

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



April 9<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** *“Right now is a critical moment in our country’s history. As a nation, we are making a lasting determination about the future of our country, and the future of our global leadership. Now is the time when America must decide whether it will engage and lead the world, actively using its tools of development, diplomacy and defense to improve human welfare and freedom across the globe -- or whether it will retract, leaving many of its poorest, most fragile global partners without assistance, and leaving other emerging global powers like China to promote alternative economic and political models. Budgets are an expression of policy; they are an expression of priorities. But fundamentally, they are an expression of values.”* - Administrator Rajiv Shah, United States Agency for International Development, Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, April 13, 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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### CONTENTS

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

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

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**Libya’s Pathway to Peace**, *Opinions*, Barack Obama, President, United States of America, David Cameron, Prime Minister of Britain, Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, *New York Times*, April 15

This vision for the future of Libya has the support of a broad coalition of countries, including many from the Arab world. These countries came together in London on March 29 and founded a Contact Group which met this week in Doha to support a solution to the crisis that respects the will of the Libyan people. Today, NATO and our partners are acting in the name of the United Nations with an unprecedented international legal

mandate. But it will be the people of Libya, not the U.N., who choose their new constitution, elect their new leaders, and write the next chapter in their history.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/15/opinion/15iht-edlibya15.html>

**The World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development**, *World Bank, April 2011*

More than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by violent conflict. The Report examines the changing nature of violence in the 21st century, and underlines the negative impact of repeated cycles of violence on a country or region's development prospects. Preventing violence and building peaceful states that respond to the aspirations of their citizens requires strong leadership and concerted national and international efforts.

<http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/fulltext>

**Zoellick Warns on Food, Oil Prices**, *Wall Street Journal, April 14*

World Bank President Robert Zoellick warned of rising food inflation and high oil prices resulting from political turmoil in the Middle East as risks to world growth, as they threaten to push more people into poverty. Mr. Zoellick urged the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging nations, which is gathering on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank meetings, to work on ways to limit food price volatility.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/dispatch/2011/04/14/zoellick-warns-on-food-oil-prices>

**SEE ALSO: Food Prices: World Bank Warns Millions Face Poverty**, *BBC, April 14*

The World Bank has warned that rising food prices, driven partly by rising fuel costs, are pushing millions of people into extreme poverty. World food prices are 36% above levels of a year ago.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-13086979>

**SEE ALSO: Food Prices Pushing World to Poverty's 'Danger Zone'**, *Des Moines Register, April 14*

Global food prices have risen 36 percent over a year ago and threaten to drive millions more into poverty should costs continue increasing, the World Bank said. Some 44 million people have been driven into extreme poverty since last June because of higher food costs, and another 10 percent increase in food costs would put 10 million more people into that category.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104150347>

**Dan Glickman and Ambassador Mark Green testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations**, *House Appropriations Committee, April 14*

We believe that the International Affairs Budget requires strong funding because it is an essential part of our national security. There is not a doubt in our minds that the International Affairs Budget is profoundly in the best interest of our nation. It is far from just charity or do-gooderism. For literally a penny on the dollar, this is a cost-effective way to advance our security, prosperity and open hearts and minds to America's message of liberty, fairness, and free markets.

<http://appropriations.house.gov/files/041411USGlobalLeadershipCoalitionTestimony.pdf>

**Spending cuts Bill nicks Defense Dollars, Slashes Foreign Aid**, *Washington Post, April 13*

The State Department and foreign operations would get \$48.3 billion, an \$8.4 billion reduction from Obama's proposal and a cut of \$504 million from last year. The House and Senate are expected to vote this week on the overall package of \$38 billion in cuts. On foreign aid, the White House and congressional leaders agreed to significant across-the-board cuts. The U.S. contribution to the United Nations and other international organizations would be cut by \$377 million. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Fund, created to fight world hunger and poverty, would get just \$100 million, far less than the \$408 million than Obama sought.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/spending-cuts-bill-nicks-defense-dollars-slashes-foreign-aid/2011/04/13/AFayOKUD\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/spending-cuts-bill-nicks-defense-dollars-slashes-foreign-aid/2011/04/13/AFayOKUD_story.html)

**Staying Committed to Development**, *Opinion, Bill Gates, Co-chair and Trustee, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, April 12*

Last week I traveled through Europe to convey one message: The money governments invest in development is saving millions of lives, and improving hundreds of millions. The most important thing we can do now is build on that progress and continue working toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. To do that, we need more funding and new sources of funding.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-gates/staying-committed-to-deve b 848213.html>

**Food Prize Laureates Speak about Rising Costs, Tensions Worldwide**, *Des Moines Register*, April 9

Rising food prices threaten to drive more people into poverty and hunger, and some former World Food Prize laureates say that means the United States and other countries should reconsider their subsidies for biofuels and spend more to help poor farmers improve production. Poor small-scale farmers don't necessarily benefit from higher crop prices either, said Catherine Bertini, who was honored in 2003 for her leadership of the U.N. World Food Program, the largest distributor of food assistance. "Yes, you make more when you sell your own production, but that still doesn't help you buy more food, as the prices of everything are higher," she said.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=201104100323>

**Building a Movement**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog*, April 15

To recharge your idealism, there's nothing better than a trip to a university campus. I got a double dose last week at Purdue and Northwestern. I journeyed to both Big Ten campuses to raise the clamor about ending hunger through agriculture development, only to find plenty of clamor already reverberating among students and faculty. At Purdue, World Food Prize laureate Gebisa Ejeta was cranking up the new Center for Global Food Security. It brings together students and faculty from many academic disciplines to discover new ways to combat global hunger.

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

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**RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Statement by the President on H.R. 1473**, *The White House*, April 15

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1473, the "Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011." Despite my continued strong objection to these provisions, I have signed this Act because of the importance of avoiding a lapse in appropriations for the Federal Government, including our military activities, for the remainder of fiscal year 2011.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/04/15/statement-president-hr-1473>

**SEE ALSO FULL TEXT: H.R. 1473:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr1473enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr1473enr.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Details of the Bipartisan Budget Deal**, *Dan Pfeiffer, White House Communications Director, The White House Blog*, April 9

Last night, President Obama announced that the federal government will remain open for business because Americans from different beliefs came together, put politics aside, and met the expectations of the American people. There will be reductions to housing assistance programs and some health care programs along with \$8 billion in cuts to our budget for State and Foreign Operations. These significant cuts to the State Department and foreign assistance will mean we will not meet some of the ambitious goals set for the nation in the President's Budget.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/04/09/details-bipartisan-budget-deal>

**Administrator Shah Testifies before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**, *U.S. Agency for International Development*, April 13

We can also help countries develop their own agricultural sectors, so they can feed themselves. For the \$1.1 billion we are requesting for bilateral agricultural development programs, we will be able to help up to 18 million people in up to 20 countries, most of them women, grow enough food to feed their families and break the grips of hunger and poverty. We chose these potential countries for our Feed the Future Initiative selectively, based on their own willingness to invest in agriculture, undertake reforms, and encourage coordinated investment from other donors, foundations and private companies, leveraging our investments several-fold. We have worked closely with these countries to develop rigorous agricultural strategies that will bolster the success of our Initiative.

[http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2011/ty110413\\_1.html](http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2011/ty110413_1.html)

**Fraud and Abuse of Global Fund Investments at Risk without Greater Transparency**, *U.S. Senate*

*Committee on Foreign Relations, April 5*

This report examines the history and operation of PEPFAR and the Global Fund, the problems and initial improvements made to it, and the most recent challenges it faces. It also provides a series of recommendations for implementation by both the U.S. Government and the Global Fund for strengthening existing systems for the distribution of supplies, medication and services in order to prevent further mismanagement and to ensure that the maximum number of people may benefit from the health prevention and treatment efforts of the Global Fund.

<http://lugar.senate.gov/issues/foreign/pdf/pepfar4062011.pdf>

**U.S. Policy Towards Africa in 2011: Implications of Current Events**, *Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, April 5*

My staff will be working on a variety of other "normal" diplomatic tasks of a trans-global nature, such as preparing for the next United Nations climate change conference in South Africa; implementing programs to improve food security and health; promoting regional economic cooperation; becoming more attentive to the welfare of women and girls; engaging more with civil society and youth; promoting the rights of disabled persons. But we are also engaging in dialogue to address the many challenges facing Africa.

<http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/rm/2011/160295.htm>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Symposium on African Agriculture and Poverty Reduction**

*Date:* April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Kigali, Rwanda

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

### **The Atlantic Food Summit**

*Date:* April 26, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The Atlantic's annual Food Summit uses a full-day forum to explore topics such as consumer behavior, health & nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.

<http://events.theatlantic.com/food-summit/2011/>

### **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 13<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 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

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](http://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](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.

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 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).

### **Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP)**

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

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **Four Lessons for Transforming African Agriculture**, *Mckinsey Quarterly*, April 2011

African agriculture is at a turning point, and a long-awaited "green revolution" may be within reach. Many of the continent's governments are adopting market-friendly policies and committing more resources to the sector. Traditional big-donor countries are increasing their expenditures on agriculture, while China and Brazil are also beginning to contribute to the effort. African's agriculture's private-sector investment is rising rapidly. High, volatile food prices underline the importance of such development efforts and create not only pressure but also political space for policy makers to act.

[http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Public\\_Sector/Management/Four\\_lessons\\_for\\_transforming\\_African\\_agriculture\\_2785](http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Public_Sector/Management/Four_lessons_for_transforming_African_agriculture_2785)

#### **Compact for Inclusive Growth and Prosperity**, *Eminent Persons Group*, March 2011

The Group is tasked with assisting the United Nations system in its efforts to build political will and mobilize global action that will result in a Programme of Action for the LDCs for the next decade. The Group will also undertake efforts to raise public awareness on important issues affecting the LDCs in key areas.

[http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/ldc/shared/EPG\\_Report\\_ENGLISH\\_w\\_v2.pdf](http://www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/ldc/shared/EPG_Report_ENGLISH_w_v2.pdf)

#### **SEE ALSO: Half of world's poorest countries can escape poverty by 2020**, *UN News*, March 29

Half the world's 48 least developed countries (LDCs) can "graduate" out of their impoverished status within 10 years if they benefit from better targeted development aid, duty- and quota-free access for exports and doubled farm productivity and school enrolment.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37926&Cr=least&Cr1=developed>

### Media Articles:

#### **Gates backs GM Crops with \$17.7m**, *The Australian*, April 15

The founder of Microsoft will today announce a huge investment in the development of improved varieties of rice and cassava. Through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, he will offer grants worth pound stg. 11.4 million (\$17.7m) to projects that will enhance the staple crops, which are eaten by hundreds of millions of people, with critical micronutrients, some of which can be added only through genetic engineering.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/gates-backs-gm-crops-with-177m/story-e6frg6so-1226039354140>

#### **DuPont Urges Congress to Keep Biofuel Policy**, *Des Moines Register*, April 13

DuPont is urging Congress not to roll back its biofuel policies even though development of next-generation products has fallen behind schedule. A 2007 energy law had required refiners to use 250 million gallons of biofuel made from crop residue and other sources of plant cellulose. However, the Environmental Protection Agency had to slash the mandate to 6.6 million gallons because that was all that was expected to be produced.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/04/13/dupont-urges-congress-to-keep-biofuel/>

[policy](#)

**Jobs Will Be Lost if Ethanol Subsidy Ends**, *Des Moines Register*, April 13

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is warning lawmakers that ending the ethanol subsidy would kill jobs, citing the impact on biodiesel producers when its tax credit lapsed last year. Economists, however, say that the industries vary significantly from each other in their dependence on federal policies and that the impact of ending the ethanol subsidy would be relatively small by comparison.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104140339>

**Enterprise Remains Rooted in the Land**, *Financial Times*, April 12

Perhaps the greatest issue facing most farmers is age and succession – more than 55 per cent of all European Union farmers are over 55 years old. Farming involves long hours and hard, physical work, which deters many young people. But if we want food security, competent stewardship of our environment for the long term and a productive agricultural economy, we must persuade more people to become farmers.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/28ee64ec-652d-11e0-b150-00144feab49a.html>

**Food for Thought**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 11

Should governments be focusing more on feeding their people than fueling their cars? Alistair Wood used to know exactly where his crops would end up. For the last 30 years on his 8,000 acre arable farm in Northern Kenya he's only found one market at harvest: The local population or their animals. Now his wheat and corn could just as easily be sold onto the world's biofuels market to satisfy the growing demand for energy.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704608504576208481176749062.html>

**Don't Plant rice, Japanese farmers told**, *New Zealand Herald*, April 10

Japan's government has announced it will ban farmers from planting rice in soil contaminated by radiation from the tsunami-flooded nuclear power plant, adding to the list of items raising concerns about another food central to Japanese culture. The ban will apply to any soil found to contain high levels of radioactive cesium. Japan produced 8.5 million tonnes of rice last year, almost all for domestic consumption.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=2&objectid=10718297](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10718297)

**SEE ALSO: Rice Growing a Radioactive Topic in Japan amid Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear crisis**, *New York Daily News*, April 9

The earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan last month - leaving 28,000 dead or missing - is dealing another blow to the country's diet. Fears of radiation from a tsunami-damaged nuclear plant prompted the government to ban rice cultivation in contaminated soil.

[http://articles.nydailynews.com/2011-04-09/news/29420299\\_1\\_fukushima-dai-ichi-reactors-tsunami](http://articles.nydailynews.com/2011-04-09/news/29420299_1_fukushima-dai-ichi-reactors-tsunami)

**Gas Stations Get Aid to Sell More Ethanol**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 9

The USDA will soon offer grants and loan guarantees for the installation of costly new "blender pumps" so drivers can purchase fuel with a higher ratio of corn-based ethanol. This year, the ethanol industry is expected to consume five billion bushels of corn, almost as much as the 5.2 billion bushels that will be used for livestock feed, according to USDA data. U.S. farmers produced 12.4 billion bushels of corn last year.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704503104576251023724394758.html>

**Green Fields: Lower Food Costs by Cutting Travel Distance**, *Des Moines Register*, April 9

Iowa agribusiness entrepreneur and Republican heavyweight Bruce Rastetter suggested that to stem rising food prices, we should find a way to reduce the distance food travels. He defended ethanol, saying corn prices comprise a tiny fraction of our retail food dollar. Higher energy costs make up a much larger portion, and he noted that food travels an average of 1,500 miles before reaching consumers.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104100326>

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**FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

## Media Articles:

### **Funding Shortfall Threatens Food Assistance to Millions of Poor Afghans**, *UN WFP, April 15*

The United Nations World Food Programme urgently requires US\$257 million to continue providing food and assistance to the 7.3 million vulnerable and food-insecure Afghans it aims to support this year, mainly women and children.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/funding-shortfall-threatens-food-assistance-millions-poor-afghans>

### **State Dept Fiscal Discipline requires Strengthening OIG**, *Stimson Center Blog, April 14*

An investigation of the OIG website shows that the ratio of inspections to audits since 2010 is three inspections for every one audit. In 2007, GAO reported a ratio of two inspections for every one audit as compared to other OIGs in the federal government that conduct one inspection for every two audits. State OIG is not the only office in town with auditing problems. Last year, Defense OIG was criticized for a significant decrease in its production of audits. Auditing is the key function of an inspector general.

<http://thewillandthewallet.org/2011/04/14/state-dept-fiscal-discipline-requires-strengthening-oig/>

### **Foreign Policy: Cutting from Foreign Aid Doesn't Help**, *Opinion, Joseph Nye, NPR, April 13*

Smart power is not so easy to carry out in practice. Diplomacy and foreign assistance are often underfunded and neglected, in part because of the difficulty of demonstrating their short-term impact on critical challenges. The payoffs for exchange and assistance programs is often measured in decades, not weeks or months.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/04/13/135373606/foreign-policy-cutting-from-foreign-aid-doesnt-help>

### **Appropriators cut \$8 billion from State Department programs**, *Foreign Policy, April 12*

As part of the budget deal struck to avoid a government shutdown, the White House has agreed to reduce the State Department and foreign operations budgets for the rest of fiscal 2011 by \$8 billion. Meanwhile, the fight over the president's fiscal 2012 budget is already underway.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/04/12/appropriators\\_cut\\_8\\_billion\\_from\\_state\\_department\\_programs](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/04/12/appropriators_cut_8_billion_from_state_department_programs)

### **In Budget Cutting, How to Make Foreign Aid Less Vulnerable**, *Editorial, Christian Science Monitor, April 11*

Americans are a generous lot in helping the world's poor – otherwise why all the TV ads for foreign charities or so many personal mission trips to work in rural villages? Yet they are stingy toward US foreign aid. They falsely assume it eats up 10 percent of the federal budget (it's less than 1 percent) and then insist it be the first casualty in spending cuts.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2011/0411/In-budget-cutting-how-to-make-foreign-aid-less-vulnerable>

### **The 'Business' of International Aid**, *Wall Street Journal, April 11*

What if Marriott paid hotel guests \$50 per night, then bragged about its occupancy rates? International nongovernment organizations get their funding from governments and other donors, not the men, women and children they are supposed to be serving. Without revenue or other quality customer-satisfaction metrics, NGO executives and donors have no way of measuring whether employees on the ground are providing a product of value to their impoverished "customers."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704425804576220524034207558.html>

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## **ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)**

### Reports:

### **Degraded Coastal Wetlands Contribute To Climate Change**, *World Bank, April 11*

Drainage and degradation of coastal wetlands emit significant amounts of carbon dioxide directly to the atmosphere and lead to decreased carbon sequestration. The report calls for coastal wetlands to be protected and incentives for avoiding their degradation and improving their restoration to be included into carbon

emission reduction strategies and in climate negotiations.

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2011/04/07/000333038\\_20110407024117/Rendered/PDF/605780REPLACEM10of0Coastal0Wetlands.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2011/04/07/000333038_20110407024117/Rendered/PDF/605780REPLACEM10of0Coastal0Wetlands.pdf)

**Low Fertilizer Use Drives Deforestation in West Africa's Tropical Forest Area**, *Environmental Management*, April 7

Low-input farming for cocoa, cassava and oil palm has resulted in widespread deforestation and degradation of West Africa's tropical forest area, according to a new study by researchers at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The study was published online this week in the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Management*. The study suggests that farmers could have achieved the same outputs without rampant deforestation through the intensified use of fertilizer and agrochemicals coupled with improved crop husbandry.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110407092031.htm>

Media Articles:

**India's Water Crisis is Already Here**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 14

India's minister of renewable energy shared tips on how to wash dishes. Rather than have water running constantly, he recommended soaping the dishes first, setting them aside, then rinsing them all at once. The key area of focus for policymakers will be agriculture: irrigation accounts for about 85% of the country's water consumption. This means cropping patterns may have to change, too.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2011/04/14/indias-water-crisis-is-already-here>

**Protect Our Investment in Land Conservation**, *Des Moines Register, Opinion*, Mark Schultz, Associate Director/Policy Director, the Land Stewardship Project, April 13

As our nation slowly recovers from the worst economic crisis in decades, federal policy makers are challenged to make spending reductions while not undermining American jobs and our economy, or the natural resources on which the current and future well-being of our nation rests. In this context, both the U.S. House and the Obama administration are proposing huge cuts to agriculture, far out of proportion to its size in the federal budget.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104140329>

**High Prices Sow Seeds Of Erosion**, *New York Times*, April 13

When prices for corn and soybeans surged last fall, the bulldozers come out, clearing steep hillsides of trees and pastureland to make way for more acres of the state's staple crops. Now, as spring planting begins, with the chance of drenching rains, Mr. Hammitt worries that such steep ground is at high risk for soil erosion. Erosion can do major damage to water quality, silting streams and lakes and dumping fertilizers and pesticides into the water supply.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/13/business/13erosion.html>

**Fierce Drought Hurts Farmers in Southwest**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 12

A scorching drought in much of the Southwest is hurting farmers across several states and potentially crimping supplies of crops and cattle.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703841904576257114154787194.html>

**U.S. Corn Prices Likely to Curb Export Demand First**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 11

Foreign importers could be the first buyers of U.S. corn to pull back in the face of record high prices, while demand from domestic producers of ethanol and livestock is likely to remain solid. Farmers and grain traders are trying to gauge changes in global corn consumption in the wake of a 10-month rally in futures, which set all-time highs this week.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704415104576250453152120680.html>

**Regional Food Security Under Threat**, *AllAfrica*, April 10

Climate change will have a significant impact on southern Africa's already vulnerable food security,

environmental experts have warned. It already costs Southern Africa five to 10 percent of its Gross Domestic Product. This implies a loss of between 10 and 21 billion dollars each year - in a region where nearly half the population is living on less than a dollar a day.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104111202.html>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

#### **Without Land Rights Women Are 'Second Class Citizens', *AllAfrica, April 14***

Low rates of women land ownership significantly obstruct their access to financial assets, including credit and saving, thus thwarting poverty alleviation efforts in Africa. MWEDO Executive Director, Ndinini Kimesera Sikar says bureaucratic system and low level of land Act understanding discourage majority of women in Tanzania to acquire lands.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104120267.html>

#### **Hillary Clinton urges Strong Role for Women in Arab World, *Daily Caller, April 13***

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told Arab leaders to move “faster and further” in reform, rousing audience members as she pushed leaders to give citizens a bigger role in regime change in the Middle East and North Africa. Specifically, Clinton called for an end to the marginalization of women and minorities.

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/04/13/hillary-clinton-urges-strong-role-for-women-in-arab-world/>

#### **Kenyan Women Pulling Together Against Poverty, *IPS, April 13***

Many African women would find the benefits of enhanced access to credit limited by legal and traditional patterns of land tenure, domestic power relations; rural men and women alike also struggle to overcome weak infrastructure that denies them water, access to markets, or even sound advice and agricultural technologies.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55243>

#### **Women are Central to Feeding Africa, *BBC, April 12***

In developing countries, more than 60% of women are directly involved in agricultural work, but very few gain access to information, training or supplies. More action and less rhetoric on this issue could put more food on the world's table and help drive economic growth.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-13049176>

#### **Women Are Made to Depend on Men, *AllAfrica, April 12***

The only way to meet the fundamental challenges of our time is to incorporate the needs and tap into the talents and potential of women around the world, says Namibia Minister of Finance. Investing in women should be one of the fundamental principles in an approach to a stable economic and political environment.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104120484.html>

#### **The Global View: Sandra Day O'Connor, Wei Sun Christianson and Robert Zoellick offer a report card on women's progress, *Wall Street Journal, April 11***

Over the past few decades, women's economic opportunities have vastly improved in the Western world and China. But a lot remains to be done—and there are even bigger challenges in developing countries.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704013604576246292633371136.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Leveraging Migration for Africa: Remittances, Skills and Investments, *World Bank, April 2011***

International migration has profound implications for human welfare, and African governments have had

only a limited influence on welfare outcomes, for good or ill. Improved efforts to manage migration will require information on the nature and impact of migratory patterns. Remittance inflows to Africa quadrupled in the 20 years since 1990, reaching nearly \$40 billion (2.6 percent of GDP) in 2010. They are the continent's largest source of net foreign inflows after foreign direct investment.

[http://www.ifad.org/pub/remittances/africa\\_migration.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/pub/remittances/africa_migration.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: U.S.\$40 Billion Remittances to Help Reduce Poverty**, *AllAfrica*, April 10

Recorded remittances into Africa, which grew fourfold between 1990 and 2010, are the continent's largest source of foreign capital after foreign direct investments.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104120188.html>

**A New Era of Transformation in Ghana**, *IFPRI*, April 15

Ghana is one of the biggest success stories of the region; the nation has enjoyed an annual average of five percent economic growth for the past 20 years and will probably be the first Sub-Saharan African country to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr171.pdf>

#### Media Articles:

**BRIC Wall**, *The Economist*, April 14

The economic crisis may have been debilitating for the rich world but for emerging markets it has been closer to a triumph. In 2010 China overtook a limping Japan as the world's second-largest economy. Rapid growth is initially easy because the leader has already trodden a clear path. But the more an emerging economy resembles the leaders, the harder it is to sustain the pace.

[http://www.economist.com/node/18560195?story\\_id=18560195](http://www.economist.com/node/18560195?story_id=18560195)

**Who are the BRICS?**, *Christian Science Monitor*, April 14

Made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and, as of this week, South Africa, the BRICS countries are grouped together because while they are not yet economic powerhouses, they have the potential to become the world's most dominant economies.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-Issues/2011/0414/Who-are-the-BRICS/Brazil>

**BRICS Seek Greater Supervision of Commodity Markets**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 15

Leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa issued a new call for reform of the dollar-dominated international monetary system and for greater supervision of commodity markets and capital flows, as the so-called Brics nations seek to boost their influence in debates about the global economy.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730104576261780039961802.html>

**Working Together to Shape the Future**, *China Daily*, April 14

BRICS countries will need to work together closely to evolve strategies for the future. This could include cooperation in a wide variety of issues like energy, food security, access to natural resources, climate change, global governance, and international trade policies.

[http://www0.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-04/14/content\\_12322993.htm](http://www0.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2011-04/14/content_12322993.htm)

**Interview with Olivier de Schutter: Sub-Saharan Africa Should Invest Adequately in Farming to Feed Self**, *The Citizen (Tanzania)*, April 14

Increases in agricultural productivity can be key if these increases benefit small farmers, who are the poorest, 75 percent of global poverty is still in the rural areas. Better incomes for these rural poor means that they will buy more from local producers and service providers, with important multiplier effects on the local rural economies and also for the benefit of the manufacturing and services sectors in the country concerned.

<http://thecitizen.co.tz/magazines/-/9946-sub-saharan-africa-should-invest-adequately-in-farming-to-feed-self>

**Indonesia Is All Over This Problem Like White on Rice**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 12

As governments across the globe scramble for ways to contain surging food prices, Indonesia has one of the most unusual schemes: persuading its rice-loving population to stop eating its favorite food. Indonesians shovel down more than 15 times as much rice as Americans eat. But now, after years of promoting rice as the greatest thing since sliced bread, the government wants to diversify its consumers' carbohydrates.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703905404576164212551766804.html>

**US Farmland Proves Fertile for Investors**, *Financial Times*, April 12

Land prices in fertile heartland states have been climbing at a stunning pace as record or near-record prices for corn, soybeans and wheat translate into more profit per acre. Farmers, flush with cash, are bidding loudest at frenzied auctions, but institutional investors from pension funds to wealthy foreigners are increasingly part of the scene. US nominal farmland values have roughly doubled since 2000 and risen 58 per cent after inflation.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cc3ad226-6527-11e0-b150-00144feab49a.html>

**China Likely to Reduce Soybean Imports**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 11

Chinese soybean importers are likely to cancel some shipments of the commodity as processor margins shrink and soymeal prices fall. China is the global leader in soybean imports, so any signal the Asian nation is cutting imports could pressure global prices. U.S. soybean futures for May delivery fell 1.5% to \$13.72 a bushel in midmorning trading on the Chicago Board of Trade.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704529204576256790005248046.html>

**Land Grabs and Population rise Keep Africans Poor**, *The Canberra Times*, April 11

For East Asia, the reduction in numbers in extreme poverty is from 365million to 117million. For sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of rural extreme poverty has fallen slightly in the last decade, but is still above 60 percent. While the percentage has fallen slightly, the actual numbers of people in this category, as found in his report, have increased 15 percent from 268 million to 306 million.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/letters/general/land-grabs-and-population-rise-keep-africans-poor/2129860.aspx>

**Blue-Sky Thinking**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 11

Africa could hold the key to solving the world's looming energy crisis but unlocking the continent's vast potential will not be easy. Over the next two decades, 90% of new resource development in oil and gas will be in the developing world, and much of that in Africa. But potential investors need also to be aware of the risks.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704559904576228391344450766.html>

**The World Bank and IMF are Meeting in Washington — Why Don't We Care Anymore?**, *Opinion*, *Moises Naim*, *Washington Post*, April 8

The springtime protests were prompted by the semi-annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Now, they will be nothing like the multitudinous, riotous and tear-gas-filled affairs of years past. Where have all the protesters gone? The apparent demise of the anti-IMF/World Bank protests is a reflection of broader transformations in the international economy, transformations that have rendered these global financial institutions less fearsome and less relevant.

<http://www.carnegie.ru/publications/?fa=43534>

**Farm Subsidies: Sacred Cows No More**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 9

The hunt for cuts has come to this: Even agriculture subsidies are on the table. With the farm economy booming and Washington on a diet, a program set up in the 1990s that cuts checks to farmers could be trimmed or eliminated next year when Congress writes a new five-year farm bill. The direct payments have endured and are now a cornerstone of American farm subsidies. The \$5 billion in direct payments to farmers accounts for a third of the roughly \$15 billion in total farm subsidies last year, according to government data.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704587004576245093010870216.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**Syngenta Sales Soar**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 15, 2011

The food-price rally that is hurting industries across the globe has helped Swiss agrochemicals giant Syngenta

AG boost first-quarter sales and allow it to raise prices for various seeds and crop-protection products.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704628404576264321574490408.html>

**Cargill Set for Record Yearly Profit**, *Financial Times*, April 14

Cargill, the world's biggest agricultural trader, is heading for its most profitable year. Stockpiling by governments combined with strong demand in emerging markets drove the prices of key commodities higher. Corn and cotton, both traded by Cargill, reached new records.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0c0ee826-65d5-11e0-baee-00144feab49a.html>

**Firm Launches U.S.\$500,000 SMEs Fund**, *AllAfrica*, April 13

OXLINK Capital, a local micro-finance institution, has launched a US\$500 000 small to medium enterprises fund that will be accessed by traders and businesses operating formally.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201104140085.html>

**Mosaic CEO Prepares for Cargill Departure, Higher Crop Prices**, *Wall Street Journal*, April 9

James T. Prokopanko, chief of Mosaic Co., is hoping to reap the benefits of high crop prices as he guides the fertilizer giant to greater independence after the withdrawal of its majority shareholder. Earlier this year, agribusiness giant Cargill Inc. said it plans to give up its 64% stake in Mosaic, currently valued at \$22.4 billion.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704471904576230950937411660.html>

**Seeds of Expansion**, *Business Day*, April 7

Leading SA agribusiness Senwes says its joint venture with global player Bunge will not be hamstrung by the shortcomings of the country's transport infrastructure. Senwes sells farming inputs and machines and provides credit to farmers and others in the grain industry.

<http://www.fm.co.za/Article.aspx?id=139523>

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