

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



August 13<sup>th</sup> – August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“We invest in global health to promote social and economic progress, and to support the rise of capable partners who can help us solve regional and global problems. We have seen places where people who suffer from poor health struggle on many levels. Poverty is usually widespread. Infrastructure is usually incomplete. Food production and school enrollments are usually low. People who would otherwise take the lead in driving progress for their families and nations are instead dragged down by disease, deprivation, and lost opportunity.”*—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Remarks from [“The Global Health Initiative: The Next Phase of American Leadership,”](#) School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC, August 16, 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](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment).
- To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).
- To unsubscribe from *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please click [here](#).

---

**CONTENTS**

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

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

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

---

**KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS**

**Feed the Future E-Newsletter, Issue #2, U.S. Government, August 2010**

[http://www.feedthefuture.gov/ftfnews/ftfnews\\_02\\_081310.pdf](http://www.feedthefuture.gov/ftfnews/ftfnews_02_081310.pdf)

**A Positive Path for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa: Options and Challenges, Stacey Rosen and Shahla Shapouri, USDA Economic Research Service, August 2010**

Global food security improved between 2009 and 2010, as the effects of food price spikes and the global economic downturn moderated, but projections point to deteriorating food security over the next 10 years, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September10/Features/FoodSecurityAfrica.htm>

**Remarks by Ambassador William J. Garvelink, Deputy Coordinator for Development, Feed The Future, 2010 International Food Aid and Development Conference (IFADC), August 4**

“But increasing agricultural productivity will only get us so far. An initial USAID survey of draft African agricultural plans shows that developing effective markets is their top priority. We have considerable capabilities in this area, and we've done a lot of project work to solve this problem. But too often, our investments have resulted in a collection of projects that fail to transform a value chain and leave a lasting, market-oriented agricultural system. So we will do things differently.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100804.html>

**Hope on a Hillside: Helping Small Farmers Help Themselves, Sylvia Matthews Burwell, President of the Global Development Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Huffington Post, August 17**

Somewhere in Rwanda, a rural farmer is dreaming of providing an education for her children. Not just high school, but maybe even a university degree. Such a dream used to seem out of reach. Like boosting the harvests on her hillside plot. Or multiplying her earnings. Or preventing topsoil from washing down the hilly slope when it rained. But now, an ambitious terracing program is working to reshape Rwanda's landscape, helping farmers limit erosion, improve irrigation, and boost their yields. And, in the process, it will help transform the landscape of rural poverty, empowering smallholder farmers to provide a better life for their loved ones.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sylvia-mathews-burwell/hope-on-a-hillside-helpin\\_b\\_685324.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sylvia-mathews-burwell/hope-on-a-hillside-helpin_b_685324.html)

**How grain markets sow the spikes they fear, Op-Ed, Robert Paarlberg, B.F. Johnson professor of political science at Wellesley College, Financial Times, August 20**

The real explanation for the price spikes of today and two years ago is a new and self-fulfilling fear in grain markets that even minor supply or demand shocks will trigger export restrictions by big suppliers. We saw this in 2007-08 when fears of domestic food price inflation led China to impose export taxes on grains, and Malaysia and Indonesia to do so on palm oil. Argentina raised its export taxes on wheat, and Egypt, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and India banned exports of rice. These actions stabilised domestic prices in exporting countries but drove up the price for importers, which accelerated purchases, worsening the crisis. Irresponsible media reports about a new era of global food scarcity fuelled the bubble and speculators moved in.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d34b3606-abc2-11df-9f02-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Russia's Woes Push Up Wheat, Wall Street Journal, August 20**

Russia will likely boost its grain imports amid a persistent drought that already has forced it to ban exports. Although the country was one of the world's largest wheat exporters last year, the usual trickle of imports could turn into a flood to make up for the anticipated shortfall in this year's harvest, further squeezing global supplies.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703791804575439423565946294.html>

**SEE ALSO: Ukraine delays grain export quotas decision, Financial Times, August 18**

Ukraine, one of the world's top grain producers, unexpectedly put off a decision to introduce grain export quotas, saying it needed more time to study how much wheat and barley have already been shipped overseas.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/587f2b88-aabb-11df-80f9-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Agricultural traders positioned to reap gains, Financial Times, August 17**

As US farmers reap the benefits from failing crops around the world, the traders that handle the country's grain exports will cash in too.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a243fb22-aa25-11df-9367-00144feabdc0.html>

**Spreading the Revolution: South-South Cooperation at Work, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow for Global Agriculture and Food Policy, Global Food for Thought Blog, August 20**

Brazil has become a major force on world agricultural markets, particularly in soybeans, and it has made advances in corralling domestic hunger. Brazil's grain and cereal production has increased four-fold. The principal scientists and administrators in developing the Cerrado won the 2006 World Food Prize. Norman Borlaug, the Father of the original Green Revolution and founder of the prize, hailed the work of Embrapa as “one of the great achievements of agricultural science in the 20th century, which has transformed a wasteland

into one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world." Can Brazil do the same for Africa in the 21st century?

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/08/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-spreading-the-revolution-southsouth-cooperation-at-work.html>

**Food security: Feeding the world in 2050**, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, August 2010

Although food prices in major world markets are at or near a historical low, there is increasing concern about food security – the ability of the world to provide healthy and environmentally sustainable diets for all its peoples. This volume is a collection of reviews of the major drivers affecting the food system to 2050, commissioned by the Foresight programme in the Government Office for Science.

<http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/365/1554.toc>

**SEE ALSO: How To Feed The World By Going Veggie**, *TIME*, August 16

The special issue, published by the Royal Society and overseen by the UK government chief scientist John Beggington, looks at the issue of food security in 2050—by then, the population of the earth is predicted to reach around 9 billion, meaning that global food supplies will need to increase by as much as 70% to meet increased demand.

<http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/2010/08/16/how-to-feed-the-world-by-going-veggie/>

**African nations dominate Maplecroft's new Food Security Risk Index - China and Russia will face challenges**, *Maplecroft*, August 2010

With global wheat prices expected to spike following an export ban in Russia due to fires destroying millions of hectares of crops, a new study measuring global food security has identified the food supplies of Afghanistan and nine Africa states as the countries which are most at risk and vulnerable to rising costs. Afghanistan (1) is rated as least secure in food supplies, whilst the African nations of the Democratic Republic of Congo (2), Burundi (3), Eritrea (4), Sudan (5), Ethiopia (6), Angola (7), Liberia (8), Chad (9) and Zimbabwe (10) are also considered "extreme risk." In all, African nations make up 36 of the 50 nations most at risk in the index.

<http://www.maplecroft.com/about/news/food-security.html>

**SEE ALSO: Afghanistan and African nations at greatest risk from world food shortages**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, August 19

Russian heatwave and floods in Pakistan threaten supplies for basic human diet.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/19/food-shortages-afghanistan-africa-pakistan-russia>

**SEE ALSO: Afghanistan, African countries top index for food insecurity**, *Agence France Presse*, August 18

Afghanistan and nine African countries top the world rankings for food insecurity, while North America and Western Europe, especially Scandinavia, have the surest food supplies, according to a survey of 163 economies. Among countries that were rated "high" were Bangladesh (23rd overall), Pakistan (30), India (31) and the Philippines (52), while countries deemed at "medium" risk included China, which was placed 96th overall.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jDS2aVm2aXSjzzi8FuCBMLq30vAw>

**Desperation Grows Over Pakistan Flood Damage**, *New York Times*, August 18

With disastrous flooding spreading yet more widely in Pakistan, reports of looting and protests over food deepened the sense of desperation across Punjab Province, the country's most populous region and its agricultural hub. Flood survivors told stories of taking the search for aid upon themselves, swimming to dry areas to find food for people still marooned and waiting for rescue.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/18/world/asia/18pstan.html>

**SEE ALSO: Pakistan sinks alone**, *Asia Times*, August 17

Agriculture, which accounts for more than 21% of gross domestic product (GDP) and employs 45% of the labor force, has been particularly devastated. "The rough estimate is that there is US\$1 billion of losses of crops," Reuters reported World Bank president Robert Zoellick as saying. The losses to agriculture and industry may halve the country's economic growth, to as low as 2% compared with a 4.5% target for the year ending next June 30, Finance Secretary Salman Siddique said. The losses at

household level of seeds and other agricultural inputs could also have a negative impact on planting of the 2010-11 season due to start in October-November.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/LH17Df03.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/LH17Df03.html)

**SEE ALSO: Pakistan farmers defy floods to guard homes**, *Financial Times*, August 17

While millions have been forced to flee their homes by the worst floods in Pakistan's history, thousands of men are braving the rising waters to protect their homes from a man-made menace: river bandits intent on exploiting the chaos. In the Ghouspur area in the southern Sindh province, the previously dry banks of the Indus river are notorious dens for AK-47-wielding cattle rustlers preying on water buffalo that can be worth more than \$1,000 each.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8cfedbee-aa28-11df-9367-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Millions of livestock dead or in danger in Pakistan**, *FAO*, August 20

Millions of livestock have been affected by the floods in Pakistan and are badly in need of food and medicine, FAO said. Around 200 000 cows, sheep, buffalo, goats and donkeys have already been confirmed as dead or missing but the final numbers will be much higher, possibly into the millions. If you count poultry losses, then millions of animals have already died with the entire poultry stock wiped out in some areas.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44803/icode/>

**SEE ALSO: U.N. secures more Pakistan flood relief funds**, *Reuters*, August 18

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization says Pakistan could face food shortages if its farmers miss the sowing season, which is due to start next month.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE66T3RS20100818>

**SEE ALSO: Pakistan floods: EU pledges 30m euro aid boost**, *BBC*, August 18

As well as buildings, large areas of crops and farmland have been washed away, leading to fears of food insecurity in the future. "If immediate steps are not taken, we fear a famine," said Mian Iftikhar Hussain, a provincial information minister in north-west Pakistan. "The farmers have lost everything: their crops, their machines, their houses, their seeds."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11011620>

**SEE ALSO: Pakistan: An Urgent Call for Aid**, *Editorial, New York Times*, August 18

Six million in need of emergency assistance, such as food and clean water. Millions of acres of the country's best cropland underwater. The devastation in Pakistan is likely to worsen as the monsoon rains continue. But even an end to the rains won't end the emergency. Plans need to be made right now to ensure that next year's crops are planted. Looming ahead is the enormous challenge of rebuilding Pakistan's shattered bridges, roads, structures and agricultural and economic base. For now, the humanitarian needs are paramount.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/18/opinion/18wed1.html>

**Annual Report 2009**, *New Partnership for Africa's Development*, July 2010

<http://www.nepad.org/images/AR.pdf>

---

## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**The Global Health Initiative: The Next Phase of American Leadership**, *Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, August 16

"We invest in global health to promote social and economic progress, and to support the rise of capable partners who can help us solve regional and global problems. We have seen places where people who suffer from poor health struggle on many levels. Poverty is usually widespread. Infrastructure is usually incomplete. Food production and school enrollments are usually low. People who would otherwise take the lead in driving progress for their families and nations are instead dragged down by disease, deprivation, and lost opportunity."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/08/146002.htm>

**Statement by the President on World Humanitarian Day**, *White House*, August 19

"These local and international humanitarian aid workers have distinguished themselves again this year. In the aftermath of the deadly earthquake in Haiti, humanitarian aid workers from around the world mobilized immediately for emergency rescue efforts, and remain in the country today to support ongoing relief and

recovery efforts. Today humanitarian aid workers are providing food, water and other life-saving assistance to millions of Pakistanis devastated by flooding. In Sudan, aid workers risk violent attacks and kidnapping to try to feed the displaced of Darfur and help the South prepare for its approaching referendum.”

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/08/19/statement-president-world-humanitarian-day>

**Remarks on Flooding in Pakistan**, *U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, August 19*

“It is difficult to overstate the scope of this catastrophe and unfortunately we believe it is likely to get worse before it gets better. More than 800,000 homes have already been damaged or destroyed. Two million people have been forced to flee. Hundreds of bridges have been washed away, cutting off communities from relief supplies. As the foreign minister said, so much of this year’s agricultural production has been wiped out, and farmers’ submerged fields cannot be re-planted this season.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/08/146110.htm>

**SEE ALSO: Update: U.S. Response to Pakistan Flooding Disaster**, U.S. Department of State, August 19

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/08/146107.htm>

**Remarks by Mike Yates, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture & Trade**, *United Nations International Year of Youth Launch, August 12*

“And youth bring a different kind of energy to development, a ‘renewable energy’ with the power to illuminate, and to move things forward. It is our collective job to help harness that energy, for the good of all. We will need it if we are to effectively tackle the biggest challenges of our time, from climate change, food security and violent extremism, to global health, human rights, gender equity, economic growth and education. We must listen to and support youth’s natural optimism and rely on their energy to bring new solutions to the world’s most important problems.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100812.html>

**Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act: Report to Congress**, *U.S. Department of State, August 2010*

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator, to submit an annual report to Congress outlining the U.S. Government’s strategy and progress in expanding access to safe drinking water and sanitation, improving water resources management and increasing water productivity in developing countries. In FY 2009, the United States (primarily through USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation) invested about \$774 million for all water sector and sanitation-related activities in 62 developing countries. From 2005 to 2009, the United States invested more than \$3.4 billion for all water sector and sanitation related activities.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/146141.pdf>

**USAID Assistance Tops \$105 Million for Nigeriens in Need**, *USAID Press Release, August 17*

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is expanding support for food-insecure people and acutely malnourished children in Niger. USAID has committed more than \$105 million in humanitarian assistance to date in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010.

[http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100817\\_1.html](http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100817_1.html)

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

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced today 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>

**Gates: "Congress is part of the problem" in State, USAID shortfalls**, *Stars & Stripes, August 13*

“There has to be a change in attitude [on Capitol Hill] in the recognitions of the critical role that agencies like State and AID play, for them to play the leading role that I think they need to play,” he said. “When I left the government they had about 16,000 employees – dedicated experts who were deployed, who were

accustomed to working in insecure conditions in developing countries, and all the specialties: agronomy, rule of law, education. When I came back into government in 2006, [USAID] had 3,000 employees and mainly was a contracting agency."

<http://www.stripes.com/blogs/stripes-central/stripes-central-1.8040/gates-congress-is-part-of-the-problem-in-state-usaid-shortfalls-1.114468>

**Aid chief: Global warming is causing natural disasters**, *The Cable*, August 19

An international who's who of development and political leaders are meeting today at the U.N. to raise funds for Pakistani flood relief. At the panel's opening session, American and Pakistani officials argued that global climate change is increasing the risk of humanitarian disasters and probably contributed to the scale of the current crisis. "We should expect to have more large-scale weather events as we see more systematic warming of our planet," said Rajiv Shah, the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, pointing to what he described as a clear trend of increasing natural calamities tied to climate change.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/19/aid\\_chief\\_global\\_warming\\_is\\_causing\\_natural\\_disasters](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/19/aid_chief_global_warming_is_causing_natural_disasters)

**USAID Partners with NASA, Nike and State Department to Address Global Health Challenges**, *USAID Press Release*, August 17

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), NASA, the U.S. Department of State, and NIKE, Inc. have partnered on a unique initiative called LAUNCH. The idea behind LAUNCH is to identify, showcase and support innovative approaches to humanity's sustainability challenges through a series of forums, each focused on a specific sustainability challenge.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100817.html>

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Soy Innovation Africa 2010: Cultivating Potential in Emerging Markets**

*Date:* August 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>

*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 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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>

### **Eliminating Hunger: The People and Congress**

*Date:* September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* National Press Club, Washington, D.C.

Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World and this year's winner of the World Food Prize, will speak on "Eliminating Hunger: the People and Congress" at a Press Club luncheon. The luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m. Reserve by calling (202) 662-7501 or e-mailing [reservations@press.org](mailto:reservations@press.org). The cost of the luncheon is \$17 for National Press Club members, \$28 for their guests and \$35 for the general public.

### **U.S. Global Leadership Coalition – 2010 Washington Conference**

*Date:* September 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 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. 31<sup>st</sup> - Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://www.acsmeetings.org)

### **The International Rice Congress 2010**

*Date:* November 8<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup> – November 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 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>

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

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

*Location:* Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

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; Advances in Public Health and Food Security in Crises.

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

---

## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

**Food Security Policies in Latin America: New Trends with Uncertain Results**, *International Institute for Sustainable Development, July 2010*

As a consequence of the 2006–08 food crisis, food security has become a mayor political concern in the Latin American region. The crisis has led to intense political discussions at both the regional and country levels, and has resulted in new policy responses that have attempted to protect vulnerable social sectors from the negative impacts of the crisis. Policy responses have tended to concentrate on short term objectives and price control measures. However, more attention has also been focused on social programs that improve access to food by the poor. In spite of intense regional political activities, the policies implemented do not seem to have improved regional trade or intergovernmental regional cooperation. The relationship between food security and long term structural policies is also analyzed.

<http://www.iica.int/Esp/conocimiento/actualidad/Documentos%20Seguridad%20Alimentaria/Food%20Security%20Policies%20in%20Latin%20America.%20New%20Trends%20and%20Uncertain%20Results.pdf>

### Media Articles:

**U.S. Farmers Wary of Gaining From Russia's Woes**, *New York Times*, August 19

Russia's ban on grain exports, in response to a devastating drought, has sent prices shooting up all over the world. But farmers here in wheat country, far from seeing the spike as an unexpected blessing, are wary.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/20/us/20farm.html>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. farmers ponder wheat plantings, prices**, *Reuters*, August 19

This year a spike in wheat futures prices is offering greater profit potential for farmers weary of tight margins, and players across the global food chain are calculating that U.S. farmers are well positioned to capitalize on the price rally. But many say higher futures prices -- around \$7.00 a bushel for the crop that will be harvested next summer compared with much lower cash prices at \$5.50 to \$6.00 -- are not enough to guarantee that the United States will see a significant jump in wheat acres planted this fall.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2010/08/19/analysis-farmers-ponder-wheat-plantings-prices/>

**Math Lessons for Locavores**, *Op-Ed*, Stephen Budiansky, *New York Times*, August 19

Eating locally grown produce is a fine thing in many ways. But it is not an end in itself, nor is it a virtue in itself.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/20/opinion/20budiansky.html>

**SEE ALSO: A global reason to eat locally**, *Op-Ed*, Shayna Bailey and Danielle Nierenberg, *Vancouver Sun*, August 17

In many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, local foods are looked down on by rich and poor shoppers alike. In Senegal many consumers and cooks consider local rice to be inferior and instead buy imported European brands that can cost four times as much. And outside Kampala, Uganda, young people consider agricultural work a punishment -- something they'll be forced to do if they can't find a job in the city or go to university. In the United States and Canada and all over Africa, decreased consumption of locally produced foods has led to a weakened local economy, rising poverty levels and health problems.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/sports/global+reason+locally/3407502/story.html>

**Lord's Resistance Army Threatens Food Security in Southern Sudan, UN Says**, *Bloomberg*, August 19

Southern Sudan's efforts to rebuild its agriculture industry following a 21-year civil war is being undermined by Uganda's rebel Lord's Resistance Army ransacking its most fertile farming area, the United Nations said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-19/southern-sudan-food-security-is-threatened-by-rebels-united-nations-says.html>

**Food Security in India**, *Letter to the Editor*, Barbara Dobkin, *Chairwoman*, *American Jewish World Service*, *New York Times*, August 18

It is unsurprising that chronic malnourishment and starvation characterize the poor in India, a country burdened by poverty and violence within a deeply corrupt and bureaucratic system of governance. Unfortunately, long-term solutions that are likely to address the root of this poverty have not gained traction. The government of India would do well to engage small-scale farmers and empower them, rather than multinational corporations, to feed the population. Local food production drives food security.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/19/opinion/l19india.html>

**White Zimbabwe Farmers say Politics Trumps Justice at SADC Summit**, *VOA*, August 18

Southern African leaders have given themselves another six months to review a 2008 tribunal ruling on Zimbabwe land reform. The decision not to act came at this week's Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit in Windhoek, Namibia. A SADC tribunal had ruled that nearly 80 white Zimbabwe farmers had their land unfairly taken from them due to their race.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-sadc-zim-farmers-18aug10-100993364.html>

**Asian interest boosts Liberia palm oil hopes**, *Financial Times*, August 17

War-ravaged Liberia's hopes of developing a significant palm oil industry were boosted as one of the world's biggest producers said it was close to investing in a huge plantation project. In the latest of a wave of

proposed Asian agricultural investments in west Africa, Singapore-listed Golden Agri Resources said it was “actively evaluating” taking a share in a 220,000-hectare project being offered by the government of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1132531c-aa12-11df-9367-00144feabdc0.html>

**High demand for coffee’s perfect brew**, *Financial Times*, August 17

Here is a pub-quiz question that floors most people: everyone knows Brazil is the world’s biggest producer of coffee, but which country is number two? The answer – Vietnam – usually comes as a surprise.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e92f43b0-a9f9-11df-8eb1-00144feabdc0,dwp\\_uuid=573d8f88-a464-11df-abf7-00144feabdc0.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e92f43b0-a9f9-11df-8eb1-00144feabdc0,dwp_uuid=573d8f88-a464-11df-abf7-00144feabdc0.html)

**The land rush doesn't have to end in a poor deal for Africans**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, August 16

It is not too late for equitable partnerships to flourish between foreign investors and local communities.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/aug/16/foreign-land-grab-threat-to-africa>

**Improving the Lives of Small-Scale Farmers**, *IPS*, August 16

Joelle Nsamira Kajuga, a female agricultural researcher has a ready answer to describe which modified crop will produce a higher yield, which will be resistant to bacteria, and which will ensure food security and generate a higher turnover for poor small-scale farmers in different regions in Rwanda.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52508>

**Tanzania to Grow Genetically Modified Cotton, Triple Output, Board Says**, *Bloomberg*, August 16

Tanzania will start growing genetically modified cotton and offer credit to farmers to almost triple the country’s output, the Tanzania Cotton Board said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-16/tanzania-to-grow-genetically-modified-cotton-triple-output-board-says.html>

**Russia launches inquiry into Pavlovsk seed bank after Twitter campaign**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, August 16

President Dmitry Medvedev orders immediate inquiry into potential destruction of world’s oldest seed bank.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/16/russia-president-pavolvsk-twitter>

**SEE ALSO: Pavlovsk’s Hopes Hang on a Tweet**, *Science*, August 20

Scientists trying to save a unique gene bank of thousands of fruit and berry crops in Russia have taken heart from a surprise intervention last week by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. He sent out a “tweet” from his Twitter account saying that he wants to review a court decision that threatens to destroy the collection. Medvedev’s note came amid an international campaign to rescue the Pavlovsk Experimental Station of the N. I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry near St. Petersburg, whose lands have been approved for bulldozing by property developers.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/329/5994/899>

**SEE ALSO: Celebrated Russian seed bank fights for its land**, *Associated Press*, August 19

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hDTo\\_wg8NNH3sanQPoHcirqtH0eAD9HN8HJG0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hDTo_wg8NNH3sanQPoHcirqtH0eAD9HN8HJG0)

**Gabon to get \$4.5bn Asian investment**, *Financial Times*, August 15

Gabon, a small west African oil-producer seeking to emerge from decades of dictatorship, is planning \$4.5bn of agriculture and infrastructure ventures in what would rank among the biggest investment packages by Asian powers in Africa.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/806d4102-a8b8-11df-86dd-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Gabon Government Signs \$4.5 Billion Accords on Infrastructure, Agriculture**, *Bloomberg*, August 15

Gabon signed accords with three Asian companies to build infrastructure and develop palm-oil and lumber projects that are expected to generate at least \$4.5 billion of investment in the country, officials said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-15/gabon-government-signs-4-5-billion-accords-on-infrastructure-agriculture.html>

### **Land Reform Underfinanced and Failing**, *IPS, August 14*

Research commissioned by Southern African Confederations of Agricultural Unions, released in March found that there have been widespread failures in land reform processes, most particularly in South Africa and Zimbabwe. According to the research findings land reform processes are seldom, if ever, adequately funded. This leads to situations of conflict over limited resources.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52490>

---

## **FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

### Media Articles:

### **Food aid halted in Niger for children over two because of fund shortfall**, *Irish Times, August 17*

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been forced to make an “agonising” decision in Niger, the country worst hit by the West Africa food crisis, and suspend food aid to families with children over the age of two because of a huge funding shortfall.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2010/0817/1224276973511.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Aid workers warn of famine disaster in Niger**, *Associated Press, August 14*

Niger is now facing the worst hunger crisis in its history, with almost half the country's population in desperate need of food and up to one in six children suffering from acute malnutrition, aid officials say.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j0F50TwrIQHsmFAEophT2TCrzEMAD9HIA44G0>

### **Haiti commission earmarks \$1.6 bln for recovery**, *Reuters, August 17*

A special recovery commission announced more than \$1.6 billion in projects to rebuild earthquake-ravaged Haiti, including a \$200 million plan to create 50,000 new jobs in agriculture.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN17158733>

#### **SEE ALSO: Haiti: UN reconstruction and recovery projects win approval**, *UN News Centre, August 19*

United Nations projects in health, education, job creation, rubble removal, reproductive health and improving access to food have been approved for Haiti as the poor Caribbean country continues its effort to rebuild after January's catastrophic earthquake.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35666&Cr=&Cr1=>

### **WFP Expands Cash-For-Work Programme in Iraq**, *World Food Program, August 17*

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is targeting unemployment in some of the areas most affected by violence and insecurity in Iraq through expanding its cash-for-work programme to reach more than 11,000 vulnerable people and help them meet their daily food needs. The scheme provides beneficiaries with short-term employment in agricultural infrastructure projects with the long-term aim of ensuring they don't go short of food.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-expands-cash-work-programme-iraq>

### **Losing Hearts and Minds: Development and Its Discontents**, *The New Republic, August 16*

Simply put, Natsios's thesis is that the inevitable tension between accountability to the bureaucracy, as well as its appropriators in Washington, and good development practice in the field is now so skewed toward regulatory compliance that the U.S. global aid system is becoming ever more dysfunctional. Too often, Natsios argues, Washington's diktat to its development specialists and its NGO and for-profit contractors “to measure and account for everything, and avoid risk” ends up fatally compromising sensible and effective action on the ground.

<http://www.tnr.com/blog/foreign-policy/77050/losing-hearts-and-minds-development-and-its-discontents>

#### **SEE ALSO: The Clash of the Counter-bureaucracy and Development**, *Andrew Natsios, Center for Global Development, July 2010*

In this essay, Andrew Natsios describes what he sees as the most disruptive obstacles to development work in agencies such as USAID: layers and layers of bureaucracy. He gives a first-hand account of how this “counter-bureaucracy” disfigures USAID's development practice and even

compromises U.S. national security objectives. Most of all, he argues, the counter-bureaucracy's emphasis on easy measurement is at odds with the fact that transformational programs are often the least measurable and involve elements of risk and uncertainty.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424271>

**How Not to Win Hearts and Minds**, *Op-Ed, William Easterly, Wall Street Journal, August 16*

In a U.N. survey, 52% of Afghans said foreign aid organizations 'are corrupt and are in the country just to get rich.'

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703999304575399422302747074.html>

**Department for International Development slashes aid commitments**, *The Guardian (U.K.), August 15*

A pledge to support free healthcare in the world's poorest countries is one of more than 90 aid commitments to be scrapped by the government. An email leaked to the *Observer* reveals that Andrew Mitchell, the international development secretary, has agreed to honour just eight of a long list of promises made to countries.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/aug/15/government-slashes-international-development-pledges>

**SEE ALSO: Tories accused of raiding aid budget**, *Financial Times, August 19*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/365420e0-abc9-11df-9f02-00144feabdc0.html>

**For Senegal: U.S. aid, 164-ft. statue**, *Washington Times, August 15*

Next month, a U.S. government aid agency is scheduled to begin delivery of \$540 million in taxpayer money under a program that rewards developing countries with emerging democracies and a track record of good governance. Critics, including some members of Congress, say the aid should be reconsidered.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/aug/15/for-senegal-us-aid-164-ft-statue/print/>

**Why foreign aid is important for Africa**, *Commentary by Charles Abugre, regional director of the UN Millennium Campaign, CNN, August 13*

Food aid is the root of the international aid system, although it represents only a small proportion of total aid (three to five percent). Thanks to international emergency response, famines and other natural and human-made disasters no longer kill in the numbers they used to prior to the 1980s. Food aid saves lives in emergencies but can also create dependencies by destroying local farming capacities when food aid becomes food "dumped" on the local market.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/08/13/aid.africa.abugre/>

**Is Food Aid Culturally Specific?**, *Slate, August 13*

Are emergency food rations culturally specific?

<http://www.slate.com/id/2263804>

---

## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Drought-Induced Reduction in Global Terrestrial Net Primary Production from 2000 Through 2009**, *Maosheng Zhao and Steven W. Running, Science, August 2010*

Terrestrial net primary production (NPP) quantifies the amount of atmospheric carbon fixed by plants and accumulated as biomass. Previous studies have shown that climate constraints were relaxing with increasing temperature and solar radiation, allowing an upward trend in NPP from 1982 through 1999. The past decade (2000 to 2009) has been the warmest since instrumental measurements began, which could imply continued increases in NPP; however, estimates suggest a reduction in the global NPP of 0.55 petagrams of carbon. Large-scale droughts have reduced regional NPP, and a drying trend in the Southern Hemisphere has decreased NPP in that area, counteracting the increased NPP over the Northern Hemisphere. A continued decline in NPP would not only weaken the terrestrial carbon sink, but it would also intensify future competition between food demand and proposed biofuel production.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/sci:329/5994/940>

**SEE ALSO: Drought Drives Decade-Long Decline in Plant Growth**, *NASA, August 19*

Earth has done an ecological about-face: Global plant productivity that once flourished under warming temperatures and a lengthened growing season is now on the decline, struck by the stress of drought. Compared with a six-percent increase spanning two earlier decades, the recent ten-year decline is slight -- just one percent. The shift, however, could impact food security, biofuels, and the global carbon cycle.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/view.php?id=45387>

**SEE ALSO: Plant growth declines as warming causes drought**, *Associated Press, August 19*

Plant growth that had been spurred by global warming has reversed, despite temperatures that continue to rise. "This is a pretty serious warning that warmer temperatures are not going to endlessly improve plant growth," co-author Steven W. Running, of the University of Montana, said in a statement.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gWapPSIV2Gjzc9uHpVBOgcTvJe4wD9HMP0200>

**Sustainable land management for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change**, *World Bank, July 2010*

The climate change (CC) caused by increase in atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> and other Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), can be addressed through adaptation and mitigation strategies. Adaptation consists of strategies which minimize vulnerability to CC. The objective is to increase resilience of the ecosystems and communities through adoption of specific sustainable land management (SLM) techniques that have adaptive benefits. On the other hand, the goal of mitigation strategies is to enhance soil and vegetation (land) sinks for absorbing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and to minimize net emissions. In the context of the resource-poor and small landholders of the developing countries, adaptation to CC is essential.

<http://go.worldbank.org/OSRK6PKAM0>

**Can Carbon Labeling Be Development Friendly? Recommendations on How to Improve Emerging Schemes**, *World Bank, August 2010*

Carbon accounting and labeling for products are new instruments of supply chain management that may affect developing country export opportunities. Most instruments in use today are private business management tools, although the underlying science and methodologies may spread to issues subject to public regulation. This note seeks to inform stakeholders involved in the design of carbon labeling schemes and in the making of carbon emission measurement methodologies about an overlooked issue: How can carbon labeling be made to be both development friendly and scientifically correct in its representation of developing-country agricultural sectors.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP27.pdf>

Media Articles:

**Russian drought, fertiliser bid stoke food debate**, *Reuters, August 19*

The Russian drought has intensified a debate about food security in a warming world and helped frame a multi-billion-dollar takeover bid for fertiliser company Potash Corp as a bet on rising food prices.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE67G0KU20100819>

**SEE ALSO: In Weather Chaos, a Case for Global Warming**, *New York Times, August 14*

Theory suggests that a world warming up because of those gases will feature heavier rainstorms in summer, bigger snowstorms in winter, more intense droughts in at least some places and more record-breaking heat waves. Scientists and government reports say the statistical evidence shows that much of this is starting to happen. But the averages do not necessarily make it easier to link specific weather events, like a given flood or hurricane or heat wave, to climate change.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/15/science/earth/15climate.html>

**UN official demands drought action at Cancun**, *Agence France Presse, August 19*

The UN's pointman on desertification called on participants at the next climate summit in Cancun to take urgent measures to prevent future disasters by staving off land degradation. "Those most vulnerable to climate change live in the driest parts of the globe: look at what is happening in Pakistan where the rain should come as a blessing and ends up being a curse," Luc Gnacadja said.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hf2NukHymNByOOkt0bX87lo6Tf\\_w](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hf2NukHymNByOOkt0bX87lo6Tf_w)

**SEE ALSO: Analysis: Extreme weather unlikely to help climate talks**, *Reuters*, August 17

Extreme weather in 2010 will spur more strident calls for action to combat global warming but is unlikely to break a deadlock at U.N. climate talks about sharing the burden between rich and poor.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67G44N20100817>

**Carbon Profit Grows on Trees as Kiwi Farmers Ditch Sheep**, *Bloomberg*, August 19

New Zealand's sheep farmers are flocking to a government carbon trading program that pays more to plant trees than sell wool and mutton.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-18/carbon-cash-accelerates-cull-of-new-zealand-sheep-as-farmers-turn-to-trees.html>

**Asia's rice production threatened**, *UPI*, August 17

Asia's rice production is in danger from rising temperatures due to climate change, a new study says. Rising temperatures during the past 25 years have already slashed the yield growth rate of rice by 10 percent to 20 percent in several areas, notes the study, published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/08/17/Asias-rice-production-threatened/UPI-69281282070801/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/08/17/Asias-rice-production-threatened/UPI-69281282070801/)

**SEE ALSO: 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>

**Drowning Today, Parched Tomorrow**, *Op-Ed*, Steven Solomon, *New York Times*, August 16

Given the rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers that feed the Indus River — a possible contributor to the current floods — and growing tensions with upriver archenemy India about use of the river's tributaries, it's unlikely that Pakistani food production will long keep pace with the growing population.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/16/opinion/16solomon.html>

**La Niña gathers herself to upset crop prices**, *Financial Times*, August 16

Already buffeted by drought in Russia and floods in Pakistan, commodity markets are now facing up to a new potential disruption: La Niña. The recurring weather phenomenon, caused by a fall in water temperature in the tropical Pacific, could alter rainfall and temperature patterns across some of the world's most important tracts of agricultural land.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c468c7fc-a96a-11df-a6f2-00144feabdc0.html>

**UN launches decade-long drive to combat desertification**, *UN News Center*, August 16

The United Nations unveiled a decade-long push to raise awareness and mobilize action to fight desertification, which threatens the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people in 100 countries. Desertification is defined as the degradation of drylands, which comprise more than 40 per cent of the world's land surface and are home to 2.1 billion people — one in every three people worldwide. One third of all crops cultivated today have their origins in drylands, which also support half of all livestock.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35633&Cr=desert&Cr1=>

**SEE ALSO: Drylands Matter, And Why?**, *Fact Sheet*, *United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification*, August 2010

<http://unddd.unccd.int/docs/factsheet.pdf>

**Protect nature for world economic security, warns UN biodiversity chief**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, August 16  
Ahmed Djoghlaif says nations risk economic collapse and loss of culture if it does not protect the natural world.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/16/nature-economic-security>

**Multi-Pronged Effort to Boost Food Security Still Falling Short**, *IPS*, August 13

On top of being one of the most vulnerable countries in Latin America, with over 50 percent of the population living in poverty and 17 percent in extreme poverty, according to United Nations figures, Guatemala is still feeling the effects of tropical storms Agatha and Alex, which left more than 100,000 people homeless and devastated the country's crops of basic grains in May and June.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52487>

---

## **WOMEN & GIRLS**

### Reports:

**Start with a Girl: A New Agenda for Global Health**, *Policy Brief, Center for Global Development*, August 2010

Improving adolescent girls' health and wellbeing is critical to achieving virtually all international development goals, from reducing infant and child deaths to stimulating economic growth and encouraging environmental sustainability. Governments and donors seem to recognize this, but they have yet to take the specific actions needed to genuinely invest in adolescent girls' health and, thereby, the health and wellbeing of generations to come.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424363\\_file\\_SWAG\\_brief\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424363_file_SWAG_brief_FINAL.pdf)

### Media Articles:

**Newsletter on Gender Equality in Africa**, *Department for International Development*, August 2010

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/Newsletter-gender-equality-africa-August10.pdf>

**US Sponsored Fellowship Program Benefits Women Scientists in Africa**, *VOA*, August 19

They were chosen from among 800 candidates to receive a special agricultural fellowship for African women. And among this year winners -- a plant pathologist, a catfish breeder, a soybean specialist. They all hope to benefit from the two-year program sponsored by United States Agency for International Development and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Sixty women from a variety of agricultural science backgrounds were among receivers of this year's A.W.A.R.D fellowship - the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/usa/US-Sponsored-Fellowship-Program-Benefits-Women-Scientists-in-Africa-101123294.html>

---

## **MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES**

### Media Articles:

**Speculators help stoke China's food prices**, *Asia Times*, August 20

The three great determinants of food prices - flood, drought and speculators - are helping to drive China's inflation past the government's full-year target to the highest in almost two years.

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China\\_Business/LH21Cb01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China_Business/LH21Cb01.html)

**[Hey Bric Spender] Scrambling for eggs**, *Financial Times (blog)*, August 20

When the market chatter is about rising commodity prices and threats to food security, wheat and barley tend to be the nexus of worries. But should we be thinking about eggs too?

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2010/08/20/hey-bric-spender/>

**Mexico Adds Tariffs in Trucking Dispute**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 17

Mexico plans to impose tariffs on an expanded array of American products, from pork to pistachios, escalating a trade dispute over a U.S. ban on Mexican truckers operating north of the border.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704868604575433840527312042.html>

**SEE ALSO: Mexico tariff on U.S. pork to be 5 pct**, *Reuters*, August 17

Mexico's retaliatory tariff on U.S. pork exports will be set at 5 percent as the country tries to increase pressure on the United States to end a long trade fight, a Mexican official said.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKN1717433420100817>

**SEE ALSO: Statement from Ambassador Ron Kirk Regarding the Announcement of Additional Tariffs Related to the Cross-Border Mexican Trucking Dispute**, *Office of USTR*, August 16

"We are disappointed that the Mexican government has announced its intention to impose duties on additional U.S. products related to the cross-border trucking dispute between our countries. Mexico is an important U.S. export market and President Obama understands the economic pain that these tariffs cause for American farmers, companies and workers."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/august/statement-ambassador-ron-kirk-regarding-announcemen>

**Let's Make a Deal: How to Bring the Doha Trade Talks to a Close**, *Gary Hufbauer and Robert Lawrence*, *Foreign Affairs*, August 17

If the Doha players simply implemented the deal currently under discussion on agriculture and nonagricultural market access (or NAMA, which basically means manufactured goods), they would see an increase in their exports of \$68 billion annually. The United States should phase out cotton subsidies -- which were ruled illegal by the WTO two years ago -- and put a cap of about \$9 billion annually on all its agricultural subsidies.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66532/gary-hufbauer-and-robert-lawrence/lets-make-a-deal>

**Vietnam trade success 'holds hope for Africa'**, *Agence France Presse*, August 17

Vietnam's success in developing agriculture and transforming itself into a major exporter is an example for Africa, where the communist nation is seeking to increase its ties, officials said.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g5ZJR\\_1En7sjzm2CVLjwmiPR7gPA](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g5ZJR_1En7sjzm2CVLjwmiPR7gPA)

**Russia to partly lift chicken ban; US wants more**, *Reuters*, August 13

Russia, the top market for U.S. chicken, will lift a ban on U.S. poultry imports starting Aug. 16, the Interfax news agency quoted Russian Agriculture Ministry spokesperson Oleg Aksonov as saying. Russia, where U.S. poultry has been banned since January, will allow poultry imports from 68 U.S. plants out of a total of 87 proposed by the U.S. side, Aksonov said. But after meeting with Russian counterparts in Geneva to try to restart trade, halted since January, a U.S. government team said Russia's proposal was not an acceptable way to implement a deal signed on June 24 by President Barack Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE67C1SF20100813>

**Wheat Rally Will Increase Budget Deficits in North Africa, Iran, FAO Says**, *Bloomberg*, August 13

Higher wheat prices will raise budget deficits in North Africa and Iran because of spending on bread subsidies, said Abdolreza Abbassian, senior grains economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-13/wheat-rally-will-increase-budget-deficits-in-north-africa-iran-fao-says.html>

---

**AGRIBUSINESS**

Media Articles:

**BHP turns hostile with \$39bn Potash bid**, *Financial Times*, August 18

BHP Billiton launched a hostile fully funded \$39bn offer for PotashCorp, less than 24 hours after the Canadian fertiliser maker's board dismissed its \$130 a share approach as "grossly inadequate". The Anglo-Australian

miner's aggressive tactic of bypassing PotashCorp's board and appealing directly to shareholders comes after it was annoyed by the Canadian group's decision to make public confidential negotiations.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b9dc9a3c-aaa2-11df-80f9-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: A \$39 Billion Food Fight**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 18

Anglo-Australian mining giant BHP Billiton made an unsolicited \$38.6 billion offer for the world's largest fertilizer producer, Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc., in an aggressive wager that developing economies will drive up demand for the world's food supply.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704554104575434992386821512.html>

**SEE ALSO: BHP's big gambit in the flight to food**, *Sydney Morning Herald*, August 21

BHP's \$44 billion bid for a Canadian fertiliser giant is part of a trend that may lift agribusiness profits in a hungry world.

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/bhps-big-gambit-in-the-flight-to-food-20100820-138sw.html>

**SEE ALSO: Fertilizer Market Comes Into Focus**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 17

The bid for Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc. is focusing attention on an obscure corner of the fertilizer market that holds the key to growth in global food output.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704554104575435721721481284.html>

**SEE ALSO: A fertile field for BHP**, *Economist*, August 17

Feeding the world is a noble ambition. For BHP Billiton, the world's biggest mining company, the profits to be made from enriching the soil are an appetising prospect too.

[http://www.economist.com/blogs/newsbook/2010/08/big\\_takeover\\_bid\\_fertiliser\\_business](http://www.economist.com/blogs/newsbook/2010/08/big_takeover_bid_fertiliser_business)

**John Deere set for crop prices boost**, *Financial Times*, August 18

Farmers will benefit into next year from the rise in commodity prices prompted by severe drought in eastern Europe, John Deere, the world's biggest tractor-maker, said. "There's no question that the recent run in commodity prices, driven by the events in ... eastern Europe, has supported the prospect for crop-farmer income," said Marie Ziegler, Deere's head of investor relations. "Overall, for the farm sector it would appear to be very positive as you look into 2011."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9024f6ca-aac1-11df-80f9-00144feabdc0.html>

**The Coca-Cola Company's Haiti Hope Project Momentum Continues with Investment from United States Government**, *Press Release*, August 18

The Coca-Cola Company and the United States Government, acting through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), announced that USAID will provide an initial contribution of \$1 million to the Haiti Hope Project, a public-private initiative that aims to develop a sustainable mango industry in Haiti. With more than 60 percent of the Haitian population deriving revenue from agriculture, the Haiti Hope Project focuses on improving local mango farming capacity, thereby helping to promote economic growth and sustainable development. The Project aims to empower 25,000 Haitian farmers by doubling their farm income.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100818.html>

**Cargill sounds warning of a slow recovery**, *Financial Times*, August 17

Cargill, the world's largest agricultural commodities trader, warned that the global recovery had yet to gain traction as it reported a second straight decline in annual profit. The US's largest privately owned company by revenue has a unique vantage on global economic trends, trading commodities from corn to oil to salt with employees in 66 countries.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f7d8114e-aa26-11df-9367-00144feabdc0.html>

**Rabobank's Asian Appetite Goes Beyond China**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 17

Rabobank Group sees its tie-up with Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. as part of a larger strategy to profit from Asia's growing appetite for foreign food, a senior executive at the Dutch lender said. Rabobank, an unlisted cooperative bank with an international food and agriculture financing arm, teamed up with AgBank in June, partly to help Chinese food businesses expand overseas.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703824304575435200540850676.html>

**SEE ALSO: AgBank Sets Global IPO Record**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 16

Agricultural Bank of China Ltd has raised more money in an initial public offering than any other company in history after fully exercising an option to allot additional shares to investors on the

Shanghai Stock Exchange, despite lackluster interest in the shares from investors since they started trading in mid-July.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703382304575431263558578410.html>

**Sara Lee latest to curtail use of high-fructose corn syrup**, *Chicago Tribune*, August 17

First it was calories, then it was fat and sodium. The latest health concern: high-fructose corn syrup, and the trend is accelerating. Consumer concern has been getting a quick response from food companies, as many remove high-fructose corn syrup from well-known products, replacing it with cane or beet sugar. Downers Grove-based Sara Lee Corp. is the latest to jump on board, removing the sweetener from its two best-selling breads.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/ct-biz-0817-corn-syrup-hfcs-20100816,0,1323350.story>

**Food Firms Jarred by Sugar-Beet Restriction**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 16

A federal judge's decision to undo the government's five-year-old approval of genetically modified sugar beets, from which roughly half of U.S. sugar is derived, won't disrupt supplies for at least a year, but could pose headaches for food companies after that.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704296704575431802903998146.html>

**SEE ALSO: Smith Comments on Sugar Beet Restriction**, *Office of US Rep. Adrian Smith*, August 16

Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE), a member of the House Agriculture Committee, commented on the recent ruling by a federal judge in California which reversed the five-year-old approval of Roundup Ready sugar beets. Nearly 95 percent of sugar beets grown in the U.S. are Roundup Ready.

[http://www.adriansmith.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=736&Itemid=73](http://www.adriansmith.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=736&Itemid=73)

**SEE ALSO: U.S. judge bans planting of genetically engineered beets**, *Reuters*, August 13

A federal judge banned the planting of genetically modified sugar beets engineered by Monsanto Co in a ruling that marks a major setback for the biotech giant.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67D08220100814>

**SEE ALSO: Judge Revokes Approval of Modified Sugar Beets**, *New York Times*, August 13

A federal district court judge revoked the government's approval of genetically engineered sugar beets, saying that the Agriculture Department had not adequately assessed the environmental consequences before approving them for commercial cultivation.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/14/business/14sugar.html>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*