

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** *“There are few easy answers to the problems facing rural farmers, the majority of whom are women around the world, or those problems facing hungry people everywhere. And many of the new investments in agricultural development will not be evident for years. But we cannot let the complexity inhibit us. We cannot let the timeline of change deter us. We can’t keep falling back on providing emergency aid just to put the band-aid on to keep moving forward to try to mitigate the damage insofar as possible. We can adopt a smart, strategic approach. We can increase agricultural productivity, decrease poverty, drive economic growth, and reduce under-nutrition that will enable millions of children to be on a better path toward the future. Through Feed The Future, we aim to lift incomes of 18 million vulnerable men, women, and children. We aim to prevent stunting and child mortality for 7 million children. We aim to generate \$2.8 billion in agricultural GDP in the target regions that we have chosen through research and development activities.”* – Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, Remarks at UN Food and Agriculture Organization, May 6, 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](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**Africa Progress Panel Highlights Continent’s Economic Recovery, *Africa Progress Panel, May 5***

The Africa Progress Report 2011 reviews the continent’s progress over the past year, and looks at the year ahead to identify key trends, opportunities and obstacles. The report focuses heavily on the transformative power of partnerships to drive sustained social and economic development.

<http://www.africaprogresspanel.org/en/pressroom/press-releases/africa-progress-panel-highlights-continents-economic-recovery/>

**SEE ALSO: Former UN Secretary-General Annan's Panel calls African Growth Low Quality**, *Washington Post*, May 5

Africa's economies may be growing but a panel chaired by the first U.N. head from the region said there is still too much dependence on the export of raw materials and not enough trade happening between countries. The panel said African governments need to do more to create regional markets, which would benefit from economies of scale and attract investors.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/former-un-secretary-general-annans-think-tank-calls-african-growth-low-quality/2011/05/05/AFI8BlxF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/former-un-secretary-general-annans-think-tank-calls-african-growth-low-quality/2011/05/05/AFI8BlxF_story.html)

**SEE ALSO: Private Sector 'increasingly important' for Development in Africa**, *Guardian*, May 5  
Partnerships between governments and the private sector need to be supported and encouraged to speed up development in Africa. The report urges businesses to modify their models so they target the poor or integrate local communities and producers into their value chains.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/may/05/private-sector-important-development-africa-report>

**World Population to reach 10 billion by 2100**, *United Nations*, May 3

The current world population of close to 7 billion is projected to reach 10.1 billion in the next ninety years, reaching 9.3 billion by the middle of this century.

[http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Other-Information/Press\\_Release\\_WPP2010.pdf](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Other-Information/Press_Release_WPP2010.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Can the World Feed 10 Billion People?**, *Foreign Policy*, May 4

Humanity produces enough food to feed everyone but, because of the way we distribute it, there are still a billion hungry. There are, however, plans afoot to feed the world. The Rockefeller Foundation joined the Gates Foundation to launch The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/05/04/can\\_the\\_world\\_feed\\_10\\_billion\\_people](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/05/04/can_the_world_feed_10_billion_people)

**SEE ALSO: U.N. Forecasts 10.1 Billion People by Century's End**, *New York Times*, May 4

Growth in Africa remains so high that the population there could more than triple in this century, rising from today's one billion to 3.6 billion — a sobering forecast for a continent already struggling to provide food and water for its people.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/04/world/04population.html>

**Conservation Programs, Other Farm Subsidies Targeted in Federal Budget Battles**, *Washington Post*, May 1

This debate over conservation vs. subsidy cuts is at the heart of discussions on Capitol Hill as lawmakers begin to shape the 2012 budget and begin talks about the next Farm Bill — a critical document because it sets funding priorities for the next decade. Conservation programs were cut by nearly \$500 million last month for the 2011 budget, and the House budget for 2012 calls for another \$18 million in conservation cuts.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/conservation-programs-other-farm-subsidies-targeted-in-federal-budget-battles/2011/04/28/AFmjQXUF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/conservation-programs-other-farm-subsidies-targeted-in-federal-budget-battles/2011/04/28/AFmjQXUF_story.html)

**Funding News**, *CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program*, May 2011

The CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program is happy to share with you fellowship and scholarship opportunities in this issue of **Funding News**. If you would like more information on the opportunities highlighted here, please contact the respective organizations, their websites are highlighted in the newsletter.

[http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/cast\\_the\\_net/GD%20Funding%20News%20May%202011.pdf](http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/cast_the_net/GD%20Funding%20News%20May%202011.pdf)

**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](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT/gad/Events/2011/May_2011.aspx)

**Invitation to Participate in Feed the Future Consultation**, *APLU*, May 3

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities will be coordinating a major on-line consultation. The e-consultation will be a chance for researchers to consider and provide input into Feed the Future's research

priorities, and to discuss how best to support and engage with this important new program. You are invited to participate in this consultation. [Click here](#) to learn more.  
<http://www.aplu.org/page.aspx?pid=2014>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Secretary Clinton's Remarks, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, May 6**

Through Feed The Future, we aim to lift incomes of 18 million vulnerable men, women, and children. We aim to prevent stunting and child mortality for 7 million children. We aim to generate \$2.8 billion in agricultural GDP in the target regions that we have chosen through research and development activities. And we aim to leverage 70 million more dollars in private investments that improve sustainable market opportunities for small-holder farmers.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/05/162795.htm>

#### **SEE ALSO: Clinton Raises Alarm on Rising Food Prices, New York Times, May 6**

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton warned that global shortages of food and spiraling prices threaten widespread destabilization and is urging immediate action to forestall a repeat of the 2007 and 2008 crisis that led to riots in dozens of countries around the developing world.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2011/05/06/world/europe/AP-EU-US-Clinton.html>

### **Congresswoman Kay Granger's Letter to Secretary Hillary Clinton, U.S. Rep. Kay Granger, May 4**

I remain most troubled by the decision to provide \$190 million of U.S. assistance for flood victims through the Pakistan Citizens' Damages Compensation Fund. The American taxpayer would be appalled to know that the United States is going to provide cash to the Pakistani Government to distribute debit cards to its citizens to rebuild their homes.

<http://kaygranger.house.gov/uploads/05.04.11%20Letter%20to%20Secretary%20Clinton%20on%20US%20Assistance%20to%20Pakistan.pdf>

#### **SEE ALSO: U.S. Rep. West's Letter to Congresswomen Kay Granger, U.S. Rep. Allen West, May 3**

I think it is quite clear that unless we get a clear explanation of what the Government of Pakistan knew about the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, all foreign aid from American taxpayers to this nation needs to cease.

[http://west.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4200](http://west.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4200)

#### **SEE ALSO: Kay Granger decries cash aid to Pakistan, Politico, May 4**

The Republican in charge of doling out foreign aid wrote to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressing "grave concern" over cash payments to Pakistan and asked they stop.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0511/54322.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Congress Preparing Options to cut Pakistani aid, Foreign Policy, May 5**

Congress is up in arms over the Pakistan government's possible involvement in the sheltering of Osama bin Laden. Traditional conservative/liberal distinctions do not apply, and lawmakers are bringing their long-held skepticism of Pakistani aid into the debate.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/05/05/congress\\_preparing\\_options\\_to\\_cut\\_pakistani\\_aid](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/05/05/congress_preparing_options_to_cut_pakistani_aid)

### **House Ag Panel Members Spar Over Need to Extend Dodd-Frank Timeline, Agri-Pulse, May 4**

In a straight party-line vote, the House Agriculture Committee approved H.R. 1573, a bill that Chairman Frank Lucas, describes as a "common-sense way" to give regulators an additional 18-months to write and vet the rules governing derivatives under Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Lucas says the legislation is in response to concerns from businesses across the country. But Ranking Member Collin Peterson and fellow Democrats weren't "buying" any of what Lucas was selling.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/House\\_Agriculture\\_spar\\_Dodd\\_Frank\\_05042011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/House_Agriculture_spar_Dodd_Frank_05042011.asp)

### **USDA Staff Changes at FSA, FSIS, Congressional Relations, Hagstrom Report, May 2**

In the latest of a series of personnel changes at the Agriculture Department, Bruce Nelson, the state executive director in Montana, will become acting administrator at the USDA's Farm Service Agency. Earlier, Brian Ronholm, a former aide to then-House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Rosa DeLauro

had been named deputy undersecretary for food safety.

[www.hagstromreport.com](http://www.hagstromreport.com)

**USDA Introduces Online Tool for Locating 'Food Deserts', USDA, May 2**

The online *Food Desert Locator*, is a tool that can be used to assist efforts to expand the availability of nutritious food in food deserts, or low-income communities that lack ready access to healthy food.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/05/0191.xml>

**New Agriculture Center to Train Thousands of Haitian Farmers, USAID, May 2**

The U.S. government inaugurated a cutting-edge agricultural training center. The Sustainable Rural Development Center will help modernize Haiti's agricultural sector by training farmers to use innovative agriculture techniques that will increase crop yields and boost incomes.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2011/pr110502.html>

**USAID's Efforts in Southern Afghanistan are More Robust and Effective Than Ever, USAID Blog, April 29**

USAID and our civilian and military partners have built one of the largest joint civil-military stabilization campaigns ever undertaken. We are doing more than ever before to consolidate previous gains, achieve U.S. national security objectives and ensure a better future for millions of Afghans. Today's Washington Post piece on USAID's efforts in southern Afghanistan simply gets the story wrong.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2011/04/usaid-efforts-in-southern-afghanistan-are-more-robust-and-effective-than-ever/>

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

*Date:* May 12<sup>th</sup>, 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>

**Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security**

*Date:* May 24, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs will convene a symposium to review progress on the U.S. government's global food security strategy and provide critical thinking on how best to overcome potential obstacles to success.

[http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT/gad/Events/2011/May\\_2011.aspx](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/GLOBALAGDEVELOPMENT/gad/Events/2011/May_2011.aspx)

### **Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>st</sup> – 21<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

Register now to participate in the Cracking the Nut Conference. Conference registrations will close in 10 days on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The 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 speakers, see our [agenda](#).

### **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](http://www.worldfoodprize.org) to learn about this year's honorees.

### **Agricultural Value Chain Finance Training**

*Date:* June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

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

Right after the Cracking the Nut Conference, participate in the 2-day 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. To learn more, visit [here](#).

### **Food Security, Health and Impact Conference**

*Date:* June 22<sup>nd</sup> - June 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.worldfoodprize.org).

### **World Biofuels Markets**

*Date:* March 13th – 15th, 2012

*Location:* Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will share their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

<http://www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com/>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **IFPRI 2010 Annual Report**, *IFPRI, May 2011*

In 2010, rising food prices and extreme events such as earthquakes, fires, droughts, and floods created new stresses on the world food system and generated fresh concern about the potential for a reprise of the 2007–08 food price crisis. Given the heightened attention to the global food system, IFPRI's work is more relevant than ever. This annual report highlights a few noteworthy projects in each of IFPRI's [main research themes](#).

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/ifpri-2010-annual-report>

#### **Fish Production from Aquaculture Rises While Marine Fish Stocks Continue to Decline**, *Vital Sign, May 3*

Global fisheries production reached 145.1 million tons in 2009, an all-time high. This represents a 1.9-percent increase from 2008. Forecasts for 2010 suggested a growth of 1.3 percent to 147 million tons.

<http://vitalsigns.worldwatch.org/vs-trend/fish-production-aquaculture-rises-while-marine-fish-stocks-continue-decline>

**SEE ALSO: Fishing for Sustainable Practices to Conserve Fisheries**, *Danielle Nierenberg, Huffington Post, May 5*

Global fish production has reached an all-time high. Aquaculture, or fish farming increased 50-fold between the 1950s and 2008 and now contributes nearly half of all fish produced worldwide.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/sustainable-fishing\\_b\\_856865.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/sustainable-fishing_b_856865.html)

#### **Food-for-Education Programs**, *IFPRI, May 2011*

Food-for-Education (FFE) programs can help Uganda fight malnutrition and hunger while broadening access to primary education. Whether these programs involve in-school feeding or take-home rations, they have the potential both to improve student's school attendance and to measurably increase household food security.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ussppn13.pdf>

### Media Articles:

#### **Conservation Cuts: Fair or Foul?**, *Opinion, Bruce I. Knight, Agri-Pulse, May 6*

The recent budget deal negotiated between Congress and the President for funding the federal government this year will reduce spending on agricultural conservation by more than \$800 million. Overall, the U.S.

Department of Agriculture took \$3 billion of the \$38.5 billion in federal budget cuts agreed to in the deal.

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Opinion-Bruce-Knight-04-18-2011.asp>

#### **African Farmers Can Help to Transform the Continent**, *Guardian, May 4*

Agricultural markets are changing. We no longer need to think exclusively in terms of export crops because new market opportunities are emerging on Africa's doorstep. As cities expand and incomes increase, people

in urban areas are changing their eating habits and becoming consumers who want more meat, dairy products and vegetables, and they expect higher quality standards.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/may/04/african-farmers-can-transform-continent>

**Save the World with Organic Farming**, *Des Moines Register*, May 4

Prince Charles slammed today's conventional agricultural system as unsustainable because of its reliance on biotechnology and chemicals. The prince, who has long been a virulent opponent of biotechnology, has devoted some of the royal lands to organic farming. He called for pulling subsidies from conventional farmers and increasing their energy costs to provide more economic incentives for organic agriculture.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/04/prince-charles-save-the-world-with-organic-farming/>

**Ethanol Subsidy Cut, Tied to Oil Price under Grassley Plan**, *Des Moines Register*, May 4

The tax credit that subsidizes corn ethanol production would be sharply reduced over the next two years and then tied to fluctuations in the price of oil, under legislation introduced by Sen. Chuck Grassley. The bill is a bid to keep the subsidies but at a lower cost that will have a better chance of keeping congressional support.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/04/ethanol-subsidy-cut-tied-to-oil-price-under-grassley-plan/>

**Farmers Concerned About Insurance**, *New York Times*, May 3

Among the many mysteries swirling amid the floodwaters that rush across the breached Birds Point levee is whether those people who have lost their homes in the floodway will be able to collect on their insurance claims. Mr. Vilsack said farmers affected by the breach who had crop insurance would be eligible for insurance payouts. The breach, he said, was caused by flooding, a natural disaster.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/04/us/04insure.html>

**On Small Farms, Hoof Power Returns**, *New York Times*, May 3

Mr. Ciotola is one of a number of small farmers who are turning — or rather returning — to animal labor to help with farming. Before the humble ox was relegated to the role of historical re-enactor, driven by men in period garb for child-friendly festivals like pioneer days, it was a central beast of burden.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/04/dining/04oxen.html>

**Perennial Corn Holds Hope for Cutting Damage**, *Des Moines Register*, May 3

The time could come when farmers aren't getting on their tractors to plant their crops, or even plowing their fields, exposing them to erosion. The idea of replacing annual food crops with perennials has long been on the fringe of agricultural research, largely confined to a private facility in Kansas, called the Land Institute.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011105040354>

**Small Farmers Can Energize Rural Economies in Africa, They Hold the Future of Food Security in their Hands**, *Opinion*, Tina Joemat-Pettersson and Kanayo Kwanze, *IFAD*, May 1

As news headlines scream fresh concerns about global food security – and as many African countries continue to struggle with poverty and hunger – too little attention is being directed at what could be a major part of the solution to all this: smallholder farming. Africa's smallholder farmers not only have the potential to produce enough food for export but also to lead the way to robust growth and development across the continent.

<http://ifad-un.blogspot.com/2011/05/small-farmers-can-energize-rural.html>

**Healthy Food for All: Why is that elitist?**, *Opinion*, Eric Schlosser, *Washington Post*, May 1

One of the goals of the Farm Bureau Federation is to influence public opinion. In addition to denying the threat of global warming and attacking the legitimacy of federal environmental laws, the Farm Bureau created an entity to "enhance public trust in our food supply." But despite their talk of openness and trust, the giants of the food industry rarely engage in public debate with their critics.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-being-a-foodie-isnt-elitist/2011/04/27/AFeWsnFF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-being-a-foodie-isnt-elitist/2011/04/27/AFeWsnFF_story.html)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

#### **A National Strategic Narrative**, *Woodrow Wilson Center, May 2011*

For too long, we have underutilized sectors of our government and our citizenry writ large, focusing intensely on defense and protectionism rather than on development and diplomacy. This has been true in our approach to domestic and foreign trade, agriculture and energy, science and technology, and military force posture. Security touches each of these and must be addressed by leveraging all the strengths of our nation.

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/events/docs/A%20National%20Strategic%20Narrative.pdf>

#### **SEE ALSO: A National Security Strategy that Doesn't Focus on Threats**, *New York Times, May 3*

A paper calls on the U.S. to see that it cannot continue to engage the world primarily with military force, but must do so as a nation powered by the strength of its educational system, international development and diplomacy, and its commitment to sustainable practices in energy and agriculture.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/04/nyregion/a-strategy-for-national-security-focused-on-sustainability.html>

#### **Five Steps to Make Our Aid More Effective and Save More Than \$2 Billion**, *Center for American Progress, May 5*

Policymakers are seemingly divided into two camps: those who want to deeply cut foreign aid and those who want to maintain spending levels and make programs work more effectively. But there is a third way that makes a great deal of sense. It saves taxpayers billions of dollars and will make aid programs more effective and more likely to produce lasting results.

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/05/foreign\\_aid\\_savings.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/05/foreign_aid_savings.html)

### Media Articles:

#### **U.S. Foreign Assistance Needs Further Reform**, *Opinion, Jim Kolbe, David Beckmann, George Ingram, Roll Call, May 5*

In times of plenty and peril over the past 60 years, America's global leadership has been best exemplified by the helping hand that we have offered to people at the mercy of extreme poverty, disease and tyranny in the darkest corners of the globe. Our nation has saved and improved millions of lives by extending that hand and by focusing on the principle that effective development assistance is squarely in our national interest.

[http://www.rollcall.com/issues/56\\_117/-205344-1.html](http://www.rollcall.com/issues/56_117/-205344-1.html)

#### **Rethinking U.S. aid to Middle East**, *Opinion, Sarah Margon, May 5*

Maintaining a sustained dialogue with a broad range of actors is a common-sense approach that will ensure U.S. foreign assistance is grounded in the needs of those we intend to support – and doesn't just reflect our own assumptions. Engaging beyond embassies and government officials can help bolster genuine efforts at political reform. It can also help reshape U.S. foreign policy.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0511/54342.html>

#### **North Korea Hungry for Aid**, *IPS, May 5*

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea lived through a famine that killed, at conservative estimates, nearly a million people in the 1990s, and is now nearing the brink of a second food disaster.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55511>

#### **Bipartisan Agreement on Mothers**, *Opinions, Bill Frist and Jon Corzine, The Hill, May 4*

Between 1990 and 2009, the U.S. worked with developed and developing country partners to reduce the global number of under-5 deaths by more than one-third, from 12.4 million per year to 8.1 million. Some of our former colleagues in Congress suggest that development assistance is irrelevant to national security, and as a result, foreign aid is ripe for cuts. But they should listen to those who know firsthand the threats we face.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/159265-bipartisan-agreement-on-mothers>

**Beyond Flowers for Mom**, *Opinion, Nicholas Kristof, New York Times, May 4*

I'll bet helping mothers less fortunate would also render any mom giddy. That's what some Americans have decided to do: commemorate motherhood by saving the lives of mothers halfway around the world — such as in this impoverished nook of Somaliland in the horn of Africa. They are helping an extraordinary Somali woman, Edna Adan, run a maternity hospital here to make childbirth safer.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/05/opinion/05kristof.html>

**What Business and Military Already Know**, *Opinion, Mark Green, The Hill, May 3*

The International Affairs Budget always seems to be an easy target for politicians to aim their fire at. Outside the political world, leader after leader appears to understand that International Affairs programs deserve support because they're good for us, for America, for our national security, and for our economic future.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/158935-what-business-and-military-already-know>

**Escaping from Afghanistan's Mad-Max Present**, *Foreign Policy, May 3*

If the US and its allies are in fact embarking on a public transition, it should make clear that from now on it will be investing in winners. Development dollars, civilian assistance, and military advice and support will flow to those villages, towns, cities, and provinces that demonstrate the ability to help themselves. When a competent official is replaced with an incompetent one, resources will be shifted elsewhere.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/05/03/escaping\\_from\\_afghanistans\\_mad\\_max\\_present?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/05/03/escaping_from_afghanistans_mad_max_present?page=full)

**Further U.S. Aid could hinge on What the Pakistanis Knew**, *Washington Times, May 3*

Several lawmakers said that it is time to rethink U.S. aid to Pakistan in light of revelations that Osama bin Laden spent the past six years squirreled away in a safe house a mere football field away from one of country's top military academies and miles from the capital of Islamabad. In 2010, the country received almost \$1.5 billion from the United States, including \$1.2 billion in civilian assistance.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/may/3/further-us-aid-could-hinge-on-what-the-pakistanis-/?page=1>

**Pakistan Did Its Part**, *Opinion, Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan, Washington Post, May 2*

Pakistan, perhaps the world's greatest victim of terrorism, joins the other targets of al-Qaeda in our satisfaction that the source of the greatest evil of the new millennium has been silenced and his victims given justice. Although the events of Sunday were not a joint operation, a decade of cooperation and partnership between the United States and Pakistan led up to the elimination of Osama bin Laden as a continuing threat to the civilized world.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/pakistan-did-its-part/2011/05/02/AFHxmybF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/pakistan-did-its-part/2011/05/02/AFHxmybF_story.html)

**The War Goes On**, *Opinion, James M. Fly, National Review, May 2*

With the killing of Osama bin Laden, some will be tempted to herald the end of the War on Terror and thus an end to the 9/11 era. As much as many would like, we can't turn our back on our global commitments and responsibilities. Attacks continue to be plotted and disrupted and new offshoots and surrogates have proliferated. The threats we face today are more varied and diverse.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/266265/war-goes-jamie-m-fly>

**Afghan Aid Programs are Crucial to the War Effort**, *Letter to the Editor, James Loy, Washington Post, May 1*

When our soldiers' lives are at risk, failure is not an option. We must ensure that these programs succeed. Some of the challenges the article laid out are budgetary. Without the proper resources and ability to plan, we cannot expect programs to be effective.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/afghan-aid-programs-are-crucial-to-the-war-effort/2011/05/01/AFFhLZjF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/afghan-aid-programs-are-crucial-to-the-war-effort/2011/05/01/AFFhLZjF_story.html)

**US to Supply Healthier Food to World's Hungry**, *VOA News, April 27*

New recommendations call for significant changes in the nutritional content of foods the United States delivers to the world's hungry. The United States is the world's largest supplier of food aid, reaching 55 million people in 46 countries last year, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/usa/US-Looks-to-Supply-Healthier-Food-to-Worlds-Hungry---120781594.html>

**Conversations on Diplomacy with Hillary Clinton & Henry Kissinger**, *Charlie Rose*, April 20

From the State Department in Washington DC, The Secretaries: Conversations on Diplomacy with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton & former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

<http://www.charlierose.com/view/interview/11631>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Media Articles:

**Hindering Harvest**, *Economist*, May 5

The problems climate change looks likely to bring in the future may increasingly be visible in the records of the past. Researchers have compiled an estimate of global changes in crop yields which can be put down to recent increases in temperature and decreases in rainfall. The bad news is that they find that climate change has lowered the amount of maize and wheat produced in a given area. The good news is that the effect is so far reasonably small.

[http://www.economist.com/node/18648350?story\\_id=18648350](http://www.economist.com/node/18648350?story_id=18648350)

**SEE ALSO: Climate Change Cuts into Global Crop Yields**, *Des Moines Register*, May 5

Climate change already is cutting into grain yields, and likely increasing food prices, in most of the world other than the United States. While U.S. farmers have enjoyed a relatively favorable climate, yield gains in other regions over the past three decades have been partially offset by temperature increases.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011105060342>

**SEE ALSO: Climate Trends and Global Crop Production Since 1980**, *Science*, May 5

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2011/05/04/science.1204531.abstract>

**Arctic Ice Melting Faster Than Predicted**, *VOA News*, May 4

The report finds that the past six years - between 2005 and 2010 - were the warmest years recorded in the Arctic since measurements began in 1880. Melting from Arctic glaciers, ocean ice and the Greenland ice sheet will make substantial contributions to that sea level rise.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Arctic-Ice-Melting-Faster-than-Predicted-121283894.html>

**Rural Fight Looms over Clean Water Act Guidance**, *Hagstrom Report*, May 3

Signaling a battle within rural America, a coalition of hunting and fishing groups has announced they support the Obama administration's Clean Water Act guidance on streams and wetlands, while some farm and ranch leaders and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, criticized the proposal. The administration announced that small streams and wetlands that have a "physical, chemical or biological connection" to larger bodies of water downstream would be included.

[www.hagstromreport.com](http://www.hagstromreport.com)

**Want to Reign Supreme? Control the Water**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 30

Only a minuscule six-thousandths of 1% of the world's freshwater runs through rivers, and societies everywhere must use this scarce resource for everything from drinking and bathing to irrigation and producing energy. Effective water management offers the prospect of life and prosperity.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703655404576293050549422800.html>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Reports:

**Women's Health Care Chartbook**, *Kaiser Family Foundation, May 2011*

The Women's Health Care Chartbook presents findings from a national survey of women ages 18 to 64 and provides a look at the experience of women in the health care system. The book includes data on insurance coverage, affordability of and access to care, use of health care services, prevention, and family health.

<http://www.kff.org/womenshealth/upload/8164.pdf>

**State of the World's Mothers**, *Save the Children, May 2011*

Save the Children's *State of the World's Mothers Report* finds that the United States spends only one half of 1 percent of the federal budget fighting global poverty, but reaps big rewards. Explore the report's rankings of the world's best and worst places to be a mother and essays.

[http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIp14E/b.6743707/k.219/State\\_of\\_the\\_Worlds\\_Mothers\\_2011.htm](http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIp14E/b.6743707/k.219/State_of_the_Worlds_Mothers_2011.htm)

**SEE ALSO: Afghanistan Hell for Mothers, too**, *Opinion, John Agoglia, Politico, May 3*

Sadly, it is not surprising that Afghanistan is again ranked as the worst place in the world to be a mother. It's difficult to build a stable democracy when health, education and opportunity indicators for women and children are so low. U.S. policymakers must remember: An investment in people that improves their chances to survive and progress is an investment in U.S. national security.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0511/54167.html>

**Family Planning and U.S. Foreign Policy**, *Council on Foreign Relations, April 2011*

Women today are recognized as critical to reducing poverty, boosting economic growth and agricultural productivity, promoting environmental sustainability, and raising healthy and well-educated children—steps that are imperative to confronting a range of pressing foreign policy challenges around the globe.

<http://www.cfr.org/women/family-planning-us-foreign-policy/p24683>

Media Articles:

**The World Needs Midwives – Now More Than Ever**, *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, May 5*

Today, like every day, nearly 1000 women will die giving life; and many of their babies will not survive beyond the first hours and days after birth. That's more than 350,000 women and 5 million infants every year whose lives are lost as a result of preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/foundationnotes/Pages/theresa-shaver-110505-world-needs-midwives.aspx>

**Women Still an Untapped Labor Force in Turkey**, *New York Times, May 4*

While 64 percent of adult women in the EU were employed in 2007, the figure was 23.5 percent in Turkey as of 2009. Of the women employed in Turkey in 2008, 35 percent worked in the service sector, 13 percent in industry and 49 percent in agriculture. Part of the problem is that most of the Turkish women who migrate to larger cities from rural areas lack sufficient education to find anything but marginal, low-paying jobs.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/05/world/middleeast/05iht-M05-WORK-WOMEN.html>

**When I Grow Up, I want to Change the World**, *Opinion, Tamara Kreinin, Executive Director of Women and Population, United Nations Foundation, Chicago Tribune, April 29*

Investing in an educated, healthy, skilled and empowered girl today means she will have the tools to reinvest back into her family, her community and our world. She then has a better chance of delaying marriage and securing a more positive future for herself and her family. She becomes a hugely powerful agent of change.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-oped-0429-childbride-20110429.0.3383571.story>

**Women Key to Successful Peace and National Security**, *Huffington Post, April 29*

Women are critical to peace building and conflict resolution. While war affects everyone, women are especially affected. War and conflict tear away the social fabric that supports women and families, creating instability. The U.S. government, as well as other international actors must continue to ensure that more women are involved, whether at the peace table or building new societies.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephenie-foster>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Pioneers on the Frontier**, *Initiative for Global Development, Dalberg Global Development Advisors, May 2011*

This report identifies and analyzes Sub-Saharan African MNCs, a class of companies that has yet to be widely recognized by the international business media, investment community or global multinational corporations. Data was gathered from research on the top 30 Sub-Saharan MNCs and in-depth interviews with executives from those and additional high-growth African companies.

[http://igdleaders.org/documents/IGD-Dalberg\\_Pioneers-on-the-Frontier.pdf](http://igdleaders.org/documents/IGD-Dalberg_Pioneers-on-the-Frontier.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: It's Time for Africa**, *Opinion, Brian Herlihy, Chief Executive Officer, SEACOM, May 6*

Contrary to popular opinion, the best investment bet that you can make in 2011 is in Africa. Africa has the third fastest growth rate among regions of the world, and many countries are experiencing exceptional growth. The investment community should pay close attention to this new class of companies spanning a variety of industries.

<http://classic.cnn.com/id/42932022>

### Media Articles:

#### **World Food Prices Remain High; Weather Threatens Grains**, *Wall Street Journal, May 6*

Global food prices hovered near record highs in April as a rise in cereals prices was offset by declines in sugar and rice, and the United Nations' food body warned weather problems in the world's top grain exporters could keep prices high next year. This week, the U.S. took a far more lenient approach than initially expected to phasing out ethanol blending subsidies. Credits will be gradually reduced over the next two years.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703859304576304932662054022.html>

#### **Aabar's \$1bn Slice of IPO Eases Hunger Fears**, *Financial Times, May 6*

Securing supplies of food and other raw materials is a nagging concern for rulers of these desert states. Gulf nations, including Abu Dhabi, plan billions of dollars of investments in global food supply and infrastructure as they guard against price shocks and supply shortages in core resources.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/855a7066-7740-11e0-aed6-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **The Middle of the Pyramid: Dynamics of the Middle Class in Africa**, *African Development Bank, April 2011*

The middle class is widely acknowledged to be Africa's future, the group that is crucial to the continent's economic and political development. Recent estimates put the size of the middle class in the region in the neighborhood of 300 to 500 million people.

[http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/The%20Middle%20of%20the%20Pyramid\\_The%20Middle%20of%20the%20Pyramid.pdf](http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/The%20Middle%20of%20the%20Pyramid_The%20Middle%20of%20the%20Pyramid.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Who are Africa's middle class? And will they help to reduce poverty?**, *Guardian, May 6*

A new report says: 34%, or 313 million Africans are now middle class, a jump from 27% in 2000.

There are at least five reasons why the middle classes might matter for poverty reduction.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/may/06/africans-middle-class-poverty-reduction>

#### **Trade Pacts Inch Forward**, *Wall Street Journal, May 5*

The White House notified Congress that it was ready to begin talks on passage of trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, after Colombia complied with the first stage of an action plan to improve labor rights in that country. The Obama administration at the same time pledged to seek talks with Seoul over lifting remaining restrictions on U.S. beef imports after the Korea trade pact is passed.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703937104576303172019344258.html>

**SEE ALSO: Boehner says Obama Push Needed to Pass Trade Deals**, *Reuters, May 5*

The U.S. House of Representatives hopes to pass long-delayed free-trade agreements with Colombia, South Korea and Panama by August. In addition, a large portion of Democrats are likely to vote against the pacts, especially the Colombia agreement.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/05/us-usa-trade-boehner-idUSTRE74453V20110505>

**SEE ALSO: Obama Trades Away Opportunity**, *Editorial, Washington Times, May 5*

The reality is that the administration is torn between giving the U.S. economy a shot in the arm that it desperately needs and pandering to Big Labor, which sees free trade as a threat. One hopes Mr. Obama will realize the economic growth that would come from ratifying these agreements would give him a boost in 2012.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/may/5/obama-trades-away-opportunity/>

**SEE ALSO: The Free-Trade Trade**, *Editorial, Washington Post, April 30*

Now that Mr. Obama has done almost all of what Republicans have requested on Colombia, it's up to the GOP to deliver the votes to pass free trade on a bipartisan basis. If the president can take the heat from his party's labor union base, Republican leaders should be able to stand down their conservative followers.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-free-trade-trade/2011/04/28/AF3TsXNF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-free-trade-trade/2011/04/28/AF3TsXNF_story.html)

**Why Food Security Means More Trade Not Less**, *Opinion, Pascal Lamy, Director-General of World Trade Organization, Sky News, May 5*

The sharp spike in food prices and growing concerns about future food security spark anxiety in every corner of the world. The possibility they may be no food for the family table fills parents with a deep sense of foreboding. And those worse affected are the world's poorest, who spend a higher proportion of their income on food. Absent solutions to this food crisis, hunger and malnutrition will increase.

<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Business/Trade-Is-Solution-To-Tackling-Food-Security-Says-World-Trade-Organisation/Article/201105115985415>

**When Others are Grabbing Their Land**, *Economist, May 5*

Land grabs have been strikingly popular. Preliminary research reckons almost 80m hectares have been subject to some sort of negotiation with a foreign investor, more than half in Africa. So why are land deals popular? That is surprisingly easy to answer: strong demand and willing suppliers. The big investors tend to be capital-exporting countries with large worries about feeding their own people.

<http://www.economist.com/node/18648855>

**Private Sector 'key to food security'**, *Business Daily, May 5*

Unless business was a part of the solution for global food security, governments' agricultural development initiatives would have limited success in increasing production to feed citizens, the World Economic Forum heard in Cape Town. Among issues being discussed by the forum is food security at a time of rising commodity prices as well as increased volatility in food markets, which poses humanitarian and political risks.

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=141742>

**Global Food Prices Steady in April**, *Des Moines Register, May 5*

Global food prices held steady last month despite a 5.5 percent increase the cost of corn, wheat and other food grains. Declines in the price of dairy products, sugar and rice helped offset the higher costs for corn and wheat. Prices for meat and oils were relatively steady.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/05/05/global-food-prices-steady-in-april/>

**U.S. Groups Call for "real change" in Doha talks**, *Forex News, May 2*

U.S. farm, manufacturing and service industry groups said major emerging economies need to make better offers to open their markets to save faltering world trade talks. The U.S. groups said it wasn't fair to blame just one area for the impasse since gaps in services and agriculture also "appear to be unbridgeable" now.

<http://www.forexpros.com/news/forex-news/u.s.-groups-call-for-%22real-change%22-in-doha-talks-212771>

**SEE ALSO: American Farm Bureau's Statement on Lack of Progress in Doha Round**, *May 2*

<http://www.fb.org/index.php?fuseaction=newsroom.newsfocus&year=2011&file=nr0502.html>

**Death of Doha Not End of World**, *Editorial, Canberra Times, May 2*

The Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations is now very close to collapse. At risk is not only a progress towards free trade between nations, but a rules-based system by which people in one market can make enforceable bargains with each other. Most economists would agree that failure to make a deal will inhibit the development of world trade, slow recovery from recession, and probably, slow the growth of incomes.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/death-of-doha-not-end-of-world/2149764.aspx?storypage=0>

**Sugar Squeeze in U.S.**, *Wall Street Journal*, May 2

There's no candy-coating it: The U.S. is facing a sugar crunch. A potential drop in home-grown sugar coupled with government caps on imports of the sweetener could drive up prices, just before the peak Christmas season. A harsh winter has caused headaches for U.S. sugar-cane and sugar-beet farmers.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704473104576293651834516760.html>

**Haiti Again Feels Pinch of Rising Food Prices**, *New York Times*, May 1

Soaring food prices aren't new in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and heavily dependent on imports. Now those prices are rising again, mirroring global trends, while the cost of gasoline has doubled to \$5 a gallon. Haitians are paying more for basic staples than much of Latin America.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2011/05/01/business/AP-CB-Haiti-Food-Prices.html>

**Making the Case for a Long-Term Bull Run in Commodities**, *Los Angeles Times*, April 30

There are few worse feelings for investors than to suspect that they were the last ones into a red-hot market. This year, investors tempted by soaring commodity prices may have that same gnawing fear of being too late to the party. This is, after all, the second big commodity bull run in three years.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/apr/30/business/la-fi-petruno-20110430>

**Coffee Producers Chase the High**, *Financial Times*, April 29

The rise in demand has an impact beyond the industry. For years, coffee has been a sleepy niche commodity market, largely handled by roasters and trading houses. But lately less specialist investors have gained exposure through popular commodities indices. This week the cost of Arabica coffee, the high-quality bean appreciated by espresso connoisseurs, hit its highest level in 34 years, above \$3 per pound.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/17efba34-7288-11e0-96bf-00144feabdc0.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**Hard Cheese**, *Economist*, May 5

One of France's most pugnacious companies is poised to seize Parmalat. If Lactalis carries off Parmalat it will create the world's biggest producer of milk products, including cheese. The dairy industry is rapidly consolidating as demand grows in the emerging world.

<http://www7.economist.com/node/18651729>

**Australia Clears Cargill to Buy AWB Grain Business**, *Reuters*, May 4

U.S. agribusiness giant Cargill Inc said it had received clearance from the Australian government to buy AWB's commodity business from Canadian firm Agrium Inc. Cargill will acquire the grain handling, storage and marketing arm of AWB, which markets and sells grain for some 40,000 Australian farmers in more than 50 countries.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/04/cargill-awb-idUSN0427629520110504>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*