

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



August 25<sup>th</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

**Quote of the Week:** *“Today, we face huge challenges in our effort to end poverty and hunger, and to transform African agriculture into an engine of economic development. I need not elaborate on these challenges, we know them well enough. They are systemic—from poor soils and seeds, to lack of finance and markets, and weak policy support. And these systemic challenges are compounded by the reality of climate change, of threats to biodiversity and to the natural resources that support life. But if the challenges are systemic, so, too, are the solutions. They involve fundamental changes in government priorities and policies; a strengthening of food value chains; development of Africa’s private sector; the creation of vibrant new partnerships; and an alignment of international aid with Africa’s priorities. All of this must empower Africa’s smallholder farmers, the majority of whom are women. They are the people who grow our food. Transformative change will enable them to leave behind subsistence farming, to run their farms as businesses, and to market their surpluses. The commercial farms have an important role to play in this process of providing opportunities for aggregation and uptake of new technologies.”*— Kofi Annan, Chairman, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Remarks at the African Green Revolution forum, Accra, Ghana, September 2, 2010.

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the fact Chicago Council staff will be taking a 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.
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**KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS**

**The Coming Food Crisis**, John D. Podesta, president and CEO, and Jake Caldwell, director of policy for agriculture, trade, and energy, Center for American Progress, August 26

Global food security is stretched to the breaking point, and Russia's fires and Pakistan's floods are only making a bad situation worse.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/26/the\\_coming\\_food\\_crisis](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/26/the_coming_food_crisis)

**Food crisis looms after floods in Pakistan**, McClatchy Newspapers, August 30

The worst floods in Pakistan's history already have swept through the nation's most important breadbasket provinces, destroying cotton and corn crops, vegetables and orchards, and leaving many people in need of emergency food. Now experts warn that the food crisis could expand into a long-term problem if farmers can't get the seeds, draft animals and irrigation repairs they need for the fall planting of wheat, the nation's most important crop.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/08/30/99866/food-crisis-looms-after-floods.html>

**SEE ALSO: Livestock losses compound Pakistan's misery**, Washington Post, August 30

The deaths of those animals - and the threat of epidemics among the hungry and weak that survived - has left behind a constellation of calamity. At the local level, it is measured in milk shortages and scores of lost jobs. Nationwide, the loss of livestock is part of a widescale drowning of the agricultural economy that feeds Pakistan, employs half of its population and sustains its crucial textile-export industry.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/29/AR2010082903088.html>

**SEE ALSO: The floods in Pakistan: Washed up**, Economist, August 26

The threat of epidemic disease lurks in unhygienic, crowded camps and back in villages where putrefying animals lie under the mud and in pools of stagnant water. But hunger may prove to be a bigger problem. An estimated 23% of the year's harvest was washed away, including a quarter of the cotton crop, which matters to the economy. About 2.6m acres of cultivated land have been drowned, says Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority. Officials say that the rehabilitation will take three years, barring more floods. Food inflation will hurt even the driest of the poor.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16889663>

**SEE ALSO: Pakistan Plugs Flood Defenses as Farmers Face Months Off Land**, Bloomberg, August 30

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-30/pakistan-plugs-flood-defenses-as-farmers-face-months-off-land.html>

**Africa's Green Revolution Forum: Initiating a Quantum Leap Forward**, Keynote speech by Kofi Annan, Chairman, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), African Green Revolution forum, September 2

"Today, we face huge challenges in our effort to end poverty and hunger, and to transform African agriculture into an engine of economic development. I need not elaborate on these challenges, we know them well enough. They are systemic—from poor soils and seeds, to lack of finance and markets, and weak policy support. And these systemic challenges are compounded by the reality of climate change, of threats to biodiversity and to the natural resources that support life. But if the challenges are systemic, so, too, are the solutions."

<http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/1193>

**While the world looks elsewhere, a nation is dying in silence**, Op-ed, Gordon Brown, former prime minister, United Kingdom, Independent (U.K.), August 31

From October onwards (after the harvest), post-harvest recovery projects need to be in place. We should extend the cash-for-work programme pioneered by the World Food Programme beyond the current 40,000 households. At the same time we must help to equip Niger for future harvests: sadly only 12 per cent of Niger's land is currently arable land. But irrigation and water schemes matched to agricultural development should be given more support to make the land productive.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/gordon-brown-while-the-world-looks-elsewhere-a-nation-is-dying-in-silence-2066142.html>

**A Food Program That's Not About Food**, Purnima Menon, research fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, *Foreign Policy*, August 26

India's hunger problem is not necessarily fatal. If the country can take some decisive action, reaching out to women and the poor and excluded and scaling up the social safety net in effective ways, it could make radical changes in a comparatively short time. Countries such as Brazil, China, and Thailand have made huge leaps in nutrition in their countries, all in a short period of time. India can hardly afford to be left behind.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/26/a\\_food\\_program\\_thats\\_not\\_about\\_food](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/26/a_food_program_thats_not_about_food)

**Wheat sends food prices up**, *FAO*, September 1

Surging wheat prices drove international food prices up five percent last month in the biggest month-on-month increase since November 2009.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/45006/icode/>

**SEE ALSO: FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)**, *FAO*, September 2010

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) averaged 176 points in August, up nearly nine points from July, FAO said in its latest update on the global cereals supply and demand situation. The increase - five percent - brought the Index up to its highest level since September 2008, but still 38 percent down from its peak in June 2008.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/FoodPricesIndex/en/>

**SEE ALSO: The Price of Wheat**, Editorial, *The New York Times*, August 27

Agricultural experts say they're not worried about the recent jump in wheat prices, caused largely by the drought in Russia and the ban on Russian wheat exports. The Department of Agriculture is predicting that world wheat production will reach the same level this year — 645 million metric tons — that helped bring prices down from their astonishing \$13.50 a bushel peak in February 2008. At present, prices for December wheat are about \$6.95 a bushel, down over 50 cents from a month ago, but up nearly 55 percent since early June. We don't find the experts consoling.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/28/opinion/28sat4.html>

**SEE ALSO: Afghanistan eyes wheat price amid import needs**, *AFP*, August 31

Afghan authorities are keeping a close eye on world wheat prices as they seek to boost strategic stocks ahead of winter and ensure that demand is met as some traditional suppliers halt exports.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gY0o3pJD4LIRcEsV-pQFHyCJemHg>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. Benefits as Wheat Prices Soar**, *Wall Street Journal*, September 2

Wheat prices are heating up again as the U.S. gains favor among the world's biggest consumers of the grain.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704791004575465981565291648.html>

**Brazil's agricultural miracle: How to feed the world**, *Economist*, August 26

The world is planting a vigorous new crop: "agro-pessimism", or fear that mankind will not be able to feed itself except by wrecking the environment. The current harvest of this variety of whine will be a bumper one. Natural disasters—fire in Russia and flood in Pakistan, which are the world's fifth- and eighth-largest wheat producers respectively—have added a Biblical colouring to an unfolding fear of famine. By 2050 world grain output will have to rise by half and meat production must double to meet demand. And that cannot easily happen because growth in grain yields is flattening out, there is little extra farmland and renewable water is running short.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16889019>

**SEE ALSO: Brazilian agriculture: The world's farm**, *Economist*, August 27

Over the past 35 years Brazil has transformed itself from a food importer into one of the world's largest exporters. It is the first tropical country to join the big farm-exporting ranks (the rest have temperate climates). The country is now the world's biggest exporter of five internationally traded crops, and number two in soyabeans and maize. None of the other big exporters has anything like this degree of diversification. Perhaps the most striking achievement has been the growth of soyabeans: soya is a temperate crop and Brazilian research scientists had to breed new varieties that would grow in the tropical cerrado, the savannah-like land where the farm miracle has taken place.

<http://www.economist.com/node/16913525>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Update on U.S. Flood Relief Efforts and Assistance in Pakistan**, *Briefing with Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, August 27*

“Given the scale of this tragedy, the President of the United States and Secretary Clinton have instructed us to mount a strong and effective response in cooperation with the people of Pakistan, the Government of Pakistan, and the international humanitarian community. The U.S. Government has been at the forefront of that response from an international perspective. With the additional announced \$50 million of flood relief support that I announced while in Pakistan, it brings our total commitment for the immediate relief and early recovery to \$200 million. And it's important to note that right now the expenditure of these resources is generating real results. We always wish we could do more, but we are noting that in terms of food distributions, we're now reaching 1.9 million people with a 30-day ration of food and food commodities.”

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100827.html>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. Enhances Logistics Operation for Flood Relief Efforts**, *USAID, August 31*

[http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100831\\_1.html](http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100831_1.html)

**Agricultural Prices**, *National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 31*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/AgriPric/2010s/2010/AgriPric-08-31-2010.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: USDA Sees Tame Food-Price Inflation**, *Wall Street Journal, August 26*

The U.S. Agriculture Department expects unusually tame food-price inflation this year despite a broad rally in agricultural commodity prices this summer, the agency said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703632304575451591288067132.html>

**Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade**, *USDA, August 2010*

Fiscal 2011 agricultural exports are forecast at \$113 billion, up \$5.5 billion from the revised 2010 forecast. Much of the increase is due to greater grain and feed shipments, (up \$4.3 billion from the revised 2010 forecast) due to sharply reduced competition from Russia, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine. Horticultural exports are forecast up \$1.7 billion from 2010 on strong demand from Canada, the EU, and Asian markets. Increased livestock and poultry product exports are expected to more than offset slight declines in dairy product exports. Cotton exports are forecast up significantly with larger domestic supplies and less export competition. The only major category expected to fall is oilseeds, due in part to increased competition from South America.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ers/AES/2010s/2010/AES-08-31-2010.pdf>

**Japan's Beef Market**, *USDA, August 2010*

This report provides a broad overview of the beef market in Japan, including consumer's preferences, domestic production practices, domestic and trade policies, and market outlook.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/LDP/2010/08Aug/LDPM19401/LDPM19401.pdf>

**Harkin Joins 30 Senators in Calling on Russia to Honor Agreement to Allow U.S. Poultry Imports**, *Office of Sen. Tom Harkin, August 30*

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) joined a bipartisan group of 30 senators in writing to the Russian government expressing their concern regarding Russia's failure to fully honor its recent commitment to allow U.S. poultry products back into Russia. The bipartisan group of senators who sent the letter noted that President Obama and President Medvedev reportedly came to an agreement on June 24 of this year to re-open the Russian market to U.S. poultry. However, since that agreement was reached, Russia has attempted to impose further restrictions on U.S. poultry products rather than move forward to implement the agreement the two presidents reached in June.

<http://harkin.senate.gov/press/release.cfm?i=327408>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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:

#### **Advanced biofuel technologies: status and barriers**, *World Bank, September 2010*

Large-scale production of crop based (first generation) biofuels may not be feasible without adversely affecting global food supply or encroaching on other important land uses. Because alternatives to liquid fossil fuels are important to develop in order to address greenhouse gas mitigation and other energy policy objectives, the potential for increased use of advanced (non-crop, second generation) biofuel production technologies has significant policy relevance. This study reviews the current status of several advanced biofuel technologies.

<http://go.worldbank.org/46202ZWEG0>

#### **Nepal - Food Security Atlas**, *World Food Program and the Nepal Development Research Institute, July 2010*

The aim of the Food Security Atlas is to contribute to a better understanding of the spatial patterns of food security, poverty and malnutrition in Nepal in order to provide a solid basis for developing a comprehensive national food security plan. This is achieved through the mapping of a series of food security indicators and a spatial analysis of these data and indicators.

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp223377.pdf>

#### **SEE ALSO: NEPAL: Another blow to food security**, *IRIN, August 31*

Farmers may reap as little as half of their normal harvests this year due to late monsoon rains in Nepal, a country constantly battling malnutrition and food insecurity, the World Food Programme (WFP) warns.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90342>

### Media Articles:

#### **MALAWI: Food surplus creates political storm**, *IRIN, September 1*

A surplus production of maize, Malawi's staple food, will not prevent at least one million people from being food insecure, a forecast that has not pleased President Bingu wa Mutharika.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90361>

#### **Growing Seed Security**, *IPS, September 1*

Farmer Obed Dlamini, like many of his colleagues from Swaziland, finds it difficult to find quality maize seeds each planting season. Not only are the seeds expensive but they are often not available.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52684>

#### **Wheat genome work just at initial stage: scientists**, *Reuters, August 31*

Efforts to sequence the wheat genome are only at an initial stage of what will be a long-term project requiring more government support, leading Chinese and international scientists said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67U13220100831>

#### **SEE ALSO: Scientists decode wheat genome**, *Financial Times, August 27*

Scientists have completed a first draft of the wheat genome – the largest and most complex set of genetic instructions ever tackled by DNA sequencing.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/13857ac8-b132-11df-b899-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **Russian Wheat Crisis Boosts U.S. Growers**, *National Public Radio, August 31*

Russia's drought and massive wildfires have sent wheat prices through the roof. Fortunately, most U.S. wheat farmers have had a stellar harvest and are likely to help meet global demand.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129456485>

#### **Biofuel demand driving Africa "land grab" : report**, *Reuters, August 30*

Biofuel demand is driving a new "land grab" in Africa, with at least 5 million hectares (19,300 sq miles) acquired by foreign firms to grow crops in 11 countries, a study by an environmental group said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE67T02F20100830>

**China Steps Up Measures to Reclaim Farmland, Ministry Says, Bloomberg, August 30**

China is increasing measures to restore arable land to agricultural use after slowing the rate of land loss to construction projects by the non-food industry, the Ministry of Land Resources said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-30/china-steps-up-measures-to-reclaim-farmland-ministry-says.html>

**Funds raising capital for African agriculture, Reuters, August 27**

List of funds that have recently raised or are raising capital for agriculture investment in Africa, or which have agriculture and agribusiness as focus sectors.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/ivoryCoastNews/idAFLDE67Q0XV20100827>

**Ghana Plans to Spend \$4.5 Million to Double Coffee Production in 4 Years, Bloomberg, August 27**

Ghana, the world's second-biggest cocoa producer, will spend \$4.5 million to more than double production of coffee to 3,000 metric tons in four years, the state-run industry regulator said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-27/ghana-plans-to-spend-4-5-million-to-double-coffee-production-in-4-years.html>

**Africa's agricultural revolution requires concerted efforts by all – UN official, UN News Center, August 26**

On the eve of a major conference on agriculture in Africa, the head of the United Nations rural development arm stressed the need today for the right policies, access to markets, infrastructure and affordable technologies to ensure food security on the continent. "Agricultural revolutions that are sustainable and inclusive are enabled by policy revolutions, in which governments play a leading role," said Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35719&Cr=agritulture&Cr1=>

**Iraqi Official Highlights Importance Of Food Security, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, August 26**

Food security in Iraq is no less serious a challenge than national security, but is achievable if the country's resources are put to good use within an overall development plan, a senior Iraqi diplomat said.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/Iraqi-Official-Highlights-Importance-Of-Food-Security-/2138573.html>

**Food figures need a pinch of salt, BBC, August 26**

The idea that the world needs to double its food production by 2050 in order to feed a growing population is wrong, says Isobel Tomlinson from the Soil Association. In this week's Green Room, she says the misuse of data could be used to allow even greater intensification of the global agricultural industry.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8946555.stm>

**Guinea Plans to Double its Coffee Production to 60,000 Metric Tons by 2015, Bloomberg, August 26**

Guinea is planning to more than double annual production of coffee to 60,000 metric tons by 2015 through a national development program, the Agriculture Ministry said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-26/guinea-plans-to-double-its-coffee-production-to-60-000-metric-tons-by-2015.html>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Media Articles:

**Pakistan farmers need wheat seed fast, FAO, September 1**

FAO called for more international funds to save the upcoming wheat planting season in Pakistan where floods covering land half the size of Italy have wiped out much of the country's household wheat seed stocks. Wheat, the staple food of the rural poor in Pakistan, is due to be planted in September through to November. More than half a million tonnes of wheat seed stocks have been destroyed by the floods.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/45027/icode/>

**SEE ALSO: Top UN officials call for scaling up assistance to Pakistan's flood victims**, *UN News Center*, September 1

Anthony Lake toured the area with Josette Sheeran, head of the World Food Programme (WFP), who warned during a joint press conference in the capital, Islamabad, that there is a triple threat unfolding as the crisis widens and deepens. "People have lost seeds, crops and their incomes leaving them vulnerable to hunger, homelessness and desperation – the situation is extremely critical."  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35779&Cr=pakistan&Cr1=>

**Funding Begins Flowing for African Agriculture**, *IPS*, September 1

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has received a major boost as several countries have begun drawing on funds from a \$22 billion pledge made by the G8.  
<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=52691>

**Ministers plan world finance tax**, *AFP*, September 1

Sixty countries will propose a tax on international financial transactions which could raise 40 billion euros (50 billion dollars) a year to spend on development, ministers said. The 60 countries plan to propose the new tax to the United Nations on September 21 at a summit on the UN Millennium Development Goals in New York.  
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hBpRstSE8u0WsqYjyfAIYe-0k8hQ>

**Lessons From Haiti: How Food Aid Can Harm**, *The Atlantic*, August 30

But perhaps the greatest problem is the damage our food aid causes to farmers in developing countries, who are essential to the future health of their societies.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/food/archive/2010/08/lessons-from-haiti-how-food-aid-can-harm/62252/>

**Niger avoids "worst" in food crisis, government says**, *Reuters*, August 29

Niger will avoid the "worst" in its most severe food crisis since 2005 with aid reaching millions left hungry by last year's failed harvest, the government said.  
<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE67S05N20100829>

**SEE ALSO: Niger flooding displaces nearly 200,000, UN says**, *CNN*, August 30

The flooding has only compounded the food security crisis in the West African nations, where nearly 15.2 million suffered from hunger after failing harvests.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/08/30/niger.floods/#fbid=ICj825QXJP9&wom=false>

**SEE ALSO: Millions at risk as crops fail in central Africa**, *The Independent (U.K.)*, August 29

After years of drought, flash floods have destroyed harvests in Niger.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/millions-at-risk-as-crops-fail-in-central-africa-2064802.html>

**Focus on lowland farming yields multiple benefits in Liberia**, *FAO*, August 26

The fertile lowlands that cover one-fifth of Liberia are part of a European Union and FAO-supported plan to cut the nation's dependence on rice imports and improve the livelihood of vulnerable farmer families.  
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44545/icode/>

**SEE ALSO: Building skills to boost Liberia's rice crop**, *FAO*, August 26

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/44546/icode/>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Potential Impact of Investments in Drought Tolerant Maize in Africa**, *CIMMYT*, August 2010

The study evaluates the potential impacts of the Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) project run by CIMMYT and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in 13 countries of eastern, southern and West Africa: Angola, Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and Ghana. It describes cumulative economic and poverty-reduction benefits to

farmers and consumers in those countries over 2007-16, from higher yields and from diminished season-to-season yield fluctuations, through the adoption by farmers of improved, drought tolerant maize varieties. <http://libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/93558.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Study predicts massive impact of drought tolerant maize in Africa**, *Press Release*, August 26

As climate change intensifies drought conditions in Africa and sparks fears of a new cycle of crippling food shortages, a study released today finds widespread adoption of recently developed drought-tolerant varieties of maize could boost harvests in 13 African countries by 10 to 34 percent and generate up to US\$1.5 billion in benefits for producers and consumers.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2010-08/bc-spm081910.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-08/bc-spm081910.php)

**SEE ALSO: New Corn Varieties Could Combat Famine During Drought**, *VOA*, August 25

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/environment/New-Corn-Varieties-Could-Combat-Famine-During-Drought-101487689.html>

**Sustaining Water for All in a Changing Climate**, *World Bank Group Implementation Progress Report of the Water Resources Sector Strategy*, August 2010

Water is essential to sustain life and economic development, and the livelihoods of the poorest people are critically associated with access to water services. The sustainable management of water resources has acquired a new urgency in the face a global population expected to reach nine billion by 2050, economic development spurring demand for more and better food, and increased hydrological variability caused by climate change. *Sustaining Water for All in a Changing Climate* reaffirms the strategic directions for the World Bank Group's approach to supporting water resources management.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/sustainingwater.pdf>

**Climate Change Assessments: Review of the Processes and Procedures of the IPCC**, *InterAcademy Council*, August 2010

The Committee found that the IPCC assessment process has been successful overall. However, the world has changed considerably since the creation of the IPCC, with major advances in climate science, heated controversy on some climate-related issues, and an increased focus of governments on the impacts and potential responses to changing climate. A wide variety of interests have entered the climate discussion, leading to greater overall scrutiny and demands from stakeholders. The IPCC must continue to adapt to these changing conditions in order to continue serving society well in the future.

<http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/report/Climate%20Change%20Assessments,%20Review%20of%20the%20Processes%20&%20Procedures%20of%20the%20IPCC.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Review Finds Flaws in U.N. Climate Panel Structure**, *New York Times*, August 30

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/31/world/31nations.html>

**SEE ALSO: Clearing up the climate**, *Economist*, August 30

[http://www.economist.com/blogs/newsbook/2010/08/climate\\_change\\_and\\_ipcc](http://www.economist.com/blogs/newsbook/2010/08/climate_change_and_ipcc)

**SEE ALSO: An Unlikely General in Climate-Change War**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 31

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704323704575461974123251154.html>

**After Copenhagen: Climate Governance and the Road Ahead**, *Joshua Busby*, *Council on Foreign Relations*, August 2010

Climate change is the most difficult collective action problem the world has ever faced, yet global governance frameworks have failed to yield progress toward a solution. The Copenhagen conference in 2009 set the stage for ambitious action by both developed and developing countries, but failed to result in a binding treaty. Moving forward, countries must diversify the institutions and instruments they use to pursue effective climate governance.

[http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/IIGG\\_Working%20Paper5\\_AfterCopenhagen.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/IIGG_Working%20Paper5_AfterCopenhagen.pdf)

Media Articles:

**Climate change: Lingering clouds**, *Financial Times*, August 29

Floods in Pakistan have left millions homeless and at least one-fifth of the country inundated. In Russia, droughts have sparked wildfires that sent crippling smog over main cities, claiming scores of lives while

destroying crops and costing billions of dollars in damage. The extreme weather of 2010 is likely to be remembered in these regions for many years to come. There as well as in the rest of the world, the broader question is whether, as climate scientists predict, this type of weather is set to become more common – and how certain we can be about that.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/72993406-b398-11df-81aa-00144feabdc0.html>

**Syrian drought triggers rural exodus**, *BBC, August 29*

As you drive along the Euphrates river in northern Syria, you see lush green fields, but keep travelling east, and the land that was once filled with life is now dry, barren and empty. The ground is rock solid, cracked by the heat of the sun. It is hard to imagine, but wheat and cotton used to grow here. These areas, traditionally the main farming region in the north-east of the country, have been affected by drought for four years. Some rain may have fallen, but not enough. The ground is rock solid, crops can't grow, and village after village has been abandoned.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11114261>

**Medvedev's Climate Moment**, *Op-ed, Adnan Vatansever, Moscow Times, August 27*

The wildfires and heat wave that recently ravaged central Russia brought climate change to the forefront of the country's domestic agenda. While Russian leaders have often played down the threat of higher temperatures on the country, the severe impact of the fires — which caused more than 50 deaths and destroyed more than a third of Russia's wheat crop — offers an opportunity to rethink policies and devote urgent attention to becoming a global leader in climate change — as Russia modernizes its economy.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/opinion/article/medvedevs-climate-moment/413772.html>

**Pakistan: a question of water**, *Op-ed, Gwenn Dyer, Japan Times, August 25*

On the other hand, no Pakistani government, civilian or military, could just sit by as land that has been irrigated for a century goes back to desert and food rationing is imposed nationwide. Especially not if India's fields just across the border were still green. That is the nightmare confrontation that lies down the road for these two nuclear powers.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/eo20100825gd.html>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

**Zambia: Luapula Women Hail First Lady's Food Security Drive**, *AllAfrica.com, September 1*

Women in Kawambwa District of Luapula Province have paid glowing tribute to First Lady, Thandiwe Banda, for her commitment to promoting food security in the country.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201009010548.html>

**Why We Shouldn't Look Away From the Mistreatment of Girls Worldwide**, *Kathy Bushkin Calvin, CEO of the UN Foundation, August 20*

In little over one month from now, world leaders and heads of state will come to the United Nations to discuss the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - the set of eight international targets for combating extreme poverty and disease that world leaders agreed upon in 2000. The 2010 UN Summit provides a critical moment for world leaders to assess their progress in achieving these goals by 2015, a mere five years from now. One of the best ways for governments to close in on the goals they made 10 years ago is to redouble their commitment, and investment, in women and girls. Investments in education and health for women and girls have been linked to increases in productivity and national income - all of which contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kathy-bushkin-calvin/why-we-shouldnt-look-away\\_b\\_688924.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kathy-bushkin-calvin/why-we-shouldnt-look-away_b_688924.html)

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

## Reports:

### **Liberalizing foodgrains markets: Experiences, impact, and lessons from South Asia**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, August 2010*

South Asia is home to the largest concentration of poor and undernourished people in the world, so food security—especially in basic staples such as wheat, rice, and corn—continues to be a major concern. With both persistent and re-emerging food price inflation reaching new heights in 2007–08 in global markets, South Asia saw sharp inflation—between 50 and 100 percent—in basic staples in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Today, South Asian countries want a greater degree of self-sufficiency; reliance on trade to achieve food security is being questioned by critics.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ib64.pdf>

### **Biofuel and Biomass Subsidies in the U.S., EU and Brazil: Towards a Transparent System of Notification**, *International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council, September 2010*

Support for the production and distribution of biofuels continues to expand in many countries. The magnitude and impact of these subsidies is imperfectly understood, as is their relation to the reporting and monitoring of subsidies in the WTO. The incidence of mandates and their accompanying subsidies is complicated by the number of ways in which subsidies are paid and by the various stages involved in the production and distribution of biofuels. This paper is intended to examine the way in which information on biofuels support is reported in the U.S., the EU, and Brazil: the three major players in the biofuels market.

[http://www.agritrade.org/documents/Biofuels\\_Subs\\_Web\\_Final.pdf](http://www.agritrade.org/documents/Biofuels_Subs_Web_Final.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: IPC Policy Focus: Biofuel and Biomass Subsidies**, *August 2010*

<http://www.agritrade.org/documents/BiofuelsPolicyFocus.pdf>

## Media Articles:

### **Deadly Mozambique protests enter second day**, *Reuters, September 2*

Mozambique's government deployed soldiers to clear barricades as angry protesters blocked roads and looted shops in the capital for the second day of deadly riots sparked by soaring bread prices.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAF10E6810B120100902>

**SEE ALSO: 3 die in Mozambique food riots**, *CNN, September 1*

Three people died and dozens were injured in riots over increases in the price of bread, water, energy and other critical goods in Mozambique, the southern African nation's official news agency reported.

<http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2010/09/01/3-die-in-mozambique-food-riots/>

**SEE ALSO: Mozambique police fire at crowds protesting prices**, *Associated Press, September 1*

Police opened fire on stone-throwing mobs who were protesting rising prices, killing six people as the U.N. noted that international food prices have risen to their highest in two years — a level that could see unrest spread.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5imAC2bF\\_FQbPuA3exMkkE6D718AD9HV50102](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5imAC2bF_FQbPuA3exMkkE6D718AD9HV50102)

### **U.N. Cuts Russian Wheat Forecast**, *Wall Street Journal, September 1*

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has slashed its wheat-output estimate for drought-hit Russia by 10% and has raised its export estimates for the U.S. by 43%, a senior FAO official said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703882304575464901153931206.html>

**SEE ALSO: World Wheat Harvest Outlook Cut on Russia**, *FAO Says, Bloomberg, September 1*

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-09-01/world-wheat-harvest-outlook-cut-on-russia-fao-says.html>

### **Meat industry is caught in a two-speed recovery**, *Financial Times, September 1*

In the US, a leading meat exporter, ranchers and pig breeders have ruthlessly thinned herds in response to drought, high grain prices and the recession. A similar trend is afoot in Australia, where the sheep flock has fallen by more than half in the past two decades. At the same time, households in several important emerging markets are putting more meat on grocery lists as their incomes rise. The combination of lowered supply and

greater consumption has sent international meat prices soaring and has led to big bets on higher prices among traders.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c3a39976-b600-11df-a048-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Meat price surge fuels fears of food inflation**, *Financial Times*, September 1

Global meat prices have hit a 20-year high as robust demand from emerging countries has coincided with a drop in production by exporters such as the US and Australia, fuelling concerns about rising food inflation.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a9f7e874-b600-11df-a048-00144feabdc0.html>

**South Africa Seeking Corn Markets in Asia to Drain Surplus, Targets Korea**, *Bloomberg*, August 31

South Africa is exporting corn to South Korea for the first time in at least eight years as it seeks new markets to drain a record grain surplus.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-31/south-africa-seeks-corn-markets-in-asia-to-drain-surplus-targets-korea.html>

**Egypt's food inflation feeds social unease**, *Financial Times*, August 30

Russia's ban on wheat exports has significantly increased economic and political pressures on an Egyptian government that spends heavily on bread subsidies for its 80m people. Egypt is the world's largest importer of the grain and the provision of bread, sold for less than 1 US cent a loaf, is central to the government's strategy for maintaining social peace. To that end, Cairo last year obtained about 60 per cent of its wheat imports from Russia.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b4e0e53c-b453-11df-8208-00144feabdc0.html>

**The New Rules: The Changing Food Security Equation**, *Thomas P.M. Barnett, World Politics Review*, August 29

While the world doesn't yet face a food crisis on par with the summer of 2008, it's clear that the drought currently affecting the Black Sea trio of Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan -- all big-time global exporters of wheat and barley -- has suddenly made food inflation a primary threat to the somewhat fragile and decidedly uneven global economic recovery. At the very least, it reminds us just how tight global food markets are, due to the contradictory combination of rising middle-class demand and the enduring commitment by brittle governments around the world to keep prices low -- at whatever the cost.

<http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/6281/the-new-rules-the-changing-food-security-equation>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**Burger King in talks with hedge fund**, *Financial Times*, September 1

An investment fund backed by three of Brazil's foremost businessmen is in advanced talks to buy Burger King, in a deal that would see the US burger chain return to private ownership for the second time in less than a decade.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f257d888-b5f9-11df-a048-00144feabdc0.html>

**Food production: Agriculture wars**, *Financial Times*, August 27

Following the second world war -- and particularly the rapid increase in productivity brought about by the Green Revolution in the 1960s, based on the use of fertilisers and high-yielding seeds -- the threat of scarcity had largely vanished from the world. The ascent of potash -- and other fertilisers such as phosphate and nitrogen -- into investors' portfolios tracks the resurgence of agriculture in the new millennium. Behind this is the rise of emerging countries such as China and the elevation to the middle class of billions of people who now require a diet richer than the traditional staples of rice and wheat. The transformation has surprised an industry long used to being ignored.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e5e74d66-b213-11df-b2d9-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: PotashCorp calls BHP's behaviour 'unethical'**, *Financial Times*, August 31

The hostilities between PotashCorp and its suitor BHP Billiton escalated when the Canadian fertiliser producer accused the multinational miner of “highly unethical” behaviour.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/54f69888-b52f-11df-9af8-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: BHP faces potash cartel backlash**, *Financial Times*, August 26

Mosaic and Agrium, the partners of PotashCorp in Canada’s fertiliser cartel, have launched a campaign defending the industry’s pricing and marketing arrangements in a move that could impede BHP Billiton’s \$39bn takeover bid for PotashCorp.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/13f300cc-b13a-11df-b899-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: BHP scorns talk of rival Potash bidder**, *Financial Times*, August 25

BHP Billiton has launched a fresh assault on PotashCorp, claiming that “fast money” is piling into the Canadian fertiliser producer’s shares and challenging potential rivals to come forward and match BHP’s \$39bn hostile takeover bid.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e823ab72-b071-11df-8c04-00144feabdc0.html>

**SEE ALSO: Potash Is Food Resilience: Should Canada's PotashCorp Be Sold to China?**, *Sanjay Khanna, Huffington Post*, August 26

The worst possible outcome for Canada -- and the world -- is for state-controlled Sinochem Corp. to sweeten BHP Billiton's offer by just enough to win PotashCorp. The Chinese would gain unmanageable leverage over the Canadian food supply, since potash is integral to fertilization of crops -- barley, corn, sorghum, soybean, wheat, and the like -- and thus the feeding of livestock on feedlots and the production of fruits and vegetables.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sanjay-khanna/potash-is-food-resilience\\_b\\_694162.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sanjay-khanna/potash-is-food-resilience_b_694162.html)

**Fewer livestock producers worries USDA's Vilsack**, *Reuters*, August 27

There are fewer U.S. livestock producers now than 30 years ago, and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack believes that may be because concentration in the meat industry has forced many to leave the business.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67R05520100828>

**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>

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