

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



August 14<sup>th</sup> - August 21<sup>st</sup> 2009

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Asia facing unprecedented food shortage, UN report says, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, August 17**

Asia faces an unprecedented food crisis and huge social unrest unless hundreds of billions of dollars are invested in better irrigation systems to grow crops for its burgeoning population, according to a report from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the funded International Water Management Institute (IWMI) published today. India, China, Pakistan and other large countries avoided famines in the 1970s and 1980s only because they built giant state-sponsored irrigation systems and introduced better seeds and fertilisers. But the extra 1.5 billion people expected to live on the continent by 2050 will double Asia's demand for food, says the report.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/17/asia-facing-food-crisis>

REPORT: **Revitalizing Asia's Irrigation: To sustainably meet tomorrow's food needs.** *International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*, August 18

<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Other/PDF/Revitalizing%20Asia's%20Irrigation.pdf>

See Also: **Water crisis to hit Asian food**, *BBC News*, August 18

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8206466.stm>

See Also: **Asia urged to act on water wastage**, *Financial Times*, August 17

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/878578e4-8b48-11de-9f50-00144feabdc0.html?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/878578e4-8b48-11de-9f50-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1)

**A New Gender Agenda**, *Interview with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, The New York Times Magazine, August 18*

Hillary Rodham Clinton staked her claim as an advocate for global women's issues in 1995, when, as first lady, she gave an impassioned speech at a United Nations conference in Beijing. As secretary of state, she pushed to create a new position, ambassador at large for global women's issues, and recruited Melanne Verwee, her former chief of staff, to fill it. And she has drawn attention to women at nearly every stop in her travels, most recently on an 11-day visit to Africa, during which, among other things, she went to eastern Congo to speak out against mass rape.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23clinton-t.html>

*See Also: Clinton Puts Spotlight On Women's Issues, The Washington Post, August 18*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/17/AR2009081702379.html>

*See Also: In Africa, Clinton Balances Criticism, Praise, Wall Street Journal, August 14*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125017754616229421.html>

*See Also: Clinton Ends Africa Tour, Vowing to Stay Involved, The New York Times, August 14*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/15/world/africa/15diplo.html>

*See Also: A stop-by-stop account of Clinton's Africa trip, Christian Science Monitor, August 15*

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0815/p02s10-usfp.html>

**Poor Farmers Biggest Losers From Warming Planet, Study Says**, *Bloomberg, August 20*

Farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and similarly poor nations have the most to lose as the Earth gets warmer, highlighting the need to supply them with drought-resistant seeds and more effective water irrigation. A study by Danish professor Bjoern Lomborg showed that faltering crops may cut as much as 4 percent of gross domestic production in southern Asia by 2050. It also said climate change will impact other sectors including health and energy less. Africa, the Middle East and southern Asia are among the regions that will most severely affected by global warming. Helping poor farmers cope with higher temperatures of 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) or more by 2030 would need a \$14 billion investment.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aA5mpTCvdfXc>

*See Also: Climate change to hit poor farmers hardest, The Sydney Morning Herald, August 21*

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/global-warming/climate-change-to-hit-poor-farmers-hardest-20090821-esoz.html>

*See Also:*

**The Women's Crusade**, *Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, The New York Times Magazine, August 17*

In Ivory Coast, one research project examined the different crops that men and women grow for their private kitties: men grow coffee, cocoa and pineapple, and women grow plantains, bananas, coconuts and vegetables. Some years the "men's crops" have good harvests and the men are flush with cash, and other years it is the women who prosper. Money is to some extent shared. But even so, the economist Esther Duflo of M.I.T. found that when the men's crops flourish, the household spends more money on alcohol and tobacco. When the women have a good crop, the households spend more money on food. "When women command greater power, child health and nutrition improves," Duflo says.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html>

**Africa: Will Global Recession Damage U.S. Africa Trade Ties?**, *Paul Collier (professor of Economics, Oxford University) and Rosa Whitaker (former Assistant US Trade Representative for Africa), Opinion, AllAfrica.com, August 11*

As this meeting takes place, Africa is at risk of becoming the largest casualty of the global recession. So far in 2009, Africa's exports to the US have declined by 58% -- far more than any other region. AGOA needs to be bigger, better and longer. AGOA should be expanded to include more textiles and agricultural export products, specifically those on which many African families depend for their livelihood such as sugar, peanuts, cotton, and a range of processed cocoa products.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200908110740.html>

**Africa's century for development: World Bank chief**, *Reuters, August 14*

World Bank President Robert Zoellick concluded a visit to Africa, saying he was still convinced this century belonged to Africa's development despite damage to their economies caused by the global financial crisis. Zoellick said his travels had reinforced his belief that the immediate challenge to keep Africa growing required more resources to bolster regional integration as well as investments in energy, infrastructure and agriculture. He also said Africa's needs deserved more attention and should be made a priority at a meeting of the Group of 20 developed and developing countries in the United States next month.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E57D02S20090814>

*See Also: Africa's development crisis, Kofi Annan, Op-ed, The New Nation (Bangladesh), August 10*  
<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2009/08/10/news0318.htm>

**Think Again: A Marshall Plan for Africa**, Glenn Hubbard (*former chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers and current dean of Columbia Business School*), *Foreign Policy*, August 2009

The Marshall Plan was fundamentally different from the aid that Africa has received over the past four decades. The Marshall Plan made loans to European businesses, which repaid them to their local governments, which in turn used that revenue for commercial infrastructure -- ports, roads, railways -- to serve those same businesses. Aid to Africa has instead funded government and NGO development projects, without any involvement of the local business sector. The Marshall Plan worked. Aid to Africa has not. An African Marshall Plan is long, long overdue.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/13/think\\_again\\_aid\\_to\\_africa?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/13/think_again_aid_to_africa?page=full)

**World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates**, *United States Department of Agriculture*, August 2009

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/waob/wasde/2000s/2009/wasde-08-12-2009.pdf>

*See Also: Food prices, Financial Times (Lex Column), August 18*

So far this year, hopes of a bumper harvest have sustained investors worried about an inflation-inducing surge in food prices. The fear is that the torrent of fiscal stimuli flooding into the world economy will result in too much cash chasing too few grains, causing higher prices that stunt recovery.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/3/c984e756-8bc6-11de-b14f-00144feabdc0.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Afghanistan's Narco War: Breaking the Link between Drug Traffickers and Insurgents**, *U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee*, August 2009

The administration is dramatically shifting gears on counter-narcotics by phasing out eradication in favor of promoting alternative crops and agriculture development. For the first time, the United States will have an agriculture strategy for Afghanistan. While this strategy is still being finalized by Ambassador Holbrooke's team and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and his experts, it will focus on increasing agricultural productivity, regenerating the agribusiness sector, rehabilitating watersheds and irrigation systems, and building capacity in the Afghan agriculture ministry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to increase its staffing to 64 by early 2010, up from the 3 in 2003 and 14 in 2009.

<http://foreign.senate.gov/afghan.pdf>

*See Also: In Afghanistan, the Choice Is Ours, Richard Haass (President, Council on Foreign Relations), Op-ed, The New York Times, August 20*

There are alternatives to current American policy. One would reduce our troops' ground-combat operations and emphasize drone attacks on terrorists, the training of Afghan police officers and soldiers, development aid and diplomacy to fracture the Taliban.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/21/opinion/21haass.html?scp=27&sq=development&st=cse>

*See Also: Obama's Address to Veterans, President Obama's speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Phoenix, August 17*

"In recent years, our troops have succeeded in every mission America has given them, from toppling the Taliban to deposing a dictator in Iraq to battling brutal insurgencies. At the same time, forces trained for war have been called upon to perform a whole host of missions. Like mayors, they've run local governments and delivered water and electricity. Like aid workers, they've mentored farmers and built new schools."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/18/us/politics/18obama.text.html>

See Also: **Losing Afghanistan?** *The Economist*, August 20

[http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14258750](http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14258750)

See Also: **State Dept. adds more aid workers in Afghanistan**, *USA Today*, August 17

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-08-16-aid-surge\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-08-16-aid-surge_N.htm)

**Report of Inspection: The Bureau of African Affairs**, *United States Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors Office of Inspector General, Report Number ISP-I-09-63, August 2009*

From the outset, Bureau of African Affairs' (AF) fundamental idealism enabled it to attract, retain, and further the careers of Foreign Service officers both in Washington and in the field. A sense of adventure, meaningful work, and rewards for service overcame what could be severe hardship assignments. Although the continent's promises and challenges still attract dedicated talent, the luster of service in AF has faded over the past decade, and there is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the uneven quality of leadership that affects recruitment to key positions in some cases, and retention in others.

<http://oig.state.gov/documents/organization/127270.pdf>

See Also: **Problems plague State Dept.'s Africa bureau**, *USA Today*, August 11

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-08-10-africa\\_N.htm?csp=34](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2009-08-10-africa_N.htm?csp=34)

See Also: **Internal State Department report criticizes Africa Bureau**, *Foreign Policy (The Cable Blog)*, August 12

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/08/12/internal\\_state\\_department\\_report\\_criticizes\\_africa\\_bureau](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/08/12/internal_state_department_report_criticizes_africa_bureau)

**A New Course in the World, a New Approach at the U.N.**, *Remarks as delivered by Amb. Susan E. Rice, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, at New York University's Center for Global Affairs and Center on International Cooperation, August 13*

"In the past, many dismissed poverty, hunger, and despair in faraway countries as other people's problems, preferring to focus on the supposedly 'hard' questions of war and power. But in a globalized age, the troubles that ravage fragile states can ultimately menace sturdy ones. Our values compel us to reduce poverty, disease, and hunger, to end preventable deaths of mothers and children, and to build self-sufficiency in agriculture, health, and education. But so too does our national interest. Whether the peril is terrorism, pandemics, narcotics, human trafficking, or civil strife, a state so weak that it incubates a threat is also a state too weak to contain a threat."

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/12/a\\_new\\_course\\_in\\_the\\_world\\_a\\_new\\_approach\\_at\\_the\\_un](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/12/a_new_course_in_the_world_a_new_approach_at_the_un)

**Five Urgent Homework Assignments for Congress**, *Foreign Policy*, August 13

For too long, foreign aid from the United States has been crippled by ineffective management, congressional earmarks, and short-term planning more focused on superficial "success stories" to bring to Congress than real results. With reform bills underway in both houses, genuine progress could be on the way. Passing these reform bills is an important first step, but Congress can do much more. After the recess, it should help the Obama administration fill vacancies as quickly as possible, and start by confirming an administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has been without an officially appointed leader for almost seven months.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/13/five\\_urgent\\_homework\\_assignments\\_for\\_congress?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/13/five_urgent_homework_assignments_for_congress?page=full)

See Also: **USAID: an agency without leader and direction**, *The Lancet*, Volume 374, Issue 9689, Page 502, August 15

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)61466-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61466-5/fulltext)

**Economic Impact of the Waxman-Markey American Clean Energy and Security Act**, *The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) and the American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF)*, August 2009

[http://www.accf.org/media/dynamic/3/media\\_381.pdf](http://www.accf.org/media/dynamic/3/media_381.pdf)

See Also: **Energy Market and Economic Impacts of H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009**, *Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy*, August 2009

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/hr2454/pdf/sroiaf\(2009\)05.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/hr2454/pdf/sroiaf(2009)05.pdf)

*See Also: The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Analysis of H.R. 2454 in the 111th Congress, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, June 2009*

[http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/economics/pdfs/HR2454\\_Analysis.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/economics/pdfs/HR2454_Analysis.pdf)

*See Also: The Estimated Costs to Households From the Cap-and-Trade Provisions of H.R. 2454, Congressional Budget Office, June 2009*

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/103xx/doc10327/06-19-CapAndTradeCosts.pdf>

*See Also: The Economic Consequences of Waxman-Markey: An Analysis of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, The Heritage Foundation, August 2009*

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/CDA\\_09-041.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/CDA_09-041.pdf)

### **Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Names John D. Brewer as General Sales Manager of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, August 20**

Brewer, who Vilsack appointed in July as FAS's Associate Administrator, will now serve the agency in dual roles including management of market development, export credit, export subsidy, and food aid programs. Brewer came to USDA from the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, where he worked on a variety of intelligence and finance-related projects for the Departments of Defense, Justice, Homeland Security, Treasury, and private-sector financial institutions such as Bank of America and Wachovia.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/08/0395.xml>

### **Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces New Direction and Vision For America's Forests, USDA, August 14**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today outlined his vision for the future of our nation's forests. In his first major speech regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, Vilsack set forth a new direction for conservation, management, and restoration of these natural treasures.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/08/0383.xml>

*See Also: Climate plan calls for forest expansion, USA Today, August 19*

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2009-08-19-forest\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2009-08-19-forest_N.htm)

*See Also: Vilsack's forest agenda welcomed by conservationists, Los Angeles Times, August 15*

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-vilsack-forests15-2009aug15.0,2866440.story>

### **Stars Aligning on School Lunches, The New York Times, August 18**

Congress, which will take up the Child Nutrition Act as soon as October, has much to do with this year's focus on school food. The act, which is reauthorized every five years, provides \$12 billion to pay for lunch and breakfast for 31 million schoolchildren. That the nutritional state of America's children is a priority for President Obama doesn't hurt, either. Mr. Obama put an extra \$1 billion for child nutrition programs, including school food, in his 2010 budget proposal.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/19/dining/19school.html>

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## **NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

### **The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2009: High food prices and the food crisis – experiences and lessons learned, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, August 2009**

In June 2008, the prices of basic foods on international markets reached their highest levels for 30 years, threatening the food security of the poor worldwide. In 2007 and 2008, mainly because of high food prices, an additional 115 million people were pushed into chronic hunger. Since then, prices have declined, driven lower by the financial crisis, emerging world recession, falling oil prices and an appreciating US dollar. However, they are still high by recent historical standards and the structural problems underlying the vulnerability of developing countries to international price increases remain.

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i0854e/i0854e.pdf>

**What the 2008/2009 World Economic Crisis Means for Global Agricultural Trade**, *USDA Economic Research Service, August 2009*

The global economic crisis that started in late 2008 has led to a sharp curtailment of international trade, including a short-term decline in the value of global agricultural trade of around 20 percent. After slowing, global agricultural trade will continue to grow in the future. The crisis is leading to a realignment of exchange rates, and the ultimate resolution of the crisis will depend on adjustments in the exchange value of the U.S. dollar. The U.S. agricultural sector would benefit from a depreciating dollar, which results in high export earnings, high agricultural commodity prices, increased production, and increased farm income.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS0905/WRS0905.pdf>

**Anchoring Agriculture within a Copenhagen Agreement**, *UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Policy Brief, August 2009*

This policy brief seeks to inform negotiators where agriculture is situated in the current negotiations and provides some proposals on how it might be addressed in a global climate change agreement.

[http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/data/nrc/policy\\_brief\\_sbstabonn.pdf](http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/data/nrc/policy_brief_sbstabonn.pdf)

**Equipping USAID for Success: A Field Perspective**, *Amy B. Frumin, (International Affairs Fellow, 2007-2009, Council on Foreign Relations), Center for Strategic and International Studies, June 2009*

USAID staff are generally development professionals with backgrounds in public policy, development or political science. In the past, technical expertise such as in agriculture, engineering, planning, public health, economics and water and sanitation were part of the USAID officer's profile. However, as USAID's staff shrank, these skills were outsourced through contractors,

[http://csis.org/files/publication/090709\\_pcr\\_briefing\\_usaid.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/090709_pcr_briefing_usaid.pdf)

**Fixing Global Nutrition Institutions**, *Ruth Levine and Danielle Kuczynski, Center for Global Development, August 2009*

This paper describes the major institutional weaknesses in global nutrition and presents two recommendations to address the joint problems of incoherence, lack of institutional leaders, and persistent underfunding.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1422612\\_file\\_Global\\_Nutrition\\_Institutions\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1422612_file_Global_Nutrition_Institutions_FINAL.pdf)

**A Conservative Agenda for International Development**, *One World Conservatism (U.K. Conservative Party), July 2009*

The world food crisis is an urgent wake up call. Dramatic food price increases have hit the poorest hardest – and led directly to civil unrest and political instability. Seven out of ten of the world's poor still live in rural areas but in recent years agriculture has been neglected by DFID. We must focus now on finding ways to improve agricultural productivity in poor countries. Asia has already had a "Green Revolution", with dramatic improvements in agricultural productivity. But Africa is still realising only a fraction of its potential.

[http://www.conservatives.com/News/News\\_stories/2009/07/~/\\_media/Files/Green%20Papers/OneWorldConservatism.ashx](http://www.conservatives.com/News/News_stories/2009/07/~/_media/Files/Green%20Papers/OneWorldConservatism.ashx)

**What's on the Table? The Doha Round as of August 2009**, *Matthew Adler, Claire Brunel, Gary Clyde Hufbauer, and Jeffrey J. Schott, Peterson Institute of International Economics, August 2009*

The Doha Round is the longest-running trade liberalization negotiation in the postwar era. Despite its longevity, the end is not yet in sight as parties disagree on the depth of liberalization necessary in agriculture and nonagricultural market access. The agricultural negotiations seek to eliminate export subsidies, sharply reduce tariffs and domestic farm subsidies, and expand tariff quotas. In this paper, the authors do not go into the details of the commitments for each product line but rather summarize the overall gains in agriculture for selected countries.

<http://www.piie.com/publications/wp/wp09-6.pdf>

**Flexible Water Storage Options and Adaptation to Climate Change**, *International Water Management Institute, August 2009*

Water storage has a vital role to play in improving global food security and building resilience for adaptation to climate change. A wide range of storage options are available, each with strengths and weaknesses.

Because of the uncertainty associated with climate change, planners need to focus on flexibility in storage systems and give careful consideration to the effectiveness and suitability of different storage types.

[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Water\\_Policy\\_Briefs/PDF/WPB31.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Water_Policy_Briefs/PDF/WPB31.pdf)

**Somalia: The Trouble with Puntland**, *International Crisis Group, Policy Briefing, August 2009*

By 2005, corruption in Puntland had permeated every tier of government and become almost a way of life. Poverty and malnutrition increased, and illadvised state interventions made matters worse. These developments, aggravated by severe drought, pushed Puntland into a lengthy humanitarian emergency.

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/horn\\_of\\_africa/b64\\_somalia\\_the\\_trouble\\_with\\_puntland.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/horn_of_africa/b64_somalia_the_trouble_with_puntland.pdf)

**Livestock and Water Interactions in Mixed Crop-Livestock Farming Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa: Interventions for Improved Productivity**, *International Water Management Institute, June 2009*

In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the increasing competition for water between various sectors is aggravated by growing demands for water, climate change and environmental degradation. One of the major consumers of water is livestock keeping, which is an important livelihood strategy for smallholder farmers in Africa. The water consumption for livestock production is currently increasing with the growing demands for livestock products. On the other hand, current low returns from livestock, limit its contribution to livelihoods, threaten environmental health and aggravate local conflicts.

[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Working\\_Papers/working/WOR133.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Working_Papers/working/WOR133.pdf)

**Tax policy to reduce carbon emissions in south Africa**, *Shantayanan Devarajan, Delfin S. Go, Sherman Robinson, Karen Thierfelder, World Bank, May 2009*

Noting that South Africa may be one of the few African countries that could contribute to mitigating climate change, the authors explore the impact of a carbon tax relative to alternative energy taxes on economic welfare.

[http://www-](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/05/18/000158349_20090518093557/Rendered/PDF/WPS4933.pdf)

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/05/18/000158349\\_20090518093557/Rendered/PDF/WPS4933.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/05/18/000158349_20090518093557/Rendered/PDF/WPS4933.pdf)

**Nepal's Future: In Whose Hands?**, *International Crisis Group, Policy Briefing, August 2009*

The government has also promised that a scientific land reforms program will be implemented and that "special attention will be paid to the socio-economic uplifting of the agriculture labour, freed bonded labour, landless and squatters". It has further vowed to reclaim land as part of two major irrigation river diversion projects. Land reform has long been one of the Maoists' central goals and a significant mobilising agenda.

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/central\\_asia/173\\_nepals\\_future\\_in\\_whose\\_hands.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/central_asia/173_nepals_future_in_whose_hands.pdf)

**Understanding the link between malaria risk and climate**, *Krijn P. Paaijmansa, Andrew F. Read, and Matthew B. Thomasa, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States, August 2009*

The incubation period for malaria parasites within the mosquito is exquisitely temperature-sensitive, so that temperature is a major determinant of malaria risk. Epidemiological models are increasingly used to guide allocation of disease control resources and to assess the likely impact of climate change on global malaria burdens. Temperature-based malaria transmission is generally incorporated into these models using mean monthly temperatures, yet temperatures fluctuate throughout the diurnal cycle. Here the authors use a thermodynamic malaria development model to demonstrate that temperature fluctuation can substantially alter the incubation period of the parasite, and hence malaria transmission rates.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/33/13844.full.pdf+html>

**Climate Engineering Responses to Climate Emergencies**, *J. J. Blackstock, D. S. Battisti, K. Caldeira, D. M. Eardley, J. I. Katz, D. W. Keith, A. A. N. Patrinos, D. P. Schrag, R. H. Socolow, S. E. Koonin, Novim, July 2009*

Despite efforts to stabilize CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, it is possible that the climate system could respond abruptly with catastrophic consequences. Intentional intervention in the climate system to avoid or ameliorate such consequences has been proposed as one possible response. Because of their potential to induce a prompt (less than one year) global cooling, this study concentrated on Shortwave Climate Engineering (SWCE) methods for moderately reducing the amount of shortwave solar radiation reaching the Earth. The study's

main objective was to outline a decade-long agenda of technical research that would maximally reduce the uncertainty surrounding the benefits and risks associated with SWCE.

<http://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/0907/0907.5140.pdf>

See Also: **Can Geoengineering Help Slow Global Warming?**, *TIME*, August 18

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1916965,00.html>

**Aggregate Economic Shocks, Child Schooling, and Child Health**, *Francisco H. G. Ferreira and Norbert Schady, World Bank, July 2009*

Do aggregate income shocks, such as those caused by macroeconomic crises or droughts, reduce child human capital? The answer to this question has important implications for public policy. If shocks reduce investments in children, they may have a long-lasting impact on poverty and its intergenerational transmission. The authors develop a simple framework to analyze the effects of aggregate economic shocks on child schooling and health.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRICA/Resources/FerreiraSchady\\_WBRO\\_071209.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRICA/Resources/FerreiraSchady_WBRO_071209.pdf)

**U.S.-Africa Trade: Options for Congressional Consideration to Improve Textile and Apparel Sector Competitiveness under the African Growth and Opportunity Act**, *U.S. Government Accountability Office, August 2009*

There are differing opinions about whether promoting textile and apparel production in SSA countries should be a priority under AGOA. Some Africa experts suggest that there should be a greater focus on agricultural production, an area where SSA countries appear to have a greater competitive advantage. Similarly, other development experts question whether the benefits provided under AGOA should be exclusive to SSA countries, and support the idea of extending trade preferences equally among all lesser-developed countries (LDC).

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09916.pdf>

**The Farm Price-Cost Squeeze and U.S. Farm Policy**, *Congressional Research Service, August 2009*

When farm commodity prices fall and costs of production rise, farmers can get caught in a "farm price-cost squeeze." In 2009, some farmers find themselves in difficult financial circumstances, following high farm prices and relatively prosperous times in 2007 and 2008. In some instances, Members of Congress and policymakers in the U.S. Department of Agriculture are being asked by farm groups to consider additional support to farmers. This report discusses the current farm price-cost squeeze, how it varies across commodities, and the factors behind the current situation. The report also considers the cyclical nature of agricultural markets, effects on producers, and the government's role in addressing the situation.

<http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/crs-report-farm-price-cost-squeeze-and-us-farm-policy.pdf>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **World Water Week**

*Date:* August 16-22, 2009

*Location:* Stockholm, Sweden

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

### **Mini-Ministerial World Trade Organization Meeting**

*Date:* September 3-4, 2009

*Location:* India

Director General of WTO, Pascal Lamy, has accepted the invitation of the Indian government to attend the meeting. Formal invitations have been sent to US trade representative Ron Kirk, key ministers and negotiators from EU, China, Brazil and South Africa among others, whose participation are yet to be confirmed.

### **International ISHS/ProMusa Symposium Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges**

*Date:* September 14-18, 2009

*Location:* Guang Dong, China,

ProMusa, in collaboration with the Guang Dong Academy for Agricultural Sciences (GDAAS), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and Bioversity's Banana and Plantain Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (BAPNET), has announced the "International Banana Symposium: Global Perspectives on Asian Challenges."

[http://www.promusa.org/symposium\\_2009/home.html](http://www.promusa.org/symposium_2009/home.html)

[http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/fischerboel-hill-event\\_may-06-09-invite-final-3.pdf](http://www.farmpolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/fischerboel-hill-event_may-06-09-invite-final-3.pdf)

### **Fifth Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)**

*Date:* September 22-25, 2009

*Location:* Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, New York, NY

The following are among those who have confirmed their attendance at the 2009 CGI Annual Meeting: 35 current and former heads of state, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Larry Summers, Valerie Jarrett, Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs, Angela Braley of WellPoint, John Chambers of Cisco, James Dimon of JP Morgan Chase & Co., Mike Duke of Wal-Mart, Carlos Ghosn of Nissan Motor, Muhtar Kent of The Coca-Cola Company, Jack Ma of Alibaba Group, Indra Nooyi of PepsiCo, Inc., and Carlos Slim Helú of Grupo Carso S.A. de C.V. For the Fifth Annual Meeting, CGI is introducing four new Action Areas – points of collaboration and intervention – that will guide CGI's program. The 2009 Action Areas are: Harnessing Innovation for Development; Strengthening Infrastructure; Developing Human Capital; Financing a Sustainable Future.

*Agenda:* <http://www.clintonglobalinitiative.org/Document.Doc?id=460>

### **UN General Assembly Meeting**

*Date:* September 23-30, 2009

*Location:* New York, NY

President Obama scheduled to address the assembly on September 23.

For a preliminary outline of agenda items, see

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/50](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/50).

For the Assembly's "Resolution on Agriculture and Food Security," developed March 17, 2009, see

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/484/89/PDF/N0848489.pdf?OpenElement>

### **G-20 Summit**

*Date:* September 24-25, 2009

*Location:* Pittsburgh, PA

<http://www.pittsburghsummit.gov/>

### **Annual Meeting of the World Bank and IMF**

*Date:* October 6-7, 2009

*Location:* Istanbul, Turkey

<http://www.imf.org/external/am/2009/schedule.htm>

### **How to Feed the World in 2050 High-Level Expert Forum**

*Date:* October 12-13, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/wsfs/forum2050/about-the-forum/en/>

### **2009 World Food Prize and "Borlaug Dialogue" symposium: Food, Agriculture, and National Security**

*Date:* October 14-16, 2009

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The formal awarding of the \$250,000 World Food Prize will be the cornerstone of a week-long series of events that will attract several hundred government officials and policymakers, private-sector and agribusiness executives, academics and scientists, and NGO and development-agency leaders from over 65 countries. The "conversations" of the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium will this year focus on the connection between food and agriculture and national and international security and cooperation,

with speakers including renowned global CEOs, agricultural ministers and diplomats, noted intelligence and security experts, and other eminent leaders in agricultural and rural development.  
<https://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2009.htm> (registration available)

### **FAO Summit on Food Security**

*Date:* November 16-18, 2009

*Location:* Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/29219/icode/>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **Getting Real About the High Price of Cheap Food**, *TIME*, August 21

With the exhaustion of the soil, the impact of global warming and the inevitably rising price of oil — which will affect everything from fertilizer to supermarket electricity bills — our industrial style of food production will end sooner or later. As the developing world grows richer, hundreds of millions of people will want to shift to the same calorie-heavy, protein-rich diet that has made Americans so unhealthy — demand for meat and poultry worldwide is set to rise 25% by 2015 — but the earth can no longer deliver. Unless Americans radically rethink the way they grow and consume food, they face a future of eroded farmland, hollowed-out countryside, scarier germs, higher health costs — and bland taste.

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1917458,00.html>

### **India to import food amid drought**, *BBC News*, August 21

India will import food to make up for shortages caused by a drought thought to be affecting 700 million people, the finance minister has said. The minister, Pranab Mukherjee, did not specify what would be imported and when, saying he wanted to avoid speculation on prices. The drought is affecting almost half of India's districts. Food prices have risen by 10% after poor monsoon rains hit sowing. Monsoon rains are critical to India's farmers.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8214690.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8214690.stm)

*See Also: Monsoon Wetting: India Gets Its Rains*, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 21

A late revival in monsoon rains in India has fueled hopes that it will help limit damage to the country's summer crops and prevent further increases in food prices. But it may be too late to lower prices substantially.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125076222646745813.html>

### **McNamara's Legacy: Food, Agriculture and Rural Development**, *Uma Lee, Institute for Development Studies*, August 21

Robert McNamara, World Bank President from 1968-1981 who died in July 2009, made a substantial contribution to global food, agriculture and poverty reduction. It is worth considering at a time of growing population pressure, stagnant agricultural productivity, pervasive under nutrition, rapid urbanisation, climate change, the associated water crisis, and the multi-trillion dollar global financial rescue. Collectively these challenges call for a vigorous international focus on the world's poor once again with a broad, long-term vision that contains agriculture and rural development at its core.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/mcnamara-s-legacy-food-agriculture-and-rural-development>

### **'Super Rice' Deploys 'Snorkel' To Survive Floods**, *National Public Radio (NPR)*, August 20

Scientists are racing to develop strains of "super rice" that can prevent the return of deadly famines to Asia. Researchers say tough, highly productive rice plants offer the best hope for feeding a world population that will reach 9 billion by 2050. And their quest to create these plants is producing an explosion of scientific papers on rice genetics — three of which appear in leading scientific journals this week.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112067842>

### **First shoots of Haiti's agricultural renaissance**, *ReliefWeb*, August 20

A \$10.2 million scheme to distribute and multiply quality seeds in Haiti has significantly increased food production in the Caribbean nation providing cheaper food for the population and boosting farmers' incomes.

Almost 250,000 smallholder and landless farmers have or will receive adapted quality seeds through the programme, which although only half way completed has already paid for itself many times over.  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/JBRN-7V4HEG?OpenDocument>

**Nobel Laureate Opens Poverty Reduction Center in Thailand**, *VOA News, August 19*

The Nobel laureate who pioneered the concept of micro-credit, Muhammad Yunus, has opened a research center in Thailand aimed at reducing poverty in Southeast Asia. The center will research ways to help rural people to improve their situation through their own agriculture-related businesses.  
<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-19-voa21.cfm>

**Food supplies at risk from price speculation**, *The Guardian (U.K.), August 19*

The world food market is still "seriously exposed" to speculators artificially driving up prices and worsening the risks of malnutrition, according to one of the world's leading agricultural researchers. Linking the recent food and financial crises, Joachim von Braun, the head of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), warned that the world was at risk of a new panic over grain unless commodity markets were more tightly regulated and production expanded.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/aug/19/food-supply-risk-speculators>

**Deep-fried locust, anyone? Insects may be the answer to our looming food crisis**, *The Guardian (U.K.), August 19*

Sustainable and nutritious, it's time insects were seen as another source of protein. The problem is how to make them desirable.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/blog/2009/aug/19/insects-food-crisis>

**Michigan Researchers Look at Rutabagas for Biofuel**, *The New York Times, August 18*

Researchers at Michigan State University are working to turn the rutabaga into an oil-producing powerhouse that could make the turnip-like vegetable a better source of biofuel than other food crops.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/08/18/business/AP-US-Farm-Scene-Rutabaga-Biofuel.html>

**Kenya: U.N. Aid Group Notes Food Needs**, *The New York Times, August 18*

More than one million Kenyans affected by a prolonged drought are not getting the food aid they desperately need, the United Nations World Food Program said. The agency already is providing emergency food aid to about 2.5 million people in Kenya, but an additional 1.3 million still need help.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/19/world/africa/19briefs-Kenya.html>

*See Also: UN: More than 1 million Kenyans in desperate need of food aid because of prolonged drought*, *Chicago Tribune, August 18*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-af-kenya-drought.04298271.story>

*See Also: Army starts food aid operation*, *Daily Nation (Kenya), August 13*

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/639182/-/ulnw6n/-/index.html>

**Farmland Recovery Seen**, *The Wall Street Journal, August 17*

Investors are showing signs of renewed interest in farmland, especially in Canada, Australia and Africa. Land prices around the world rose sharply in the lead-up to the recession, buoyed by high food prices and increased investor demand. When food prices fell in the second half of 2008, the price of the land that produced them did as well. But the underlying fundamentals of the market -- limited land availability, water scarcity, increasing food demand and food security concerns -- lead analysts to expect land prices in some countries to recover quickly.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125046762719635487.html>

**Sugar prices tempt small farmers away from food production**, *IRIN News, August 17*

Swaziland's small-scale farmers are succumbing to the temptation of soaring sugar prices, cultivating cane at the expense of edible crops in the food-stressed country. Raw sugar prices have reached a 28-year high, driven by fears that demand will outstrip supply on the back of a poor 2008/09 crop in India, with another below average harvest expected, and Brazil's increasing use of sugar cane to manufacture ethanol for biofuel.  
<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85749>

**The lurking menace of weeds**, *FAO, August 11*

Today more than a billion people in the world are hungry, the result of flawed policies mainly, but also of wars and revolutions and of natural hazards like floods, droughts, pests and diseases compounded, nowadays, by climate change. But one huge hunger-maker lurks largely unnoticed: weeds.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/29402/icode/>

**FAPRI August 2009 Baseline Update for US Agricultural Markets**, *Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, University of Missouri, August 2009*

The outlook for many agricultural commodities has changed markedly since the completion of the 2009 FAPRI long-term baseline in early 2009. The current world-wide economic recession has resulted in weak domestic and international demand for many US agricultural products.

[http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2009/FAPRI\\_MU\\_Report\\_06\\_09.pdf](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2009/FAPRI_MU_Report_06_09.pdf)

**Crop Production Report**, *National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 2009*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/CropProd/2000s/2009/CropProd-08-12-2009.pdf>

**FEWS NET Executive Overview of Food Security**, *USAID and FEWS NET, July 2009*

[http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/EOB\\_2009\\_07\\_29\\_final.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/EOB_2009_07_29_final.pdf)

*See Also: Fews Net Food Security Outlook: Most Likely Scenario, April to September 2009, USAID and FEWS NET, April 2009*

[http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/FEWS%20NET%20Poster%20Q2%202009\\_final.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/FEWS%20NET%20Poster%20Q2%202009_final.pdf)

*See Also: Price Watch: Food Markets, USAID and FEWS NET, July 2009*

<http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/MONTHLY%20PRICE%20WATCH%20July%202009.pdf>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**Reform the right should embrace**, *Mark Green (former Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Wisconsin and ambassador to Tanzania; current director of the Malaria No More Policy Center), Op-Ed, Washington Times, August 20*

At a time when our national-security and foreign-policy priorities have become increasingly dependent on effective development, our political leaders must act swiftly and put partisan politics aside in order to enact reforms that will make our foreign-aid programs more efficient, more effective and therefore more capable of supporting and advancing our national interests around the globe. Despite some initial positive steps by the Obama administration and Congress, a critical constituency is missing from the discussion: congressional conservatives. As a proud fiscal hawk and a true believer in the power of U.S. foreign assistance to lift lives and enhance alliances, I urge conservatives to get more engaged and embrace the opportunity this debate presents.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/aug/20/reform-the-right-should-embrace/>

**Sestak calls for global reengagement**, *Philadelphia Inquirer, August 20*

U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak, a former three-star Navy admiral who commanded naval combat operations in the Afghanistan theater, said that the U.S. needs to reestablish its global leadership through diplomacy and cooperation, using military force only as "a last resort." Sestak said the Obama administration must continue to practice a comprehensive foreign policy approach "that utilizes robust diplomacy, strategic foreign aid, and military force only as a last resort." In the globalized world, Sestak said, military, diplomatic, economic, environmental and humanitarian interests are intertwined.

[http://www.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/20090820\\_Sestak\\_calls\\_for\\_global\\_reengagement.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/20090820_Sestak_calls_for_global_reengagement.html)

**IFC grew Africa lending 32 pct in year to end-June**, *Reuters, August 19*

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank's private sector arm, expanded lending in sub-Saharan Africa to a record \$1.8 billion in the year to end-June to offset a drying-up of private investment

capital. The lending, a 32 percent increase on the previous financial year, saw the IFC involved in 93 projects in 30 countries on the poorest continent, where it sees itself as in the vanguard of private sector investment.  
<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJ0E57109C20090819>

**India Befriends Afghanistan, Irking Pakistan**, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 19

After shunning Afghanistan during the Taliban regime, India has become a major donor and new friend to the country's democratic government -- even if its growing presence here riles archrival Pakistan. From wells and toilets to power plants and satellite transmitters, India is seeding Afghanistan with a vast array of projects. The \$1.2 billion in pledged assistance includes projects vital to Afghanistan's economy, such as a completed road link to Iran's border.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125061548456340511.html>

**UN honors aid workers around the world**, *Deutsche Welle*, August 19

The United Nations marked its first World Humanitarian Day with a tribute to relief workers who often risk their lives to deliver urgent aid in global hotspots, including over 100 aid workers who were killed last year.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4582374,00.html>

**A powerful shift in the politics of African aid**, *Eric Reguly, Commentary, Globe & Mail (Canada)*, August 18

The trouble is, there is little reason to believe that funnelling more money into Africa is doing the Africans any favours. One-trillion dollars later and much of the continent is still struggling, while many other parts of the world, such as Southeast Asia, are thriving. Three decades ago, Burundi and Burkina Faso had higher per capita incomes than China. Canadians still need to know why Latin America has won the Canadian aid sweepstakes, and what it intends to do with the money. A lot of people, especially the Europeans, think Canada is punishing the poorest people on the planet by shifting its focus elsewhere.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/commentary/a-powerful-shift-in-the-politics-of-african-aid/article1254244/>

**U.S. aid must be transparent, accountable and show results**, *Gerald Grinstein (former CEO of Delta Air Lines) and William D. Ruckelshaus (former Environmental Protection Agency administrator), Op-Ed, Atlanta Journal Constitution*, August 18

U.S. assistance programs should fulfill their intended purposes to build schools, pave roads, treat the sick and train farmers. These investments should produce tangible results and a marked improvement in the lives of poor people. Too often, however, aid programs have been measured by how much has been spent rather than the results that have been achieved. To reinforce accountability, aid must be transparent as well. Countries ought to know what level of funding to expect and over what period of time, giving them the confidence to plan long term. Their citizens ought to be part of an open process to determine development priorities so they, too, can hold their governments accountable for delivering results with the assistance provided.

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/us-aid-must-be-transparent-accountable-and-show-results-117687.html>

**US aid workers leave Mauritania**, *BBC News*, August 17

The American Peace Corps says it has withdrawn more than 100 of its aid workers from Mauritania because of safety and security concerns.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8205532.stm>

*See Also: U.S. Peace Corps pulls volunteers from Mauritania, Reuters, August 17*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLH596272>

**Obama's Foreign Aid Mess**, *Michelle Goldberg, The Daily Beast*, August 15

President Obama promised to double foreign aid, but USAID is languishing without a leader in part due to his administration's unreasonable vetting process.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2009-08-15/can-usaid-survive-without-a-leader/full/>

**Global healthcare takes more than a pill**, *Bill Frist (former U.S. Senator), Op-Ed, Boston Globe*, August 13

As the United States and other international donors build hospitals and clinics throughout the developing world, they need to also think about building the home-grown capacity to staff these facilities. We need to expand our thinking to encompass holistic solutions that go into improving the health of the world's poor.

Global health must deliver more than a pill to the poor to relieve their immediate pain; it must deliver a system-wide program of rehabilitation to increase the productivity and prosperity of their communities. [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2009/08/13/global\\_healthcare\\_takes\\_more\\_than\\_a\\_pill/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/08/13/global_healthcare_takes_more_than_a_pill/)

*See Also: The next health frontier: Chronic diseases in Africa, Michelle Holmes and Shona Dalal, Op-Ed, Boston Globe, August 17*

[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2009/08/17/the\\_next\\_health\\_frontier\\_chronic\\_diseases\\_in\\_africa/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/08/17/the_next_health_frontier_chronic_diseases_in_africa/)

**The Thirty Years' War**, *The Nation (The Dreyfuss Report Blog)*, August 12

During the 90-minute presentation, Holbrooke and Co. mostly avoided the military questions and instead they concentrated almost exclusively on the civilian, nation-building aspects of US Afghanistan policy. That's controversial, too, of course, since it isn't at all clear that either US public opinion or Congress is willing to sustain a twenty- to thirty-year nation-building effort in Afghanistan. But the Holbrooke team focused on developing Afghan agriculture, building civil society, USAID programs, creating a public health system, and so on.

[http://www.thenation.com/blogs/dreyfuss/461776/the\\_thirty\\_years\\_war](http://www.thenation.com/blogs/dreyfuss/461776/the_thirty_years_war)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**Study of 16 developing countries shows climate change could deepen poverty**, *Science Daily*, August 21

Urban workers could suffer most from climate change as the cost of food drives them into poverty, according to a new study that quantifies the effects of climate on the world's poor populations. A team led by Purdue University researchers examined the potential economic influence of adverse climate events, such as heat waves, drought and heavy rains, on those in 16 developing countries. Urban workers in Bangladesh, Mexico and Zambia were found to be the most at risk.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/08/090820082101.htm>

**Nothing new under the sun**, *The Economist*, August 17

Long before the Industrial Revolution—indeed, long before a worldwide revolution in intensive farming, the results of which kept humanity alive—people caused unnatural exhalations of greenhouse gases that had an impact on the world's climate. In Europe, slash-and-burn techniques for clearing forested land allowed the farming of crops that had spread from the Fertile Crescent. This practice loosed the forests' stored carbon into the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide. In eastern Asia a couple of millennia later there was a tenfold increase in the growth of rice as the region's principal foodstuff.

[http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14252800](http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14252800)

**The Climate and National Security**, *Editorial, The New York Times*, August 17

One would think that by now most people would have figured out that climate change represents a grave threat to the planet. One would also have expected from Congress a plausible strategy for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that lie at the root of the problem. That has not happened. The problem, when it comes to motivating politicians, is that the dangers from global warming — drought, famine, rising seas — appear to be decades off.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/18/opinion/18tue1.html>

**Climate, Growth and Floods in Mumbai**, *The New York Times (Green Inc. Blog)*, August 17

Mumbai, India's commercial capital, has grown quickly in recent decades — at the expense of its estuaries, environmentalist advocates say. And some analysts warn that climate change has made the situation all the more precarious.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/climate-growth-and-floods-in-mumbai/>

**Developed countries' demand for biofuels has been 'disastrous'**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, August 17

The production of biofuels is fuelling poverty, human rights abuses and damage to the environment, Christian Aid warned. The charity said huge subsidies and targets in developed countries for boosting the production of

fuels from plants such as maize and palm oil are exacerbating environmental and social problems in poor nations. And rather than being a "silver bullet" to tackle climate change, the carbon emissions of some of the fuels are higher than fossil fuels because of deforestation driven by the need for land for them to grow.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/aug/17/biofuels>

**Development rift deeper**, *Ambassador Jan Eliasson (60th president of the United Nations) and U.S. Rep. Michael M. Honda, Op-Ed, Washington Times, August 16*

For many Americans and Europeans, climate change is a distant concept. Scientists' predictions that global warming will create serious conflict -- through rising sea levels, disastrous weather patterns, pervasive droughts and flooding, and uncontrollable diseases and pandemics -- have yet to be wholly realized. While we are already witnessing the adverse impacts of climate change, the doomsday scenario has yet to materialize. What has materialized, however, is equally pernicious. Climate change is revealing the ugly head of another conflict, as global and deadly in reach. It is poverty, and it is exacerbated by the growing schism between the developed and developing worlds.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/aug/16/development-rift-deeper/>

**Ripples of Dispute Surround Tiny Island in East Africa**, *The New York Times, August 16*

The island is an angler's paradise, surrounded by schools of tasty — and exportable — Nile perch. But Lake Victoria, one of the world's biggest bodies of fresh water, which 30 million impoverished Africans depend on for their survival, may be running out of these fish. According to a recent study, Nile perch stocks are down by nearly 70 percent, threatening a crucial industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars. But there may be an even bigger issue here: the rapidly receding lake itself. Water levels have dropped more than three feet in the last 10 years and explosive algae blooms, which cover the lake's surface like a coat of thick green paint, are choking off the fish.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/world/africa/17victoria.html>

**UN's climate chief warns of real risk of failure at climate change talks**, *The Guardian (U.K.), August 14*

A new global treaty on climate change is unlikely unless negotiations accelerate, the UN's top climate change official warned. Speaking at the close of another meeting intended to lay the ground for a new deal, Yvo de Boer, head of the UN climate secretariat said there was a real risk of failure.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/aug/14/bonn-climate-change-talks>

*See Also: Climate Talks Make 'Marginal' Advance, Pershing Says, Bloomberg, August 14*

Slight progress was made at United Nations climate negotiations in Bonn to bridge gaps between commitments industrialized and developing nations are prepared to make, U.S. lead negotiator Jonathan Pershing said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601130&sid=acf49MxFbhDM>

**The Future of U.S. Climate Policy**, *Interview with Eileen B. Claussen, President, Pew Center on Global Climate Change, Council on Foreign Relations, August 12*

Claussen says Congress might pass U.S. climate legislation in 2010, after it finishes dealing with health care reform. In the interim, the Obama administration is "moving forward in a very deliberate way under the Clean Air Act because in fact they have to. They don't actually have much of a choice." She stresses the importance of U.S. domestic policy for making progress on global climate talks, set for December 2009 in Copenhagen.

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/20026/future\\_of\\_us\\_climate\\_policy.html?breadcrumb=/](http://www.cfr.org/publication/20026/future_of_us_climate_policy.html?breadcrumb=/)

**Climate change fight seen costing \$300 billion a year**, *Reuters, August 11*

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to slow global warming and adapting to impacts such as droughts and rising sea levels are likely to cost about \$300 billion a year, the top U.N. climate change Official, Yvo de Boer, said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE57A3NO20090811>

**Environmental Demands Grow for U.N. Peacekeeping Troops**, *The New York Times, August 11*

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Goma, a city in the heart of the war ravaging the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is meant to draw attention to renewed U.S. support for U.N. peacekeeping and to press thinly stretched troops deployed there to do more to protect innocent civilians. But how much

more can overburdened peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere be expected to do? Increasingly -- and controversially -- they find themselves busy doing environmental cleanups, climate change mitigation projects and providing relief from natural disasters on top of their security duties.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/08/11/11greenwire-environmental-demands-grow-for-un-peacekeeping-40327.html>

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## GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

### **More Indians in 'extreme poverty',** *BBC News, August 21*

At least 38% of Indians live in extreme poverty, according to a new report by a government committee. The figure is more than 10% higher than the current official poverty estimate of 27.5%. If the new estimate is accepted, government spending to alleviate poverty may have to greatly increase. The new estimate will classify an additional 110 million people as living in poverty. This would mean the government will have to spend an additional \$1.9bn on ensuring food security to the poor.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8214061.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8214061.stm)

*See Also: How the Financial Crisis Threatens the Rural Indian Boom, The Wall Street Journal, August 17*

The Reserve Bank of India in its latest assessment states that there are signs of recovery citing the higher growth of the core infrastructure sector in April-June 2009 at 4.8% as compared to the 3.5% a year earlier. This forecast is encouraging as far as growth rates are concerned, but the living conditions of the thousands of informal sector workers adversely affected by the global economic crisis may not recover as quickly. What is worrying is that the impact is no longer confined to specific export oriented sectors and the repercussions of job losses are now spreading to other sectors and regions, particularly in rural areas. Field surveys indicate that because of a sharp reduction in incomes, there are instances of workers already giving lower priority to children's education, and health care even as they are cutting down on food intake.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125048336880235755.html>

### **Financial crisis and agriculture,** *Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Republica (Nepal), August 21*

The damage caused by anti-agricultural macroeconomic policies can be corrected as soon as diversified small-scale production based on local needs is promoted where the community and regions take control of agriculture and food production. macroeconomic policies did not support agricultural productivity growth. Investment in agriculture could not be increased. The time has come to assess the link between global financial crisis versus population growth, rising energy prices, subsidized bio-fuel production, underinvestment in rural infrastructure, limited access to inputs and weather disruptions.

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=8799](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=8799)

### **Soaring Population May Swamp Anti-Poverty Goals,** *IPS, August 17*

The U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), already undermined by the global financial crisis, are expected to take another hit - this time from rising population growth. The goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 could be jeopardised by soaring population growth, mostly in the developing world.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48111>

### **Economic solutions need to be open and inclusive,** *Joseph Stiglitz (professor of economics at Columbia University), Op-Ed, The Nation (Thailand), August 14*

While discussions about economic "green shoots" continue unabated in the US, in many countries, and especially in the developing world, matters are getting worse. The downturn in the US began with a failure in the financial system, which quickly was translated into a slowdown in the real economy. But, in the developing world, it is the opposite: a decline in exports, reduced remittances, lower foreign direct investment, and precipitous falls in capital flows have led to economic weakening.

[http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2009/08/14/opinion/opinion\\_30109739.php](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2009/08/14/opinion/opinion_30109739.php)

### **For Global Investors, 'Microfinance' Funds Pay Off -- So Far,** *The Wall Street Journal, August 13*

Investing in funds that make small loans to third-world borrowers has been lucrative the past 12 months. But the weak global economy has some investors worried about trouble ahead.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125002519860023799.html>

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## WOMEN

### **A Fighting Chance.** *The Wall Street Journal, August 21*

As the sun dips below the horizon, roll call begins at a boxing club in southeast Kolkata. Here, Ms. Fatma is one of the boys. She looks like them: Her hair is cropped short; she's lithe, has calves of steel and walks as if she's bouncing on springs. In the ring, she even spars with them. Girls like Ms. Fatma, who dream of a better life with more options and opportunity, join the Khidderpore boxing club because it offers a potential way out. It reflects the changing role of women within their own communities, particularly in the past decade, says Sabiha Hussain, an associate professor who studies women's issues at Jamia Millia Islamia university in New Delhi.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125073377934645059.html>

### **The Daughter Deficit,** *The New York Times, August 19*

In the late 1970s, a Ph.D. student named Monica Das Gupta was conducting anthropological fieldwork in Haryana, a state in the north of India. Das Gupta saw that educated, independent-minded women shared this prejudice in Haryana, a state that was one of India's richest and most developed. In fact, the bias against girls was far more pronounced there than in the poorer region in the east of India where Das Gupta was from. She decided to study the issue in Punjab, then India's richest state, which had a high rate of female literacy and a high average age of marriage. There too the prejudice for sons flourished. Along with Haryana, Punjab had the country's highest percentage of so-called missing girls — those aborted, killed as newborns or dead in their first few years from neglect. Here was a puzzle: Development seemed to have not only failed to help many Indian girls but to have made things worse.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23FOB-idealab-t.html>

### **Smallholder farmers in Africa, Asia to benefit from funding boost,** *Biz Community (South Africa), August 18*

Women cultivate more than half the food that is grown in sub-Saharan Africa, but generally receive less than 10% of the financial credit awarded to smallholder farmers, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). A fund of one billion euros distributed by the European Union Food Facility to nearly 30 of the world's poorest nations, however, will grant women involved in small-scale agriculture essential resources to boost their food production, while ensuring long-term sustainable strategies for continued growth and success. Women generate up to 80% of "basic foodstuffs" in the Caribbean, according to IFAD, and are also behind approximately 50% of food farming in Asia.

<http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/410/11/38973.html>

### **Extending the Horizon for Woman's Aid Projects in Afghanistan,** *The New York Times, August 14*

The Women's World Market, which opened in 2007 to donor fanfare, was designed to give women the opportunity to own their own shops, earn income and learn about business in a secure, women-only environment. But its out-of-the-way location — in a western Kabul district best known for selling construction materials — meant store owners had little neighborhood foot traffic to draw upon. This problem, coupled with high prices and a shortage of distinctive products on offer, meant the mall never caught on with Afghan customers.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/15/business/global/15mall.html>

### **Kenyan scientists to support sub-Saharan African farmers,** *Daily Monitor (Uganda), August 12*

A group of veteran and upcoming women scientists in Kenya under AWARD (African Women in Agricultural Research and Department) programme have urged African leaders and US policy makers to put women at the centre of efforts to address hunger and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa.

[http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/features/Kenyan\\_scientists\\_to\\_support\\_sub-Saharan\\_African\\_farmers\\_89501.shtml](http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/features/Kenyan_scientists_to_support_sub-Saharan_African_farmers_89501.shtml)

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### **China invests \$552m in Africa in first quarter 2009**, *Ghana Business News*, August 21

China has invested \$552 million directly in Africa in the first half of the year, a report by Law Info China quoting the country's Ministry of Commerce has said. According to the report, the amount raises China's direct investment in Africa to 81% from the same period in 2008. Meanwhile, trade between China and African countries has dropped 30.5% to \$37.07 billion in the first six months of 2009 as a result of the global economic crisis. About 1000 Chinese enterprises have been approved or registered to do business in Africa. They are into trade, manufacturing, resources development, transportation, agriculture and agricultural products processing.

<http://ghanabusinessnews.com/2009/08/21/china-invests-552m-in-africa-in-first-quarter-2009/>

*See Also: China and Congo change tack on deal*, *Financial Times*, August 18

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ac7fd79c-8c2a-11de-b14f-00144feabdc0.html>

### **Father of microcredit seeks finance for all**, *The Financial Times*, August 19

Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate and founder of the microcredit pioneering Grameen Bank, has called for an overhaul of the global financial system to make services available to the very poor. Problems such as poverty and food security could be tackled using a non-profit business model, the Bangladeshi economist told an audience in Bangkok. In an impassioned speech, Professor Yunus said two-thirds of the world's population had no access to the formal financial system.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/da66319c-8ccf-11de-a540-00144feabdc0.html>

*See Also: A \$9 Trillion Question: Did the World Get Muhammad Yunus Wrong?*, *Foreign Policy*, August 18

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/18/a\\_9\\_trillion\\_question\\_did\\_the\\_world\\_get\\_muhammad\\_yunus\\_wrong](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/18/a_9_trillion_question_did_the_world_get_muhammad_yunus_wrong)

### **Financiers scent food-security deals**, *Financial Times*, August 17

As financiers seek to diversify their fee bases, investment banks are scenting an opportunity in Gulf states' eagerness to secure long-term food supplies in the form of agricultural investment deals.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/42090644-8b45-11de-9f50-00144feabdc0.html>

### **Lessons From the Developing World**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 17

Hundreds of millions of potential customers live in urban slums, isolated rural areas, lawless regions and battle zones in the developing world. These environments often lack functioning legal systems, theft and violence are common, skilled workers are hard to find, and poverty and distrust are among several factors that make marketing difficult. Companies operating in these areas need to find local partners to help guide their operations and develop strategies unique to each market. To sustain success, companies need to support the development of their employees, partners and the broader community.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204830304574131501706235362.html>

### **ASEAN, India sign free trade deal: officials**, *Agence France-Presse*, August 13

India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed a free-trade agreement expected to raise annual trade to 60 billion dollars within seven years, officials said.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090813/wl\\_sthasia\\_afp/aseanindiaftaeconomytrade](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090813/wl_sthasia_afp/aseanindiaftaeconomytrade)

### **Enthusiastic China embraces WTO despite rulings**, *Reuters*, August 13

China could be forgiven for feeling aggrieved after the World Trade Organization ruled against its curbs on audiovisual imports this week. Far from it. An emergent China is increasingly relying on the WTO to make sure its exporters have fair access to global markets.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/reutersEdge/idUSTRE57C2A520090813>

### **Has Clinton visit helped offset China's clout in Africa?**, *Reuters (Africa Blog)*, August 12

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 10 day trip to Africa is at least partly as being aimed at offsetting China's growing economic clout on the African continent. In public, Clinton has delivered Washington's traditional messages on the importance of fair elections and of fighting corruption and human rights abuses. But the fact that top oil producers Angola and Nigeria are both on the tour has made clear the importance of the visit from the perspective of ensuring access to resources – an area of huge importance to China too.

<http://blogs.reuters.com/africanews/2009/08/12/has-clinton-visit-helped-offset-china's-clout-in-africa/>

*See Also: **China, others shove US in scramble for Africa**, Reuters, August 6*

A presidential visit followed by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's African tour cannot conceal a stark reality: China has overtaken the United States as Africa's top trading partner.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE57509B20090806>

### **Chavez And Cristina Sign A Billion USD Trade Agreement**, *MercoPress, August 12*

Mrs. Kirchner and Chavez signed agreements for Venezuela to import one billion US dollars in agricultural machinery, leather goods and poultry products, Argentine newspaper Clarin reported on its Web site.

<http://en.mercopress.com/2009/08/12/chavez-and-cristina-sign-a-billion-usd-trade-agreement>

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## **AGRIBUSINESS**

### **Monsanto chief accuses rival DuPont of deceit**, *Washington Times, August 18*

The chairman of agribusiness giant Monsanto demanded that his counterpart at DuPont - his firm's leading competitor in the seed business - appoint a special committee to investigate what he said was a pattern of covert attacks on Monsanto's business practices by DuPont. Hugh Grant, chairman of Monsanto Co., accused DuPont of using third parties to attack Monsanto, activities which he said "were misleading to the public and a serious breach of business ethics far beyond honest competitor behavior." Monsanto officials claim that DuPont has waged a war of dirty tricks on Monsanto to maintain its market share in the crop biotechnology business.

<http://www.washtimes.com/news/2009/aug/18/monsanto-chief-accuses-rival-dupont-of-deceit/>

*See Also: **Monsanto, Dupont Escalate Patent Fray**, The Wall Street Journal, August 20*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125064945552442221.html>

### **Food Firms Warn of Sugar Shortage**, *The Wall Street Journal, August 13*

Some of America's biggest food companies say the U.S. could "virtually run out of sugar" if the Obama administration doesn't ease import restrictions amid soaring prices for the key commodity. In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack, the big brands -- including Kraft Foods Inc., General Mills Inc., Hershey Co. and Mars Inc. -- bluntly raised the prospect of a severe shortage of sugar used in chocolate bars, breakfast cereal, cookies, chewing gum and thousands of other products.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125011957488227095.html#mod=todays\\_us\\_page\\_one](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125011957488227095.html#mod=todays_us_page_one)

*See Also: **Letter to Secretary Vilsack**, August 5*

[http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/Letter\\_to\\_Secretary\\_VilsackAug509.pdf](http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/Letter_to_Secretary_VilsackAug509.pdf)

*See Also: **The price of sugar: Sugar rush**, The Economist, August 13*

[http://www.economist.com/daily/chartgallery/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=14209265](http://www.economist.com/daily/chartgallery/displayStory.cfm?story_id=14209265)

*See Also: **Sugar Rises to 28-Year High as Weak Monsoon May Cut Indian Crop**, Bloomberg, August 12*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=awjlfjLaLKsg>

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