

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 2nd – April 8th, 2011

Quote of the Week: *“Whether you measure poverty by the one and a half billion people living on less than a pound a day, the one billion who go hungry each day, or other indicators such as the eight million children who die each year from preventable diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria, poverty on the scale it exists today is an affront to our common humanity. It also carries a significance beyond national borders and is therefore of global importance. In an increasingly interlinked world, countries are more dependent on one another for their prosperity, security and safety, and to answer challenges such as climate change. Aid should, of course, never be an end in itself. Provided that it is delivered on the basis of being timely, temporary, and targeted, it can save lives and transform life chances in today’s developing world, just as the Marshall Plan helped rebuild European economies after the long years of war, laying the platform for stability and prosperity. African entrepreneur Mo Ibrahim recently commented that the main objective of aid is to abolish the need for aid. Let this inform our approach as our vision for Africa and other developing nations going forward.”*— Honorable Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia in “Foreign Aid is not a Waste of Money”, April 7, 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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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

FAO Food Price Index, *UN Food and Agriculture Organization, April 7*

The FAO Food Price Index fell in March from the peak in February, driven mostly by a contraction of oils and

sugar prices. In sub-Saharan Africa, prices of main staple coarse grains are increasing in Eastern Africa but remain generally low and stable in other sub-regions.

http://www.fao.org/giews/english/gfpm/GFPM_04_2011.pdf

SEE ALSO: Food Price Fall Likely Only To Be a Blip, *Wall Street Journal*, April 7

World food prices may have fallen for the first time in March, but that's not to say we won't see fresh record highs soon. The UN predicts world output could fall 3% by 2080 due to rising temperatures as a result of climate change, putting an extra 600 million people at risk of starvation at a time when the world population is already expected to exceed nine billion.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/04/07/food-price-fall-likely-only-to-be-a-blip>

SEE ALSO: UN Agency says Global Food Prices decline for first time in 8 months but situation uncertain, *New York Times*, April 7

Global food prices have fallen for the first time in eight months, but it's premature to conclude that means the recent sharp spike is over.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/un-agency-says-global-food-prices-decline-for-first-time-in-8-months-but-situation-uncertain/2011/04/07/AFcfZVtC_story.html

Foreign Aid is not a Waste of Money, *Opinion*, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, *President of the Republic of Liberia*, *Telegraph (U.K.)*, April 7

Aid should, of course, never be an end in itself. Provided that it is delivered on the basis of being timely, temporary, and targeted, it can save lives and transform life chances in today's developing world, just as the Marshall Plan helped rebuild European economies after the long years of war, laying the platform for stability and prosperity.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/8434965/Foreign-aid-is-not-a-waste-of-money.html>

Audio recording of Dan Glickman, co-chair of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative for The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, on Kojo Nnamidi Show, *April 6*

Traditionally, assistance from the U.S. came in the form of direct food aid, but a new approach focuses on self-sufficiency and support for local farmers. The former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, joins us to explore these programs, and how budget cuts would affect efforts.

<http://thekojonnamdishow.org/audio-player?nid=18994>

Leading Food Expert says Global Crisis 'inevitable', *CTV Saskatoon*, April 6

As the world's population rises closer to seven billion, the demand and price for food products continues to increase. A leading food security expert warns that a catastrophic global food crisis is inevitable, unless there's wide scale cooperation among nations. Dr. Robert Thompson, Professor Emeritus from the University of Illinois and Urbana-Champaign, says Africa and Southeast Asia are expected to see the biggest jump in population. He predicts world demand for food will double through the first half of the 21st century.

<http://saskatoon.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110406/sas-food-110406/20110406/?hub=Saskatoon>

Transforming Africa's role in Global Food Security, *Opinion*, Kofi Annan, *Chairman, Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa*, *Business Day*, April 4

High among these challenges is the need to transform the continent's agriculture – the issue I want to address today. This is a topic which, understandably, conjures up past failures, current frustrations, and, at times, overwhelming despair. How could it not when there are some 240 million people in sub-Saharan Africa who do not eat well enough for their health and well-being.

<http://www.businessdayonline.com/NG/index.php/analysis/columnists/19939-transforming-africas-role-in-global-food-security->

Positive News for World's Poor, *Opinion*, Kanayo F. Nwanze, *President, UN International Fund for Agricultural Development*, *The Canberra Times*, April 4

What would your life be like if you were one of the 1.4 billion women, men and children who live in extreme poverty? Chances are you would live in a rural area, as do 70 per cent of the world's extremely poor people. Agricultural production must increase 70 percent by 2050, and output in developing countries will have to

double, if we are to keep food on the table for the nine billion people expected on earth by then.
<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/positive-news-for-worlds-poor/2122814.aspx>

Putting Farmers First is Top Priority for a Stable Region, *Opinion, Namanga Ngongi, President, Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, The Citizen, April 1*

While it is difficult to predict the future, I believe it is safe to say that African governments that fail to address the structural issues that undermine the continent's food security do so at their own peril. Even though farming is the mainstay of most African economies and family incomes, the majority of Africans, even smallholder farmers, are net purchasers of food.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104010560.html>

A Quiet Clamor, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, April 8*

There's been a lot of quiet clamor-raising going on recently. In a church basement in Indiana earlier this week, I watched a letter-writing campaign stir to life. Letter-writing is a solitary pursuit: sitting alone with pen and paper, or alone with a computer and a printer – and a pen to affix a signature. It is a lost art in these days of emailing and texting and instant messaging. But as old-fashioned as it may be – and as silent as it may seem – writing letters to people with political power is still one of the most effective ways to raise a clamor.
<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/04/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-a-quiet-clamor.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

USDA Considers Cutting Crop Reports, *Wall Street Journal, April 8*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture may eliminate a range of crop reports watched by farmers, commodity traders and foreign buyers to gauge supplies coming from the world's largest grain producer. Driving the expected cuts is a broad push in Congress to reduce government spending.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704013604576248721018636058.html>

Susan Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, testifies before the House Appropriations Committee, State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, *Department of State, April 7*

UN is very far from perfect. But it delivers real results for every American by advancing U.S. security through genuine burden-sharing. That burden-sharing is more important than ever at a time when threats don't stop at borders, when Americans are hurting and cutting back, and when American troops are still in harm's way.

SEE ALSO: FULL TESTIMONY: <http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/2011/160058.htm>

SEE ALSO: US Envoy Criticizes Proposed Cuts of US Funds to UN, *VOA News, April 7*

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, warned that the United States will lose influence abroad, if Congress approves a proposal to withhold funding for the global body.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/usa/US-Envoy-Criticizes-Proposed-Cuts-of-US-Funds-to-UN-119440109.html>

Senate rejects efforts to Block EPA Climate Regulations, *Politico, April 6*

The chamber voted to reject the sweeping rider from Sens. Mitch McConnell and Jim Inhofe that would undo EPA climate rules, and veto the agency's scientific finding that climate change threatens public health and welfare. The failed Senate votes should give the White House some breathing room. The White House issued a veto threat against a House bill that mirrors the McConnell-Inhofe effort.
<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0411/52699.html>

The GOP Path to Prosperity, *Opinion, Paul D. Ryan, Chairman of the House Budget Committee, Wall Street Journal, April 5*

Congress is currently embroiled in a funding fight over how much to spend on less than one-fifth of the federal budget for the next six months. Whether we cut \$33 billion or \$61 billion is important. It's a sign that the election did in fact change the debate in Washington from how much we should spend to how much

spending we should cut.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703806304576242612172357504.html>

SEE ALSO: The Path to Prosperity, FY 2012 Budget, *House Committee on the Budget*, April 5

<http://budget.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PathToProsperityFY2012.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Ryan Budget would Slash International Affairs Funding, Increase Defense Spending, *Foreign Policy*, April 6

The long-term budget announced by House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) would cut the budget for international affairs and foreign assistance by 29 percent in 2012 and 44 percent by 2016 -- while increasing the defense budget by 14 percent over the same timeframe. Ryan recommends a total international affairs budget of \$37 billion in fiscal 2012, gradually declining to \$29 billion by fiscal 2016 -- a reduction of 44 percent from what the president requested for fiscal 2011.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/04/06/ryan_budget_would_slash_international_affairs_funding_increase_defense_spending

SEE ALSO: House GOP's 2012 Budget Promises Overhaul of Energy, Environmental Goals, *New York Times*, April 5

While promoting an end to current de facto bans on offshore drilling, the budget also promises to promote "nuclear, wind, solar, and more" low-carbon energy sources. The House budget also seeks to overhaul the current farm-subsidy structure by slicing "the fixed payments that go to farmers irrespective of price levels."

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/04/05/05greenwire-house-gops-2012-budget-promises-overhaul-of-en-97569.html>

Sen. Graham urges GOP Presidential Candidates to avoid Isolationism, *The Hill*, April 6

He urged GOP candidates to support foreign aid to Middle Eastern countries and said they should be ready to criticize President Obama if he fails to force Moammar Gadhafi to vacate power in Libya. The usually hawkish senator urged Republican presidential candidates to take a long-term view on Washington's economic, political and military relations with nations like Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Egypt.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/154279-sen-graham-urges-gop-12-crowd-to-avoid-isolationism>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Agriculture 2.0

Date: April 11th - 12th, 2011

Location: San Francisco

This event will be the 5th installment in the conference series and for the first time we are adding several tracks to a multi-day format. This expansion will facilitate the creation of a commercial marketplace for the industry—a first of its kind, one-stop shop not only for venture capitalists and early stage companies, but also for senior decision makers in agribusiness and farmland funds, commodities experts, growth stage and institutional investors, key industry insiders, and policy makers. They all come together at Agriculture 2.0 with one intent – to catalyze and capitalize on this rapidly evolving industry.

[https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520\(1\)&utm_content=&step=start](https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520(1)&utm_content=&step=start)

Farm Foundation Forum: *The Future of the Land Grant System*

Date: April 12, 2011.

Location: Washington, D.C.

Farm Foundation organizes these public forums to engage all stakeholders in informed dialogue on food, agricultural and rural policies. Participants examine current policies, explore and analyze alternative policy proposals, and give voice to new proposals.

<http://www.farmfoundation.org>

Climate, Climate Change, and Public Health Workshop

Date: April 12th - 14th, 2011

Location: Baltimore, MD

This workshop will focus on the emerging public health issues arising from recent changes in the Earth's climate, such as: new patterns in diseases, the availability and quality of water, and adaptation strategies.
<http://gaia.jhuapl.edu>

19th Annual Food and Ag Policy Conference

Date: April 13th – 14th, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

<http://www.informaecon.com/WashMarkCalendar2011.pdf>

Symposium on African Agriculture and Poverty Reduction

Date: April 20th – 22nd, 2011

Location: Kigali, Rwanda

<http://aec.msu.edu/fs2/gisama/events.htm>

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/>

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. To share about your work and what you have been doing to crack these nuts, please [submit a proposal](#) to lead a session at the conference. The deadline for submitting a proposal is Monday, February 28, 2011. This conference is aimed at practitioners, private sector

professionals, policymakers, funders, researchers, and other rural and agricultural finance professionals. For more information 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.

Farmers, suppliers, processors, buyers and others need access to finance to operate and develop their businesses. Also, bankers often struggle to contain their risks and costs in financing agriculture. 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.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

African Agriculture R&D in the New Millennium, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2011*

Four key areas with strong implications for policy must be addressed by governments, donors, and other stakeholders: (1) decades of underinvestment in agricultural R&D; (2) excessive volatility in yearly investment levels; (3) existing and imminent challenges in human resource capacity; and (4) the need to maximize regional and sub-regional cooperation in agricultural R&D.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/pr24.pdf>

SEE ALSO: FACT SHEET: <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/asti2011fs.pdf>

Yield Gaps and Potential Agricultural Growth in West and Central Africa, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2011*

Results indicate that the greatest agriculture-led growth opportunities in West Africa reside in staple crops and livestock production. Our results also point toward an essential range of policies and investments that are needed to stimulate the productivity growth of prioritized activities.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr170.pdf>

The Economic Report on Africa 2011, *Economic Commission for Africa, April 2011*

The Report provides a broad assessment of recent global economic developments, economic and social conditions as well as emerging issues in Africa. It also provides in-depth analysis of selected thematic areas that affect Africa's progress towards its medium to long-term economic growth and social development objectives.

http://www.uneca.org/era2011/ERA2011_ENG-fin.pdf

Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems for agriculture and rural development in Africa, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2011*

The technical guide is intended to serve policy analysts and researchers who are helping to set up country SAKSSs, African government and development partners who wish to use the Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) for their evidence needs.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/sp6.pdf>

Seed, Fertilizer, and Agricultural extension in Ethiopia, *International Food Policy Research Institute, March 2011*

This paper synthesizes the lessons learned from Ethiopia's past experiences with providing smallholders with access to seed, fertilizer, and extension services, identify challenges facing the country's continuing efforts to strengthen its input systems and markets, and recommend policy solutions for the future.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/esswpw20.pdf>

Victorian Food Supply Scenarios, *University of Melbourne, March 2011*

A sophisticated and strategic approach to resource allocation is urgently required, if the multiple objectives of food security, energy security, greenhouse emissions reductions, sustainable resource use, a healthy environment and a viable economy are to be achieved.

<http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/~media/ResourceCentre/MediaCentre/Media%20Releases/Victorian%20food%20supply%20scenarios%20study%20media%20release%20April%205%202011.ashx>

SEE ALSO: National Supply under Threat, *The Sydney Morning Herald, April 5*

Australia must not take for granted its ability to produce the food that will provide a nutritious diet as it grapples with the effects of climate change, oil shortages and a growing world population.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/national-supply-under-threat-says-report-20110404-1cypm.html>

Media Articles:

Farmers struggle amid Tsunami Aftermath, *Japan Times, April 8*

The tsunami devastated nearly 80 percent, or 1,800 hectares, of farmland in eastern Sendai alone, ruining soil and causing incalculable damage to local farmers. Miyagi Prefecture produces approximately 400,000 tons of rice annually. The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry estimates that in total, 23,600 hectares of farmland, mostly rice paddies, have been damaged by flooding in the tsunami-hit regions.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110408f2.html>

SEE ALSO: Japan's Fishermen struggle to stay afloat amid Fish Bans, Radiated Water Releases, *Christian Science Monitor, April 7*

Japan's fishing industry is having to deal creatively to stay afloat as radiation-contaminated water is discharged into the ocean near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Fishermen working in Ibaraki Prefecture this week caught specimens of an eel-like fish known as kounago that had double the new limit of iodine-131 in them. The crews have voluntarily decided to stop catching the fish.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2011/0407/Japan-s-fishermen-struggle-to-stay-afloat-amid-fish-bans-radiated-water-releases>

Researchers Turn Waste into Environment-Friendly Fertilizer, *AllAfrica.com*, April 7

The new discovery explored the possibility of producing fertilizers using maize cob and moringa oleifera seeds' cake thereby reducing the burden of chemical fertilizers on the environment and saving billions of dollars in foreign exchange.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104070506.html>

Mozambique's Poor go Hungry despite Rapid Growth, *The Irish Times*, April 4

Despite rapid economic growth over the past 15 years that has propelled it into the world's top 10 fastest-growing economies, eradicating food insecurity in Mozambique remains a challenge. Food security progress has been made, but new challenges have also emerged, with global warming and globalisation increasingly shaping this country's fragile future.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2011/0404/1224293733926.html>

Unlocking Smallholder Farmers' Potential, *AllAfrica.com*, April 3

The availability of inputs, revolving fund facilities, animal breeding technologies, together with greater use of proper technically supported dairy farming, created a situation in which more and more smallholder farmers have access to information and significantly improved their products.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104040061.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

Development aid reaches an historic high in 2010, *OECD*, April 2011

In 2010, net official development assistance flows from members of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD reached USD 128.7 billion, representing an increase of +6.5 % over 2009. This is the highest real ODA level ever, surpassing even the volume provided in 2005

http://www.oecd.org/document/35/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_47515235_1_1_1_1,00.html

SEE ALSO: Aid from OECD countries, *Guardian (U.K.)*, April 6

Six years ago, world leaders gathered at the Gleneagles G8 summit and pledged to help "make poverty history" by increasing their aid spending. But according to new figures, the world's biggest aid donors have collectively missed their targets by \$19bn.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2011/apr/06/aid-oecd-given>

Editorials/Commentary:

The Real-World effects of Budget Cuts, *Opinion*, Michael Gerson, *Washington Post*, April 7

Fiscal conservatives tend to justify these reductions as shared sacrifice. But not all sacrifices are shared equally. Cuts for global health programs should be of special concern to those of us who consider ourselves pro-life. No pro-life member of Congress could support welfare savings by paying for abortions. No pro-life member of Congress could support Medicare savings by cutting off life support for the sick. And it should give any pro-life member pause to support minuscule budget savings that risk the death of children from malaria.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-real-world-effects-of-budget-cuts/2011/04/06/AFpEFXxC_story.html

Despite Cash Crunch, America Needs to Remain a Leader, *Opinion*, Glenn Nye, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, *GMF Blog*, April 7

Arguing for investments in development funds is not always an easy sell with taxpayers. It is particularly tough on the heels of a recession. On the other hand, foreign aid should be subject to rigorous scrutiny to ensure a fair return to the taxpayer and should be employed as efficiently as possible. But it is too easy to lose sight of aid's importance to national security.

<http://blog.gmfus.org/2011/04/despite-cash-crunch-america-needs-to-remain-a-leader/>

Rajiv Shah cries wolf, *Opinion, Kori Schake, Foreign Policy, April 7*

The whiff of sanctimony pervades USAID still, which is part of why it is so unpopular on Capitol Hill, where elected representatives often find unpersuasive that the spending of their constituents money abroad should have no connection to our national interests. Providing money through the USAID is by no means the only - or even the most effective - way to alleviate disease and poverty in the world.

<http://shadow.foreignpolicy.com/blog/2198>

Why Congress Shouldn't Slash Foreign Aid, *Opinion, Jim Kolbe and Connie Morella, Daily Caller, April 6*

We are deeply concerned about the House Committee on Foreign Affairs' recent proposal to make sweeping cuts to the budgets of the State Department and at the United States Agency for International Development. A robust international affairs budget, coupled with reform of our foreign assistance system, will help us strengthen our global leadership and navigate fast-moving challenges across the globe. But our diplomacy and development programs do more than help emerging democratic movements in the Middle East. They also help open new markets to U.S. goods and services, protect human rights, and save lives from deadly diseases.

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/04/06/why-congress-shouldnt-slash-foreign-aid>

Death panels for diplomacy, *Opinion, David Rothkopf, Foreign Policy, April 6*

At just the moment when aid is most critical on initiatives of vital national security from fighting terrorism to stabilizing the Middle East to winning support for the U.S. in regions where our rivals are spending furiously to tip the scales in their favor, Ryan would say that America will now do less, be less engaged, be less influential - right up until the point at which any issue must be resolved with force.

http://rothkopf.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/04/06/death_panels_for_diplomacy_why_does_paul_ryan_hate_american_leadership

Impact of Global Health Cuts Alarming, But Not Alarmist, *Opinion, Joanne Carter, Executive Director of RESULT, Huffington Post, April 6*

This week House and Senate leaders are negotiating the details of a budget compromise to resolve federal spending levels for the rest of the year. Deep cuts will undermine programs that are saving lives right now, and prevent us from seizing new opportunities. Sen. Marco Rubio said, "foreign aid serves our national interest, and by the way, foreign aid is not the reason we're running trillions of dollars in debt."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joanne-carter/impact-of-global-health-c_b_843864.html

Dick Morris gets it wrong on America's Foreign Aid, *Opinion, Norm Coleman, Chief Executive Officer, American Action Network, The Hill, April 5*

The American people are generous, and they recognize the unique role America plays in the world. I'm a firm believer in American Exceptionalism, and the idea that an investment of our precious resources in bettering the lives of those in the world looking for hope and a future for their children is an investment in global peace and security. Americans, then and now, understand the humanitarian connection to our own security.

<http://thehill.com/opinion/letters/154121-dick-morris-gets-it-wrong-on-americas-foreign-aid>

Budget cuts are Nothing to Laugh About, *Opinion, Gawain Kripke, Policy Director, Oxfam America, April 1*

As the current budget drama gripping Washington continues, foreign aid remains on the chopping block. The entire international affairs budget, which includes diplomacy and development, is just about 1 percent of the budget. And less than half of that is spent on poverty-focused development aid.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/153253-budget-cuts-are-nothing-to-laugh-about>

Can We Still See and Serve Our True National Self-Interest?, *Opinion, James Bacchus, former member of Congress, Huffington Post, March 24*

The biggest threat to America's future is not foreign competition. It is the political paralysis that keeps us from rising to the challenge of foreign competition. I once asked a group of supporters of Ross Perot in my former Congressional district in Florida how they recommended achieving their worthy goal of a balanced budget. They had a ready reply: cut my salary and abolish foreign aid. They did not know, until I told them, that foreign aid comprises only about one percent of the federal budget.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/james-bacchus/can-we-still-see-and-serv_b_840242.html

Media Articles:

Aid is certain to be a casualty of US federal budget cuts, *Guardian (U.K.), April 8*

If an agreement on billions of dollars in spending cuts in this year's federal budget is not reached today, the US will face the first government shutdown in 15 years. One of the casualties will almost certainly be US foreign aid, which constitutes less than 1% of the federal budget. A government shutdown would mean that about two-thirds of the State Department and USAID staff in Washington would be furloughed though most personnel at US foreign missions would be retained.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/apr/08/us-federal-budget-cuts-aid-certain-casualty>

Japan eyes 20 percent cut in Foreign Aid to fund Disaster Relief, *Reuters, April 7*

Japan, the world's No. 5 donor, is considering cutting foreign aid by 20 percent to help fund its extra budget for disaster relief. The government is unlikely to issue new debt to fund the initial extra budget of more than \$35 billion for disaster relief, in a sign the authorities are wary of alarming bond investors by adding too much to Japan's already huge debt pile.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL3E7F700E20110407>

Choosing New Friends, *The Economist, April 7*

Faced with a serious loss of revenue from tourism, Egypt and Tunisia urgently want immediate cash, not long-term project aid and loans. Egypt has just asked for a quadrupling of its €150m annual EU aid programme. Such figures are raising some worries that the neighbourhood policy, which already allocates twice as much money to southern neighbours as to eastern ones, may be further skewed.

http://www.economist.com/node/18527520?story_id=18527520

Can Haiti's new president bring real change?, *Editorial, Washington Post, April 7*

Hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign assistance was pledged after the January 2010 earthquake, but its delivery and effective use depend on open, accountable and steady leadership that will convince donors that their aid will not go to waste.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/can-haitis-new-president-bring-real-change/2011/04/06/AFvzP8wC_story.html

U.S. pledges more Money for Peace program in Afghanistan, *Washington Post, April 6*

The United States pledged \$50 million to jump-start a slow-moving program to encourage Taliban members in Afghanistan to stop fighting and support the government. The U.S. funds will be used to support both the high-level discussions and the programs to woo lower-level fighters from the battlefield.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-pledges-more-money-for-peace-program-in-afghanistan/2011/04/06/AFn87hqC_story.html

Zoellick seeks support for Mideast civil society, *Financial Times, April 6*

The World Bank should put money into civil society in Arab countries after a wave of political unrest showed the limits of their economic development, said Robert Zoellick, the bank's president. Drawing a comparison with the way the bank used to ignore corruption in developing countries in which it invested, Stronger civil societies would act as a check on governments and lead to better economic results.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b37d04be-6083-11e0-9fcb-00144feab49a.html>

Germany gives extra €14 million to fund Child Immunizations, *Washington Post, April 6*

The German government says it is providing an extra €14 million (\$19.9 million) in funding for child immunization in the developing world as part of an agreement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Gates foundation will match the €14 million funding of projects overseen by the Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/germany-gives-extra-14-million-to-fund-child-immunizations-gates-foundation-to-match-it/2011/04/06/AFWvknoC_story.html

SEE ALSO: Private firms should contribute more to foreign aid, *Guardian (U.K.)*, April 5

The world's banks, mining, drug and other companies should invest much more in foreign aid, Bill Gates, the world's leading philanthropist told European MEPs. Gates said that private philanthropy only contributed 2% to world aid flows but that this could be increased.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/apr/05/private-firms-money-to-poor-gates>

Sri Lanka to receive 500m-dollar loan from Chinese bank for road projects, *The Island (Sri Lanka)*, April 5

The China Development Bank Corporation is to provide a US\$ 500 million loan to finance priority road projects in Sri Lanka. Japan has pledged to grant Rs 468 million to finance a Food Security Project for Low Income Farmers.

<http://pdfs.island.lk/2011/04/05/p2.pdf>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

Global Sea-Level contribution from the Patagonia Icefields since the Little Ice Age, *Nature*, April 3

The melting of mountain glaciers and ice caps is expected to contribute significantly to sea-level rise in the twenty-first century. Glaciers in the Patagonian Icefields of South America are thought to have contributed about 10% of the total sea-level rise attributable to mountain glaciers in the past 50 years.

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/ngeo1122.html>

SEE ALSO: In the Mountains of Patagonia, a Harbinger of a Rising Ocean, *Justin Gillis, New York Times*, April 3

A group of British and Swedish scientists published new calculations for the great ice fields of Patagonia, the southernmost section of South America. They were able to map out the maximum extent reached by glaciers and ice caps in the region during a cold period known as the Little Ice Age.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/04/03/in-the-mountains-of-patagonia-a-harbinger-of-a-rising-ocean/>

Sea-Level Rise from the Late 19th to the Early 21st, Surveys in Geophysics, April 2011

Since the start of the altimeter record in 1993, global average sea level rose at a rate near the upper end of the sea level projections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Third and Fourth Assessment Reports. However, the reconstruction indicates there was little net change in sea level from 1990 to 1993, most likely as a result of the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/h2575k28311g5146/fulltext.pdf>

SEE ALSO: A Fresh Take on Sea-Level Rise, *Justin Gillis, New York Times*, April 7

One of the great experts in the field, John A. Church of Australia, and his collaborator Neil J. White analyze records from instruments called tide gauges, starting in the 19th century and running into the 21st, and they also incorporate the satellite measurements of sea level that have been available since 1993.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/04/07/a-fresh-take-on-sea-level-rise>

Media Articles:

EU to Propose Carbon Tax on Fuels, *Wall Street Journal*, April 8

The European Union will propose taxing transport and heating fuels according to their greenhouse-gas emissions as well as their energy content, introducing a climate-change component in EU tax rules for the first time, after years of negotiations. The commission will also propose a gradual increase of a minimum levy on diesel to bring it to the same as that on gasoline by 2018.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704415104576250363830343404.html>

How Scientific Is Climate Science?, *Opinion, Douglas Keenan, Wall Street Journal*, April 5

Some researchers have argued that the evidence for global warming is not nearly as strong as has been officially claimed. Policy makers and other people outside the debate have relied on the pronouncements of a

group of climate scientists. I think that is unnecessary. I believe that what is arguably the most important reason to doubt global warming can be explained in terms that most people can understand.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704615504576171863463697564.html>

The Truth, Still Inconvenient, *Opinion, Paul Krugman, New York Times, April 3*

For years now, large numbers of prominent scientists have been warning, with increasing urgency, that if we continue with business as usual, the results will be very bad, perhaps catastrophic. They could be wrong. But if you're going to assert that they are in fact wrong, you have a moral responsibility to approach the topic with high seriousness and an open mind. After all, if the scientists are right, you'll be doing a great deal of damage.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/04/opinion/04krugman.html>

Activists at UN climate change conference call for renewable, not nuclear, *Washington Post, April 3*

The U.N.'s top climate change official warned that a very significant global effort would be required to keep temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.8 F) above preindustrial levels. Pledges to reduce emissions made by countries so far equal only 60 percent of what scientists say is required by 2020 to stay below the two-degrees threshold.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/activists-at-un-climate-change-conference-call-for-renewable-not-nuclear-energy/2011/04/03/AFxRekTC_story.html

Cutting carbon: A better approach to energy policy, *Editorial, Washington Post, April 1*

President Obama promised to slash America's dependence on foreign oil. Mr. Obama wants to produce more crude oil domestically, invest in biofuels, encourage the use of natural gas in vehicle fleets, and require cars and trucks to be more efficient. Less dependence is certainly better. But reducing carbon emissions is far more important.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/cutting-carbon-a-better-approach-to-energy-policy/2011/03/30/AFT11kJC_story.html

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

The Gender Implications of Large-Scale Land Deals, *International Food Policy Research Institute, April 2011*

A wide-ranging body of evidence forms a clear rationale for prioritizing gender issues in agriculture. Evidence shows that improvements in household agricultural productivity, food security, and nutrition must address women's needs because, in many parts of the world, women are more likely than men to spend the income they control on food, healthcare, and their children's education.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/bp017.pdf>

Media Articles:

Microfinance Institutions Prefer Lending to Women, *AllAfrica.com, April 8*

Microfinance Institutions opt to give loans to women and their cooperatives because they are trustworthy in loan repayments compared to men, enabling them to do business better. Vision Finance Company is MFI, which provides financial and non-financial services to the economically productive poor Rwandans especially women.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104080119.html>

Corporate Germany takes a step towards Equality, *Financial Times, April 4*

Germany's 30 largest blue-chip companies pledged to increase female representation on their boards. The country has lagged behind other developed economies, with just 2.2 per cent of its boardroom posts occupied by women.

<http://blogs.ft.com/women-at-the-top/2011/04/04/corporate-germany-takes-a-step-towards-equality/>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Reconsidering the Role of Food Prices in Inflation, *International Monetary Fund*, April 2011

In lower income countries, food price inflation is not only more volatile but also on average higher than nonfood inflation. Food inflation is also in many cases more persistent than nonfood inflation, and shocks in many countries are propagated strongly into nonfood inflation.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2011/wp1171.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Central Bank's tools cannot Fix Food Inflation, *Financial Times*, April 5

As agricultural commodity prices continue to rise, central bankers face an uncomfortable choice: to tighten monetary policy in response to food and energy inflation or to bank on the surge being just a temporary problem and focus on much lower core inflation.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ea211474-5f52-11e0-bd1b-00144feab49a.html>

US-China Business Council 2000-2010 Report, *US-China Business Council*, April 2011

Exports to China are a vital part of the US economic recovery. China is the third-largest US export market, and it continues to expand rapidly. In 2010, exports to China rose 32 percent – faster than export growth to any of the US top-five export destinations. Top exports to China in 2010 were computers and electronics, agricultural products, chemicals, transportation equipment, and non-electrical machinery.

http://www.uschina.org/public/exports/2000_2010/full_state_report.pdf

SEE ALSO: As China Grows, So Does Its Appetite for American-Made Products, *New York Times*, April 7

While United States exports to the rest of the world have grown 55 percent over the past decade, American exports to China have jumped 468 percent.

<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/04/07/as-china-grows-so-does-its-appetite-for-american-made-products/>

Media Articles:

Rush to Use Crops as Fuel Raises Food Prices and Hunger Fears, *New York Times*, April 7

The starchy cassava root has long been an important ingredient in everything from tapioca pudding and ice cream to paper and animal feed. But last year, 98 percent of cassava chips exported from Thailand, the world's largest cassava exporter, went to just one place and almost all for one purpose: to China to make biofuel. Driven by new demand, Thai exports of cassava chips have increased nearly fourfold since 2008, and the price of cassava has roughly doubled.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/07/science/earth/07cassava.html>

SEE ALSO: Experts say Energy, weather, unrest more likely responsible for higher Food Costs than Farmers, *Washington Post*, April 4

Farmers and ethanol producers have braced for what they expect could be widespread criticism as corn prices are rising rapidly and other food costs are following. Now, they're concerned as corn prices rose even higher last week, but it won't be enough to meet growing worldwide demand.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/experts-say-energy-weather-unrest-more-likely-responsible-for-higher-food-costs-than-farmers/2011/04/04/AFriBmZC_story.html

SEE ALSO: Pre-harvest shortage drives corn to match record level, *Financial Times*, April 4

The price of corn has risen to match a record high as a shortage looms before the next US harvest. There is little sign that higher prices are suppressing corn demand. "Essentially, we don't have any corn. That's the bottom line," said Sterling Smith, a commodity broker in St Paul, Minnesota.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0b24082a-5ee0-11e0-a2d7-00144feab49a.html>

China lights a fire in Global Deal Making, *Financial Times*, April 6

The might of the Chinese buyer has become a recurring talking point in global dealmaking circles. The position of China as an economic power is well established. But its presence as a force in global dealmaking is just becoming clear. Food security is an area of focus. Chinese groups, including Cofco, the state-owned

agribusiness group that recently bought Château de Viaud, France, are looking for chances to buy less exotic farmland or for deals that would help secure supplies of food and agricultural commodities.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0de1da3e-5ecb-11e0-8e7d-00144feab49a.html>

US, Colombia reach deal on Trade Pact, could boost US exports by \$1 billion, *Washington Post*, April 6
It estimates final pact will boost U.S. exports to Colombia by more than \$1 billion per year. Under the agreement with Colombia, 80 percent of consumer and industrial products the U.S. exports to Colombia will become duty-free, with the remaining tariffs phased out over the next 10 years. More than half of U.S. agriculture exports would also become duty-free, with almost all tariffs eliminated within 15 years.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/us-colombia-reach-deal-on-trade-pact-could-boost-us-exports-by-1-billion/2011/04/06/AFYSwfoC_story.html

Federal Farm Subsidies should be slashed, *Editorial, Washington Post*, April 1
The flip side of the high food prices that continue to nag at family budgets is a boom down on the farm. The farm boom reflects a host of factors, from strong demand in emerging markets such as India and China to a long drought in Australia's wheat-growing regions. But U.S. government policies, including support for corn-based ethanol and the Federal Reserve's money-cheapening "quantitative easing," also have helped.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/federal-farm-subsidies-should-be-slashed/2011/04/01/AFLySkJC_story.html

G20 version 2.0 will appease the skeptics, *Opinion, Daniel Price, Financial Times*, March 31
The G20 now functions as a steering committee that provides political energy and direction to international standard-setters, and also assesses progress on implementation. Whether the subject is capital requirements, current account imbalances or "too-big-to-fail" banks, this is tough work both technically and politically. But here the G20 is moving along nicely. That said, the G20 is not the right forum to address all global issues.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c0dea9aa-5bc4-11e0-b8e7-00144feab49a.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Actesa Trains Bankers to Boost Agro Lending, *AllAfrica.com*, April 7
Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa is training banking executives in the region in order to make the financial institutions comfortable to lend money to agro businesses. The move was aimed at enabling agro dealers access financial support for their agricultural undertakings.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104070800.html>

Monsanto Chief Cautious on Market Share, *Wall Street Journal*, April 6
The head of Monsanto Co. said that it was too early to tell if the world's largest seed producer had regained market share lost in the U.S. last year after farmers rejected high prices for crucial new product lines.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704013604576246503508557860.html>
SEE ALSO: Monsanto spurns higher seed prices, *Financial Times*, April 6
The world's biggest seed company by revenues pledged to keep price rises within the rate of inflation next year, even though US farm receipts are estimated to hit record levels this year.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d0b7c652-605d-11e0-abba-00144feab49a,s01=1.html>

Amiran Initiative Comes to the Rescue of 'Facebook Farmers.' *AllAfrica.com*, April 4
Kenya's leading agricultural firm has unveiled a plan to supply the farming kit to schools and polytechnics across the country. This is part of a wider move to recruit more farmers from the 'Facebook Generation' and have them view agriculture as a business. The company came up with an all-in-one farmers' kit targeting small-scale farmers in 2009. It has been a roaring success.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104050556.html>

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