

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



August 6th – August 13th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“African countries have an important stake in the WTO Doha negotiations. Africa’s share of global trade has shrunk by a third since 1970. We also recognize that agriculture is the largest employer in African countries, accounting for about 60 percent of the labor force and producing about 25 percent of GDP. We believe an ambitious and balanced outcome to the Doha Round provides the best chance of creating new market opportunities for global trade – in particular for Africa’s value-added products, not just its commodities, to enter fast-growing markets. It is also the best way to ensure that trade’s promise as an engine for economic growth can be fully realized by African nations. We also know that cotton is an important source of income to many poor farmers in Africa and that many have called for reforms in this sector as one means to help these farmers. As we see it, the best way to advance farm trade reforms globally – not just for cotton, but for all agricultural commodities – is multilaterally, in the agricultural negotiations of the Doha Round.”*—Remarks by Ambassador Isi Siddiqui, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, at the AGOA Agribusiness Forum, August 6, 2010.

For more information:

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

India Asks, Should Food Be a Right for the Poor?, *New York Times*, August 8

Landless and illiterate, drowned by debt, Mr. Bhuria and his ailing children have staggered into the hospital ward after falling through India’s social safety net. They should receive subsidized government food and cooking fuel. They do not. The older children should be enrolled in school and receiving a free daily lunch. They are not. And they are hardly alone: India’s eight poorest states have more people in poverty — an

estimated 421 million — than Africa's 26 poorest nations, one study recently reported. For the governing Indian National Congress Party, which has staked its political fortunes on appealing to the poor, this persistent inability to make government work for people like Mr. Bhuria has set off an ideological debate over a question that once would have been unthinkable in India: Should the country begin to unshackle the poor from the inefficient, decades-old government food distribution system and try something radical, like simply giving out food coupons, or cash?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/09/world/asia/09food.html>

See Also: Securing India's Food Supply Chain, *BBC News*, August 10

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-10924612>

Better Farms, Improved Lives, *Bill Gates, Co-Chair, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Huffington Post*, August 10

With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, six nonprofit agricultural development organizations are helping hundreds of thousands of poor farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia grow more productive, profitable, and sustainable crops. Three-quarters of the world's poorest people rely on farming small plots of land to feed themselves and their families. Helping these small farmers grow more crops and get them to market can have a tremendous impact on reducing hunger and poverty and associated problems. But it's a complicated challenge that requires support and investments across the agricultural value chain-- from cultivating better seeds and soil conditions to improving farm management, access to markets, and government policies.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-gates/better-farms-improved-liv_b_676873.html

See Also: Sharing Our Progress in Agricultural Development, *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*,

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/learning/Pages/agricultural-development-progress-reports.aspx?cmp=gd08042010>

Another Food Crisis?, *Kimberly Ann Elliott, Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development, Huffington Post*, August 11

The decision by Russia to respond to scorching heat and wildfires by restricting wheat exports is threatening to trigger a panic similar to what sent food prices soaring in the first half of 2008. Commodity experts argue that supplies are sufficient to meet needs, thanks to bumper crops and increased stocks in the U.S. and elsewhere, but panic in some countries and the increased role in commodity markets of financial speculators are causing prices to surge. Given the role of weather and other natural catastrophes, the volatility in food prices will never be eliminated. It can be mitigated in a number of ways, however.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kimberly-ann-elliott/another-food-crisis_b_678448.html

See Also: Is Another Food Crisis Coming?, *The Curious Capitalist (blog), Time*, August 11

Once again, jitters are spreading through the world of food. Wheat prices have surged a terrifying 50% since early June, the biggest jump in 30 years, according to HSBC. Droughts in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, which together account for 26% of world wheat exports, are leading to fears of tight supply and super-charging prices. Russia's government made matters worse by slapping a ban on wheat exports from mid-August. The sudden price spike has a scary déjà-vu feeling, that the world will return to the nosebleed agricultural prices and food riots witnessed during 2007-08. That would not only punish the poor, but also drag on the already uninspiring recovery from the Great Recession. But first things first. Do soaring what prices mean we're headed for a repeat of the 2007-08 food crisis?

<http://curiouscapitalist.blogs.time.com/2010/08/11/is-another-food-crisis-coming/>

Wheat Supplies and Food Fears, *Laurie Garrett, Senior Fellow for Global Health, Council on Foreign Relations*, August 9

As the Russian landscape burns and Eurasia's agricultural zone sizzles in a record heat wave, the agricultural commodities markets are threatening to spawn a food crisis akin to the one in 2008. Mixed signals regarding the size of the global wheat supply and the likely impact of Russian Premier Vladimir Putin's August 4 decision to halt all exports of the grain from Russia for the rest of 2010 are leading to concerns that price inflation in the wheat market could usher another food crisis. The shortage in 2008 left hundreds of millions of people worldwide unable to afford basic foodstuffs, aggravating the overall impact of the later global financial crisis upon poor countries.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22774/wheat_supplies_and_food_fears.html

See Also: Drought, Fire and Grain in Russia, *Stratfor*, August 10

Three interlocking crises are striking Russia simultaneously: the highest recorded temperatures Russia has seen in 130 years of recordkeeping; the most widespread drought in more than three decades; and massive wildfires that have stretched across seven regions, including Moscow. The crises threaten the wheat harvest in Russia, which is one of the world's largest wheat exporters. Russia is no stranger to having drought affect its wheat crop, a commodity of critical importance to Moscow's domestic tranquility and foreign policy. Despite the severity of the heat, drought, and wildfires, Moscow's wheat output will cover Russia's domestic needs. Russia will also use the situation to merge its neighbors into a grain cartel.

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/20100809_drought_fire_and_grain_russia

Time to Regulate Volatile Food Markets, *Op-Ed, Joachim von Braun, Director, Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Financial Times*, August 9

With the current extreme price increases for wheat, we are observing potentially the early stages of another global food-price crisis. Even if this does not evolve into something as dramatic as the crisis of 2007-08, when prices of major agricultural commodities from corn to rice shot up to record levels, triggering food riots from Bangladesh to Haiti, it is a stark indication of the perilous state of the world food market. Some lessons have been learned from 2008, but too little has been done to prevent future crises. In particular the malfunctioning of world grain markets has not been addressed – a failure now haunting world markets. The fixing of international food prices today is the result of three forces: expectations on future supply and demand; the growing role of speculators in commodity markets, and the importance of food prices for political stability in countries such as Egypt. Today, low-income countries and the poor are actually more vulnerable than before the last food crisis.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d4e78538-a3e2-11df-9e3a-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Fires in Russia, Wheat Production, and Volatile Markets: Reasons to Panic?

International Food Policy Research Institute, August 6, 2010

Recent events in Russia, one of the largest suppliers of wheat in the world, have raised concern about the current and future price of wheat and wheat-based products. This article briefly examines the issue and determines if there is in fact cause for serious alarm.

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

See Also: Price, Inventories, and Volatility in the Global Wheat Market, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, June 2010

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00996.pdf>

The Political Economy of Trade and Food Security, *Andrea Woolverton, Anita Regmi, M. Ann Tutweiler*, *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development*, July 2010

Ensuring global food security will only become more difficult as future food demand is expected to increase by 70 percent by 2050. Today, the world is generally food secure on average; however, access to the available food varies greatly by level of income and geography across and within countries. In the next few decades, climate implications for food production and growing global populations are expected to add pressure to the world's food supply. Both today and in the longer-term, global trade, in addition to increased productivity, is necessary to provide sufficient access to calories and the diet diversity required to avoid undernourishment.

<http://ictsd.org/downloads/2010/08/tutwiler-final.pdf>

Russia's Grain Ban is the Wrong Response, *Editorial, Financial Times*, August 8

Two years ago, rocketing prices for agricultural commodities sparked food riots in the streets of some developing countries. Prices have been rising sharply again this year, especially for grains such as wheat. Last week, they shot up after Russia imposed an export ban on grains until the end of this year. Another food crisis does not look out of the question. Russia's ban – announced theatrically by its prime minister, Vladimir Putin – was blamed on droughts and fires that have ravaged some of its wheat-growing districts. These have depleted the summer harvest and may cause the winter crop to fail too. But while it is possible to sympathise with the Russian predicament, the ban is counterproductive. It is both a costly mechanism for protecting the welfare of less well-off Russians and makes a rerun of 2008 more likely.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1ae7c962-a316-11df-8cf4-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Grain Export Ban May Be Extended to 2011, Putin Says, *Irish Times*, August 11

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2010/0811/1224276546083.html>

See Also: Drought to Hit Next Russian Grain Crop, *Financial Times*, August 12

Weather forecasters have warned that the drought that has devastated at least one quarter of Russia's grain crops this summer is threatening to prevent sowing of next year's crops.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bc8890ca-a619-11df-9cb9-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: No Wheat Shortage, but Prices May Rise, *New York Times*, August 6

If prices rise further, the situation could resemble 2008, when drought in Australia and embargoes across Asia in foodstuffs like rice disrupted the global food supply and prompted some rioting. But there is an important difference between the current situation and that last price spike: the Russian drought and ban on wheat exports, in contrast to the global shock in 2008 that drove wheat prices up to nearly \$13 a bushel and created tensions in Indonesia and Pakistan, are occurring when global wheat production is plentiful and stocks in the United States are at a 23-year high, analysts said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/07/business/global/07wheat.html>

See Also: FAO Cuts Wheat Production Forecast but Considers Supplies Adequate, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN*, August 4

The impact of unfavourable weather events on crops in recent weeks has led FAO to cut its global wheat production forecast for 2010 to 651 million tonnes, from 676 million tonnes reported in June.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44570/icode/>

See Also: Decision Time Looms for Wheat Farmers, *Wall Street Journal*, August 9

Wheat farmers in the U.S. and elsewhere are gearing up to make a crucial bet on the health of the world's grain supplies. Many farmers must decide within the next few weeks whether to plant more wheat to take advantage of rising prices triggered by the crippling drought in Russia and the nation's export ban.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704268004575417672972922474.html>

See Also: Self-sufficient China watches on as wheat production falls, *Financial Times*, August 13

China, the world's largest wheat producer, has been sitting on the sidelines of the global wheat panic. Today one of China's most powerful government ministries spoke out on the issue, seeking to allay fears that China would start buying wheat on international markets.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2010/08/13/self-sufficient-china-watches-on-as-wheat-production-falls/>

See Also: Ukraine Considers Cap on Wheat Exports, *Financial Times*, August 11

Ukraine, one of the world's top grain exporters, said on Wednesday that it was considering a cap on wheat exports, a move that would put added pressure on already surging global grain prices.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ca9edeb6-a53e-11df-b734-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Wheat Market Benefits Australia, *Wall Street Journal*, August 11

Worries over global wheat supplies could prove to be a bonanza for Australia, a major exporter of high-quality wheat to Asia. The optimism could change quickly, though, as dry weather and government warnings about the potential for a locust plague have raised skepticism about output. If Australia's wheat production falls significantly below forecasts, it could drive wheat prices even higher for some key importers, including poorer Asian countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704388504575418973359861314.html>

See Also: Farmers Set to Cash In on Grain Shortage, *Financial Times*, August 10

UK grain farmers are expecting to rake in bumper prices for this year's harvest on the back of strong rises in the price of wheat and barley in the past few weeks, buoying the arable farming sector after last year's difficult season.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2acd1616-a4b5-11df-8c9f-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Argentina's Farmers Unable to Fill Wheat Gap, *Financial Times*, August 10

It hardly matters to Argentina how high international wheat prices go in the wake of Russia's export ban: its producers are unlikely to be able to cash in. For the past four years Argentine farmers have been grappling with wheat export limits, which the government says are to protect domestic prices, and also pay 23 per cent in export taxes, further discouraging overseas sales.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/910f25ac-a4a8-11df-8c9f-00144feabdc0.html>

See Also: Russian Farmers on Brink of Bankruptcy, *Financial Times*, August 8

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/716ff576-a315-11df-8cf4-00144feabdc0.html>

Council Announces New Project to Analyze Role of Girls in Rural Economies, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, August 11*

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs announced a new initiative to bring attention to the role of girls in rural economies of developing countries and identify opportunities to increase investment in women and girls as a tool for economic growth and social stability. For its Girls in Rural Economies project, The Chicago Council will convene an international group of government, business, and civic leaders – experts in the fields of gender, development, agriculture, entrepreneurship and informal employment and health – to oversee a study of the role of adolescent girls in rural economies in the developing world. The group will pay particular attention to girls' participation in the agriculture and food sectors. They will develop recommendations for how rural girls' personal and professional development, health, and safety can better be supported and, in turn, spur long-term economic growth and social stability at the community, national, and regional levels.

Catherine Bertini will chair the project.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/hottopics_details.php?hottopics_id=186

What Real Foreign Aid Reform Means, *David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World, Huffington Post, August 6*

U.S. foreign assistance has helped drive some of the greatest human progress in the last 50 years. The impact of America's generosity and leadership can be measured in millions of lives saved and transformed. For example, the Marshall Plan rebuilt Europe's economy after World War II, and the Green Revolution in agriculture helped put Asia on a path to long-term growth in the 1960s and '70s. Led by President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the current administration has strengthened America's commitment to development by calling it a "moral, strategic, and economic imperative," building on the campaign pledge Obama made to ensure that "development is established and endures as a key pillar of U.S. foreign policy." But the rhetorical rubber meets the road when we look at the current system we use to deliver foreign aid.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-beckmann/what-real-foreign-aid-ref_b_672554.html

The Cost of Pakistan's Floods, *Council on Foreign Relations, August 10*

The deadliest floods in Pakistan's sixty-three-year history have killed over 1,600 and affected nearly fourteen million people. The immediate challenge is an emerging food crisis, with millions of acres of farmland destroyed. The World Food Programme says at least six million people are at risk of going hungry and food shortages are expected to rise. Agricultural production in Pakistan, Asia's third-largest grower of wheat and the fourth-biggest producer of cotton, may decline by 10 to 15 percent. This has serious implications: Even though agriculture constitutes 22 percent of the economy, it employs two-thirds of the country's population. Analysts at Citigroup predict that a contraction in agricultural production could lower GDP growth rate for 2011 from an estimated 4.4 percent to 3.1 percent. The Economist Intelligence Unit says Punjab, in particular, is crucial for growing both wheat and cotton; widespread destruction of cotton would affect the textile industry, a mainstay of the national economy.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22784/costs_of_pakistans_floods.html

See Also: Holbrooke: Pakistan Aid Inadequate, *Interview with Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Council on Foreign Relations, August 11*

"We leapt into the effort as soon as it occurred and led the international response. The United States immediately sent helicopters from Afghanistan with U.S. crews into the flooded zones. We have airlifted food in from our stocks in the Gulf and in Pakistan itself. We have committed large sums of money, and right now we have a U.S. military vessel in the region about to send more helicopters. We are contacting international governments and doing everything we can in this extraordinary challenge."

<http://www.cfr.org/publication/22794/holbrooke.html>

Solving the World's Hunger and Obesity Crises Together, *Ellen Gustafson, Co-Founder, FEED Projects, CNN, August 10*

About 30 years ago, a few key things happened that changed American and global agriculture. First, our farms consolidated after the oil crisis of the 1970s and focused more on growing highly subsidized commodities such as corn, soy and wheat. Concurrently, we began to cut international agriculture development aid. Since

1980, U.S. development aid for African farmers has fallen by 85 percent. With American farmers producing lots of excess corn, soy and wheat and farmers in the poorest parts of the world receiving less support, the way we've eaten here and around the world has changed in the past 30 years.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/08/10/gustafson.hunger.obesity/>

World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 12*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/waob/wasde//2010s/2010/wasde-08-12-2010.pdf>

See Also: USDA Cuts World Wheat View, But Says No Repeat of 08, *Reuters, August 12*

World wheat supplies will be tighter than expected as a devastating drought in Russia and its neighbors erodes healthy stockpiles, but the U.S. Agriculture Department said there was no reason for rising prices to stage a repeat of 2008's historic surge.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67B3V520100812>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by Chief Agricultural Negotiator Isi Siddiqui at the AGOA Agribusiness Forum, *Ambassador Isi Siddiqui, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, August 6*

"African countries have an important stake in the WTO Doha negotiations. Africa's share of global trade has shrunk by a third since 1970. We also recognize that agriculture is the largest employer in African countries, accounting for about 60 percent of the labor force and producing about 25 percent of GDP. We believe an ambitious and balanced outcome to the Doha Round provides the best chance of creating new market opportunities for global trade – in particular for Africa's value-added products, not just its commodities, to enter fast-growing markets. It is also the best way to ensure that trade's promise as an engine for economic growth can be fully realized by African nations. We also know that cotton is an important source of income to many poor farmers in Africa and that many have called for reforms in this sector as one means to help these farmers. As we see it, the best way to advance farm trade reforms globally – not just for cotton, but for all agricultural commodities – is multilaterally, in the agricultural negotiations of the Doha Round."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/august/remarks-chief-agricultural-negotiator-isi-si-1>

USAID Staff Tracker, *Rethinking U.S. Foreign Assistance Blog, Center for Global Development, August 10*

Last week we said USAID administrator Raj Shah couldn't captain his own ship without a crew of Senate-confirmed leaders. Good news: the administration has since nominated a deputy administrator and assistant administrator for democracy, conflict, and humanitarian assistance; so four of the twelve subsequent appointees have been named. Bad news: zero have been confirmed. Check out the USAID Staffer Tracker for more detail.

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/08/usaaid-staffer-tracker.php>

U.S. Embassy Announces Groundbreaking Effort to Provide Emergency Food Assistance to Earthquake Victims in Haiti, *Press Release, U.S. Agency for International Development, August 13*

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that it will award two separate, high-impact grants in Haiti to help earthquake-affected families meet their food needs from local markets with cash or vouchers. The innovative grants, the first two made in Haiti under USAID's new Emergency Food Security Program, were awarded to the World Food Programme (WFP) and Mercy Corps.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100813.html>

Lincoln, Chambliss Criticize Russian Government on Lack of Action in Resuming U.S. Poultry Imports, *U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, August 13*

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., Chairman of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, and Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., pressed the Russian government to fulfill their commitment to reopen their markets to U.S. poultry imports in a joint letter sent to Russian Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak. "Russia's refusal to resume poultry trade with the U.S. demonstrates a serious lack of commitment to the agreement reached by the two countries in June," Lincoln said. "By creating an arbitrary trade barrier, Russia continues to hamper progress in U.S.-Russian relations. As Chairman of the Senate

Agriculture Committee I intend to make sure the Russian government lives up to their commitment to resume fair and open U.S. poultry imports.”

http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2125&Itemid=2

A Webb of Misguided MCC Ideas, *U.S. Foreign Assistance Blog, Center for Global Development, August 9*
Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) says the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) should stop funding development projects awarded to non-U.S. companies in Africa. As CGD president Nancy Birdsall and senior fellow Todd Moss said, tying development assistance to U.S. companies is “one of the worst habits that undermines the ability of foreign aid to deliver development results.”

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/mca-monitor/2010/08/a-webb-of-misguided-mcc-ideas.php>

See Also: Webb: Tax Dollars Shouldn't Fund Chinese Business, *Augusta Free Press, August 2*
U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., called on the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. government development organization funded by American tax dollars, to immediately cease action on multimillion-dollar development projects awarded to non-U.S. companies in Africa.

<http://augustafreepress.com/2010/08/02/webb-tax-dollars-shouldnt-fund-chinese-business/>

Climate Change: The Quality, Comparability, and Review of Emissions Inventories Vary Between Developed and Developing Nations, *Government Accountability Office, July 2010*

Nations that are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change periodically submit inventories estimating their greenhouse gas emissions. The Convention Secretariat runs a review process to evaluate inventories from 41 "Annex I" nations, which are mostly economically developed nations. The 153 "non-Annex I" nations are generally less economically developed and have less stringent inventory reporting guidelines. The Department of State (State) represents the United States in international climate change negotiations. GAO was asked to report on (1) what is known about the comparability and quality of inventories and barriers, if any, to improvement; (2) what is known about the strengths and limits of the inventory review process; and (3) views of experts on implications for current and future international agreements to reduce emissions.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10818.pdf>

USDA Research Agency, Israeli Agricultural Ministry Sign Agreement on Cooperative Research, *Agricultural Research Service, August 10*

Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD) of the State of Israel signed a formal agreement in Washington, DC, to collaborate on research to meet the world's food and fiber needs and address other high-priority agricultural issues.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2010/100810.2.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soy Innovation Africa 2010: Cultivating Potential in Emerging Markets

Date: August 26th – 27th, 2010

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

In collaboration with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, Soy Southern Africa and the National Soybean Research Laboratory, Soyatech LLC will host a two-day strategic leadership conference in Cape Town, South Africa to bring the best global resources to bear on the challenges of efficiently utilizing the world's most complete plant protein to emerging markets around the globe.

<http://events.soyatech.com/conference.php?cid=13>

African Green Revolution 2010 Forum

Date: September 2nd–4th

Location: Accra, Ghana

The African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) focuses on promoting investments and policy support for driving agricultural productivity and income growth for African farmers in an environmentally sustainable way. The Forum, which stems from the African Green Revolution Conference in Oslo, is a private-sector led

initiative which will bring together African heads of state, ministers, farmers, private agribusiness firms, financial institutions, NGOs, civil society and scientists, to discuss and develop concrete investment plans for achieving the green revolution in Africa.

<http://agrforum.com/>

African Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

Date: September 6th-8th, 2010

Location: Addis Ababa (Adis Abeba), Ethiopia

This meeting is organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), African Union Commission (AUC), Ethiopia, Netherlands, Norway and Germany.

<http://climate-l.org/2010/08/02/event-african-conference-on-agriculture-food-security-and-climate-change/>

Making the Most of the MDG Summit: Advancing the Interests of Women and Girls

Date: September 7th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

This important session is part of *Our Global Challenges*, a series of dialogues held in partnership with the University of Miami Knight Center for International Media. The series examines progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is made possible by the Knight Foundation.

<http://csis.org/event/making-most-mdg-summit-advancing-interests-women-and-girls>

U.S. Global Leadership Coalition – 2010 Washington Conference

Date: September 28th-29th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Join us at our September conference as we bring you informative and timely sessions with today's leading foreign policy luminaries, including addresses by David Gregory of NBC News' Meet the Press and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah.

<http://www.usglc.org/2010/08/05/2010-wash-conferenc/>

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

Date: October 13th – 15th, 2010

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

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

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

International Annual Meetings of American Society of Agronomy - Crop Science Society of America - Soil Science Society of America

Date: Oct. 31st - Nov. 3rd, 2010

Location: Long Beach, CA

Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Meetings of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America, 31 October–3 November in Long Beach, CA. The year's Annual Meetings theme connects attendees to the growing global challenges of "Green Revolution 2.0: Food+Energy and Environmental Security." Consider joining your colleagues in Long Beach! More than 2,700 scientists, professionals, and students will present the latest research and discuss emerging trends in agriculture, energy, climate change, environmental science, and related issues. The Annual Meetings program features keynote and plenary lectures, 2,500 oral and poster presentations, an Exhibit Hall, Career Center, tours, workshops, and plenty of networking events. For additional information on the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meetings, please visit: www.acsmeetings.org

The International Rice Congress 2010

Date: November 8th –12th, 2010

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
<http://www.ricecongress.com/cmsdetail.php?id=1>

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

Date: October 31st – November 5th, 2010

Location: The Hague, The Netherlands

The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change aims to develop a roadmap with concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies, and measures with the transition to climate smart growth.

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

First Global Conference on Biofortification: From Discovery to Delivery

Date: November 11th – 12th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

The First Global Conference on Biofortification is the first international effort to take stock of progress made in developing nutrient-rich crops, share lessons learned, and chart the future of biofortification. This three-day event will bring agricultural scientists, public health specialists, policymakers, donors, and business leaders together to move this emerging agricultural intervention for public health forward.

<http://www.harvestplus.org/content/first-global-conference-biofortification>

Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Date: February 10th – 12th, 2011

Location: New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people's nutrition and health, and people's nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people's nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world's poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Analyzing Nutritional Impacts of Policies, *International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2010*

Widespread malnutrition in developing countries calls for appropriate strategies, presupposing good knowledge about nutritional impacts of policies. Little previous work has been carried out in this direction, especially with respect to micronutrients. The authors use representative household data from Malawi and develop a demand systems approach to estimate income and price elasticities of food demand and nutrient consumption.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01017.pdf>

Media Articles:

China Unveils Proposals for Agricultural Cooperation with Africa, *Xinhua, August 12*

Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu proposed stepping up agricultural cooperation with Africa. Addressing the closing ceremony of a China-Africa agriculture forum, Hui proposed enhanced exchanges among agricultural departments and improving the Sino-African agricultural cooperation mechanism. He called for strengthened agricultural technological cooperation and an expansion in trade of primary products. The Chinese government will continue to send agricultural experts and technicians to African countries to help spread and apply advanced agricultural technology, Hui said. China will also host agricultural experts and students from African countries for education or training, he added.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-08/12/c_13441725.htm

See Also: Asia Should Buy Into Africa's Growth, *Forbes, August 12*

The biggest business opportunity of the four lies in consumer goods and services, followed by natural resources, agriculture and infrastructure.

<http://www.forbes.com/2010/08/12/asia-china-africa-trade-growth-markets-economy-investment.html>

Modified Banana Could Cure Deadly Diseases, *Inter Press Service, August 12*

An innovation by researchers in Nigeria could be a cure for the devastating Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) - responsible for annual losses in excess of 500 million dollars of crop across East and Central Africa. But it has also fuelled debate on the genetic engineering of crops in Africa.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=52472>

See Also: Genes from Sweet Pepper to Fortify African Banana Against Devastating Wilt Disease, *Press Release, August 6*

In a major breakthrough, crop scientists announced today the successful transfer of green pepper genes to bananas, conferring on the popular fruit the means to resist one of the most devastating diseases of bananas in the Great Lakes region of Africa. The Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW) costs banana farmers about half a billion dollars worth of damage every year across East and Central Africa. The leaves of affected crops turn yellow and then wilt, and the fruit ripens unevenly and before its time. Eventually the entire plant withers and rots.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-08/bc-gfs080610.php

Housing Development Threatens Russian Seed Bank, *AOL News, August 11*

During World War II, 12 Russian scientists starved to death at a biodiversity seed bank in what was then called Leningrad, choosing to die rather than eat the rare specimens of seeds and plants they'd dedicated their careers to protecting. Now that same seed bank, the Pavlovsk Experimental Station, which houses the world's largest collection of European fruits and berries, faces destruction by the Russian government to make way for a private housing development outside St. Petersburg.

<http://www.aolnews.com/world/article/housing-development-threatens-russian-seed-bank-the-pavlovsk-experimental-station/19589101>

Canada 2010-2011 Wheat Harvest Will Drop 21% on Rainfall, USDA Unit Says, *Bloomberg, August 10*

Canada's wheat production will drop 21 percent in the year ending July 31 because of excess rain in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-10/canada-2010-2011-wheat-harvest-will-drop-21-on-rainfall-usda-unit-says.html>

See Also: Canada Grain and Feed Update, *USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, August 7*

Extremely wet conditions in Canada, particularly during May and June, have had a significant impact on forecasted production for 2010/11.

<http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Grain%20and%20Feed%20Update%20Canada%2008-07-2010.pdf>

Canola, Pushed by Genetics, Moves Into Uncharted Territories, *New York Times, August 9*

Genetically engineered versions of the canola plant are flourishing in the form of roadside weeds in North Dakota, scientists say, in one of the first instances of a genetically modified crop establishing itself in the wild.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/10/science/10canola.html>

Corruption is a Calamity for Cameroon's Agriculture and Food Security - Activist, *AlertNet, August 9*

Cameroonians could face serious problems producing and accessing enough food to feed themselves unless the government and its citizens take on corrupt agricultural officials, a prominent campaigner in the Central African country said. Bernard Njonga, the head of a non-governmental organisation that filed a lawsuit last year against a group of agriculture ministry officials for misappropriating funds, said bad governance had stalled initiatives to boost local agricultural production.

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/58388/2010/07/9-160416-1.htm

Pakistan Farmers Fear Famine After Floods, *National (UAE), August 9*

As the evacuation of thousands of people living along the Indus River continued, a senior government official warned that the floods in Pakistan's farming heartland will lead to severe food shortages and devastate the country's economy. "A large percentage of the country's GDP is made of agricultural exports, and 60 to 70 per cent of the population depends on agriculture" for their livelihoods, Agha Jan Akhtar, the Sindh provincial government's secretary of agriculture, said in an interview yesterday. "We have US\$2 billion (Dh7.35bn) worth of rice exports, which we will now lose. All of our targets will go haywire."

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100809/FOREIGN/708089856/1001>

New S. African Land Policy Still Under Wraps, *Agence France-Presse, August 8*

South Africa's skewed land ownership remains one of the most visible legacies of apartheid when blacks had no rights to the bulk of land that was classified whites-only. The government has admitted that its efforts at change have had miserable results, with up to 90 percent of projects unproductive and just six percent of white farms redistributed to black farmers. President Jacob Zuma's government has promised to overhaul land reform policy but new proposals have been repeatedly delayed. Leaked reports indicate the new rules could include a ceiling on private land ownership and allowing foreigners to buy land only with a South African partner.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hTy083BL0FW3co09CS30A0vTTThA>

Chinese Soil Experts Warn of Massive Threat to Food Security, *SciDevNet, August 5*

If China's current rate of soil loss continues, a layer the size of Puerto Rico will be washed away in the next 50 years — resulting in a 40 per cent decrease in food production, according to a study led by the country's Ministry of Water Resources, and science and engineering academies.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/news/chinese-soil-experts-warn-of-massive-threat-to-food-security.html>

Growing Poplars for Food Security, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, August 4*

Around one million people in Siyang County, China, are now benefiting from the capacity of poplar forests to restore marginal flood plains and stabilize the banks of the Yellow, Huai and Yangtze rivers. Large swaths of planted poplar trees now protect fields once ravaged by floods, wind, sandstorms and soil erosion, giving boost to agricultural activities.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44518/icode/>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Media Articles:

Why Foreign Aid and Africa Don't Mix, *Robert Calderisi, CNN, August 13*

Aid, by itself, has never developed anything, but where it has been allied to good public policy, sound economic management, and a strong determination to battle poverty, it has made an enormous difference in countries like India, Indonesia, and even China. The truth is that most of Africa's growth -- based on oil and mineral exports -- has not made a whit of difference to the lives of most Africans. A quarter of school-age children are still not enrolled, according to World Bank statistics; many of those that are, are receiving a very mediocre education. And agricultural productivity -- the key to reducing poverty -- is essentially stagnant.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/08/12/africa.aid.calderisi/>

Ethiopia Eyes End of Food Aid Within Five Years – PM, *Reuters, August 11*

Ethiopia may not need any food aid within five years thanks to an ambitious development plan that targets a heady average economic growth of 14.9 percent over the period, its prime minister said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE67A21J.CH.2400>

UN Agencies Say 1.7mln Zimbabweans Need Food Aid, *Reuters, August 10*

Nearly 1.7 million Zimbabweans will require food assistance in the 2010/11 season despite the recent recovery of the country's troubled agriculture sector, United Nations agencies said in a report. Agriculture plumbed new depths in 2008 when farmers produced 500,000 tonnes of the staple maize against national

requirements of 2 million tonnes, but production has since picked up in the past two years to 1.35 million tonnes.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E6790GR20100810>

See Also: Zimbabwe Needs Food Aid for 1.7 Million People Next Year, *Voice of America*, August 10

There's good news and bad news about Zimbabwe's food security situation. A new U.N. report says while it's improved significantly, about 1.7 million people will still need assistance.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-zimbabwe-food-10aug10-100347909.html>

The Death of Generosity, *Newsweek*, August 9

Slashing foreign aid might seem like a necessary evil when countries such as Italy or Britain could need bailing out. But reversing the G8 pledges will have severe consequences. For one thing, it means creating a gap for a new group of donors such as China and Venezuela to boost their aid commitments. These countries do not require the same sort of respect for human rights and high-quality governance that the West demands as a condition for aid. What's more, if the world fails to eradicate hunger, as vowed in the millennium goals, children in many developing countries will still lack food, launching a cycle of stunted growth, weak brain development, and poor economic performance; if the world does not meet the goal of universal primary education, African states may never catch up to East Asian competitors with strong primary-education systems.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/08/09/the-death-of-generosity.print.html>

"There is no choice": Climate, Health, Water, Food Security Must Be Integrated, Say Experts, *New Security Beat (blog)*, August 9

Bureaucratic stovepipes plague international development efforts, and aid for pressing environmental and human security concerns—such as climate change, food shortages, fresh water access, and global health threats—rarely matches the reality on the ground in the developing world, where such health and environmental problems are fundamentally interconnected. Instead, development efforts in the field—whether spearheaded by multilaterals, bilaterals, or NGOs—are commonly devoted to single sectors: e.g., the prevention and treatment of a single disease; the implementation of irrigation infrastructure in a specific area; or the introduction of a new crop in a certain region. The reasons for such a narrow focus can come from multiple sources: finite resources, narrowly constructed funding streams, emphasis on simple and discrete indicators of success, and institutional and professional development penalties for those who conduct integrated work. But some experts argue that integrating problem-solving initiatives across categories would not only improve the efficacy of development efforts, but also better improve lives in target communities.

<http://newsecuritybeat.blogspot.com/2010/08/there-is-no-choice-climate-health-water.html>

Billions of Dollars Needed for Pakistan's Flood Victims, *Voice of America*, August 8

The United States has also urgently rushed humanitarian assistance to Pakistan, including food, shelter and medical supplies. It has already committed \$35 million to help people in the affected areas. U.S officials say about 50-percent of the food provided to flood-hit families is being supplied by the United States through the World Food Program.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Billions-of-Dollars-Needed-for-Pakistans-Flood-Victims--100223204.html>

See Also: Monsoon Flooding in Pakistan, *World Food Programme*, August 4

<http://usa.wfp.org/sites/default/files/WFP%20Pakistan%20Operational%20Update%20August%202010.pdf>

See Also: Swamped, Bruised and Resentful, *Economist*, August 5

Mr Khan says that the effect has not only been to wipe out this year's crops, but because of damage to the irrigation network, next season's crops will be lost too. The areas worst hit, including Charsadda and the neighbouring district of Nowshera, as well as Punjab, are all big food producers.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16743369>

Reports:

Rice Yields in Tropical/Subtropical Asia Exhibit Large but Opposing Sensitivities to Minimum and Maximum Temperatures, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, July 6, 2010

Temperature and radiation had statistically significant impacts during both the vegetative and ripening phases of the rice plant. Higher minimum temperature reduced yield, whereas higher maximum temperature raised it; radiation impact varied by growth phase. Combined, these effects imply that yield at most sites would have grown more rapidly during the high-yielding season but less rapidly during the low-yielding season if observed temperature and radiation trends at the end of the 20th century had not occurred, with temperature trends being more influential. Looking ahead, they imply a net negative impact on yield from moderate warming in coming decades. Beyond that, the impact would likely become more negative, because prior research indicates that the impact of maximum temperature becomes negative at higher levels.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/07/26/1001222107.abstract>

See Also: Rising Temperatures Threaten Rice Yield Growth, *Reuters*, August 10

Rising temperatures could slow the growth of rice production unless farmers adapt by changing management practices and switch to more heat-tolerant varieties, scientists say. Rice is among the world's most important crops and a staple for people in Asia and Africa, with Asia producing and consuming more than 90 percent of the world's output. A drop in production could lead to higher prices, fears over food security and more hunger in a world with a rising human population.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSGE67902R.CH.2400>

See Also: Hotter Nights Threaten Food Security – Rice at Risk, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN*, August 9

Production of rice — the world's most important crop for ensuring food security and addressing poverty — will be thwarted as temperatures increase in rice-growing areas with continued climate change, according to a new study by an international team of scientists. The research team found evidence that the net impact of projected temperature increases will be to slow the growth of rice production in Asia. Rising temperatures during the past 25 years have already cut the yield growth rate by 10-20% in several locations.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44618/icode/>

Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture and Policy Options for Adaptation, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, August 2010

Vietnam is likely to be among the countries hardest hit by climate change, mainly through rising sea levels and changes in rainfall and temperatures. Agriculture can be extensively affected by climate change, and designing effective adaptation strategies will be critical for maintaining food security, rural employment, and foreign exchange earnings. This paper examines these critical issues and thereby makes two contributions to the literature. First, it estimates the impacts of climate change on agricultural and water systems in Vietnam based on crop simulation, hydrological simulation, and river basin models. It then presents a yield function approach that models technology advances and policy interventions to improve rice productivity and mitigate the impact of climate change, using a multilevel mixed effects model.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01015.pdf>

Media Articles:

Extreme Weather Plagues Farming, Talks Flounder, *Reuters*, August 12

Global wheat markets reeling from Russian droughts, thousands of cattle killed by heat in Kansas, and countless crop acres wiped out by floods in Pakistan are glimpses of what can be expected as the world struggles to battle climate change. But as concerns mount over extreme weather hitting global food systems this year, governments are no closer to forging a pact to fight climate change.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE67B3W320100812>

See Also: Record Droughts, Floods and Fires Strain Food Markets' Resilience, *New York Times*, August 12

A string of devastating natural disasters many are attributing to climate change has sent food prices on a roller coaster ride, leading to fears of a wave of climate-induced food price shocks of the sort that sparked rioting in the developing world two years ago. But international agriculture experts say those concerns are unfounded. Though they acknowledge dramatic spikes in wheat and corn, and new pricing pressure on rice, U.N. and other food policy experts say data show global food inventories are still healthy and that declining production in some parts of the world will be offset by bumper crops elsewhere.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/08/12/12climatewire-record-droughts-floods-and-fires-strain-food-68330.html>

See Also: Fires and floods: Part of the main, *Economist*, August 12

How the heatwave in Russia is connected to floods in Pakistan.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16799101>

See Also: Pakistan Floods Hit 14 Million People as Heat Parches Russia, U.S. Midwest,

Bloomberg, August 10

Pakistan's deadliest floods that affected 13.8 million people may sweep through southern areas, increasing damage to crops and infrastructure. Extreme heat and smoke from wildfires forced people to flee Moscow. In China, the death toll from a landslide that buried villages in the country's west rose to at least 337, with a further 1,148 missing. Temperatures in the central U.S. are forecast to climb back to the 100-degree Fahrenheit (37.7 Celsius) mark this week, and in many areas it will feel much hotter than that, according to the National Weather Service. "Climate change is obviously the key input" influencing agricultural prices now, Jonathan Barratt, managing director at Commodity Broking Services Pty., said by phone from Sydney today. "The market is focusing on anything to do with bad weather."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-10/pakistan-floods-hit-14-million-people-as-heat-parches-russia-u-s-midwest.html>

See Also: Russian Drought: When Wheat Withers, the World Squirms, *Editorial*, *Christian Science Monitor*, August 6

Russia imposed a ban on exports of wheat due to a severe drought, causing a spike in world prices. But the ban's most important effect may be to raise questions about long-term food security, especially if global warming continues.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2010/0806/Russian-drought-When-wheat-withers-the-world-squirms>

Niger River Floods Destroying Homes and Crops, *BBC News*, August 10

Some five thousand people in Niger lost their homes and crops after the River Niger burst its banks at the weekend. The West African country is already suffering from severe food shortages caused by recent drought.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-10929144>

See Also: Heavy Rains Kill 100 in West Africa, Threaten Crops, *Reuters*, August 10

Seasonal flooding has killed almost 100 people across West Africa, destroyed thousands of homes, encouraged the spread of disease and threatens to worsen a food crisis by washing away farmland, aid groups said. Millions of people are without food in the Sahel region, which runs south of the Sahara desert, after droughts last year depleted stocks.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE6790MA20100810>

U.N. Chief Recommends Small Steps on Climate, *New York Times*, August 9

Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations secretary general, said that he doubted that member states would reach a new global climate change agreement in December at a conference in Mexico. Mr. Ban, who was the head cheerleader for reaching a deal during the 2009 conference in Copenhagen, suggested that a better approach might consist of small steps in separate fields that built toward wider consensus rather than aiming for one sweeping pact.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/10/science/earth/10nations.html>

See Also: Climate Change Talks 'Backslide' at Bonn, *BBC News*, August 6

Global climate change talks have moved backwards since last year, say negotiators from both rich and poor nations at discussions in Germany.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-10900798>

Bring Water into Climate Change Negotiations, *Inter Press Service, August 8*

Longer periods of drought, decreased river flow, higher rainfall variability and lower soil moisture content: water is at the heart of the impacts of climate change. Yet the precious commodity scarcely features in climate negotiations.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=52421>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Reports:

Does Social Capital Build Women's Assets?, *Neha Kumar, Agnes Quisumbing, International Food Policy Research Institute, July 2010*

This paper investigates the long-term impact of agricultural technologies, disseminated using different implementation modalities, on men's and women's asset accumulation in rural Bangladesh.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/capriwp97.pdf>

Media Articles:

UN Agencies Look to World's Youth to Find Solutions to Global Problems, *UN News Centre, August 12*

The World Food Programme (WFP) has enlisted young people in its campaign to end world hunger, with more than 1 billion people are currently chronically hungry. "You are the generation that will end hunger," the agency's Executive Director, Josette Sheeran, said at a seminar in London last month. "In the future, we want our grandchildren to ask us what hunger and starvation were. For its part, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is hoping to employ the tremendous energy, imagination and initiative to promote peace and development. The agency said that poor young people living in rural areas can help to feed the world's population as tomorrow's farmers and producers, but cautioned that they are also among the most vulnerable members of society.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35611&Cr=youth&Cr1=>

Status of Female Farmers Rises During Food Crisis, *Women's ENews, August 11*

The women who grow more than half the world's agricultural produce have gained international recognition and aid since the start of the global food crisis in 2007. Instead of being seen as a minor, vulnerable group, international aid agencies have begun keeping sex-specific data and reaching out to them as development partners, said Jeannette Gurung, director of the Washington-based Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and National Resource Management. The reason: high food prices three years ago strained food-aid suppliers, causing them to look for cheaper, more flexible sources. In a policy shift that was also aimed at helping local economies, they began turning to small farmers, who are predominantly women.

<http://www.womensenews.org/story/environment/100810/status-female-farmers-rises-during-food-crisis>

UN Women to Spearhead New Drive for Gender Equality, *The Lancet, August 7*

A new UN body charged with advancing gender equality for women and girls will look to kick-start what has until now been slow progress on maternal health.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673610612068/fulltext?rss=yes>

Senegal: Women Salt Producers Lead Iodine Drive, *World Food Programme, August 6*

Iodine deficiency is a major problem in Senegal where it causes birth defects in children and goitre in adults. Women salt producers are leading the charge against this form of malnutrition with the help of a WFP programme that helps them to enrich the salt they harvest with iodine and trains them as business leaders.

<http://www.wfp.org/stories/senegal-women-salt-producers-lead-iodine-drive>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Where Are The BITs? How U.S. Bilateral Investment Treaties with Africa Can Promote Development, *Center for Global Development, August 2010*

This paper focuses on the role that bilateral investment treaties (BITs) can play in promoting development in sub-Saharan Africa. BITs defend and promote investment abroad by providing core protections to foreign investors, reducing investors' exposure to political risk and uncertain business environments. But despite their potential benefits, BITs have been almost completely missing from U.S. engagement in sub-Saharan Africa over the last twenty years. "If this situation is unchanged, we risk the entrenchment of Chinese companies in Africa, paid for by American taxpayers. I cannot imagine a more ludicrous scenario at this point in the evolution of our recent foreign policy." Webb also said that such projects "obviously work to the benefit of the Chinese government's strategy to expand political influence through business and development ventures."

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424333_file_Leo_BITs_FINAL.pdf

Price Transmission for Agricultural Commodities in Uganda: An Empirical Vector Autoregressive Analysis, *Line Lassen Kaspersen, T. Helene Ystanes Foyn, International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2010*

This paper investigates price transmission for agricultural commodities between world markets and the Ugandan market in an attempt to determine the impact of world market prices on the Ugandan market.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/usspwp06.pdf>

Media Articles:

Uganda Reduces Coffee-Export Forecast After Drought, *Bloomberg Businessweek, August 12*

Uganda, Africa's biggest coffee exporter, reduced its shipment forecast for the third time in the 2009-10 season after a drought cut yields, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-12/uganda-reduces-coffee-export-forecast-after-drought.html>

Cuba Cuts US Food Imports 28 Percent in Early '09, *Reuters, August 12*

Cash-strapped Cuba has continued to slash agricultural purchases from the U.S. even as a key bill that would ease Washington's Cuban travel ban and make it easier to sell more food to the island works its way through Congress, according to a report.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HI3F200.htm>

Can Export Bans Be Challenged at the WTO?, *Reuters, August 12*

Russia's ban on grain exports as a heat wave parches crops in the world's third biggest wheat exporter has raised questions whether such export curbs break World Trade Organization rules. Russia is not a member of the WTO, and it remains to be seen how its new grain policy will affect its 17-year-old bid to join. But other grain exporters, such as Ukraine, which is also considering export curbs, are part of the global trade referee.

<http://blogs.reuters.com/global/2010/08/12/can-export-bans-be-challenged-at-the-wto/>

See Also: World Bank Urges Nations to Avoid Food Export Bans, *Reuters, August 9*

The World Bank urged countries to refrain from imposing policies that could trigger a new global food price crisis as drought-hit Russia said it could extend a grain export ban into next year. World Bank Managing Director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told Reuters the sharp spike in grain prices last week after Russia's announcement of an export ban did not amount to a crisis yet but warned that increased food price volatility would hurt poorer countries.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFN0926836520100809>

No Food-Inflation Threat Seen for Emerging Markets, *Wall Street Journal, August 11*

Amid all the hand-wringing about the potential for global food inflation thanks to soaring wheat prices, many emerging-market fund managers remain sanguine about the prospects for the top-performing sector. In a world where deflation is becoming a bigger worry, they say any price increases spurred by the rising cost of grains will be less threatening than they were in 2008.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704216804575423323900407194.html>

US Plan Fails to End Africa's Trade Isolation, *Financial Times*, August 8

Ten years ago, the US unveiled a programme which boldly proclaimed it would help end Africa's isolation from world trade. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) has extended duty-free access to the US market to about 40 countries. It has not quite worked out that way.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0fbc7cec-a321-11df-8cf4-00144feabdc0.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

US Farmers to Benefit from Failing Wheat Crops, *Financial Times*, August 12

US farmers will reap the benefits from failing crops round the world, the US Department of Agriculture said as it forecast the country's second-largest wheat exports in 15 years, worth billions of dollars. The boom for US farmers is lifting the outlook for the country's agribusiness companies. Shares in Archer Daniels Midland, the trading house, have rallied 15 per cent since mid-June. John Deere, the manufacturer of tractors and combines, is up 10 per cent, while Monsanto and DuPont, which sell seeds, have also risen.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c04c5268-a615-11df-9cb9-00144feabdc0.html>

Hedging Helps Foodmakers Through Uncertainty, *Financial Times*, August 12

Imagine you supply the world's biggest supermarket chains with breakfast cereals, bottled beer and sliced bread. Or that you are one of the world's biggest meat producers, buying corn to feed cattle whose meat is your bottom line. Now imagine prices of wheat, corn and other agricultural commodities, which comprise much of your input costs, jump 50 per cent in a matter of weeks because of a drought in Russia that has caused catastrophic crop failure. Worse, Moscow slaps a ban on exports. That is exactly what has happened to companies such as Tyson Foods, Anheuser-Busch InBev, General Mills, Kellogg and Kraft. Contrary to the fears of many investors, however, these big food companies are likely to weather the turmoil in commodities markets.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/88d1f506-a63b-11df-8767-00144feabdc0.html>

Dairy Companies Face New Questions in China, *Wall Street Journal*, August 12

Mounting questions about abnormal hormone levels in several Chinese infants who demonstrated early signs of puberty have again put a Chinese milk supplier and New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd. on the defensive about their products.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704216804575423282399755778.html>

Yum Brands Spend \$360k Lobbying in 2nd Quarter, *Associated Press*, August 10

Fast-food restaurant company Yum Brands Inc. spent \$360,000 in the second quarter to lobby the federal government on food safety and other issues, according to a disclosure report. That's more than double the \$150,000 that the fast-food chain spent in the first quarter, and up from the \$260,000 it spent in the year-ago period. Yum, which is based in Louisville, Ky., and owns Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, KFC and other chains, also lobbied the federal government on legislation involving labor issues, restaurant-related taxes, health care reform, and global food security.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jRcH83JhVUHa0qIZ8uhI6l7NpngD9HGNDRO0>

DoJ Urged to Complete Monsanto Case, *Financial Times*, August 9

Top Democratic lawmakers urged the Department of Justice to "expeditiously complete" its antitrust investigation into Monsanto, injecting a dose of politics into what could become the Obama administration's most significant competition case. Monsanto has been under scrutiny by antitrust officials at the DOJ since October last year. At the centre of the investigation are questions about whether the St Louis-based maker of genetically modified seeds has legally used its cutting-edge technology to become a dominant force in the agricultural industry, or whether it has illegally used patent protections to engage in anti-competitive behaviour.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6327dfda-a3ef-11df-9e3a-00144feabdc0.html>

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