

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 23rd – April 29th, 2011

Quote of the Week: *"In the United States, when world wheat prices rise by 75 percent, as they have over the last year, it means the difference between a \$2 loaf of bread and a loaf costing maybe \$2.10. If, however, you live in New Delhi, those skyrocketing costs really matter: A doubling in the world price of wheat actually means that the wheat you carry home from the market to hand-grind into flour for chapattis costs twice as much. Welcome to the new food economics of 2011: Prices are climbing, but the impact is not at all being felt equally. For Americans, who spend less than one-tenth of their income in the supermarket, the soaring food prices we've seen so far this year are an annoyance, not a calamity. But for the planet's poorest 2 billion people, who spend 50 to 70 percent of their income on food, these soaring prices may mean going from two meals a day to one. Those who are barely hanging on to the lower rungs of the global economic ladder risk losing their grip entirely. This can contribute -- and it has -- to revolutions and upheaval."* – The New Geopolitics of Food, Foreign Policy, May/June 2011

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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CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

[Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

[Environment \(Water/Climate\)](#)

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The Food Issue: The New Geopolitics of Food, *Foreign Policy*, May/June 2011

Welcome to the new food economics of 2011: Prices are climbing, but the impact is not at all being felt equally. For the planet's poorest 2 billion people, who spend 50 to 70 percent of their income on food, these soaring prices may mean going from two meals a day to one. Those who are barely hanging on to the lower

rungs of the global economic ladder risk losing their grip entirely.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_new_geopolitics_of_food?page=0.0

SEE ALSO: More than 1 Billion People are Hungry in the World

Are there really more than a billion people going to bed hungry each night? Our research on this question has taken us to rural villages and teeming urban slums around the world, collecting data and speaking with poor people about what they eat and what else they buy, from Morocco to Kenya, Indonesia to India. We've also tapped into a wealth of insights from our academic colleagues.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/more_than_1_billion_people_are_hungry_in_the_world

SEE ALSO: How Food Explains the World

The food in our mouths defines us in far more fundamental and visceral terms than the gas in our tanks or the lines on a map. So it's not surprising that the most important questions of global politics often boil down to: What should we eat?

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/how_food_explains_the_world

SEE ALSO: The Baguettes of War

In a region where no one can guarantee that your next meal will be something you want, that your next meal will be there when you are hungry, or even that you will live to have a next meal, stepping into a kitchen is stepping into hallowed ground. Each time you break bread becomes a communion. Food in the Middle East is the most elemental expression of humanity.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/the_baguettes_of_war

SEE ALSO: Eat, Drink, Protest

We tend to speak of food in benevolent terms, as the social glue that binds us together. But in the wrong hands, food can be a weapon. A piece of meat can say: "I own you." Bread obligates. Generosity creates dependence.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/eat_drink_protest

SEE ALSO: Street Eats

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/25/street_eats

Delivering Improved Nutrition, U.S. Agency for International Development, April 2011

The report recommends reformulating fortified, blended foods; improving composition and use of fortified vegetable oil; improving fortified cereals used in general food distributions; using ready-to-use products when appropriate; and modifying USAID processes and guidance given to implementing partners.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2011/DeliveringImprovedNutrition.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Food Aid Report Targets Improvements, CNN, April 26

A report on the quality of food handed out during world disasters and famine has identified improvements experts hope will make relief campaigns more effective at fighting hunger. USAID Director Rajiv Shah told the gathering the report is essential to national security as well as a way of "transmitting American moral values around the world."

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/04/26/washington.food.aid/>

Invitation to a Congressional Briefing on Sustaining the U.S. Commitment to Food Security, The Chicago Council's Global Agricultural Development Initiative

On Thursday, May 5, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs' *Global Agriculture Development Initiative* will host a breakfast briefing on the importance of sustaining America's commitment to food security featuring Catherine Bertini, former executive director of the UN World Food Program and Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. This briefing is open to the public and media. Details can be found [here](#).

Yin and Yang of Foreign Aid, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, April 29

Here is the Yin and the Yang of development aid spending: In the U.S., it is on the chopping block, threatened by budget cutters sharpening their knives; in China it is on an expansion course, favored by a government seeking to accumulate influence and riches in the developing world, particularly Africa. Last week, China's Information Office of the State Council issued a white paper on foreign aid while in the U.S. government forces were massing for the 2012 budget battle.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/04/roger-thurow-outrage-and->

[inspire-yin-and-yang-of-foreign-aid.html](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT/gad/Events/2011/May_2011.aspx)

The Chicago Council's Global Agricultural Development Initiative will hold its Annual Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Progress to Date and Strategies for Success on May 24. For more information, please visit the Symposium website.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT/gad/Events/2011/May_2011.aspx

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Interview: Ronald Kirk, *Foreign Policy*, April 27

Over the next few months, U.S. free-trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are set to come before Congress. The deals, first negotiated under George W. Bush, have been the subject of endless controversy: Colombia over concerns over labor laws and killings of labor unionists; Korea over auto sales and health fears about U.S. beef; Panama over allegedly lax banking regulations.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/27/interview_ronald_kirk

Obama Administration proposes Broadening EPA's Power to Protect Waterways from Pollution, *Washington Post*, April 27

The Obama administration proposed new guidelines Wednesday that would boost the government's ability to protect streams, wetlands and other sensitive waterways from pollution. The guidelines appeared likely to escalate tension between EPA and Republicans in Congress, who have accused the agency of exceeding its authority on greenhouse gas regulation and other issues.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/obama-administration-attempts-to-clarify-governments-authority-to-protect-sensitive-waterways/2011/04/27/AFynQ00E_story.html

SEE ALSO: Farm Groups Hit Water-Pollution Guidelines, *Des Moines Register*, April 28

Proposed new guidelines for regulating water quality could subject more farmers and landowners to regulation despite some agricultural exemptions.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/04/28/farm-groups-hit-water-pollution-guidelines/>

Working Together to Preserve Soil, Water, *Opinion*, Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency and Tom Vilsack, Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, *Des Moines Register*, April 26

The collaborative relationship we and our respective agencies enjoy is reflected in our policy. Both the USDA and the EPA are pursuing common-sense standards that will let farmers make the decisions they feel are best for their own operations. If we are going to solve the major environmental challenges of our time - combating climate change, reducing soil erosion, and ensuring an ample supply of clean water for our families and food production - farmers need more than just a seat at the table. They need to help lead the way.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104270333>

Strengthening USAID' Gender Programming and Organizational Structure, *Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID*, April 26

Strengthening human rights and fueling sustainable economic growth in developing countries both depend on empowering women and working toward gender equality. Eliminating hunger, mitigating the effects of global climate change, and drastically reducing maternal mortality relies on bolstering the role women play in their societies.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2011/ps110426.html>

Reclamation: Managing Water in the West, *U.S. Department of the Interior*, April 2011

This report is Reclamation's first report under the authorities of the Secure Water Act and presents the current information available. Future reports will build upon the level of information currently available and the rapidly developing science relevant to address the authorities within the Secure Water Act.

<http://www.usbr.gov/climate/SECURE/docs/SECUREWaterReport.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Climate Change to slow Western Rivers, hamper Water Supplies, *Washington Post*, April 25

Climate change is likely to diminish already scarce water supplies in the Western United States, exacerbating problems for millions of water users in the West.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/report-says-climate-change-to-slow-western-rivers-hamper-water-supplies/2011/04/25/AFZkBgjE_story.html

Special Briefing: Current U.S. Humanitarian Assistance Efforts in Libya, *U.S. Department of State, April 25*

The U.S. Government has committed some \$47 million worth of assistance to Libya thus far: \$13 million to the International Organization of Migration to support the humanitarian air evacuation; \$10 million to the World Food Program for various food operations; another 7 million to UNHCR mainly to support the camp populations, mostly in Tunisia and Egypt, of third-country migrants, another 7 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross; and then another \$10 million to support NGOs as needed.

<http://www.state.gov/g/prm/rls/rmks/2011/161762.htm>

NASA and USAID Pledge to Advance International Development with Science and Technology, *USAID, April 25*

NASA and the U.S. Agency for International Development have agreed to expand their joint efforts to overcome international development challenges such as food security, climate change, and energy and environmental management. The program allows people in developing regions to use Earth observations for addressing challenges in agriculture, biodiversity conservation, climate change, disaster response, weather forecasting, and energy and health issues.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2011/pr110425.html>

President Obama announced New Members to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, *White House, April 21*

President Barack Obama announced his intent to appoint the following individuals to Board for International Food and Agricultural Development: Brady J. Deaton, Chancellor of the University of Missouri; Gebisa Ejeta, Professor at Purdue University; Jo Luck, President of Heifer International; Marty McVey, President of McVey & Co. Investments.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/04/21/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts>

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Challenges, New Opportunities: African Agriculture in the 21st Century

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Date: May 3, 2011

High-level government leaders, including Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for South Africa, will gather in Cape Town on 3 May to explore the potential of African agriculture to advance economic growth on the continent and food security for the world.

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/advisory/2011/4.htm>

Congressional Briefing: Sustaining the U.S. Commitment to Food Security

Date: May 5th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs' *Global Agriculture Development Initiative* will host a breakfast briefing on the importance of sustaining America's commitment to food security featuring Catherine Bertini, former executive director of the UN World Food Program and Dan Glickman, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. This briefing is open to the public and media. Details can be found [here](#).

CropLife America National Policy Conference: Lost in Translation? Deciphering the Discourse on Modern Agriculture

Date: May 12th, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

The CropLife America National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of

agriculture, food safety and security, agricultural technology and policy to offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Our Master of Ceremonies will again be Marc Gunther, contributing editor at FORTUNE magazine and a senior writer at Greenbiz.com who has appeared on NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/nationalpolicyconference>

International Conference and Exhibition on Agricultural Biotechnology in Africa

Date: May 13th – May 15th, 2011

Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The aim of the conference is to: 1) provide sound scientific knowledge on issues related to technology transfer and capacity building; 2) identify more efficient ways and means of building capacity and developing sustainable and useful institutions; 3) present lessons learned and identify success factors regarding biotechnology knowledge transfer and capacity building; and 4) serve as a forum for cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary dialogue between scientists and policy makers on issues related to the development, use, and application of biotechnology.

<http://www.issdet.org/>

Nutrition, Water, and Rural Development 2030: The Changing Role of Business

Date: May 19, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

<http://www.nestle.com/CSV/CSVFORUM/Pages/2011.aspx>

Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

Date: June 2nd – June 5th, 2011

Location: Tufts University, Medford, MA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: emerging from protracted crises; new directions in policy; innovations in humanitarian practice; and advances in public health and food security in crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

Cracking the Nut Conference: Overcoming Obstacles to Rural and Agricultural Finance

Date: June 20st – 21nd, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

Rural and Agricultural Finance have long been considered tough nuts to crack. The Cracking the Nut Conference will unite the world's leading rural and agricultural finance leaders in a collaborative pursuit of learning, leverage and large scale change. This conference is aimed at practitioners, private sector professionals, policymakers, funders, researchers, and other rural and agricultural finance professionals. To learn more about the themes we will be addressing and our exciting line-up of speakers, see our [agenda](#). For more information and to register for the Conference visit: www.crackingthenutconference.com

The World Food Prize Laureate Announcement Ceremony

Date: June 21, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

The World Food Prize will officially announce the names of the 2011 World Food Prize winners at a ceremony at the U.S. State Department. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will speak at the event, which focuses on progress being made in global food security. Mark your calendar, and check

www.worldfoodprize.org to learn about this year's honorees.

Agricultural Value Chain Finance Training

Date: June 22nd-23rd, 2011

Location: The QED Group, Washington, D.C.

At the Agricultural Value Chain Finance Training, lead by Calvin Miller, FAO and Stephanie Charitonenko you

will learn about developing commercially attractive financial services that meet the needs of the various actors in the value chain and how a value chain focus can result in market growth and reduced credit risk. <http://www.cvent.com/events/cracking-the-nut-conference-overcoming-obstacles-to-rural-and-agricultural-finance/custom-19-4a76ee2bb48b423b9d98c50ddae38904.aspx>

Food Security, Health and Impact Conference

Date: June 22nd – June 24th, 2011

Location: Leeds, United Kingdom

The Africa College, a research partnership between IITA, ICIPE and University of Leeds is holding an international conference to share lessons on translating research results into impact for food security, nutrition and human health. The conference includes knowledge brokering sessions and workshops and is asking two questions: How can the results of basic science and inter-disciplinary research lead to increased impact on food security and human health?; and, How can partnerships between research and development organisations deliver innovation and impact? Sponsorship for African participants is available. For more details see: <http://www.africacollege.leeds.ac.uk/>

World Food Prize 25th Anniversary

Date: October 12th – 14th, 2011

Location: Des Moines, IA

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this fall during the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium and the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. The topic of the symposium this year is "The Next Generation" and will focus on future leaders, challenges and technologies in the fight against hunger. This year, events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Stay tuned and learn more at www.worldfoodprize.org.

Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP)

The CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program is assisting GRiSP in mobilizing applications from qualified women for PhD scholarships in rice science and related systems research. Deadline for applications: April 30 2011 For information please visit <http://grisp.irri.org/GlobalRiceScience-Scholarships>.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Media Articles:

How do We Feed Seven Billion People—and Counting?, *The Globe and Mail*, April 28

The world's population is growing rapidly, even as yields, or production per acre, are flat-lining. The result: a spike in global food prices of more than 28% in the past year, sparking riots and unrest in North Africa and the Middle East. We asked 18 of the world's foremost thinkers on food—the people advising presidents, prime ministers and CEOs—for their ideas (big and small) on how to solve the food crisis.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/how-do-we-feed-seven-billion-peopleand-counting/article2002558/>

Food, Fear and Folly, *Huffington Post*, April 28

For the poor, food inflation can be catastrophic. Imagine: when you live on two dollars a day or less, chances are that you spend two thirds of your income feeding your family. When food gets expensive, you have to cut quantity, quality, or both. You eat once a day, not twice, or you buy cheaper staples with fewer nutrients. This can be devastating -- not so much for you but for your children.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marcelo-giugale/food-fear-and-foley_b_854111.html

Ethanol is a Key Part of U.S. Energy Future, *Opinion*, *Dean Taylor*, *Iowa Corn Growers Association*, *Des Moines Register*, April 28

In response to the April 7 article, "Some See Ethanol Blocking Newer Fuels" by the Register's Philip Brasher,

we believe current energy discussions have the tendency to create a simple "all or none" approach, but a solution depends upon many factors coming together - from conservation to technology, to renewables, to transportation, to consumption and demand.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=201104290329>

Kenya Food Taxes Cut as Four Die of Hunger, *Huffington Post*, April 27

Prices on food and fuel are rising globally, but higher costs are hitting residents in East Africa particularly hard. The Kenyan government announced that it was removing the tax on maize and wheat imports in a bid to cushion citizens from the effects of rising global food prices.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/04/27/kenya-food-taxes-cut-as-f_n_854532.html

Volatility in Food Prices Seen Hurting Poor, *Des Moines Register*, April 26

Franz Fischler, who is a candidate to become director-general of the UN FAO, said the world would be better off if prices increased gradually over time. That would help farmers in developing countries make a living while doing little to harm people in rich countries who spend only about 10 percent of their incomes on food, Fischler said at a conference on food policy sponsored by The Atlantic magazine.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/04/26/volatility-in-food-prices-seen-hurting-poor/>

SEE ALSO: The FAO Candidates Speak. Are we moved?, *Guardian*, April 26

The statements from the six candidates for director general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation are in. Do they give us any insights into who would be best? It is hard to assess a candidate exclusively on written materials. We would want to have a chance to interact with them and to hear from their colleagues about their values, how they work, and what they are like to work with. These soft skills are vital to effectiveness.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/apr/26/fao-candidates-director-general-statements>

Food Security: New Threats, New Approaches, *Huffington Post*, April 26

One thing we are learning quickly is -- if you want to see stable governments become unstable on a global scale, put constraints on supplies of food and fresh water. It is a recipe for unrest. And we are seeing it happen in pockets throughout the world today. In the long term, resource scarcity combined with population growth and development of emerging markets will combine to create a systemic security threat, upending long-standing institutions and international relationships that serve as the foundation of global security.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marc-van-amerigen/world-food-security-b_853222.html

Hundreds in China Fall Ill; Additive Suspected, *Wall Street Journal*, April 26

Nearly 300 people fell ill in central China after eating meat suspected of containing illegal additives. More than two years have passed since China's government, responding to a scandal in which milk contaminated with the industrial chemical melamine killed at least six children and caused illnesses in nearly 300,000 others, vowed to enforce stricter food-safety regulations.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576284721814379778.html>

Food first, *Japan Times*, April 24

It is unlikely Japan will see the kind of food riots that took place in Haiti, Bangladesh or Egypt in 2008, but individuals in Japan may no longer have the luxury of being able to spend a relatively small percentage of their income on food. The soaring food costs around the world will have large effects on Japan and the solutions are not simple or easy.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/ed20110424a2.html>

Purchase Progress Increases Access for Small-Scale Farmers, *AllAfrica*, April 23

P4P is a World Food Programme pilot project that aims to provide sustainable hunger solutions to smallholder farmer households and their communities, through increased agriculture productivity and access to a wider marketing outlet.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104251138.html>

Home-Grown Nutrition Research for Africa, *IRIN News*, April 21

A group of international academic institutions and an NGO backed by the European Union (EU) have launched Sustainable Nutrition Research for Africa in the Years to come to develop a nutrition agenda for Africa, with specific emphasis on the 34 sub-Saharan countries. Only nine of the 46 countries in sub-Saharan Africa are on track to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=92550>

Seeds of Salvation, *Cosmos Magazine*, March 2011

The world is facing starvation as climate change disrupts food production and the population booms and science's last hope may be locked inside Syria's forgotten wild plants.

<http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/node/4207/full>

In Reversal, Poppy Production Expanding in Afghanistan, *New York Times*, April 18

Driven by soaring opium prices, farmers are expected to plant poppies at a sharply higher rate in parts of Afghanistan that were previously poppy free. Afghanistan supplies about 90 percent of the world's opium.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/19/world/asia/19opium.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

From Policy to Practice, *Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network*, April 2011

At less than one percent of the federal budget, U.S. development programs save and improve millions of lives that would otherwise be lost or mired in poverty. The full promise of this Administration's emphasis on more effective development rests with its ability to partner with Congress to enact durable, bipartisan legislation that reflects current challenges and cuts through the layers of burdensome red tape that have made assistance efforts too slow and too bureaucratic.

http://www.modernizeaid.net/documents/From_Policy_to_Practice.pdf

Aid for a Purpose: Show Me the Goal, Then Show Me the Money, *Center for Global Development*, March 2011

The current process for writing annual budgets, as exercised by the State Department, the United States Agency for International Development, and Congress does a poor job of linking aid resources to the purposes of the aid. It relies on carving up a pie by sector—agriculture, education, water, health, and so on—rather than letting objectives guide resource allocation.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424877/>

Media Articles:

WFP to Deliver Food to North Korea, *UPI*, April 29

There is a small window of opportunity to deliver critical food assistance to vulnerable people in North Korea, the U.N. World Food Program said. WFP announced it was launching an emergency plan to respond to the estimated 3.5 million people identified as vulnerable to food security issues in North Korea.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2011/04/29/WFP-to-deliver-food-to-North-Korea/UPI-48741304076897/

U.S. Military Dismayed by delays in 3 Key Development Projects in Afghanistan, *Washington Post*, April 28

U.S. aid officials have been forced to delay three large development programs intended to support the American military strategy in southern Afghanistan at a critical, make-or-break moment in the war. The initiatives, which are supposed to support local governments, agricultural development and job-training efforts, have been held up by bureaucratic missteps and funding cuts by Congress.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-military-dismayed-by-delays-in-3-key-development-projects-in-afghanistan/2011/04/22/AFD6jq8E_story.html

War Funding and Function 150: A tricky relationship, *Stimson Center*, April 27

Although reductions to State and USAID were modest for FY11, Paul Ryan's Path to Prosperity would shrink the International Affairs budget to \$37 billion in FY12, \$13 billion below the recently enacted FY11 CR. To hedge against significant cuts, the White House submitted its FY12 \$61.2 billion request for diplomacy and foreign aid in two separate sections: \$52.6 billion for base funding and \$8.7 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding. The OCO account, however, is a political construct.

<http://thewillandthewallet.org/2011/04/27/war-funding-and-function-150-a-tricky-relationship/>

China: Aid to Africa Not Aimed at Resources, *Foreign Policy*, April 26

China slammed suggestions that its burgeoning foreign aid to Africa is driven by its interest in the impoverished continent's rich natural resources, saying that it helps poorer countries out of solidarity. China has made significant sacrifices in trying to help African countries lift themselves out of poverty, including the deaths of more than 700 Chinese workers in aid projects, Vice Commerce Minister Fu Ziying told reporters.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2067597,00.html>

Civilians should lead Security Assistance with Longer-Term Focus, *Stimson Center*, April 25

This year, the new budget agreement undoes that decision, denying \$1.2 billion in support for the State program and providing a new \$800 million in funding to the Pentagon, instead. It undercuts the effort to strengthen what Secretary of State Hilary Clinton called "civilian power" in last year's Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.

<http://thewillandthewallet.org/2011/04/25/us-support-for-foreign-militaries-and-security-forces-must-change/>

Five Myths about Foreign Aid, *Editorial*, *Washington Post*, April 25

Foreign aid has few domestic allies. Aid programs weathered steep cuts in the recent budget deal in Congress, and a plan from Rep. Paul Ryan would slash spending on international affairs and foreign assistance by an eye-popping 44 percent by 2016. Sen. Rand Paul has called for the abolishment of aid programs, including to Israel, and protests in the Middle East have evoked questions about the effectiveness and goals of U.S. aid.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-foreign-aid/2011/04/25/AF00z05E_story.html

ODA cut by Y50.1 billion to Raise Recovery Funds in Extra Budget, *Japan Today*, April 23

The cabinet agreed to cut Japan's foreign aid allocation for fiscal 2011 by 50.1 billion yen from the initially set 572.7 billion yen Friday as it approved a draft first extra budget for the year to secure funds for reconstruction work after the March 11 quake and tsunami.

<http://www.japantoday.com/category/politics/view/oda-cut-by-y50-1-billion-to-raise-recovery-funds-in-extra-budget>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Media Articles:

Advocates Fear End of Calif. Agricultural Land Conservation Program Could Lead to Development,

Washington Post, April 29

Farmers, environmentalists and local government officials say more swaths of California's best agricultural land could be lost to housing tracts and strip malls if the state doesn't restore funding for its flagship farmland conservation program. The state had been spending nearly \$38 million a year to protect about 16 million acres, but it mostly eliminated that funding starting two years ago because of budget problems.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/advocates-fear-end-of-calif-agricultural-land-conservation-program-could-lead-to-development/2011/04/29/AFwvLQBF_story.html

The Emissions Omitted, *Economist*, April 28

Just over a quarter of all industrially emitted carbon moves about in this way, up from a fifth in 1990. The net

flow is from the developing to the developed world. So in terms of consumption the rich countries are still the world's biggest emitters. New research shows that the flow's volume is rapidly increasing.
<http://www.economist.com/node/18618451>

Getting "More Crop Per Drop" to Strengthen Global Food Security, *Huffington Post*, April 28

Increasing demand for water continues to put a strain on available water sources, threatening the livelihood of millions of small-scale farmers who depend on water for their crops. 70 percent of the world's freshwater is used for irrigation, and global water resources are drying up as climate change takes hold and population growth continues. 60 percent of the world's hungry people live in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/getting-more-crop-per-dro_1_b_854884.html

Fertile Landscape, *Vancouver Sun*, April 27

While increasing water scarcity may make investing in water utilities seem like a smart choice. Water scarcity is not a new theme, but attempting to gain on it through utilities is all wrong.
http://www.vancouversun.com/story_print.html?id=4680823

Food Insecurity Looms in Parched Horn of Africa, *New York Times*, April 25

Recent droughts are affecting a population that is increasingly vulnerable to climate threats. Reduction in livestock holdings due to more frequent droughts, coupled with a population that is growing at 2.5 percent per year over the past 40 years, has decreased the amount of protein and milk available to the average family.
<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/04/25/25greenwire-food-insecurity-looms-in-parched-horn-of-afric-85405.html>

Ethanol: Is it friend or foe?, *CNN*, April 22

The debate over ethanol can be heated. Detractors call all ethanol a bad idea that hurts the environment, hurts the economy and hurts people. Those who are for more widespread use of ethanol said it can improve national security, improve our ability to make home-grown fuel and improve our health by steering us away from an energy source that is becoming increasingly harder to get to and dirtier to extract.
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/04/22/earth.day.ethanol/index.html>

What's in a Carbon Footprint? Depends., *Washington Post*, April 21

It's something of a green truism: Reduce your carbon footprint. And if you can do so as you trek along the grocery aisles. That was the thinking behind splashy announcements that started coming out a couple of years ago from a handful of corporations such as PepsiCo and smaller firms saying they had carbon-footprinted cartons of orange juice, six-packs of beer and other goods.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/environment/whats-in-a-carbon-footprint-depends/2011/04/20/AF2qwyKE_story.html

SEE ALSO: Including Carbon Emissions from Deforestation in the Carbon Footprint of Brazilian Beef, *Environmental Science and Technology*, April 2011

Effects of land use changes are starting to be included in estimates of life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, so called carbon footprints, from food production.
<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1021/es103240z>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

Women and Labor Markets in Asia: Rebalancing for Gender Equality, *International Labour Organization and Asian Development Bank*, April 2011

The report points out that poor quality jobs are a greater labor market challenge for women than unemployment. A large proportion of women in Asia toil in vulnerable, low paid, informal work. In addition, female youth unemployment is high and women are still largely perceived as a buffer workforce or secondary earners next to men.

<http://www.adb.org/documents/reports/women-labor-markets/women-labor-markets.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Asian Women Workers risk “persistent vulnerability, poverty and exploitation”, *TrustLaw, April 29*

The Asia Pacific region is losing \$24 billion to \$47 billion annually because of women’s limited access to employment opportunities and another \$16 billion to \$30 billion as a result of gender gaps in education.

<http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/news/report-asian-women-workers-risk-persistent-vulnerability-poverty-and-exploitation>

Height of Nations, Harvard School of Public Health, PLoS ONE, April 2011

Socioeconomic inequalities in height remain persistent. Height has stagnated or declined over the last decades in low- to middle-income countries, particularly in Africa, suggesting worsening nutritional and environmental circumstances during childhood.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0018962>

SEE ALSO: Shrinking Height Of Poor Women Reflects Lack of Food, Health Care, NPR, April 26

Height is often used as a proxy for health, because children who get good nutrition and health care tend to grow taller than their forebears. Now new research shows that the average height of women in 14 African countries is shrinking. And that spells bad news for the future health of those nations.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2011/04/26/135740094/shrinking-height-of-poor-women-reflects-lack-of-food-health-care>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Global Food Price Inflation and Developing Asia, Asian Development Bank, April 2011

While the recent price increases were triggered largely by production shortfalls due to bad weather, structural and cyclical factors that were at play during the 2007–2008 food crisis continue to be relevant, especially in light of the strong recovery of many emerging economies from the global economic crisis. The frequency with which food price spikes have occurred in recent years suggests that long-term solutions need to be implemented to secure food supplies for the world’s growing population.

<http://www.adb.org/documents/reports/global-food-price-inflation/food-price-inflation.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Bank Warns of Effects of Rising Food Prices on Asia, New York Times, April 25

Sharp rises in food prices are a threat to economic growth in Asia and could push millions of people into extreme poverty. Food prices in Asia have increased an average of about 10 percent so far this year, which the bank calculates could force 64 million people below the poverty income threshold of \$1.25 per person a day if prices remain at current levels.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/26/world/asia/26food.html>

2011 American Business in China, American Chamber of Commerce in the People’s Republic of China, April 26

The White Paper draws attention to an emerging pattern of Chinese industrial policies that favor domestic companies at the expense of their foreign counterparts. They include regulations related to indigenous innovation, licensing, standards, government procurement, competition law, and IPR enforcement.

<http://www.amchamchina.org/whitepaper2011>

SEE ALSO: Chinese Policies Hurting US Businesses, The Hill, April 26

U.S. business and congressional leaders have been repeatedly critical of China’s indigenous innovation along with most of the other policies examined in the report that have slowed the expansion of American exports and business into the vast Chinese economic landscape.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/801-economy/157811-chinese-business-policies-hurting-us-businesses>

Sophistication in Service Exports and Economic Growth, World Bank, April 2011

What drives growth has frequently been debated in the economic literature, and the recent growth of China and India has rekindled this debate. Those two countries have taken two different routes to achieve annual growth rates of nearly 7 percent. Whereas China has followed a more traditional manufacturing-led growth

strategy, India's growth has been driven by expansion in the service sector.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP55.pdf>

The Outline of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, People's Republic of China, April 26

The Plan is an ambitious blueprint for China's economic and social development in the next five years, a program of actions to be taken for the government to perform its functions of economic adjustment, market regulation, social administration and public service provision.

http://en.ndrc.gov.cn/hot/t20060529_71334.htm

SEE ALSO: China Releases Plan to Modernize, Update Industry, ABC News, April 26

China is seeking to develop a genetically modified food chain, water-saving and soil-conserving agriculture and to do away with tourist activities that focus on collecting medicinal herbs and other forest products.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=13462526>

SEE ALSO: China is Set to Increase Use of Biofuels, China Daily, April 28

China can become a leader in the production of second-generation biofuels, made from agricultural waste instead of foodstuffs, such as sugar, starch and vegetable oils.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2011-04/28/content_12412402.htm

Media Articles:

Argentina Aims to Limit Land Sales, Financial Times, April 29

Argentina, a leading food producer, wants to ensure Chinese and other foreign investors do not snap up one of its key resources: land. Cristina Fernandez, the president, submitted to Congress a bill "for the protection of national dominion over rural land", seeking to limit to 20 per cent the amount owned by foreigners.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9f8674fc-71ce-11e0-9adf-00144feabdc0.html>

World Bank Arm to Target Poverty, Financial Times, April 29

The World Bank has pledged to ensure its operations focus as much on poverty reduction in developing countries as securing economic returns. The IEG report pointed out that poverty reduction was core to the IFC's mission, but it was unable to demonstrate similar beneficial effects on helping the poor.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e2fb55be-71be-11e0-9adf-00144feabdc0.html>

Fuel and Food Push up US Consumer Spending, Financial Times, April 29

US consumer spending increased in March as more of household budgets were spent on fuel and food as the increase in overall inflation from this point last year was the largest in 10 months. Consumer spending rose 0.6 percent last month, which beat analyst expectations of 0.5 percent.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6bc15bb4-7255-11e0-96bf-00144feabdc0.html>

SEE ALSO: Behind the Rising Cost of Food, New York Times, April 23

The plate has always been a great fortifier. Soup to heal, stew to comfort, escape delivered in a good piece of chocolate. But events both at home and internationally are conspiring to shake the confidence of eaters. Global famine, war and disaster are no longer so easy to keep from the table.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/24/weekinreview/24food.html>

Trade Talk Impasse Prompts a Plan B, Wall Street Journal, April 28

The World Trade Organization's 153 member nations will openly discuss for the first time an alternative to the failing Doha round of global trade talks. The so-called Plan B would likely eliminate issues that have proved impossible to solve over the 10 years of Doha's existence. Downsizing Doha to something all countries can swallow would preserve the WTO's legitimacy as keeper of the trade rule book and arbiter of disputes between countries and their companies, and keep open the option of a future trade round.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704099704576288872290977788.html>

SEE ALSO: Dead Man Talking, Economist, April 28

It was meant to be the beginning of the end. For months, insiders at the World Trade Organization in Geneva have argued that the release of a revised set of negotiating texts in the Doha round of trade talks was a necessary condition for a deal by the end of 2011. Necessary, perhaps, but hardly

sufficient.

<http://www.economist.com/node/18620814>

The China Price, *Economist*, April 28

China's inflationary problems first surfaced in food prices, and food prices may also herald the disinflation to come. In 2009 vegetable prices shot up; they were strong last year as well. Good arguments were given for these price gains—among them, that increased wealth and better nutrition lead to ever more consumption—and investment and production ballooned. But the prices of many vegetables have since crashed.

<http://www.economist.com/node/18620804>

SEE ALSO: China's Current-Account Surplus: Incredibly Misleading Forecasts?, *Economist*, April 28

Over the past four years, in successive editions of its "World Economic Outlook", the International Monetary Fund has forecast that China's current-account surplus would widen over the next five years. Instead the surplus has consistently fallen, from 10.6% of GDP in 2007 to 5.2% last year.

<http://www.economist.com/node/18620934>

Volatility Harms Food Supply, *Canberra Times*, April 28

Food prices are rising and becoming more volatile amid expanding biofuel production, rising oil prices, US dollar depreciation, export restrictions, and panic purchasing. All this, a mere three years after the food crisis of 2007-08. Volatility also is the watchword where the weather is concerned.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/volatility-harms-food-supply/2147020.aspx>

Economy Feels the Effects, *Japan Times*, April 28

The government downgraded its basic assessment of the Japanese economy for the first time in six months. The earthquake and tsunami devastated infrastructure and manufacturing facilities and disrupted nationwide supply chains of goods. Agriculture and fisheries are suffering from radioactive contamination fears.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/ed20110428a2.html>

How Goldman Sachs Created the Food Crisis, *Foreign Policy*, April 27

Demand and supply certainly matter. But there's another reason why food across the world has become so expensive: Wall Street greed. It took the brilliant minds of Goldman Sachs to realize the simple truth that nothing is more valuable than our daily bread.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/27/how_goldman_sachs_created_the_food_crisis

China is Now Region's Biggest Partner, *Financial Times*, April 26

Latin America has changed – and it is largely thanks to China. A region once known for instability has sailed through the global financial crisis. Poverty is falling, the middle classes booming, and asset markets bubbling. This is due to a spectacular expansion of commodity-based trade.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cce437bc-6ef5-11e0-a13b-00144feabdc0.html>

Sovereign Wealth Funds: Foreign Cash has its Drawbacks, *Financial Times*, April 26

The fight for these resources is likely to become more cut-throat, with water scarcity limiting food supplies as the global population continues to grow. Fearing for their future food security, Arab and Asian countries have increasingly used sovereign wealth funds to secure resources and land in Latin America, sometimes funneling money through the private sector to bypass local regulations.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e5e4f274-6ef5-11e0-a13b-00144feabdc0.html>

In Budget Fight, Brazil Subsidies Divide Lawmakers, *Wall Street Journal*, April 25

As lawmakers scour the budget for ways to reduce government spending, the U.S. continues to send millions of dollars to Brazil to subsidize the country's cotton sector, payments that aren't touched in the latest round of budget-cutting proposals. The U.S. is paying \$12.275 million monthly to Brazil.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576284921632237458.html>

USDA Raises Beef, Vegetable Prices Forecasts, *Wall Street Journal*, April 25

The U.S. government raised its forecasts for retail prices of beef, pork and fresh vegetables. The forecast for overall food-price inflation held steady at 3% to 4%, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in its monthly analysis of the federal government's consumer-price index for food.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576285062724830784.html>

Enjoy the Harvest as Land Values Flourish, *Financial Times*, April 22

Agricultural land prices have continued to rise, driven by a shortage of supply and strong demand from private investors and farmers. Farmland values in England rose by 2.7 per cent to £5,700 an acre in the first quarter of 2011, the largest first-quarter growth in arable land prices since 2008.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/f99a45e2-6cc2-11e0-83fe-00144feab49a.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Index Shows Ag Companies Fare Well in Hard Economy, *Huffington Post*, April 27

Agriculture-related firms have enjoyed four profitable years thanks to heavy demand for corn and other crops. A new index of 21 agriculture-related companies, called Agindex, shows their market value increased 8.6 percent a year from the beginning of 2007 through the end of March 2011. The Agindex includes household names such as equipment-maker Deere & Company and seed-and-chemical firm Monsanto along with lesser-known companies such as fertilizer producer Agrium.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20110427/us-food-and-farm-ag-profits/>

SEE ALSO: As Food Surges, So Do Food Company Valuations, *Wall Street Journal*, April 26

Higher prices in both raw and processed soft commodities—caused by growing Asian demand, erratic weather, and a global push toward biofuels—has led to a spate of food-focused merger deals and initial public offerings. As a result, Asian agriculture-focused companies tend to be valued better than their other counterparts, though they still trail the surge in underlying food products.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704677404576284392172179016.html>

Glencore Reveals Bet on Grain Price Rise, *Financial Times*, April 24

Glencore made a speculative bet on rising wheat and corn prices in the early stages of last summer's Russian drought. The issue is sensitive because politicians such as Nicolas Sarkozy, French president have often blamed speculators for rising food prices. The G20 group of leading economies will hold a special meeting in June to discuss grain markets.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/aea76c56-6ea5-11e0-a13b-00144feabdc0.html>

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