawsuit Over Genetically Altered Rice From Bayer CropScience, *Associated Press*, April 15

German conglomerate Bayer CropScience should pay a dozen Arkansas farmers nearly \$50 million for allowing a genetically altered strain of rice to escape into the commercial market, damaging rice prices in 2006, a jury ruled Thursday.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-rice-lawsuit,0,301769.story>

Yum Brands Profit Jumps on China Business, *Wall Street Journal*, April 15

Yum! Brands Inc. said its first-quarter earnings rose 11%, helped by strong sales in China, a market critical to the restaurant chain. Yum, which operates KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell chains, has pinned much of its future on the fast-growing Chinese market, where it operates more than 3,500 KFC and Pizza Hut restaurants and plans to open 500 more locations this year.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303348504575184392145228842.html>

See Also: Yum Brands Hits All-Time High, *Associated Press*, April 15

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i0TtL7we5RQ3X0QHchRzyL4p5glwD9F3JUG80>

Meat, Poultry Industries Await New Antitrust Rules, *Washington Post*, April 14

Federal regulators are set to release the most sweeping antitrust rules covering the meat industry in decades, potentially altering the balance of power between meat companies and the farmers who raise their animals. Activists, farmers and meat industry officials have been anxiously awaiting the new rules, which will be released this spring for public comment and are set to take effect this summer. The regulations are seen as a kind of litmus test for the Obama administration and how far it will go in regulating competition in the meat industry.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/14/AR2010041400233_pf.html

Supermarket Sweep, *Forbes*, April 14

The rise of the supermarket sector creates jobs and boosts government revenue in East Africa.

http://www.forbes.com/2010/04/13/east-africa-supermarket-business-oxford-analytica_print.html

Are Regulators Dropping the Ball on Biocrops?, *Reuters*, April 13

Recent findings by Kremer and other agricultural scientists are raising fresh concerns about Monsanto's products and the Washington agencies that oversee them. The same seeds and chemicals spread across millions of acres of U.S. farmland could be creating unforeseen problems in the plants and soil, this body of research shows. Kremer, who works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), is among a group of scientists who are turning up potential problems with glyphosate, the key ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup and the most widely used weed-killer in the world.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63C2AJ20100413>

Whole Foods Regains Appetite for Britain, *Financial Times*, April 13

Whole Foods Market, the US natural and organic grocer, has revived its plans for expansion in the UK, as its US business starts to recover from the impact of last year's consumer slump.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/af46cc38-473c-11df-b253-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=280781be-a525-11dd-b4f5-000077b07658.print=yes.html

McDonald's Board Opposes Cage-Free Eggs for U.S., *New York Times*, April 13

The board of directors of McDonald's has recommended that the company's shareholders vote against a proposal to require that 5 percent of the eggs purchased for the chain's restaurants in the United States be the cage-free variety.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/13/mcdonalds-parries-on-cage-free-eggs/>

Ethanol Gets Boost from New Ad Campaign, *Wall Street Journal*, April 12

The ethanol debate is heating up again. Growth Energy, a coalition of U.S. ethanol supporters, threw down \$2.5 million to air commercials over the next six months supporting the use of ethanol.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/drivers-seat/2010/04/12/ethanol-gets-boost-from-new-ad-campaign/tab/print/>

Agriculture Is Summit Partners' First India Bet, *Wall Street Journal*, April 12

For its first India deal, Summit Partners has taken a route quite different from its private equity peers, who have been chasing the country's IT and telecom sectors. The firm invested \$30 million for a minority stake in Krishidhan Seeds Ltd., which provides seeds to farmers in India. But far from seeing the investment as a backward, out-of-vogue industry, the firm sees it as a bet on the technology-heavy research and development that goes into producing advanced varieties of seeds, said Scott Collins, a managing director with Summit.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/venturecapital/2010/04/12/summit-partners-likes-agriculture-for-first-india-bet/tab/print/>

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