

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



August 20<sup>th</sup> – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“As you likely know from news accounts, Punjab is a very densely populated area of Pakistan. It produces much of Pakistan’s agricultural output and food, and the extent of the damage just visually was every bit as epic and devastating as you would imagine – just miles and miles and miles as far as you could see for the whole several hours as we were flying around: agricultural fields under water, roads and bridges under water, roads continuously disrupted by water, so [it was] impossible to move people or food or supplies out.”*— Dan Feldman, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, [Briefing on Pakistan Flood Relief](#), August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the fact Chicago Council staff will be taking a short vacation this week, please find below an abbreviated version of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative’s weekly *Global Food for Thought* news brief. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your continued interest in the Global Agricultural Development Initiative.**

**For more information:**

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

[Key Articles and Reports](#)

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

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Agricultural Issues](#)

[Foreign Assistance](#)

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

[Women & Girls](#)

[Market Access and Trade Issues](#)

[Agribusiness](#)

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### KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

**The Road to Food Security**, Kanayo F. Nwanze, *President, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Project Syndicate, August 20*

Together with poor infrastructure, many small farmers in Africa have insufficient access to productive assets, such as land, water, and new technologies. As a result, yields are generally too low to allow the millions of rural households to generate marketable surpluses. Even if smallholders are able to produce a surplus, their

lack of access to downstream activities, such as processing and marketing, prevents them from selling it easily.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/nwanze3/English>

**Pakistan caught between floods and drought**, *Financial Times*, August 23

In future years, Pakistan's ability to manage its dwindling water resources may play a bigger role in deciding whether a nuclear-armed country beset by poverty and an Islamist insurgency starts to prosper or face worse instability. Before the flood, the Indus had shrunk to little more than a muddy puddle in parts of Sindh, forcing farmers to rely increasingly on wells drawing saline groundwater that saps the fertility from their soil, hitting yields of cotton, rice and wheat. Farmers cite the diversion of upstream waters to feed farms in the populous Punjab province, Pakistan's agricultural heartland, as the chief drain on their river's vigour. The result is that Pakistan may be more prone to both droughts and flood.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ae400046-ab70-11df-abee-00144feabdc0.html>

**2010 Food Security Challenges in West Africa: Let's Pay Attention!**, *Amb. Robin Renee Sanders, United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Huffington Post*, August 25

There have been few reports noting the growing food security issue that has arisen over the last few months in the West Africa Region. We all need to pay more attention to this so that it doesn't turn into a regional crisis. Affected countries in West Africa are doing their best to manage the ever-growing food security issues related to staple commodities, particularly grains.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amb-robin-renee-sanders/2010-food-security-challe\\_b\\_691970.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amb-robin-renee-sanders/2010-food-security-challe_b_691970.html)

**The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on the Budgets of Low-Income Countries**, *A report for Oxfam by Development Finance International*, August 2010

This report examines the impact of the global financial crisis on the budgets of low-income countries, especially their spending to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/economic\\_crisis/downloads/rr\\_gec\\_impact\\_budget\\_lics\\_200710.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/economic_crisis/downloads/rr_gec_impact_budget_lics_200710.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Who Are the MDG Trailblazers? A New MDG Progress Index**, *Center for Global Development*, August 2010

In this working paper, the authors introduce an MDG Progress Index to assess how on or off track countries are toward MDG targets. They find evidence of dramatic achievements by many poor countries, such as Honduras, Laos, Ethiopia, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Cambodia, and Ghana. These countries' performance suggests that they may achieve most of the highly ambitious MDGs. Moreover, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for many of the star MDG performers.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424377\\_file\\_Leo\\_MDG\\_Index\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424377_file_Leo_MDG_Index_FINAL.pdf)

**Bringing agriculture and health back together**, *Op-ed, Jeff Waage, director of the London International Development Centre, SciDev.net*, August 24

Agriculture and health experts must work together to tackle disease, poverty and malnutrition.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/agriculture-and-environment/opinions/bringing-agriculture-and-health-back-together.html>

**IPC 2009 Annual Report**, *International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council*, 2010

IPC's annual report provides a concise overview of IPC's activities throughout 2009 including its seminars, plenary meetings, special events, and papers. It also provides an overview of IPC's finances and its funders.

[http://www.agritrade.org/documents/2009\\_IPC\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.agritrade.org/documents/2009_IPC_Annual_Report.pdf)

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Briefing on Pakistan Flood Relief**, *Dan Feldman, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mark Ward, Acting Director of the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance; William McGlynn, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement*, August 23

MR. FELDMAN: "As you likely know from news accounts, Punjab is a very densely populated area of Pakistan. It produces much of Pakistan's agricultural output and food, and the extent of the damage just visually was every bit as epic and devastating as you would imagine – just miles and miles and miles as far as you could see for the whole several hours as we were flying around: agricultural fields under water, roads and bridges under water, roads continuously disrupted by water, so [it was] impossible to move people or food or supplies out."

MR. WARD: "On food, we're now delivering food – all of the international community together – to getting close to 2 million people. We're adding 140,000 beneficiaries a day in the food distribution. So getting – again, I think this is showing signs that the access is getting a little bit easier, at least up in the north, if we're able to get the food in."

[http://www.state.gov/s/special\\_rep\\_afghanistan\\_pakistan/2010/146219.htm](http://www.state.gov/s/special_rep_afghanistan_pakistan/2010/146219.htm)

**SEE ALSO: US to divert aid package to flood reconstruction**, *Associated Press*, August 25

The United States plans to redirect part of its existing \$7.5 billion aid package for Pakistan to flood reconstruction, said Rajiv Shah, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, but warned that other nations would only contribute money if Islamabad could ensure it would be well spent. He noted that much of the spending was already earmarked for the energy, agricultural and water sectors, all three of which were affected by the floods. The floods began almost a month ago with the onset of the monsoon and have ravaged a massive swath of the country, from the mountainous north right through its agricultural heartland.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jX\\_KetVCMo64AOZxSMudPWARFrjgD9HQCP80](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jX_KetVCMo64AOZxSMudPWARFrjgD9HQCP80)

**SEE ALSO: USAID Pakistan Flood Fact Sheet #7**, August 23

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/countries/pakistan/template/fs\\_sr/fy2010/pakistan\\_fl\\_fs07\\_08-23-2010.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/pakistan/template/fs_sr/fy2010/pakistan_fl_fs07_08-23-2010.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Our Shared Humanity Moves Us to Help Pakistan**, *U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton*, *Huffington Post*, August 20

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones, those who have been displaced from their homes, and those left without food or water. The United States has and continues to take swift action to help. That is why the United States Government through the Department of State has established the Pakistan Relief Fund for all Americans to join in this tremendous relief, recovery and reconstruction effort. Every dollar makes a difference. \$5 can buy 50 high energy bars providing much needed nutrition; \$10 can provide a child or mother with a blanket; and about \$40 can buy material to shelter a family of four.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hillary-clinton/post\\_712\\_b\\_689290.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hillary-clinton/post_712_b_689290.html)

**Food security expected to top agenda at hunger conference in New York**, *Irish Times*, August 23

Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin and US secretary of state Hillary Clinton are to co-host an international hunger conference in New York next month to which up to 190 nations have been invited. The issue of food security in the wake of the devastating floods in Pakistan and fires in Russia is expected to top the agenda. The conference will also hear from leading high-profile campaigners on world hunger, and from global private sector leaders.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2010/0823/1224277380454.html>

**SEE ALSO: Clinton and Irish foreign secretary to host food conference**, *Foreign Policy (Madame Secretary blog)*, August 24

[http://hillary.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/24/clinton\\_and\\_irish\\_foreign\\_secretary\\_to\\_host\\_food\\_conference](http://hillary.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/08/24/clinton_and_irish_foreign_secretary_to_host_food_conference)

**U.S. Government Hosts Conference on Improving Southern Sudan's Agriculture**, *USAID*, August 24

The U.S. Government-through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan-and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) will host a conference August 24-25 in Nairobi, Kenya, to address challenges and priorities for revitalizing agriculture in southern Sudan.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100824.html>

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## 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-1.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/>

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### Reports:

**Building capacities for evidence and outcome-based food policy planning and implementation: The example of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2010*

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is an Africawide framework for revitalizing agriculture and rural development in order to accelerate economic growth and progress toward poverty reduction and food and nutrition security. This study reviews CAADP and its strategic objectives, key players, implementation modalities, and approach to ensuring evidence and outcome-based policy planning and implementation. The study also lays out CAADP's common analytical framework at the country level and shares economic modeling results from member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in which analysis was conducted to examine agricultural growth and investment options for meeting CAADP growth and expenditure targets and the Millennium Development Goal target of halving poverty.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01019.pdf>

**Modeling the global trade and environmental impacts of biofuel policies**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2010*

There is rising skepticism about the potential positive environmental impacts of first generation biofuels. Growing biofuel crops could induce diversion of other crops dedicated to food and feed needs. The relocation of production could increase deforestation and bring significant new volumes of carbon into the atmosphere. In this paper, the authors develop a methodology for assessing the indirect land use change effects related to biofuel policies in a computable general equilibrium framework.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01018.pdf>

### Media Articles:

**Africa has the means to feed itself but does it have the support – and the will?**, *The Guardian (Katine Blog), August 25*

Africa has a quarter of the world's arable land but produces only a tenth of our food. On the eve of a pan-African conference on food security, Lindiwe Sibanda asks how African farmers can turn things around.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/aug/24/africa-katine-farming>

**'Only land reforms can help agricultural development'**, *Times of India, August 25*

Agriculture's contribution to the economy continues to fall, but interest groups believe that land reforms to clarify the complex ownership issue are more important than attractive schemes and mechanization to speed up farm development.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/Only-land-reforms-can-help-agricultural-development/articleshow/6429779.cms>

**Tigers and Economies**, *Op-ed, Barun Mitra, Wall Street Journal, August 25*

If India were to double its agriculture productivity, the demand for agricultural land would fall by almost 40%. And if opportunities for non-farm employment were to emerge, dependence on subsistence agriculture would decline rapidly. The natural environment can regenerate once the human pressure declines. China's experience demonstrates this clearly. Chinese agricultural productivity is almost double that of India. The rapid movement of millions of people into the cities and the shift in production from the agricultural sector into industry and services has led to a rise in forest cover.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703632304575451072978477724.html>

**Brazil ups stakes for foreign investors in farmland**, *Reuters, August 24*

Brazil's essential role as a provider of food for the world's expanding population is at risk if the government makes good on threats to curtail foreign investment in farmland. Abundant sun, rain and land that can yield two grain crops a year when other countries only get one leaves little doubt that food production in Brazil will expand. But the government's growing fear of losing control of domestic food production could end an era of strong foreign investment in farmland, which economists say is needed if Brazil is to help avert a repeat of the global food shortages in 2008.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN24252886>

**The Coming Famine**, *Excerpt from forthcoming book by Julian Cribb, New York Times, August 24*

Digging into a mountain of caviar, sea urchin roe, succulent Kyoto beef, rare conger eels, truffles, and fine champagne, the leaders of the world's richest and most powerful countries shook their heads over soaring grocery prices in the developed world and spreading hunger in Africa, India, and Asia. Over an eighteen-course banquet prepared for them by sixty chefs, the eight global potentates declared, "We are deeply concerned that the steep rise in global food prices coupled with availability problems in a number of developing countries is threatening global food security. The negative impacts of this recent trend could push millions more back into poverty." This statement, which followed the July 2008 meeting of the G8 (Group of Eight) nations in Hokkaido, Japan, was revelatory in several ways.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/25/books/excerpt-the-coming-famine.html>

**SEE ALSO: Seeing a Time (Soon) When We'll All Be Dieting**, *Book review of "The Coming Famine," New York Times, August 24*

Like many other experts, he argues that we have passed the peak of oil production, and it's all downhill from now on. He then presents evidence that we have passed the peaks for water, fertilizer and land, and that we will all soon be made painfully aware that we have passed it for food, as wealthy nations experience shortages and rising prices, and poorer ones starve.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/25/books/25book.html>

**Iceland defiant over mackerel catches**, *Financial Times, August 24*

Iceland's fishing industry has vowed to press ahead with its bumper mackerel catch in spite of an escalating dispute over the fish that threatens to damage the country's bid to join the European Union.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/328c5268-afa5-11df-b45b-00144feabdc0.html>

**Africa's ambitious return of ancient rice**, *The Independent (U.K.), August 23*

In the small west African country of Togo, experts are seeking to change the farming habits of a whole continent by reintroducing African rice, or *Oryza glaberrima*, in the hope of scaling down food crises. Cultivated for about 3,500 years and then close to extinction, African rice was abandoned by most farmers in favour of the Asian variety, *Oryza sativa*, which has a higher yield and has been imported for about 450 years. But the local rice is more nutritious and researchers are currently working on ways of producing a strain with a higher yield that could enable an increase in production across the continent, which imports most of its rice.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/africas-ambitious-return-of-ancient-rice-2059548.html>

**Helping Africa's Farmers**, *Letter to the Editor, Rosa Whitaker, New York Times, August 22*

The Obama administration could consider how institutions — like commodities exchanges — would help African farmers gain access to the financial tools for risk management. The role of such infrastructure should not be underemphasized, especially as the continent struggles to adapt to increasingly volatile weather patterns. Food security rests on more than felicitous soil, rain and seed. It relies on a financial system that

nurtures the business of agriculture. The administration can help Africans make the transition from subsistence to commercial farming.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/23/opinion/lweb23africa.html>

**Asia: Displacement activity**, *Financial Times*, August 22

Every summer, a village west of Tokyo called Kawakami-mura becomes the temporary home of 700 or so twenty and thirtysomethings who help local farmers plant and harvest the lettuces for which the area is known. There and elsewhere in Japan, farmers have come to depend on these seasonal workers, even though they do not speak the language well – because most of the itinerant workers are from China.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a1608e58-ae14-11df-bb55-00144feabdc0.html>

**We reap what we have sown**, *Harry Eyres*, *Financial Times*, August 21

But beneath the surface of his seemingly conventional career, Fukuoka developed ideas that went against the conventional grain. While working at the Kochi station, he conducted experiments comparing the yield of farm plots that used chemical fertilisers and pesticides with that of traditionally worked land. His conclusion was that although chemical fertilisers and pesticides produced somewhat higher yields, they were not really necessary: they did not justify the extra expense.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/9343062a-abe9-11df-bfa7-00144feabdc0.html>

**Kenyan Professor Promotes Indigenous Crops to Solve Africa's Food Crises**, *Worldwatch Institute*, August 19

In Kenya, a devastating cycle of drought and flood reflects the worst that climate change has to offer. These and other more insidious impacts of warming temperatures threaten the health and survival of the nation's poorest and most at-risk inhabitants, namely women and children. For Mary Abukutsa-Onyango, a horticultural scientist, teacher, and researcher at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, the real problem with using Western agricultural methods in Kenya is the loss of the superb diversity that once made indigenous plants a reliable and nutritious native food source.

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6509>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Media Articles:

**World Food Program, Mercy Corps to help Haiti's hungry with \$47 million in grants**, *Associated Press*, August 24

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians affected by January's devastating earthquake are expected to obtain work and food through programs funded by \$47.5 million in foreign grants. An estimated 100,000 households will receive food vouchers for about \$40 each every month through next March. Each voucher is enough to purchase 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of rice, 88 pounds (40 kilograms) of red beans and one gallon (3.8 litres) of cooking oil, said the U.S. Agency for International Development, which recently awarded the grants.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iKqzVq-c\\_uSp4ZaRREQ\\_7-skKyyw](http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5iKqzVq-c_uSp4ZaRREQ_7-skKyyw)

**UN: Food Insecurity in Kyrgyzstan to Grow Worse**, *VOA*, August 24

The United Nations says more than one-quarter of the households in Kyrgyzstan do not have enough food, and that the problem is expected to get worse in the coming months. That figure represents about 1.5 million people. The World Food Program said it is preparing to bolster its operations in the country, where almost 350,000 others may soon be in need of food.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/UN-Food-Insecurity-in-Kyrgyzstan-to-Grow-Worse---101389464.html>

**SEE ALSO: On the heels of ethnic violence, U.N. fears hunger in Kyrgyzstan**, *CNN*, August 24

Concerned about rising food prices, a poor harvest and the onset of winter after violent ethnic conflict, the United Nations is ramping up food operations in Kyrgyzstan.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/08/24/kyrgyzstan.food.shortage/#fbid=ICj825QXIP9&wom=false>

**Lack of funds may force UN agency to cut food aid in Central African Republic**, *UN News Centre, August 24*

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) warned that it may have to cut its feeding programme in the Central African Republic (CAR), where tens of thousands risk becoming malnourished unless new funding is secured.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35699&Cr=Central+African&Cr1=>

**Rain Eases Somalia's Humanitarian Crisis**, *VOA, August 23*

The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization says good rainfall earlier this year has eased Somalia's humanitarian crisis. A new report says 25 percent fewer Somalis require humanitarian assistance compared to six months ago. The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit of the FAO says above average rainfall between April and June in most areas of Somalia boosted production of maize and sorghum and helped improve conditions for livestock farming.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Rain-Eases-Somalias-Humanitarian-Crisis-101309799.html>

**SEE ALSO: Over a quarter of Somalis still need aid: UN's FAO**, *Reuters, August 23*

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE67M07V20100823>

**SEE ALSO: Somali militants seize and burn aid food**, *Associated Press, August 21*

Islamist fighters in Somalia said they seized food from the World Food Program from markets in Mogadishu and burned more than 500 bags of maize and wheat. Sheik Ali Mohamed Hussein, an official with al-Shabab — Somalia's most powerful militant group — said the food was expired. A spokesman for WFP said the group does not distribute expired food.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gUugQtYZ078cfAu4Tz0tdEyNvBiQD9HNB L400>

**Hillary Clinton's Naïve, Muddled Approach to Development**, *The New Republic, August 23*

Had Secretary Clinton been telling the truth, she would simply have said that AIDS is a contributing factor to the fragility of some sub-Saharan African states, but even there she would have had to qualify the claim by emphasizing all the other elements involved—above all the calamity of a demographic explosion and the [related] crisis of smallholder agriculture and urbanization without urban job creation.

<http://www.tnr.com/blog/foreign-policy/77172/hillary-clintons-naïve-approach-development-aids-flood-pakistan>

**U.S. aid meant to reward reforms goes to countries listed as corrupt**, *Washington Times, August 22*

A groundbreaking, 6-year-old initiative meant to reward developing countries with U.S. aid for good governance and efforts to institutionalize democracy is giving billions of dollars to nations upbraided by the State Department for corruption in government.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/aug/22/countries-on-us-lists-for-corruption-aid/>

**Niger's hunger crisis: a legacy of lessons unlearned**, *The Lancet, August 21*

Months of appeals to the international community for help fell on deaf ears, leaving Niger facing the all too familiar spectre of a major hunger crisis.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61280-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61280-9/fulltext)

**Disaster Strategy: The Soft Heart and the Hard Sell**, *New York Times, August 21*

Let's all hope that Egypt, Turkey and Jordan soon get hit by a nice flood, earthquake or volcanic eruption. Related Why? Because they're down with Pakistan at the bottom of lists of countries that pollsters say hate the United States. And, according to students — and some administrators — of foreign aid, recipients of disaster relief fall in love with America, at least briefly.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/22/weekinreview/22McNeil.html>

**Vulnerable Benefit From Cash-For-Work Program in Iraq**, *VOA, August 21*

The World Food Program is employing more than 11,000 of the most vulnerable people in Iraq in a cash-for-work program aimed at helping them get enough food to eat.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Vulnerable-Benefit-From-Cash-For-Work-Scheme-in-Iraq-101224809.html>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

#### **Climate Change Adaptation Strategies: Water Resources Management Options for Smallholder Farming Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa**, *Rockefeller Foundation, 2010*

In 2006, 25 African countries required food aid, largely due to recurring drought. Poverty and food insecurity are linked to low agricultural productivity aggravated by climate change and variability. A key challenge for decision makers, policy makers, and development partners is to understand the strategies adopted by farmers and other stakeholders in their efforts to address climate change-induced water stress. Smallholder farmers are the most vulnerable to climate change, and they have no alternative but to adapt their livelihood systems to changing climatic conditions. Fortunately, several practical options for adaptation exist.

<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/uploads/files/9eacd477-e2ef-4b72-9207-5a18135dceb3.pdf>

#### **Impacts of climate change on water resources and agriculture in Sri Lanka: a review and preliminary vulnerability mapping**, *International Water Management Institute, August 2010*

There is ample evidence to suggest that Sri Lanka's climate has already changed. However, the bigger question of national importance is what Sri Lanka's climate will look like in 50 or 100 years and how prepared the country is to face such changes. This report reviews the status of climate change (CC) research/activities in Sri Lanka in terms of observed and projected climatic changes, their impacts on water resources and agriculture, CC mitigation and adaptation, and research needs.

[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/IWMI\\_Research\\_Reports/PDF/PUB135/RR135-High\\_res.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/IWMI_Research_Reports/PDF/PUB135/RR135-High_res.pdf)

### Media Articles:

#### **Think tank tracks Copenhagen climate aid pledges**, *The Hill, August 24*

The World Resources Institute has created a [nifty online tool that allows visitors to track climate aid pledges](#) stemming from last year's Copenhagen climate conference. Developed countries together pledged almost \$30 billion in "fast start" financing to help developing countries curb emissions and adapt to climate change. The good news: Countries are up to almost \$28 billion in pledges. The bad news: All of it does not appear to meet the threshold of being "new and additional" financing, the benchmark that came from the summit.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/115589-think-tank-tracks-copenhagen-climate-aid-pledges>

#### **Aid agency warns of 'double disaster' for Niger**, *BBC, August 23*

Niger has been hit by a double disaster as recent floods compound an existing food crisis, a UK aid agency warned.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11066959>

#### **In the Fields of Italy, a Conflict Over Corn**, *New York Times, August 23*

An agronomist, defying the government, has planted genetically modified corn. Environmentalists have also taken matters into their own hands.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/24/world/europe/24modify.html>

#### **Disaster at the Top of the World**, *Op-ed, Thomas Homer-Dixon, New York Time, August 22*

The limited slack in the world's food system, particularly its grain production, can amplify the effects of disruptions. Remember that two years ago, when higher oil prices encouraged farmers to shift enormous tracts of cropland from grain to biofuel production, grain prices quickly doubled or tripled. Violence erupted in dozens of countries. Should climate change cause crop failures in major food-producing regions of Europe, North America and East Asia, the consequences would likely be far more severe.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/23/opinion/23homer-dixon.html>

### **3 Pillars of a Food Revolution**, *Anna Lappe, Huffington Post, August 20*

It doesn't take high-level math to realize if we're serious about averting the climate crisis, we need to add the food chain to our conversation. Of course, we should be talking about agriculture's impact on the environment for a host of other reasons, too. Agriculture is the world's single largest user of land and water, using up 70 percent of the world's freshwater resources every year. Agriculture is also responsible for widespread air and water pollution and agricultural chemical runoff that causes aquatic dead zones around the world. So what can we do? Thankfully, we're learning every day about the power of sustainable food systems to help reduce emissions from the food chain and mitigate the climate crisis.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anna-lappe/3-pillars-of-a-food-revol\\_b\\_689088.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anna-lappe/3-pillars-of-a-food-revol_b_689088.html)

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## **WOMEN & GIRLS**

### Media Articles:

#### **Hidden Hunger**, *ENAM Project, August 2010*

Malnutrition does not make headlines the way famine does. But it is far more widespread and deadly. Globally, it affects more than a billion people. It is the cause of more than one third of childhood deaths. By combining microfinance with education about child nutrition, the ENAM Project has given Ghanaian women the means and knowledge to fight malnutrition. This is the story of the ENAM Project and some of those women.

<http://www.vimeo.com/14063199>

#### **Gender Equality Goals Miss the Mark, Women's Groups Say**, *IPS, August 24*

A month ahead of the 2010 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) review summit at the United Nations, some women's groups are voicing concern that member states' commitment to women's issues is insufficient and slowing progress towards gender parity worldwide.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52589>

#### **Concern Launches 'Women Can't Wait' Campaign**, *Concern Worldwide US, August 10*

Concern Worldwide US, the international humanitarian organization, has launched the Women Can't Wait campaign, which collects signatures via online petition, urging world leaders to allocate crucial funding in support of women in the developing world. The campaign launches August 8 in the U.S. and will culminate at the Summit on the UN Millennium Development Goals on Sept. 20—22, 2010 when Concern representatives will present thousands of signatures to world leaders. At [www.concernusa.org/unheardvoices](http://www.concernusa.org/unheardvoices), supporters are asked to take the Women Can't Wait pledge.

<http://www0.womengateway.com/enwg/News/2010/Aug/Women+Cant+Wait.htm>

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## **MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **How do governments respond to food price spikes? Lessons from the past**, *World Bank, August 2010*

Food prices in international markets spiked upward in 2008, doubling or more in a matter of months. Evidence is still being compiled on policy responses over the following two years, but lessons can be learned from the price spike in 1973, the magnitude and speed of which were similar to those experienced around the 2008 spike.

<http://go.worldbank.org/G3V1ZR5Q60>

#### **August 2010 Baseline Update for US Agricultural Markets**, *FAPRI-MU, August 2010*

A drought in Russia and reduced global wheat production along with shifts in U.S. crop production affect the entire U.S. agricultural outlook. Changes in one sector ripple through all farm segments. A mid-year update of

the 2010 U.S. agricultural baseline shows increased wheat exports, moderate rises in grain prices and modest recovery in meat and dairy prices paid to farmers.

[http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2010/FAPRI\\_MU\\_Report\\_08\\_10.pdf](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu/outreach/publications/2010/FAPRI_MU_Report_08_10.pdf)

**August Newsletter**, *Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa*, August 2010

[http://www.actesacomesa.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=109&Itemid=54](http://www.actesacomesa.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=109&Itemid=54)

Media Articles:

**China goes against grain with crop imports**, *Financial Times*, August 25

While agricultural markets focus on Russia's devastating drought, another large shift in soft commodity production and consumption is lurking in the background: China's mediocre crops this year, combined with a shift in dietary habits, have strained the country's traditional sufficiency in grains, leading to higher prices and large imports. The rise in corn and soyabean imports has raised questions over whether Beijing's policy of grain self-sufficiency will be sustainable as demand rises and agricultural land shrinks under the advance of cities. Meanwhile, corn imports are at levels not seen in 15 years, and soyabean imports have doubled in the past five.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ab808f58-b06e-11df-8c04-00144feabdc0.html>

**Regaining Russia's Foothold in Grain Markets**, *Moscow Times*, August 25

Last year's world top-three grain exporter Russia has seen its ambitious export plans thwarted by catastrophic drought but will regain its footing in traditional markets, analysts say, even as rivals exploit its export ban.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/regaining-russias-foothold-in-grain-markets/413653.html>

**Mexicans use more US corn syrup, displacing sugar**, *Reuters*, August 25

Soaring consumption of high fructose corn syrup in Mexico, aided by high sugar prices and paltry local cane harvests, could accelerate next year and boost sugar exports to the United States.

<http://www.forexyard.com/en/news/ANALYSIS-Mexicans-use-more-corn-syrup-displacing-sugar-2010-08-23T193055Z-US>

**SEE ALSO: Global Sugar Surges as U.S. Helps Imports**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 21

Global sugar prices soared after the U.S. said it will ease import restrictions to help avert a national shortage. The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Thursday said it will give foreign sugar producers a bigger window to send sugar to the U.S. over the next two months.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703579804575441792521195772.html>

**Food Security: Export Controls Are Not the Cure for Grain Price Volatility, but the Cause**, *Roubini Global Economics*, August 24

The commodities we are talking about are staples in the consumption of ordinary households. For simplicity, let's assume it is an absolute constraint that governments cannot allow grain prices to go above a certain threshold. Perhaps there will be riots in the streets otherwise. In this case might it make sense to put on export controls when the price threatens to go above that level? One can see the motivation in the short run. But, thinking in the long run, across complete cycles, controls are not a good answer.

[http://www.roubini.com/globalmacro-monitor/259504/food\\_security\\_export\\_controls\\_are\\_not\\_the\\_cure\\_for\\_grain\\_price\\_volatility\\_but\\_the\\_cause](http://www.roubini.com/globalmacro-monitor/259504/food_security_export_controls_are_not_the_cure_for_grain_price_volatility_but_the_cause)

**Despite Rise in Wheat and Corn Prices, US Producers Make Their Push in Asia**, *VOA*, August 24

Unlike a few years ago, when surging rice prices provoked near panic in some Asian markets, the region is largely not bothered by the sharp rise in prices for wheat and corn.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/Despite-Rise-in-Wheat-and-Corn-Prices-US-Producers-Make-Their-Push-in-Asia-101376084.html>

**The Teamster Tariffs**, *Editorial*, *Wall Street Journal*, August 21

An 18-month trade war between the U.S. and its third largest trading partner took a turn for the worse this week when Mexico announced new tariffs on 26 previously tariff-free items that it imports from America. Washington state apples and California oranges and pistachios, among other things, will now cost 20% more in Mexico than they did last week. Cheeses from California and Wisconsin now face a 25% tariff.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704554104575435794277342012.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

#### **China's fertiliser needs in view**, *Financial Times*, August 25

As all eyes look to China for a possible competing offer for PotashCorp, the country's fertiliser needs are increasingly in the limelight. Sinochem, the chemicals group that also handles China's potash imports through its subsidiary Sinofert, has said it is paying "close attention" to the progress of BHP Billiton's \$39bn hostile offer for the Canadian fertiliser producer.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1afb66ca-afa5-11df-b45b-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Potash in talks to block BHP hostile bid**, *Financial Times*, August 23

PotashCorp, the fertiliser producer that is the target of a \$39bn hostile takeover by BHP Billiton, revealed it was talking to "a large universe" of potential counter-bidders as it seeks to derail the mining group's cash offer.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bdb138d4-aea3-11df-9f31-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: BHP in Canadian charm offensive**, *Financial Times*, August 23

BHP Billiton will launch its charm offensive in Canada this week, as the mining group seeks to convince Canadian regulators and PotashCorp shareholders of the value in its \$39bn (£25.1bn) bid to take over the fertiliser producer.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/25ea1750-ae2b-11df-bb55-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **US chains beef up meals to lift profits**, *Financial Times*, August 25

Fast-food chains in the US are rolling out more expensive premium products after two years of relentless focus on lower priced meals in the hope of recouping profit margins surrendered during the recession of 2008 and 2009.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2a71e414-b084-11df-8c04-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **DuPont Gains on Monsanto as Farmers Question High-Tech Seeds**, *Bloomberg*, August 25

Under Chief Executive Officer Ellen Kullman, DuPont has taken the lead in the U.S. soybean-seed market with 30 percent of sales, compared with Monsanto's 28.5 percent. It also expanded its share in corn seed to 34 percent, compared with Monsanto's 36 percent. DuPont's Pioneer seed unit is winning on price and service after asking farmers whether they need the most advanced products, said David Begleiter, an analyst at Deutsche Bank AG in New York.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-24/dupont-gains-on-too-big-for-britches-monsanto-as-farmers-switch-seeds.html>

#### **Egg Industry Faces New Scrutiny After Outbreak**, *New York Times*, August 23

As it reeled from the recall of half a billion eggs for possible salmonella infection, the American egg industry was already battling a movement to outlaw its methods as cruel and unsafe, and adapting to the Obama administration's drive to bolster health rules and inspections.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/24/us/24eggs.html>

#### **Growers: USDA must act, prevent sugar supply issue**, *Washington Post*, August 20

Duane Grant, chairman of the board at the Boise, Idaho-based Snake River Sugar Co., said if a solution can't be worked out to use the genetically modified seed, his company and its growers fear there isn't enough conventional seed to plant next year. The company produces about 20 percent of the nation's beet sugar. At issue are seeds developed by St. Louis-based Monsanto Co., used to grow about 95 percent of the sugar beet

crop. The seeds are engineered to withstand the weed killer Roundup, allowing farmers to reduce the use of other chemicals and limit the practice of tilling fields to kill weeds.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/20/AR2010082000544\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/20/AR2010082000544_pf.html)

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