

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



August 21<sup>st</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2009

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Averting a perfect storm of shortages**, *BBC News, August 24*

As the world's population grows, competition for food, water and energy will increase. Food prices will rise, more people will go hungry, and migrants will flee the worst-affected regions.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8213884.stm>

*See Also: Cities drain resources*, *BBC News, August 24*

The mega-cities of the developing world hold an irresistible attraction for migrants from the countryside. But as the cities swell, their need for food, water and energy multiplies.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8219480.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8219480.stm)

*See Also: California's 'Dust Bowl'*, *BBC News, August 24*

In California, irrigation helped turn the state into an agricultural superpower. But a lack of water is now turning parts of the state into a poverty-stricken dust bowl.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8217920.stm>

*See Also: Leasing Ukraine*, *BBC News, August 24*

Foreigners are taking over tracts of the ex-breadbasket.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/newsnight/8218104.stm>

See Also: **Science's Role**, *BBC News*, August 24

Faced with the threat of a booming population going hungry in a warming world, there is quiet confidence among many researchers that technology can provide solutions.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/8219184.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/8219184.stm)

**Connecting Nature's Dots**, *Thomas L. Friedman, The New York Times*, August 23

We're trying to deal with a whole array of integrated problems — climate change, energy, biodiversity loss, poverty alleviation and the need to grow enough food to feed the planet — separately. The poverty fighters resent the climate-change folks; climate folks hold summits without reference to biodiversity; the food advocates resist the biodiversity protectors. We need to make sure that our policy solutions are as integrated as nature itself. Today, they are not.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/opinion/23friedman.html>

**In Parched Nairobi, Politicians Blamed For Drought Crisis**, *The Washington Post*, August 22

Across East Africa, drought is again leaving millions of people in dusty countryside hungry, thirsty and dangerously dependent on food aid. In crowded, iron-sheet settlements as well as in high-hedged enclaves of the city's elite, water taps are running dry. With widespread crop failures, the price of staple foods such as corn flour is soaring. Low water levels in dams have led to power cuts, forcing businesses to shut down or switch on expensive, gas-powered generators. And once again, people here are dealing with the nuisance of thousands of cattle wandering along the trash-strewn edges of highways in search of grass or water.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/21/AR2009082103698.html>

See Also: **Starvation ravages East Africa**, *The Toronto Star*, August 26

<http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/686490>

**Drought may stall food security act**, *Daily News & Analysis (India)*, August 27

The drought situation, which has gripped nearly half of the country, could delay the government's ambitious plans to ensure early food security for all citizens, economists and analysts said. The enactment of the proposed food security act that promises food for all is likely to be delayed by at least a year, agriculture minister Sharad Pawar recently said.

[http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report\\_drought-may-stall-food-security-act\\_1285430](http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report_drought-may-stall-food-security-act_1285430)

See Also: **Food security Act: Is it well thought out?**, *The Economic Times (India)*, August 26

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/ET-Debate/Food-security-Act-Is-it-well-thought-out/articleshow/4934851.cms>

See Also: **Food security law will lead to `insecurity': CPM**, *The Times of India*, August 27

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/india/Food-security-law-will-lead-to-insecurity-CPM/articleshow/4937980.cms>

**Sugar Shock**, *Editorial, Washington Post*, August 23

This episode illuminates once again the irrationality of U.S. agricultural policy in general -- of which the sugar producers are among the biggest beneficiaries. Why does Mr. Vilsack control the flow of imports to the U.S. sugar market in the first place? Answer: Since 1982, domestic sugar producers have lobbied for, and gotten, a government-guaranteed share of the market. Today, their guaranteed share is up to 85 percent; the rest gets divided up among some 40 countries lucky enough to hold quotas of varying sizes.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/22/AR2009082201987\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/22/AR2009082201987_pf.html)

See Also: **Sugar Land**, *Editorial, The Wall Street Journal*, August 22

President Obama will need more than sweet talk to smooth his way through this year's trade dilemmas. Last week, food companies sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to warn that a sugar shortage is possible if the department doesn't raise import quotas. How the Administration resolves the dispute will send a message about Mr. Obama's view of protectionist policies amidst a recession. So far, the prospects don't look good.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204409904574350261109973986.html>

**Africa's population: The lesson from Sodom and Gomorrah**, *The Economist*, August 27

There are plenty of reasons to fear the worst. Poor farming and environmental degradation could lead to hunger, poverty and strife. Hence the need to get African policy right: a green revolution to keep rural hunger and poverty at bay; peace and contraception to keep the demographic transition on track; and education and better governance to create a workforce able to exploit the chances on offer.

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14303769](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14303769)

**Copenhagen's Inconvenient Truth**, *Michael Levi, Foreign Affairs, September/October 2009*

The Copenhagen conference won't solve the problem of climate change once and for all. Rather than aiming for a broad international treaty, negotiators should strengthen existing national policies and seek targeted emissions cuts in both rich nations and the developing world.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65386/michael-levi/copenhagens-inconvenient-truth>

**Africa seeks climate change cash**, *BBC News, August 25*

Ministers from 10 African countries have met in Ethiopia to try to agree a common position on climate change, months before a crucial UN meeting. They were expected to renew demands for billions of dollars in compensation for Africa because of damage caused by global warming. And they are likely to ask rich nations to cut emissions by 40% by 2012. African nations are among the lightest polluters but analysts say they will suffer the most from climate change.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8217449.stm>

*See Also: Africa to Seek Billions in Climate Change Compensation, VOA News, August 24*

The African Union is considering a proposal to demand at least \$67 billion a year in environmental damages from developed countries at the Copenhagen Climate summit in December.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-24-voa34.cfm>

**Rethinking Trade**, *Darius Mans (CEO, Millennium Challenge Corporation), Huffington Post, August 21*

While many think of American aid as short-term responses for humanitarian concerns, it is much more than that; U.S. development assistance funds are also invested to bolster the trade capacity of developing countries to better integrate them with the global economy, benefitting them and us. U.S. assistance supports technical training to help the poor develop trade strategies to access American markets, streamline their customs and national standards, and boost trade-related skills. American aid builds roads, ports, and bridges to literally connect the poor to global markets so they can compete and trade. U.S. assistance can also create a powerful incentive for reform that fosters a pro-business and a pro-trade policy environment.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/darius-mans/rethinking-trade\\_b\\_265031.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/darius-mans/rethinking-trade_b_265031.html)

*See Also: World trade posts biggest rise in over a year, Financial Times, August 26*

World trade is showing signs of recovery as imports and exports start to pick up in Asia and manufacturing rebounds, but the longer-term trend remains negative.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ff616524-926b-11de-b63b-00144feabdc0.html>

**Four Ways to Help Africa**, *Jendayi E. Frazer (former assistant secretary of state for African affairs from 2005-2009), Op-Ed, The Wall Street Journal, August 25*

U.S. policy in Africa is not about love. It's about advancing America's core interests: promoting economic growth and development, combating terrorism, and fostering well-governed, stable countries. Did Mrs. Clinton's trip advance those interests? The record is mixed.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203706604574372711948607526.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Obama's Team Is Lacking Most of Its Top Players**, *The New York Times, August 23*

Obama sent Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to Africa to talk about international development but does not have anyone running the Agency for International Development. Mrs. Clinton expressed the exasperation of many in the administration last month when she was asked by A.I.D. employees why they did not have a chief. "The clearance and vetting process is a nightmare," she told them. "And it takes far longer than any of us would want to see. It is frustrating beyond words."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/24/us/politics/24confirm.html>

**U.S. needs climate law before Copenhagen: officials**, *Reuters*, August 24

The United States needs to have a climate change law in place before international talks on a climate pact begin in December, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE57N3U220090824?sp=true>

*See Also: Flaws fill USDA's analysis of cap-and-trade benefits*, Senator Mike Johanns (U.S. Senator, Nebraska, and former Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.), *Op-Ed, Omaha World-Herald*, August 27

The USDA's analysis ignores roughly two-thirds of American agriculture. Yet it unequivocally states that cap-and-trade is good for American agriculture? The bill would fail to achieve its purported environmental goal of stopping climate change because agriculture producers and manufacturing in China, India and Brazil would in no way be affected by the bill. Without them, the impact on temperature is negligible, a fact acknowledged by the Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20090826/NEWS0802/708269993>

**Aaron Williams Sworn in as Peace Corps Director**, *Washington Post*, August 25

The nearly 7,500 Peace Corps volunteers stationed around the world got a new boss, as Aaron Williams took the oath of office as the agency's 18th director.

[http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2009/08/aaron\\_williams\\_sworn\\_in\\_as\\_pea.html?hpid=politics](http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2009/08/aaron_williams_sworn_in_as_pea.html?hpid=politics)

**US Agriculture Secretary Vilsack tells California farmers he'll press for water solutions**, *Los Angeles Times*, August 26

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and California's senior senator, Dianne Feinstein, promised farmers Wednesday they would press for solutions to the water crisis hitting the state's San Joaquin Valley, one of the most prolific farm regions in the world.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-california-drought.0.1572188.story>

**Corker urges bipartisanship at town hall meeting**, *Shelbyville Times-Gazette*, August 26

In response to a question about foreign aid, Corker said he is co-sponsoring a bill to study the levels of foreign aid provided to different countries. He said foreign aid decisions are often hasty or inconsistent and that the program needs to be reviewed. But he noted that some foreign aid is in America's interest, saying that extremist groups like al-Qaida prey on impoverished countries.

<http://www.t-g.com/story/1565081.html>

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## NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

**Navigating the perfect storm: Reflections on the food, energy, and financial crises**, *Derek Headey, Sangeetha Malaiyandi, and Shenggen Fan, International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2009*

The closely interlinked food, fuel and financial crises pose a significant new challenge to the global effort to reduce poverty. The impacts of the financial crisis on poor countries have yet to fully roll out, but it is clear that additional people will fall into poverty and become food insecure. In the long run, there are strong indications that the global food system is fundamentally changing in a number of dimensions. These fundamental shifts bring with them opportunities and risks that require internationally coordinated responses with strong national buy-in, as well as timely and relevant research.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/IFPRIDP00889.pdf>

**Gender vulnerabilities, food price shocks and social protection responses**, *Rebecca Holmes, Nicola Jones and Hannah Marsden, Overseas Development Institute, August 2009*

The first half of 2008 saw the peak of the international food price spike: food prices had risen dramatically, with effects on domestic and local food prices in many countries. Since then, the global economic crisis has further compounded the situation, with concerns that the contagion effects could reverse decades of progress in developing countries, with hundreds of millions of people experiencing worsening impoverishment and

destitution. The authors argue that two important features of the food price crisis have received inadequate attention. First – as has been the case in previous crises – women are bearing a disproportionate share of the burden of the food price crisis, both as producers and consumers. Second, responses at the international and national levels have not taken sufficient consideration of gender dynamics into crisis responses.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3285.pdf>

**Water Rights and Water Allocation: Issues and Challenges for Asia**, *Asian Development Bank, August 2009*

As governments across Asia are searching for ways to increase water security for rural and urban water uses, the need to articulate water rights and improve water allocation practices is rapidly becoming a priority issue to them. The process is made more complex by rapid urbanization, climate change, and other drivers of change. With the support of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO), practitioners are discovering what role they can play in avoiding and solving problems among stakeholders, and in building an enabling environment for integrated water resources management in river basins.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/books/Water-Rights/Water-Rights.pdf>

**Assessing the costs of adaptation to climate change: A critique of the UNFCCC estimates**, *International Institute for Environment and Development, August 2009*

This book takes another look at the costs of adapting to climate change, saying the estimates for 2030 used by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are likely to be substantial under-estimates. The authors argue that there is an urgent need for more detailed assessments of these costs, including case studies of costs of adaptation in specific places and sectors. This report aims to demonstrate the need for the further and transparent refinement of cost estimates for responding to climate change.

<http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/11501IIED.pdf>

See Also: **Estimated cost of climate adaptation soars**, *Financial Times, August 27*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e89855e-9324-11de-b146-00144feabdc0.html>

**Trees on Farm: Analysis of Global Extent and Geographical Patterns of Agroforestry**, *Robert J. Zomer, Antonio Trabucco, Richard Coe and Frank Place, World Agroforestry Center, August 2009*

Agroforestry, the inclusion of woody perennials within farming systems, has been both a traditional landuse approach developed by subsistence farmers throughout the tropics, and a livelihood option promoted by landuse managers and international development efforts. Agroforestry systems range from subsistence livestock and pastoral systems to home gardens, alley intercropping, and biomass plantations with a wide diversity of biophysical conditions and socio-ecological characteristics. The extent of its practice has never been quantified leading to widely varied estimates about its importance. This paper is the first attempt to quantify the extent of agroforestry at the global level.

<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/publications/PDFs/WP16263.PDF>

See Also: **Tree cover far bigger than expected on farms: study**, *Reuters, August 24*

<http://in.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idINTRE57N00220090824>

See Also: **Scientist says trees can help reverse hunger, global warming**, *Xinhua, August 24*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/24/content\\_11937933.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-08/24/content_11937933.htm)

**Options for architectural reform in European Union development cooperation**, *Mikaela Gavvas and Simon Maxwell, Overseas Development Institute, August 2009*

This Background Note provides the context for a series of decisions that will be taken in the second half of 2009 about the architecture and staffing of the structures of the European Union's Development Cooperation and explores possible options. It has been prepared as part of the European Development Cooperation Support Programme (EDCSP). The Background Note sets out possible models for future EU development cooperation, as well as a set of principles for the design of a new European Commission.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3610.pdf>

**Philippine agricultural and food policies: Implications for poverty and income distribution**,

*International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2009*

This research report assesses the poverty and income distribution implications of trade reform that is focused on agriculture and major food items (rice, corn, sugar, beef, chicken, pork, processed meat products, fruits and vegetables, and processed fruits) in the Philippines. A dynamic-recursive computable general

equilibrium model calibrated to the social accounting matrix for the Philippine economy for the year 2000 and a microsimulation model that uses the 2000 Family Income and Expenditure Survey are used to analyze possible policy shifts. The simulation results indicate that trade reform in agriculture and major food items will have favorable effects on factor prices and bring about a significant reduction in consumer prices.  
<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/rr161.pdf>

**Successful organizational learning in the management of agricultural research and innovation: The Mexican produce foundations**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2009*

The Mexican Produce Foundations (PF) had major and diverse impacts on the agricultural innovation and research systems. These impacts resulted mostly from activities the PF introduced as they learned to manage funds for research and extension, and to a lesser extent from the activities they were created for, i.e., manage a competitive fund for agricultural research and extension. The PF were able to introduce these activities because they developed strong abilities to learn, including identifying knowledge gaps and defining strategies to fill them.

[http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr162\\_0.pdf](http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr162_0.pdf)

**The global financial crisis: Poverty and social protection**, *Anna McCord and Milo Vandemoortele, Overseas Development Institute, August 2009*

This Briefing Paper argues that the global financial crisis will exacerbate poverty and inequality and undermine progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. While the nature of this impact will vary between and within countries, developing countries need to address the immediate needs of the poor, as well as investing in growth and stabilisation packages. To date, social protection responses to the crisis in developing countries have been marginal in scale, and the Briefing Paper urges a prioritisation of social protection as a way to mitigate the worst impacts of the crisis.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3282.pdf>

**Poverty and Human Development in Sri Lanka**, *Asian Development Bank, August 2009*

This report traces the causes of poverty in Sri Lanka and provides policy recommendations, especially for areas of conflict. It argues that agriculture suffers from low productivity and competitiveness. Nonfarm sectors face infrastructure and other constraints, such as expensive electricity. Education and training are not geared to the labor market. Certain groups are particularly vulnerable to poverty, including those with poor health or little education, and those whose parents are of low social status or have few social contacts. Location-specific factors hold the key to progress against poverty. An integrated development policy framework is needed that emphasizes infrastructure to reduce regional inequalities and help poor localities link up with growth centers.

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Poverty-Human-Dev-Sri-Lanka/Poverty-Human-Dev-Sri-Lanka.pdf>

**Cash transfers in emergencies: A synthesis of World Vision's experience and learning**, *Sarah Bailey, Kevin Savage and Sorcha O'Callaghan, World Vision International & Overseas Development Institute, August 2009*

This report examines the use of cash transfers during crises by World Vision and other humanitarian aid agencies. Cash transfers are increasingly accepted as an alternative way to assist people reeling from the impact of crisis. In certain contexts, cash transfers can meet project objectives more effectively than in-kind assistance, and it is likely that this overall – though limited – trend in favour of cash-based responses is set to continue. Yet few donors have established dedicated guiding criteria for the consideration of cash-based responses in emergencies.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3674.pdf>

**Putting the social back into social protection: A framework for understanding the linkages between economic and social risks for poverty reduction**, *Rebecca Holmes and Nicola Jones, Overseas Development Institute, August 2009*

To date, social protection has largely dealt with economic protection – namely shocks and chronic poverty of an economic nature. Social risks, such as gender inequality, domestic violence and social discrimination at the community, household and intra-household level, have largely been absent from the broader social protection debate. In reality, both economic and social risks are deeply intertwined and have significant implications for

reducing poverty and vulnerability. Drawing on examples from South Asia and East Africa, this Background Note discusses the importance of putting the 'social' back into social protection by taking both economic and social risks into account in order to enhance the effectiveness of social protection.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/3286.pdf>

**Geo-Engineering – Giving us time to act?**, *Institution of Mechanical Engineers (U.K.), August 2009*

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers has undertaken an assessment of a range of potential geo-engineering options available under its 'Cooling the Planet' programme. Of the many options reviewed, the three most promising have been outlined in this report.

[http://www.imeche.org/NR/rdonlyres/872412E4-BE9E-42D3-85EC-%0939F1889C74CB/0/Geoengineering\\_Giving\\_us\\_the\\_time\\_to\\_act.pdf](http://www.imeche.org/NR/rdonlyres/872412E4-BE9E-42D3-85EC-%0939F1889C74CB/0/Geoengineering_Giving_us_the_time_to_act.pdf)

**Implementing the Bank's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: FY08 Annual Monitoring Report**, *The World Bank, June 2009*

This report reveals gender issues informed the design of 45 percent of all of the World Bank's lending operations in fiscal year 2008 –from July 2007 to June 2008-- compared to 35 percent in fiscal 2006.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/FY08MonitoringReport.pdf>

**World Food Programme 2009, Annual Report**, *World Food Programme, August 2009*

In 2008, WFP faced a particularly difficult set of challenges, provoked by dramatically rising food and fuel prices and aggravated by widespread turmoil in international financial systems. By year's end, WFP delivered almost four million metric tons to more than 102 million people in 78 countries.

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp204445.pdf>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**School Feeding Programs: Evidence and Policy Lessons**

*Date:* September 1, 2009

*Location:* International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC

New evidence from studies conducted by IFPRI and the World Bank, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, indicates that well-designed school feeding programs may have broad impacts—on school attendance, school performance, cognitive development, the nutrition of preschool children, and the prevalence of anemia in adolescent girls. This Policy Seminar will review the latest evidence on the impact and cost effectiveness of school feeding programs and other school-related investments and will examine the implications for relevant policy decisions.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/school-feeding-programs-evidence-and-policy-lessons>

**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/>

### **Agriculture for Development and Food Security in the Americas**

*Date:* October 1, 2009

*Location:* Washington, DC

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Organization of American States (OAS) are organizing a high level Food Security Conference on food security in the Americas. The conference will be an opportunity to follow up on the agreements reached at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, in advance of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life, to be held in Jamaica (October 25-31).

### **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**

**Time To Do More For Afghanistan**, *Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research, August 2009*  
Wheat is the country's most important staple grain, accounting for about 80 percent of the total area planted to cereals. It occupies a central place in the diets of Afghan consumers, whose per capita consumption of the crop is quite high at 180 kilograms. In the late 1970s, Afghanistan was self-sufficient in wheat, due in part to widespread adoption of varieties from CIMMYT. But after decades of continuous warfare and recurring drought, the country now suffers from periodic shortfalls. With yearly cereal demand at about 5 million tons, production of wheat has ranged from 2.3 to 4.5 million tons in recent years, making it necessary to import grain (at increasing cost) and to rely heavily on food aid.  
<http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/august2009.html>

### **Smart Step to Help India's Rural Poor**, *Akash Kapur, The New York Times, August 27*

A swarm of men and women, mostly women, fills the bed of a dried-out reservoir. They're armed with shovels and crowbars and pickaxes. The residents of this agricultural village are working under the auspices of the government's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, or NREGA. The act, passed in 2005, guarantees a hundred days of employment to all rural households that volunteer to work at the minimum wage (at least 60 rupees, or \$1.23, a day, but higher in many states). It's an ambitious public works program that has provided jobs to almost 30 million households. Across the country, impoverished villagers have built dams, improved roads, strengthened irrigation, and restored ancient water bodies — the act sponsors work in eight areas deemed to be important for rural development.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/28/world/asia/28iht-letter.html>

### **Banana diseases hit African crops**, *BBC.com, August 27*

Food supplies in several African countries are under threat because two diseases are attacking bananas, food scientists have told the BBC. Crops are being damaged from Angola through to Uganda - including many areas where bananas are a staple food. The scientists, from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), issued a statement saying "drastic and expensive control measures" were needed.  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8225588.stm>

### **India Summer Sown Crops Likely Down 15%-20%**, *Wall Street Journal, August 27*

A prolonged dry spell in India threatens to shrink summer-sown crop output by 15%-20% and is a concern for the country's nascent economic rebound, but the government will step up spending to boost rural demand, the federal finance minister. India's Meteorological Department has estimated rainfall during the monsoon season this year will be substantially below the long-term average, severely reducing plantings and damaging standing crops in many parts of the country. The monsoon is crucial for the agriculture sector as most farmers don't have irrigation facilities and depend on rains for their crops. Agriculture contributes about 18% of gross domestic product and provides jobs to more than two-thirds of the country's 1.1 billion population.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125137161850163221.html>

### **Drought, Debt Lead to Indian Farmers' Suicides**, *The New York Times, August 27*

Dozens of impoverished farmers struggling with debt and poor rainfall have killed themselves in southern India in recent weeks, leaving behind families plunged even further into poverty. Nearly every day, newspapers report more farmer suicides in Andhra Pradesh, a state of 80 million people where 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture -- and which has suffered badly this year from weak monsoon rains. As farmers depend increasingly on loans to buy fertilizer, irrigation equipment and increasingly expensive high-tech seeds, they are driven directly into the hands of moneylenders who charge up to 30 percent interest.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/08/27/world/AP-AS-India-Farmer-Suicides.html>

*See Also: **Organic Farmers Seek Healthier Future**, Wall Street Journal, August 25*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125119426057556421.html>

**Ethiopia: Country to Sign Compact CAADP**, *AllAfrica.com*, August 26

Ethiopia is to sign a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which helps define and accelerate the implementation of its agricultural development targets in line with the CAADP framework.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200908270442.html>

**Hungry in Guatemala**, *The Atlantic*, August 26

At the G8 meeting in Italy last month, the world's richest countries agreed to devote \$20 billion to food security and agricultural development. The initiative was primarily spurred by concerns about the effects on struggling populations of global warming and the economic downturn. But it is also perhaps a reflection of Obama's stated intent to put a greater emphasis on what his administration calls "smart power" – diplomacy and development, as opposed to primarily defense – in his approach to foreign policy. Here's an unlikely candidate to be the poster child for the new program: Guatemala. The Central American nation has the sixth-worst rate of chronic malnutrition in the world, despite being what might be described as a relatively well-off lower-middle class country.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200908u/guatemala-hunger>

*See Also: **A national shame**, The Economist, August 27*

It is hardly one of Latin America's poorest countries, but according to Unicef almost half of Guatemala's children are chronically malnourished—the sixth-worst performance in the world.

[http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14313735](http://www.economist.com/world/americas/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14313735)

**False fears threaten food supplies**, *Dominic Dyer (chief executive of the UK Crop Protection Association), BBC News*, August 25

There's a lot being written at present about the relative benefits of different forms of agricultural production, but one key fact often gets missed. Modern agricultural achievements are the result of technological advances, new management techniques and new chemical treatments that have made it possible to feed 6.7 billion mouths. But soon, even this will not be enough. Experts warn that historic challenges await us.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8218364.stm>

**Argentine farmers call new anti-government strike**, *Reuters*, August 25

Argentine farmers will launch a seven-day strike starting on Friday that will freeze grain and beef sales from one of the world's biggest suppliers of corn, beef and soybeans, farm leaders said. The strike, aimed at protesting the government's farm policy, revives a long-running dispute that has rattled local financial markets and tested President Cristina Fernandez over the past two years.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsMaps/idUSTRE5706G320090825?sp=true>

*See Also: **Argentine Farmers to Halt Grain Sales After Tax Veto**, Bloomberg, August 26*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=a86xOEzOCR11>

**Ghana Debates Viability of Biofuels**, *VOA News*, August 23

Africa is central to the worldwide growth in biofuels, with Dutch, American, Swedish, Japanese, German, and British firms all competing for farmland to grow the next generation of energy producing crops. In Ghana, seven private companies are currently farming about 50,000 hectares of land for biofuels. Some farmers in Ghana are concerned about what biofuels mean for food security.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-23-voa20.cfm>

**A Farm on Every Floor**, Dickson D. Despommier (professor of public health, Columbia University), *Op-Ed, The New York Times*, August 24

If climate change and population growth progress at their current pace, in roughly 50 years farming as we know it will no longer exist. This means that the majority of people could soon be without enough food or water. But there is a solution that is surprisingly within reach: Move most farming into cities, and grow crops in tall, specially constructed buildings. It's called vertical farming.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/24/opinion/24Despommier.html>

**Seven Myths About Alternative Energy**, Michael Grunwald (senior correspondent at Time), *Foreign Policy*, August 24

The grain it takes to fill an SUV tank with ethanol could feed a hungry person for a year; biofuel mandates are exerting constant upward pressure on global food prices and have contributed to food riots in dozens of poorer countries. Still, the United States has quintupled its ethanol production in a decade and plans to quintuple its biofuel production again in the next decade. This will mean more money for well-subsidized grain farmers, but also more malnutrition, more deforestation, and more emissions.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/12/seven\\_myths\\_about\\_alternative\\_energy?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/12/seven_myths_about_alternative_energy?page=full)

**Food for the Soul**, Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*, August 22

I think I figured out the central problem with modern industrial agriculture. It's not just that it produces unhealthy food, mishandles waste and overuses antibiotics in ways that harm us all. More fundamentally, it has no soul.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/opinion/23kristof.html>

See Also: **Getting Real About the High Price of Cheap Food**, *TIME*, August 21

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

See Also: **The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-intellectuals**, *The American* (The Journal of the American Enterprise Institute), July 30

<http://www.american.com/archive/2009/july/the-omnivore2019s-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals>

**In Brazil, Paying Farmers to Let the Trees Stand**, *The New York Times*, August 21

José Marcolini, a farmer here, has a permit from the Brazilian government to raze 12,500 acres of rain forest this year to create highly profitable new soy fields. But he says he is struggling with his conscience. A Brazilian environmental group is offering him a yearly cash payment to leave his forest standing to help combat climate change. Deforestation, a critical contributor to climate change, effectively accounts for 20 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions and 70 percent of the emissions in Brazil. Halting new deforestation, experts say, is as powerful a way to combat warming as closing the world's coal plants.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/22/science/earth/22degrees.html>

**First shoots of Haiti's agricultural renaissance**, *FAO Newsroom*, 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. Requested by the Haitian government, financed by a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by FAO, the programme was introduced to combat high international food prices.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/29457/icode/>

**Farm Income and Costs: 2009 Farm Sector Income Forecast**, *USDA Economic Research Service*, August 2009

Net farm income is forecast to be \$54.0 billion in 2009, down \$33.2 billion (38 percent) from the preliminary estimate of \$87.2 billion for 2008. The 2009 forecast is \$9 billion below the average of \$63.2 billion in net farm income earned in the previous 10 years.

See Also: **Recession Finally Hits Down on the Farm**, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 28

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125138431827963711.html>

See Also: **AgLetter**, *Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago*, August 2009

[http://www.chicagofed.org/publications/agletter/august\\_2009.pdf](http://www.chicagofed.org/publications/agletter/august_2009.pdf)

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## FOOD SECURITY UPDATES

### **Drought and floods in Yemen affect food security**, *Yemen Times*, August 26

Extreme weather conditions and environmental changes are confusing farmers and threatening livelihoods, further aggravating Yemen's already fragile food security. Currently, Yemen imports 90 percent of its food.  
<http://yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=1289&p=front&a=1>

### **Kenya's rural drought hurts city dwellers**, *Associated Press*, August 25

Crops have shriveled, hundreds of cattle are dead and the World Food Program said Tuesday that 3.8 million Kenyans need emergency food aid because of a prolonged drought, which is even causing electrical blackouts in the capital because there's not enough water for hydroelectric plants.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090825/ap\\_on\\_re\\_af/af\\_kenya\\_climate\\_change](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090825/ap_on_re_af/af_kenya_climate_change)

*See Also: Scientists Gather in Drought-Stricken Kenya to Urge Better Use of Africa's Water*, VOA News, August 26

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-26-voa56.cfm>

*See Also: Kenya coalition under fire as drought leaves 4m starving*, *Financial Times*, August 21

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/77ab5f16-8dea-11de-93df-00144feabdc0.html>

*See Also: Kenyan Allocates Funds for Food Imports on Drought*, *Bloomberg*, August 24

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

*See Also: Number of Kenyans in need of food aid jumps by over 50%*, *Irish Times*, August 21

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2009/0821/1224253026491.html>

### **Somalia: Half the Population in Humanitarian Crisis Amid An Escalating Civil War**, *Food Security*

*Nutrition Analysis Unit – Somalia*, August 24

Somalia faces its worse humanitarian crisis in eighteen years amid an escalating civil war that threatens to push the country into chaos and lead to further deteriorations in the food security and nutrition status of the people.

<http://www.fsasomali.org/fileadmin/uploads/1547.pdf>

*See Also: Somalia Faces Worst Humanitarian Crisis in 18 Years*, *Bloomberg*, August 25

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aze05wqjLUaI>

*See Also: Half of Somalis need aid, says UN*, *BBC News*, August 25

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8219735.stm>

### **Ethiopia Food Security Update**, *FEWSNET*, August 2009

[http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/ethiopia\\_fsu\\_2009\\_08\\_final.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/ethiopia_fsu_2009_08_final.pdf)

### **Malawi Food Security Update**,

[http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/Malawi\\_FSU\\_August\\_2009\\_final.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/Malawi_FSU_August_2009_final.pdf)

### **Nigeria Food Security Update**, *FEWSNET*, August 2009

[http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/NG\\_fsu\\_2009\\_08.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/NG_fsu_2009_08.pdf)

### **Djibouti Food Security Update**, *FEWSNET*, August 2009

[http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/djibouti\\_2009\\_08\\_final.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/djibouti_2009_08_final.pdf)

### **Tanzania Food Security Update**, *FEWSNET*, August 2009

[http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/Tanzania\\_FSU\\_August\\_2009\\_final.pdf](http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/Tanzania_FSU_August_2009_final.pdf)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**Help That Helps: A New Business Model for Foreign Aid**, *Nicholas Eberstadt (Global Agricultural Development Project Experts Committee member) Carol C. Adelman, The Weekly Standard/American Enterprise Institute, August 31*

What's needed today is more flexibility in aid programming. Emphasizing rule of law, trade, institution building, good governance, and anticorruption, Obama's message was a breath of fresh air, especially as he underscored self-reliance, saying "wherever folks want to help themselves, we want to be there as a partner." The lack of any substantive--or even superficial--effort to improve the functioning of our aid apparatus, in conjunction with the evident determination to shovel massive new amounts of money into our aid programs, can only suggest that the key thinkers in the Obama administration regard the primary shortcoming of existing aid programs as a lack of funding.

<http://www.aei.org/article/100935>

*See Also: The Ticking Clock on Aid Reform, Philip I. Levy, The American Enterprise Blog, August 26*  
<http://blog.american.com/?p=4307>

**It's Time for Foreign Aid Reform**, *David Beckmann, The Huffington Post, August 27*

When Congress reconvenes after Labor Day, they will find an increasingly vocal and diverse, bipartisan movement pushing to make the non-military U.S. foreign assistance system more efficient and effective. Of our aid dollars today, less than half of one percent is given to poverty-focused development assistance. A more modern foreign aid system will strengthen our efforts to alleviate poverty and hunger, fight disease, and create economic growth for struggling people in developing countries.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-beckmann/its-time-for-foreign-aid\\_b\\_270362.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-beckmann/its-time-for-foreign-aid_b_270362.html)

**US aid to Pakistan 'depleted by admin costs'**, *Financial Times, August 26*

Half of the planned assistance pledged by the US to Pakistan is likely to be wastefully spent on administrative costs, Shaukat Tarin, Pakistan's finance minister, said. He has urged the US to channel its assistance through Pakistani agencies instead to save on high intermediation costs incurred by US counterparts. Some Pakistani officials express concern that USAID, the US's foreign development arm, will establish a large infrastructure in the country and employ generously paid foreign experts. They are concerned that higher personnel and administrative bills will inflate the cost of development projects.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/59559f2c-9263-11de-b63b-00144feabdc0.html>

*See Also: Pakistan merits priority aid, despite credit crunch, Reuters, August 26*  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/asiaCrisis/idUSISL155863>

**Aid workers as victims: In the firing line**, *The Economist, August 26*

Over 100 aid workers were killed last year while on duty, reflecting a broad increase in the number of fatal attacks on such staff around the world. A large majority of the victims were national staff, recruited locally by NGOs or official aid agencies.

[http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=14301381](http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=14301381)

**Taking the Afghan Fight to the Farm**, *The New York Times, August 25*

Rebuilding Afghanistan's shattered agrarian economy is fundamental to President Barack Obama's strategy of stabilizing the country and turning around an increasingly deadly war that claimed a record 76 U.S. and allied casualties last month. In areas where security and agriculture have improved, opium-poppy cultivation has fallen. If that can be achieved nationwide, the Taliban insurgency would lose a major source of revenue, and Mr. Obama could reassure a Congress dubious of investing more in aid where past programs have failed.

"We can't succeed in Afghanistan if the Afghan people aren't successful in agriculture," says Otto J. Gonzalez, a farming adviser to Richard C. Holbrooke, the U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/26/us/26iht-letter.html>

*See Also: Shortage Of Civilian Experts Slows Afghan Rebuilding, NPR, August 26*

When soldier-turned-diplomat Karl Eikenberry was the commanding general in Afghanistan in 2007, he would often ask his field commanders: "If you had a choice right now of getting 100 more infantrymen or 10 agricultural experts, which would it be?" "Nine times out of 10, the answer would be 10 agricultural experts," Eikenberry recalled to NPR in a recent interview. That plan, Holbrooke says, is to bring in more civilians from not only the State Department but also the Department of Agriculture, as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112263615>

See Also: **Afghanistan Votes**, Editorial, *The New York Times*, August 20

Afghanistan's farmers do not want to be in business with brutal drug traffickers or the Taliban. But they need seasonal crop loans no legitimate lender seems willing to provide.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/21/opinion/21fri1.html>

**Taking Africa beyond aid**, *The Guardian* (U.K.), August 23

Developing financial markets in African countries is not always easy, but it is a key factor in economic development.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/aug/23/africa-banking-finance-development-aid>

**Failing State: Money alone won't produce smart power**, Michael Sheehan and Karen Greenberg (New York University's Center on Law and Security) *Foreign Policy*, August 20

The very nature of the interagency process is such that reform is most likely to succeed when undertaken as a simultaneous, coordinated exercise among the various agencies. Making the interagency process work requires reforming the bureaucratic culture across agency lines, a task perhaps more important and more challenging than wholesale structural changes in the foreign-policy and national security architecture created by the National Security Act of 1947. The QDDR is a first step in this important task, and other agencies would do well to follow suit.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/20/failing\\_state](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/20/failing_state)

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**The Low-Carbon Diet**, Joel Kurtzman, *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2009

The free market has eliminated environmental hazards in the past, from leaded gas to acid rain, and it can solve the problem of climate change today. A cap-and-trade system offers the best hope for reducing pollution and encouraging green growth.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65368/joel-kurtzman/the-low-carbon-diet>

See Also: **On Energy, Obama Finds Broad Support**, *Washington Post*, August 28

Most Americans approve of the way President Obama is handling energy issues and support efforts by him and Democrats in Congress to overhaul energy policy -- including the controversial cap-and-trade approach to limiting greenhouse gas emissions, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/27/AR2009082703823_pf.html)

[dyn/content/article/2009/08/27/AR2009082703823\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/27/AR2009082703823_pf.html)

See Also: **Climate policy picks the wrong target**, Hans-Werner Sinn (president of Germany's Ifo Institute for Economic Research), Op-Ed, *Financial Times*, August 26

The emissions trading system would effectively put a cap on worldwide fossil fuel consumption, thereby achieving the desired slowdown in extraction rates.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2f3d0bb8-9271-11de-b63b-00144feabdc0.html>

**AFRICA: Coastal populations at risk as climate changes**, *IRIN*, August 28

Several large African cities are at risk from rising sea levels and intense storms, experts warn. In such low-income urban centres, infrastructure is often non-existent or ill-maintained, according to a World Bank report, Sea level Rise and Storm Surges, while storm-water drainage infrastructure is often outdated and inadequate.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84464>

See Also: **Sea-Level Rise and Storm Surges: A Comparative Analysis of Impacts in Developing Countries**, World Bank, April 2009

[http://www-](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/04/14/000158349_20090414102048/Rendered/PDF/WPS4901.pdf)

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/04/14/000158349\\_20090414102048/Rendered/PDF/WPS4901.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/04/14/000158349_20090414102048/Rendered/PDF/WPS4901.pdf)

**China and India Will Pay**, *Newsweek*, August 27

China and India account for 10 percent and 3 percent, respectively, of the man-made greenhouse gases now in the atmosphere, compared with 75 percent for the developed world. China, now the world's No. 1 carbon emitter, has been less belligerently recalcitrant, but in a policy statement demands that developed countries "take responsibility for their historical cumulative emissions and current high per capita emissions to ... substantially reduce their emissions" while developing countries pursue "economic development." Read: no emissions cuts here. But India and China are also in line to suffer disproportionately because of how climate change is affecting different geographic regions.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/213967>

*See Also: **India Urges Rich Countries to Call Its Climate Change 'Bluff'**, Bloomberg, August 26*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=acVxg2zunvcE>

*See Also: **China lawmakers call for action on climate change**, Reuters, August 27*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE57Q1VX20090827?sp=true>

*See Also: **India, China Want to Be Part of Climate Solution, Ramesh Says**, Bloomberg, August 25*

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

**The virtues of biochar: A new growth industry?**, *The Economist*, August 27

It is a sweet irony that the latest fashion for dealing with global warming is to bring back charcoal. It has to be rebranded for modern consumers, of course, so it is now referred to as "biochar". But there are those who think biochar may give humanity a new tool to attack the problem of global warming, by providing a convenient way of extracting CO2 from the atmosphere, burying it and improving the quality of the soil on the way.

[http://www.economist.com/sciencetechnology/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14302001](http://www.economist.com/sciencetechnology/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14302001)

**Water shortage threatens two million people in southern Iraq**, *The Guardian (U.K.)*, August 26

A water shortage described as the most critical since the earliest days of Iraq's civilisation is threatening to leave up to 2 million people in the south of the country without electricity and almost as many without drinking water. Two winters of significantly lower than normal rainfalls – half the annual average last year and one-third the year before – have followed six years of crippling instability, in which industry barely functioned and agriculture struggled to meet half of subsistence needs.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/26/water-shortage-threat-iraq>

**Forests, Deserts in Climate Measure May Spawn 'Energy Sprawl'**, *Bloomberg*, August 26

More forests, deserts and grasslands in the U.S. will be used to produce energy under a proposal to cap greenhouse gases, an unintended consequence of efforts to fight global warming, according to a Nature Conservancy report.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a0UUVlgrOpqs>

*See Also: **Energy Sprawl or Energy Efficiency: Climate Policy Impacts on Natural Habitat for the United States of America**, *The Nature Conservancy*, August 2009*

<http://www.plosone.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action;jsessionid=43E5271A5E4156D29D7>

[AC252A5E0D85D?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0006802&representation=PDF](http://www.plosone.org/doi/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0006802&representation=PDF)

**As Farmland Grows, the Trees Fight Back**, *Time.com*, August 25

Farms vs. forests — that's the usual dynamic in tropical countries, where the growth of agriculture often comes at the expense of trees. In nations like Brazil and Indonesia — where deforestation is behind the vast majority of carbon emissions — rain forests are not just cut down for logging but also burned to make room for new farms and pastureland. As more people need more food — and biofuels as well — there's a risk that we could see many of our remaining virgin rain forests wiped out completely.

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1918315,00.html>

**A Real Fish Story**, *Editorial, The New York Times*, August 24

On Thursday, Gary Locke, the secretary of commerce, approved a plan that would prohibit commercial fishing in a huge swath of American waters in the Arctic that have never been actively fished and that nobody is much interested in fishing now. That sounds odd, but it's a smart move based on the assumption that the rapid melting of Arctic sea ice caused by climate change will someday make the area more accessible and

commercially more attractive. This was also the first time the United States shut down a fishery because of climate change rather than overfishing.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/24/opinion/24mon2.html>

See Also: **How Will Warmer Oceans Affect Sea Life?**, *Scientific American*, August 25

Experiments show that microscopic ocean plants and animals--the base of the food chain--will be impacted.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=how-will-warmer-oceans-affect-sea-life>

**Africa: Trade Carbon for Food Security**, *AllAfrica.com*, August 24

Forget the view of climate change as impending catastrophe for a moment: if negotiators can recognise sustainable agriculture by African smallholders and forests as mitigating factors in climate change, carbon trading could become an important support for Africa's food security.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200908250828.html>

**Is a Green World a Safer World?**, *David Rothkopf*, *Foreign Policy*, August 24

Today, 1.1 billion people don't have ready access to clean water, and estimates suggest that within two decades as many as two thirds of the Earth's people will live in water-stressed regions. It has become a new conventional wisdom that water will become "the new oil," as Dow Chemical Chief Executive Andrew Liveris has said, both because of the new value it will have and the new conflicts it will generate.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/17/is\\_a\\_green\\_world\\_a\\_safer\\_world\\_not\\_necessarily](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/17/is_a_green_world_a_safer_world_not_necessarily)

**PAKISTAN: Harvesting rain, restoring dignity**, *Reuters/IRIN*, August 23

Tharparker District in Sindh Province, southern Pakistan, is among the most arid regions in the country. Limited rainfall, brackish underground water and the private ownership of wells by an elite minority have made access to potable water very difficult for much of the district's 900,000 mostly rural inhabitants. However, an innovative project by local NGO Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) in conjunction with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of Sindh is helping alleviate Tharparker's drought problems.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/e01d7d98bdf56c428f1c16fe0a56111a.htm>

**Experts: water issue crucial in world climate deal**, *Associated Press*, August 21

Thousands of scientists and experts urged world leaders Friday to include strategies for global water management in the planned Copenhagen climate agreement. Participants at the World Water Week conference said climate change will severely affect water supplies and poorer countries need support to help them adapt.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jWlcs1HTs6jJh9W36Ni\\_qGRQx7xwD9A7ABM01](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jWlcs1HTs6jJh9W36Ni_qGRQx7xwD9A7ABM01)

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## GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

**Africa's lot not hopeless; it just requires more help**, *Robert Zoellick*, *Op-Ed*, *Daily Nation (Kenya)*, August 27

The great lakes region of Africa reveals the continent's challenges. I went there recently to see the effects of the economic crisis in countries coming out of conflict, and integration. The financial crisis has wounded Africa. But Africans' vision for the future has remained resilient: They seek energy, infrastructure, agricultural development, regional integration linked to global trade and markets, and a dynamic private sector.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Opinion/-/440808/646332/-/4n7j56/-/>

**In search of a transformed Africa**, *Mail & Guardian (South Africa)*, August 26

Lower economic growth rates in both developed and developing countries would trap an additional 65-million people in poverty, based on a \$2-a-day poverty line. According to the World Development Report 2009, the latest estimates suggest that this year the global trade contraction could be the largest since 1929. This is a severe setback, especially for countries in sub-Saharan Africa where a large percentage of these people live.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-08-26-in-search-of-a-transformed-africa>

**Froth at the bottom of the pyramid**, *The Economist*, August 26

A growing number of investors have taken the chance, investing in bottom-of-the-pyramid businesses, of which by far the most popular to date is microfinance—providing loans and other financial services to people ignored as too poor by the traditional banking system. Yet as this idea has spread, it has become increasingly controversial. Moreover, the microfinance industry has not been entirely immune from the credit crisis, and growth has slowed due to weaker demand and funding difficulties.

[http://www.economist.com/daily/columns/businessview/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=14298996](http://www.economist.com/daily/columns/businessview/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14298996)

See Also: **A Global Surge in Tiny Loans Spurs Credit Bubble in a Slum**, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 13

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125012112518027581.html>

**Hunger on the rise in Mexico as recession bites**, *The Washington Post*, August 21

More Mexicans are going hungry because of a severe recession that threatens to increase malnutrition and reduce gains in the fight against poverty since the mid-1990s. Mexico has been blighted by poverty for centuries, especially in rural areas. Strong economic growth in the late 1990s and government aid helped put more food on the tables of the poorest Mexicans, but the situation deteriorated sharply a few years ago when food prices surged and economic growth slowed.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/21/AR2009082101950.html>

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## WOMEN

**Food security project for ultra-poor starts in Gaibandha**, *The New Nation (Bangladesh)*, August 28

The activities of Gaibandha Food Security Project for ultra poor women have been started in the district since January this year. The objective of the five-year project is to sustain food security and improve livelihood through empowerment of poor women in the district.

<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2009/08/28/news0855.htm>

**Mali Muslims Protest Increased Rights for Women**, *VOA News*, August 26

Tens of thousands of Malians have protested since the National Assembly adopted a controversial new family code in early August. The code's more than 1,100 new articles aim to increase equality between men and women by reforming laws with regards to land ownership, inheritance, education, employment and marriage. Supporters of the code, more than a decade in the making, have praised it as enhancing the rights of women and girls, who they say have been traditionally viewed as second-class citizens.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-08-26-voa58.cfm>

**Stop violence against women of world**, *Pierre Atlas (Director, The Richard G. Lugar Franciscan Center for Global Studies at Marian University) & Esta Stoler (President, Family Violence Prevention Fund), Letter to the Editor, Indianapolis Star*, August 25

The United Nations Development Fund for Women reports that one out of every three women worldwide will be physically, sexually or in another way abused in her lifetime. According to the World Health Organization, this kind of violence affects 70 percent of women and girls in some countries. It takes many forms, from domestic violence and sexual assault, to rape as a weapon of war, to forcing women to trade sex for food, to human trafficking, to forced marriage, stonings and so-called honor killings. Some victims are young children.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20090825/OPINION01/908250309/1002/OPINION/Our+View++Stop+violence+against+women+of+world>

**What I Saw in Goma**, *Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, People Magazine*, August 24

In 11 days of travel across Africa, I saw humanity at its worst – and at its best. In Goma last week, I saw both. The Mugunga Internally Displaced Persons Camp sits in a land of volcanoes and great lakes on the edge of Goma, a provincial capital in the eastern Congo. The camp is now home to 18,000 people seeking refuge from a cycle of violent conflict that has left 5.4 million dead since 1998. Chased from their homes and villages by armed rebels and informal militias, these men, women and children walked for miles with little food or water until they reached this relatively safe haven. Women and girls in particular have been victimized on an unimaginable scale, as sexual and gender-based violence has become a tactic of war and has reached

epidemic proportions. Some 1,100 rapes are reported each month, with an average of 36 women and girls raped every day.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/08/128317.htm>

<http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,20299698,00.html>

**It's 3 a.m. Do You Know Where Hillary Clinton Is?**, *David Rothkopf, Washington Post, August 23*

Clinton has also created special positions to back new priorities, such as Melanne Vermeer as ambassador at large for women's issues. Clinton made women's issues a centerpiece of her recent 11-day trip to Africa, where she stressed that "the social, political and economic marginalization of women across Africa has left a void in this continent that undermines progress and prosperity."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/21/AR2009082101772.html>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**India raids food hoarders as prices soar**, *Financial Times, August 28*

India has launched countrywide raids on food commodities hoarders as the government appealed on Thursday to consumers not to panic about shortages inflicted by a poor monsoon. State authorities have conducted sweeping raids in the past days in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in an attempt to release foodstuffs onto the market and cool surging prices.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/240fb160-9324-11de-b146-00144feabdc0.html>

**Why Africa Matters**, *Rev. Jesse Jackson, Huffington Post, August 26*

The African continent will only become more important in the future. The whole world has a stake in what happens there. Therefore it is in the U.S.' and the world's best interest that Africa's fledgling democracies succeed so that true democracy might spread across the vast continent.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-jesse-jackson/why-africa-matters\\_b\\_268912.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-jesse-jackson/why-africa-matters_b_268912.html)

*See Also: The Promise of Change: U.S. Engagement With Africa, Nicole C. Lee (executive director of TransAfrica Forum), The Final Call, August 26*

Buzz words like "human rights" and "transparency" define the Obama Administration's expectations of Africa. And yet, with all of the problems on the continent, rarely is there discussion of fundamental economic causes at the heart of problems in Africa. The notion of our "dreams deferred" has been expressed by many activists in both the domestic and international arenas. Nowhere do I see more obvious intersections than on international trade issues.

[http://www.finalcall.com/artman/publish/Perspectives\\_1/article\\_6334.shtml](http://www.finalcall.com/artman/publish/Perspectives_1/article_6334.shtml)

**Africa: Steamrolling the WTO Doha Negotiations**, *AllAfrica.com, August 26*

Developing countries are faced with a number of challenges to meet their development needs. These include growing their economies, addressing high levels of poverty, ensuring job creation, expanding their manufacturing bases and managing their resources. The question is, in the context of the global economic and planetary crisis, will the WTO negotiations seek the opportunity to question unbalanced trade rules or continue negotiations within the current economic paradigm that essentially perpetuates underdevelopment in developing countries?

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200908260286.html>

**Dial 'M' for 'Mackerel': Can a New Mobile Phone Service in Rural India Help Promote Economic Empowerment?**, *The Wall Street Journal, August 26*

Following a nationwide launch this summer of Nokia Life Tools (NLT), India's farmers can use their mobile phones to access tailored information to help them grow, harvest and sell their crops and manage their livestock. Consider Ravindra Shinde, a farmer in Magardhokada, a village in the Nagpur district of Maharashtra. When he recently harvested 125 quintal (a quintal is 100 kilograms) of soybeans and was about to take the crop to market, the price was \$32 a quintal. But then he received a message on his handset that soybean production in the U.S. and Argentina had fallen, so he held back and later sold his crop for \$48 a quintal.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125126978512659859.html>

**Food Prices Likely to Start Ticking Up**, *The New York Times*, August 25

Prices for beef, milk, eggs and some other grocery items have been dropping for several months, providing relief for consumers who suffered through the steep increases of a year ago. But prices are likely to start edging upward again as the economy recovers, according to a new federal report and economic analysts.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/26/business/economy/26food.html>

See Also: **Food CPI and Expenditures: Analysis and Forecasts of the CPI for Food**, *USDA Economic Research Service*, August 2009

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/CPIFoodAndExpenditures/consumerpriceindex.htm>

**Europe's Saharan power plan: miracle or mirage?**, *Reuters*, August 23

A 400 billion euro (\$774 billion) plan to power Europe with Sahara sunlight is gaining momentum, even as critics see high risks in a large corporate project using young technology in North African countries with weak rule of law.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE57N00920090824>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**Hungry investors eye agriculture again**, *The Globe & Mail (Canada)*, August 27

With the world's population on the rise and a nascent economic recovery taking hold, analysts and industry insiders are once again turning their attention to the global food supply. "A year ago at this time, we were [hearing about] a global food crisis. And what I would tell you is that that really hasn't gone away," William Doyle, chief executive officer of Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc., said during his fertilizer company's recent conference call.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/e-zines/globe-investor-magazine/hungry-investors-eye-agriculture-again/article1264054/>

**U.S. Biofuel Boom Running on Empty**, *The Wall Street Journal*, August 27

Corn ethanol, which has been supported by government blending mandates and other subsidies for years, has come under fire for driving up the price of corn and other basic foodstuffs. While it will continue to be produced, corn ethanol's dominant role in filling the biofuels' blending mandate was set to shrink through 2022. Cellulosic ethanol, derived from the inedible portions of plants, and other advanced fuels were expected to surpass corn ethanol to fill close to half of all biofuel mandates in that time.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125133578177462487.html>

**Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture Launches Partnership**, *Missouri Realist*, August 26

Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) has announced a two-year public-private partnership between Syngenta, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and SFSA to rapidly identify and map genetic markers for use in wheat resistance breeding against Ug99 stem rust, a fungal disease which can cause devastating crop losses.

<http://missouriruralist.com/story.aspx?s=31078&c=8>

**Land O'Lakes Hosts Africa Roundtable: Food and Agricultural Companies Share Ideas**, *Land O'Lakes Press Release*, August 12

Sharing ideas, successes and challenges, several U.S. food and agricultural companies gathered at Land O'Lakes headquarters recently to discuss food security issues in Africa. Moderated by the Africa Business Development Partners (ABDP), Land O'Lakes International Development was joined by The Alliance to End Hunger, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Cargill, General Mills, John Deere, Mosaic and Monsanto to gather insights and ideas on philanthropic and/or commercial business operations in Africa.

<http://www.landolakesinc.com/utility/news/business/ECMP2-0001753.aspx>

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