

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



August 20<sup>th</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** –“Agriculture research supported by federal programs has led to amazing advancements in biotechnology, leading to increased production and more beneficial cropping systems. Sorghum is one of the most drought tolerant cereal crops currently under cultivation. It offers farmers the ability to reduce costs on irrigation and other on-farm expenses. Targeted research on sorghum production can lead to increased usage of more water efficient crops and decreased water usage.” – Governor Sam Brownback, Testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, August 25, 2011

For more information:

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

**Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2011**, *Asian Development Bank, August 2011*

The Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2011 is a statistical data book presenting economic, financial, social, and environmental indicators for the 48 regional members of the ADB. The aim of the publication is to provide the latest key statistics on development issues concerning Asian and Pacific economies to a wide audience.

<http://beta.adb.org/key-indicators/2011/main>

**SEE ALSO: What Asia's Poor Need: More Jobs in the Formal Sector**, *Kevin Brown, Financial Times, August 23*

Research by the ADB suggests that while the total number of people living on less than \$2 a day in emerging Asia fell from 899m to 880m between 2005 and 2008, this still leaves the region with 66 per cent of the world's poorest people.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2011/08/23/what-asias-poor-need-more-jobs-in-the-formal-sector/>

**Ecosystems for Water and Food Security**, *UNEP, August 2011*

The report shows how managing and investing in the connections between ecosystems, water and food, through diversifying crops, planting trees on farmland and improving rainwater collection and other practical steps, could help avoid water scarcity and meet the growing food demands of a global population set to reach 9 billion by 2050.

[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Topics/Ecosystems/PDF/Background\\_Document-Ecosystems\\_for\\_Water\\_and\\_Food\\_Security\\_2011\\_UNEP-IWMI.pdf](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Topics/Ecosystems/PDF/Background_Document-Ecosystems_for_Water_and_Food_Security_2011_UNEP-IWMI.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Too Much Water as Dangerous as Too Little**, *Thalif Deen, IPS, August 22*

One of the biggest threats on global water supplies appear to be exploding mega cities where rising populations are outpacing scarce water resources. One out of four city residents, 794 million people in total, lives without access to adequate sanitation facilities, and 141 million urban dwellers do not have access to safe drinking water.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=104848>

**SEE ALSO: Voracious China Still Struggling to Stand on Its Own Two Feet**, *Wall Street Journal, August 22*

Beijing's hopes for food self-sufficiency may prove little more than a pipe dream as growing pressures on China's water system limit its agricultural potential. Already the strain on China's agricultural system is showing.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/08/22/voracious-china-still-struggling-to-stand-on-its-own-two-feet/>

**Seasons of Discontent**, *Economist, August 27*

Looking at data on weather and warfare from around the world over the past six decades, Dr Hsiang finds that in those countries where El Niño exerts its effects it brings with it a significant extra risk of civil conflict. Poor harvests—which Niños often cause—might make recruiting rebels cheaper, as there is a slacker labour market. They might heighten tensions between people in cities and those in the countryside. They might reduce the ability of governments to buy off trouble.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21526787>

**SEE ALSO: Climate is Major Violence Trigger**, *VOA News, August 26*

Researchers focused on the natural climate cycle known as El Niño Southern Oscillation. This periodic warming of Pacific Ocean waters occurs every three to five years - alternating with cooling periods known as La Niña.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Study-Climate-Cycles-Drive-Civil-Conflict-128462148.html>

**Monitoring African Agricultural Development Processes and Performance**, *IFPRI, August 2011*

The report provides an analysis of trends in GDP growth, agricultural development, and poverty and hunger indicators from the 1990s to the present. The report also offers an outlook for 2011 and beyond. In addition, the report highlights progress toward implementation of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme as well as progress toward CAADP targets, including the achievement of 6% average annual growth in the agricultural sector and 10% agricultural investment allocation.

[http://resakss.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/resakss\\_aw\\_ator\\_2010\\_web.pdf](http://resakss.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/resakss_aw_ator_2010_web.pdf)

**Hot Midwest Summer Erodes Corn, Soy Harvest**, *Bloomberg, August 26*

The hottest summer since 1955 in Iowa and Illinois is eroding yield prospects for corn and soybean crops in the U.S., the largest grower and exporter. Corn prices have jumped 24 percent since July 1 and soybeans touched a five-week high on Aug. 24 as crops in parts of the Midwest were damaged by more than 35 days of

temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-26/corn-soybean-yields-shrink-in-hottest-u-s-summer-since-1955.html>

**Putting Food Security on a Path towards Resilience**, *Opinion, Lloyd Le Page, AlertNet, August 23*

Real long-term development will require an end to conflict and significant, sustained political commitment. In spite of the known benefits of investments in agricultural development, donors continue to fall short of their promise to mobilize \$22 billion for agriculture and food security by the end of 2012. A recent analysis found that donors have come up with only 22 percent of their financial pledges to date.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/blogs/climate-conversations/putting-food-security-on-a-path-towards-resilience>

**Farmers Call to Embrace Technology in Second Green Revolution**, *Business Standard, August 17*

Plant biotechnology is a powerful tool that helps farmers provide food, feed, fiber, and fuel to a growing global population in a sustainable manner, while reducing agriculture's footprint on environment. Biotech crops have helped farmers increase their productivity while protecting biodiversity by increasing yield per acre.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/farmers-call-to-embrace-technology-in-second-green-revolution/446206/>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Hearing on the 2012 Farm Bill**, *U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, August 25*

**Testimony: Dr. Kirk Schulz**, *President, Kansas State University*

The U.S. is fortunate to have abundant natural resources within its borders, and those resources have been critical in contributing to the food security enjoyed by her citizens. The public land grant system has been critical in leveraging that investment into a safe and abundant supply of food. In contrast, ongoing events in the eastern Horn of Africa underscore the tragic consequences that can accompany regional food insecurity, regardless of the root cause. Public investment in agricultural biosciences is leveraged to maintain an abundant and safe food supply, sustainably use natural resources, and promote healthy communities.

[http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=300](http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=300)

**SEE ALSO: Testimony: Hon. Sam Brownback**, *Governor, State of Kansas*

Agriculture research supported by federal programs has led to amazing advancements in biotechnology, leading to increased production and more beneficial cropping systems. Targeted research on sorghum production can lead to increased usage of more water efficient crops and decreased water usage.

[http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=292](http://216.40.253.202/~usscanf/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=292)

**Conversations with Nancy Lindborg: Providing U.S. Aid to the Horn of Africa**, *Washington Post, August 25*

Nancy Lindborg is the head of the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Her office is overseeing the U.S. humanitarian response to the drought in the Horn of Africa. The United States has provided \$581.6 million in emergency aid this year, making it the biggest single donor to the relief effort. However, U.N. officials have warned of a funding shortfall.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/conversations-nancy-lindborg-providing-us-aid-to-the-horn-of-africa/2011/08/24/gIQAkBEleJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/conversations-nancy-lindborg-providing-us-aid-to-the-horn-of-africa/2011/08/24/gIQAkBEleJ_story.html)

**SEE ALSO: MAP: Situation in the Horn of Africa**, *USAID, August 18*

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/countries/horn\\_of\\_africa/template/maps/fy2011/hoa\\_program08182011.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/horn_of_africa/template/maps/fy2011/hoa_program08182011.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Map: Battling Hunger in the Horn of Africa**, *World Food Program, August 2011*

A humanitarian crisis has slowly unfolded in the Horn of Africa. Drought, conflict, and rising food prices have affected more than 13 million people in the region.

<http://horn.wfp.org/main.html>

**Secretary Vilsack Announces Projects to Provide Broadband to Rural Communities**, *USDA, August 22*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that 18 recipients will receive more than \$103 million in funding for 23 projects to provide broadband services to unserved and underserved rural communities. Residents and businesses that will benefit from this funding include those in an Oklahoma community damaged by a tornado earlier this year.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/08/0375.xml>

**SEE ALSO: \$103M to Expand Broadband Internet in Rural U.S.**, *Chicago Tribune*, August 22

About 28 percent of rural America, or nearly 19 million people, lack access to Internet with speeds of three megabits per second or faster, compared with only 3 percent, or 7.2 million people, in non-rural areas, according to an FCC report titled "Bringing Broadband to Rural America."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-103m-to-expand-broadband-internet-in-rural-us-20110822,0,2467844.story>

**SEE ALSO: Report shows More US Farmers Relying on Internet, Making Online Access Key to Ag Businesses**, *Washington Post*, August 26

The number of farmers with Internet access on a variety of digital gadgets has dramatically increased, changing the way farms do business. Farmers say they're increasingly using the Net to speed up their work flow, improve their farming techniques, market their crops, connect with customers and retailers, and fulfill a variety of regulatory requirements.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/report-shows-more-us-farmers-relying-on-internet-making-online-access-key-to-ag-businesses/2011/08/26/gIQAqaiNfj\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/report-shows-more-us-farmers-relying-on-internet-making-online-access-key-to-ag-businesses/2011/08/26/gIQAqaiNfj_story.html)

**USDA Announces Recipients of Conservation Innovation Grants in 40 States**, *USDA*, August 22

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the winning proposals for the 2011 Conservation Innovation Grants. Through CIG, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is investing nearly \$22.5 million in innovative conservation technologies and approaches that address a broad array of existing and emerging natural resource issues.

<http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/08/0373.xml>

**The Untapped Power of the Somali Diaspora**, *Opinion*, Donald Y. Yamamoto, *U.S. State Department Blog*, August 26

With famine spreading across the Horn of Africa, the Somali-American diaspora isn't just watching the images fan across the television, they're organizing themselves into action. More than 100,000 Somali-Americans reside in the United States and their deep communal ties to relatives in Somalia are the foundation of their giving. The Somali Diaspora is responsible for sending approximately \$1 billion worth of remittances back to relatives in Somalia; that's 85 percent of Somalia's GDP.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/somalia\\_diaspora](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/somalia_diaspora)

**10 Things You Should Know About the State Department and USAID**, *Opinion*, Thomas R. Nides, *Huffington Post*, August 25

We help countries feed themselves. In the United States, we know agriculture. Building upon what we do best - grow and produce food - we help other countries plant the right seeds in the right way and get crops to markets to feed the most people. Food shortages can lead to riots and starvation, but strong agricultural sectors can lead to stable economies, helping countries become strong U.S. trading partners.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/thomas-r-nides/10-things-you-should-know\\_b\\_937155.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/thomas-r-nides/10-things-you-should-know_b_937155.html)

**Liberian Women Lead a Revolution in Agriculture**, *Opinion*, Ertharin Cousin, *U.S. State Department Blog*, August 24

Liberia has just been approved as a priority country under President Obama's flagship global hunger and food security initiative - Feed the Future -- through which the United States promotes a twin-track approach to hunger: by providing emergency food assistance while simultaneously supporting efforts toward sustainable agricultural development. In Liberia, we are combining immediate relief with longer term solutions.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/liberia\\_agriculture\\_revolution](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/liberia_agriculture_revolution)

**Innovations to Save Moms and Babies**, *Opinion*, Dr. Rajiv Shah, *Huffington Post*, August 23

The first in a series of Grand Challenges for USAID, Saving Lives at Birth called for groundbreaking prevention and treatment approaches for pregnant mothers and newborns around the time of birth in rural settings. We

have to find ways to deliver these innovations to scale in order have countrywide impact for those in greatest need. If we can achieve this, mothers around the world will be able to deliver safely and newborns will have a healthy start at life.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rajiv-shah/innovations-to-save-moms- b\\_933135.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rajiv-shah/innovations-to-save-moms- b_933135.html)

**How the Obama Administration Plans to Expand Agricultural Opportunities in Michigan**, *Opinion*,  
*Thomas Vilsack, MLive.com, August 21*

America's farmers and ranchers are racking up record sales for farm goods abroad and looking forward to some of the best net incomes in decades. Last year, Michigan farm exports grew 10 percent over 2009 figures, delivering \$1.75 billion in sales and supporting almost 15,000 jobs. And the Obama administration is working to help build on this growth through President Obama's National Export Initiative, which challenged U.S. businesses to double all exports by the end of 2014.

[http://www.mlive.com/opinion/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/08/how\\_the\\_obama\\_administration\\_p.html](http://www.mlive.com/opinion/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/08/how_the_obama_administration_p.html)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **World Food Prize 25th Anniversary**

*Date:* October 12th – 14th, 2011

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The World Food Prize will celebrate its 25th Anniversary this fall during the annual Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium and the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. The topic of the symposium this year is "The Next Generation" and will focus on future leaders, challenges and technologies in the fight against hunger. This year, events will also include the Grand Opening of the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates, a permanent home for the World Food Prize and an event center and educational facility to honor humanitarian heroes and inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Stay tuned and learn more at [www.worldfoodprize.org](http://www.worldfoodprize.org).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Harvest Initiative GAP Report™ Announcement Luncheon**

*Date:* October 12, 2011

*Location:* Des Moines, IA

The Global Harvest Initiative will release its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Agricultural Productivity Report™ (GAP Report™) at the 2011 World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12, 2011. The GAP Report™ serves as a benchmark of agricultural productivity and measures the difference between the current rate of agricultural productivity growth and the pace required to sustainably meet the future agricultural needs of the nine billion people expected to inhabit the Earth by 2050. Learn more and RSVP at

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1963977309>

### **American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting**

*Date:* October 16th – 19th, 2011

*Location:* San Antonio, TX

The American Society of Agronomy, together with the Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America, will host their International Annual Meetings, which brings together 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students. The theme of the this year's meeting is "Fundamental for Life: Soil, Crop, & Environmental Sciences," and features the symposium, "Feed the Future -- Global Food Security," one of hundreds of symposia and sessions that will be presented throughout the week. For more information, visit [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org)

### **2011 Africa Prize for Leadership**

*Date:* October 22, 2011

*Location:* New York, NY

The Africa Prize honors a distinguished African man or woman who has exhibited exceptional leadership in bringing about the sustainable end of hunger at the national, regional or continent-wide level. The 2011 Annual Fall Event will include the awarding of The Hunger Project's Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The laureates for the 2011 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of

Hunger: President of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika and Liberian Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence Chenoweth.

[http://www.thp.org/what\\_we\\_do/key\\_initiatives/honoring\\_africa\\_leadership/2011](http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/honoring_africa_leadership/2011)

### **Future-Proof Farming**

*Date:* November 9, 2011

*Place:* Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy needs to meet growing challenges that range from food security and safety to ecological sustainability and climate change. Meanwhile, Europe's farmers face a variety of ecological challenges, yet agriculture can contribute much to the creation of an environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy. Representatives from the farming sector will go into discussion with EU policymakers and experts from academic circles and civil society to debate the challenges facing European agriculture, European farmers and the role a reformed CAP should play in solving the world's food challenges.

<http://www.friendsofeurope.org/Contentnavigation/Events/Eventsoverview/tabid/1187/EventType/EventView/EventId/1066/Futureprooffarming.aspx>

### **Agricultural R&D: Investing in Africa's Future**

*Date:* December 5-7, 2011

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

ASTI, together with the International Food Policy Report Institute, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, is convening a conference on agricultural R&D in Africa focused on the following themes: 1. Levels and Stability of Agricultural R&D Investments; 2. Human Resource Development of Agricultural R&D; 3. Aligning and Rationalizing Institutional Structures; and 4. Measuring and Improving the Effectiveness of R&D Systems.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/agricultural-rd-investing-africa-s-future>

### **World Biofuels Markets**

*Date:* March 13th – 15th, 2012

*Location:* Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will share their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

<http://www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com/>

### **Jobs, Food & Farming**

*Date:* March 19-21, 2012

*Location:* Accra, Ghana

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: 1) Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agri-food sector in Africa; 2) The dynamics of change in different components of the agri-food sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; 3) The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agri-food sector. The conference will be co-hosted by the Future Agricultures Consortium based at the Institute of Development Studies and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research.

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php>

### **Job Announcement: Communications Director, Edesia Global Nutrition Solutions, August 2011**

The Communications Director is responsible for further developing and implementing the communications strategy to advance the mission of Edesia and the PlumpyField Network. S/he is tasked with guiding public awareness and advocacy for Edesia's research, programmatic initiatives and partnerships, as well as advocating for the advancement of US policy related to nutrition.

<http://www.edesiaglobal.org/images/pdf/communicationsdirector.pdf>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

Media Articles:

**Record-Setting Agricultural Disaster in Texas Gets 'Worse by the Day', *New York Times*, August 24**

The Texas Department of Agriculture says the record-setting drought that began in October has resulted in a staggering \$5.2 billion in losses for rural farm communities, the greatest seasonal loss on record. Cattle ranchers have lost \$2 billion, while the hit to the cotton industry is put at about \$1.8 billion. That's just a preliminary estimate of the overall damage and doesn't include smaller crops like lettuce.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/08/24/24climatewire-record-setting-agricultural-disaster-in-texas-51381.html>

**Local Wheat Sees Revival in New England and Other Former Grain-Growing States, *Washington Post*, August 24**

Vermont and Maine ceded that distinction to the Midwest in the 1800s, when the Erie Canal and intercontinental railroad made it easier to move grain long distances. But small farmers on the nation's coasts have begun planting wheat again as more people clamor for locally grown food. Along with New England, fields have been sprouting in California, Oregon and Washington in the last five years.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/local-wheat-sees-revival-in-new-england-and-other-former-grain-growing-states/2011/08/24/gIQAvcuZa\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/local-wheat-sees-revival-in-new-england-and-other-former-grain-growing-states/2011/08/24/gIQAvcuZa_story.html)

**Investing In East Africa's Long Term Food Security, *Editorial, VOA News*, August 23**

The US is providing longer-term support to partner governments through President Barack Obama's food security initiative, Feed the Future. In Ethiopia, a top priority is strengthening the value chain to help farmers sell their products at local and regional markets. In Kenya, USAID is supporting efforts to connect herders to local markets, improve animal health services, and help local institutions lobby for better trade policies.

<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Investing-In-East-Africas-Long-Term-Food-Security-128287758.html>

**Apple Scab Fungus More Resistant to Pesticides, *Seattle PI*, August 22**

Apple growers in the eastern U.S. have a despised enemy known as apple scab — a disease caused by a fungus that forms ugly brown or greenish-black pockmarks on the fruit's skin. Growers have kept the disease under control for decades by spraying trees with pesticides. Now, researchers say the chemicals may be losing their effectiveness as apple scab becomes ever more resistant, worsening the threat of outbreaks in commercial orchards.

<http://www.seattlapi.com/news/article/Apple-scab-fungus-more-resistant-to-pesticides-2135256.php>

**Interview with Liberia's Agriculture Minister: From Total Dependence to Food Security, *AllAfrica*, August 22**

We have worked fast and hard to the point where within less than five years, we now have some animal life in the agricultural sector. We have re-established some of the inland fisheries. We're trying to build an agricultural sector of the 21st century. Before the war, we were two-thirds of the way in producing our major staple. After the war, we went back to 100 percent importation. But right now, we're up at least to one-third of what we consume - we've decreased importation by one third. We've not come this far all by ourselves.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201108220873.html>

**On Food Safety, a Long List but Little Money, *William Neuman, New York Times*, August 22**

The landmark food safety law passed by Congress last December is supposed to reduce the frequency and severity of food safety problems, but the roll call of recent cases underlines the magnitude of the task. The agency is now in the process of writing the food safety rules called for by the law, with the goal of preventing outbreaks like those this summer. One of the most complex jobs involves setting standards for farmers to grow and harvest fruits and vegetables safely.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/23/business/with-a-long-list-and-short-on-money-fda-tackles-food-safety.html>

## Media Articles:

### **AU Famine Meet Raises \$351m**, *Reuters, August 26*

Out of the \$351 million announced by Jean Ping, chairman of the AU commission, \$300 million came from the African Development Bank, to be spent over a four-year period, not to be used to bridge a \$1.4 billion shortfall aid groups say they need for the emergency. Of the remaining \$51 million announced, many of the donations appear to have been announced before and donations came from less than half of the AU's 54 members.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE77P01L20110826>

### **SEE ALSO: Few African Leaders Show Up for Famine Summit**, *Los Angeles Times, August 25*

Of the African Union's 54 member nations, only the heads of Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea and Djibouti participated in the conference in Addis Ababa, along with the head of the transitional government in Somali. Critics accused African leaders of failing to make good on their rhetoric about finding African solutions for African problems.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-ethiopia-aid-20110826.0,2384677.story>

### **Foreign Aid a Good Investment in U.S. Security**, *Opinion, Jim Harrison and James Smith, The State, August 25*

The entire international affairs budget - which covers both diplomacy and foreign aid - is only about 1 percent of the federal budget. Only about half of that is spent on poverty-focused foreign aid. Last year, Americans spent as much on candy and even more on caring for their pets as the U.S. government spent on this critical national-security tool. The impact of this small investment is immense and can have a lasting impact on people's livelihoods.

<http://www.thestate.com/2011/08/25/1945535/harrison-smith-foreign-aid-a-good.html>

### **Budget Cuts Threaten Lives Abroad and the Economy at Home**, *Opinion, Christopher Elias, MFAN Blog, August 25*

In addition to benefiting our economy, international aid programs have been proven to strengthen our national security. The military's top brass have lauded development as a cornerstone of America's overall foreign policy. As Defense Secretary Robert Gates succinctly put it, "Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers." Our development efforts are not only cost-effective; they promote a positive image abroad.

<http://www.modernizeaid.net/2011/08/25/budget-cuts-threaten-lives-abroad-and-the-economy-at-home/>

### **Schools can play a Big Role in Tackling Somalia's Crisis**, *Guardian, August 25*

While education is often one of the first things to go in an emergency, UNICEF is stressing the role schools can play in reaching children with other essential services. In the short-term, classrooms can offer critical physical protection and psycho-social support for vulnerable children. UNICEF is currently lobbying donors to fund emergency education activities and use schools as centers for the distribution of life-saving aid.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/aug/25/schools-big-role-somalia-crisis>

### **SEE ALSO: Education Helps the Garden Grow When Rains Don't Fall**, *Huffington Post, August 20*

The drought now gripping East Africa, the famine in Somalia, the dead livestock and scorched crops in northern Kenya, aren't all a result of meager rainfall. They are also symptomatic of a failure to develop agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/craig-and-marc-kielburger/education-helps-the-garde\\_b\\_932147.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/craig-and-marc-kielburger/education-helps-the-garde_b_932147.html)

### **Cambodia Shrugs Off Aid Curb**, *Asia Times, August 23*

The World Bank has lent Cambodia between US\$50 million and \$70 million annually for the past few years with the last disbursement made in December 2010. Despite these capital commitments, Cambodian leaders have so far shrugged off the World Bank's statement about withholding future loans. Analysts say they can afford to, given the billions of dollars of aid and investment the government now receives from China without strings attached.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast Asia/MH23Ae02.html>

### **SEE ALSO: Donor Governments asked to Review Cambodia Aid if NGO Law is Passed**, *Guardian, August 26*

Human rights organizations are calling on donor governments to reassess their aid programs to Cambodia if the country passes a law that can be used to muzzle local and foreign NGOs. The key

concern for human rights groups is a provision under the law which states that associations and organizations cannot operate in Cambodia unless complex registration applications have been formally approved by the government.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/aug/26/donors-asked-to-review-cambodia-aid>

**When Donors Delay in the Face of Crisis, There is a Heavy Price to be Paid**, *Guardian, August 22*

It's simply unacceptable that donors respond at the 11th hour when children are starving to death. We need to plan for cyclical droughts, roughly every two to three years, as east Africa has had six food crises in the past 30 years. Simple measures, like keeping herders' precious livestock alive, could have prevented this disaster. Instead, it will take at least three years to rebuild their livelihoods. The entire aid system needs an overhaul.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/22/donor-famine-crisis-delay-costly>

**African Drought Victims Create World's Largest Refugee Camp**, *Lisa Friedman, New York Times, August 22*

Valerie Amos, the United Nations' undersecretary-general for humanitarian and emergency relief, said that from Mogadishu to the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya -- now the world's largest -- it is clear that relief efforts are working, but more is needed. The Horn of Africa is suffering from its worst drought in 60 years, putting about 12 million people at risk of starvation across the region. So far, though, famine has only been declared in Somalia, a failed state without a functioning government.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/08/22/22climatewire-african-drought-victims-create-worlds-largest-97673.html>

**Does the much-maligned World Bank deserve a Thumbs Up from Dfid?**, *Jonathan Glennie, Guardian, August 22*

As a new generation of World Bank staffers seeks new opportunities to create a progressive global institution, this strategy paper delivers a vote of confidence from Dfid, one of the world's leading national aid agencies. But without genuine changes in attitudes, ideology and decision-making power, no amount of pleasant technocratic language will enable the World Bank to fulfill its idealistic mandate.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/22/does-world-bank-deserve-dfid-approval>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication**, *UNEP, August 26*

The report demonstrates that the greening of economies is not generally a drag on growth but rather a new engine of growth; that it is a net generator of decent jobs, and that it is also a vital strategy for the elimination of persistent poverty. The report also seeks to motivate policy makers to create the enabling conditions for increased investments in a transition to a green economy.

<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/GreenEconomyReport/tabid/29846/Default.aspx>

**SEE ALSO: Report Urges World to Secure Drinking Water Access**, *ABC News, August 26*

Investing as little as 0.16 percent of the world's gross domestic product — or \$198 billion per year — could give half a billion people regular access to safe drinking water within four years. That would halve the number of people who risk serious illness and death on a daily basis.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=14385187>

**SEE ALSO: Online Platform to Monitor Government Policy Commitments and Budget for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene**, *August 15*

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

### Media Articles:

**Harnessing the Sun's Power to make Water Flow**, *Janeen Madan, Christian Science Monitor, August 24*

The pilot project launched in partnership with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (CRASAT), has installed solar panels in Bessassi and Dunkassa villages. This cost-effective and environmentally sustainable project is improving food security and raising incomes by providing access to irrigation for small-scale farmers, especially during the six-month dry season.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/Change-Agent/2011/0824/Harnessing-the-sun-s-power-to-make-water-flow>

**Plan to Sacrifice Forest for Sugar Puts Economy before Ecosphere in Uganda**, *Guardian, August 22*

President Yoweri Museveni has deemed the timing perfect to resurrect his plan to convert a quarter of a major natural forest into a sugarcane plantation. Underlying Museveni's plan is an obvious conflict of economic and environmental imperatives. Environmental authorities say that Uganda, with the world's third-fastest growing population, loses 2% of its forest cover annually; 10% of this vanishes from protected areas.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/22/trading-forest-sugar-museveni-uganda>

**A Hotter Planet Doesn't Have to Be Hungrier**, *Opinion, Michael J. Roberts, Bloomberg, August 21*

Combined with rapid global population and with biofuel subsidies and mandates that have diverted about 40 percent of the U.S. corn crop to ethanol production, climate change has brought us to the precipice of what might turn out to be a catastrophe for the world's poorest. If food commodity prices double or triple from today's already elevated levels, hundreds of millions who spend most of their income on these basic grains could suffer severe malnutrition, illness and starvation.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-22/hotter-planet-doesn-t-have-to-be-hungry-commentary-by-michael-j-roberts.html>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

**The 20 Youngest Power Women in Africa**, *Forbes, August 2011*

They are change makers, trendsetters, visionaries and thinkers, builders, and young global leaders. They are at the vanguard of Africa's imminent socio-economic revolution and its contemporary renaissance.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongsehe/2011/08/18/the-20-youngest-power-women-in-africa/>

**The Doctor Undaunted by Somalia's Insurgents**, *Laila Ali, Guardian, August 23*

Dr. Hawa Abdi has been running a camp hospital in one of the most dangerous parts of southern Somalia for almost three decades. Her hospital is located in the lower Shabelle region – one of the five areas identified as famine zones by the UN. In addition to providing basic health services, Abdi has developed agricultural and fishing projects to encourage Somalis to be less dependent on NGOs.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/23/somali-doctor-puts-aid-agencies-shade>

**Women Leaving Haiti to Give Birth**, *Lauren Gilger, Washington Post, August 23*

Haitian women make up roughly half of the patients giving birth in Dominican hospitals. They come because they don't have access to health care in Haiti, especially since last year's earthquake. They come because they can get free health care in the Dominican Republic each year, and so that they can have their babies in hospitals instead of on the floors of their homes. In Haiti, 27 of every 1,000 newborns in 2009 died.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/americas/women-leaving-haiti-to-give-birth/2011/08/12/gIQAN9YyXJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/americas/women-leaving-haiti-to-give-birth/2011/08/12/gIQAN9YyXJ_story.html)

**HIV Discrimination for Africa's Pregnant Women**, *PRI, August 22*

Across the continent, there have been organized efforts to prevent HIV-positive women from having children. In Western Kenya, an American organization is paying poor women with HIV to go on long-term birth control. But AIDS activists say that instead of pressuring HIV-positive women not to have kids, more should be done

to ensure that everyone has access to treatment.

<http://www.theworld.org/2011/08/hiv-discrimination-for-africas-pregnant-women/>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Poverty in Asia and the Pacific: An Update**, *Asian Development Bank, August 2011*

This paper updates poverty estimates for Asia and the Pacific from 2005 to 2008. It is found that those living below the \$1.25 poverty line decreased from 903.4 million to 753.5 million and those below the \$2 poverty line from 1.8 billion to 1.63 billion. However, Asia and the Pacific region remains home to the majority of the global poor. And performance of poverty reduction varied considerably across sub-regions and countries, with poor economies generally lagging behind.

<http://beta.adb.org/publications/poverty-asia-and-pacific-update>

### Media Articles:

#### **Wall Street Goes Down on the Farm for Real Dirt**, *Tom Polansek and Mark Peters, Wall Street Journal, August 26*

Even though the U.S. continues to produce crops that are massive by historical standards, farmers can't keep up with world demand. U.S. forecasters predict that the nation's crop will fall short of demand by 246 million bushels in the next year. That will shrink inventories used to help prevent supply shortages. Also worrisome this year is the vast difference in the quality of corn growing in key corn-producing states.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904009304576530832399135412.html>

#### **The Future of Food – the Global South Shows the Way**, *James O'Nions, Guardian, August 26*

Food sovereignty is a radical proposal for the production and distribution of food that is sustainable, healthy, fair to producers and, above all, democratic. This combination of, on the one hand, practical projects on the ground, and, on the other, confronting the powerful from the conference halls to the fields, has created a strong global movement. The shared ownership of the food sovereignty project has produced a sense of solidarity between hundreds of thousands of farmers who have never met.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/26/future-food-global-south-shows-way>

#### **Venezuela: Rotting Away?**, *Benedict Mander, Financial Times, August 25*

The fact is that food shortages are alive and well in Venezuela and food prices are going through the roof, rising by 4.8 per cent last month alone. According to central bank figures, food prices in Venezuela have risen 18 times since Chavez took power. It is a great irony that food scarcity should exist in a fertile land like Venezuela. There are a number of reasons.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2011/08/25/venezuela-rotting-away/>

#### **Fake Pesticides Are A Growing Danger**, *Caroline Henshaw, Wall Street Journal, August 25*

The illegal trade in counterfeit pesticides has grown into a multimillion-euro industry in Europe, putting consumers' lives and farmers' livelihoods at risk as unregulated and often toxic chemicals enter the food chain. For farmers, the effects of using such chemicals can be devastating. What makes combating the trade even harder is that there are no reliable statistics on the scale of the problem.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904787404576528324089426558.html>

#### **China Considers Opening of Seed Market**, *China Daily, August 25*

China might further open up its seed market to foreign companies. The possible opening means that foreign seed companies may be allowed to hold controlling interests in joint ventures, compared with the current 49 percent ceiling. Under current regulations, foreign participants in the business for field-crop seeds, such as soybeans and rice, must establish joint ventures with domestic companies.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2011-08/25/content\\_13186235.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2011-08/25/content_13186235.htm)

**India Food Inflation Rises**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 25

Food prices in India rose in the week ended Aug. 13 as vegetables and protein-rich foods became more expensive, raising expectations that the central bank won't soften its aggressive tightening stance which is aimed at controlling inflation. The central bank has said that demand for protein-rich foods such as meat, fish, eggs and milk has been on the rise due to growing prosperity in the country.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904875404576529891514353306.html>

**Japan Lifts Ban on Beef From Disaster Area**, *New York Times*, August 25

Despite continuing fears over the safety of food from the area of the disaster-stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, Japan has lifted a ban on beef shipments from there that it had imposed just a month ago, when meat contaminated with radioactive material was found to have reached Japanese supermarkets. All meat from farms known to have had contaminated hay will undergo laboratory tests before it can be shipped.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/26/world/asia/26beef.html>

**China Gets (Needlessly) Defensive Over Famine in Africa**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 25

When it comes to famine in Africa, China seems an easy target for critics of its rising outbound investments. It's not much of a secret that the Chinese have been swiftly stepping up their investment profile on the continent, including enough forays into Africa's agricultural sector that a senior Chinese envoy in June took pains to reassure that the government has not been encouraging Chinese farmers to move to the continent.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2011/08/25/china-gets-needlessly-defensive-over-famine-in-africa/>

**Thai Scheme to Turn Up Heat on Rice Prices**, *Tim Johnston*, *Financial Times*, August 24

Global rice markets, already contending with rising prices, are bracing for an intervention by the government of Thailand, the world's biggest exporter, that could lift prices to worrying levels. Rice is a staple food for more than 3bn people and provides more than 20 per cent of the calorific intake of the human race, predominantly in the developing world, and there is a strong historical relationship between rice prices and political stability. The 2008 peak contributed to food riots from Senegal to Haiti and Cameroon.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/ad98676a-ce69-11e0-b755-00144feabdc0.html>

**For Corn Famers, There's Gold in Them There Fields**, *NPR*, August 24

Demand for corn seems to be insatiable — the ethanol industry, livestock and export markets can't seem to get enough. Economists say demand will likely continue to outstrip supply for some time, keeping grain prices and the cost of food high. This flurry of high corn prices has traders flocking to the commodity, in some ways treating it like the new gold. Traders are speculating on corn prices well into 2013, and there are some bets on corn futures even further out.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/24/139910281/corn-the-gold-standard-of-agriculture-commodities>

**SEE ALSO: Ceres Partners Reaps Profits from Farmland**, *Washington Post*, August 20

Returns from farmland have trounced those of equities. Investors are pouring into farmland in the US and parts of Europe, Latin America and Africa as global food prices soar. Hedge funds Ospraie Management and Passport Capital as well as Harvard University's endowment are also betting on farming.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/ceres-partners-reaps-profits-from-farmland/2011/08/16/gIQALuM5Sj\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/ceres-partners-reaps-profits-from-farmland/2011/08/16/gIQALuM5Sj_story.html)

**Col. Sanders Comes to Kenya: KFC is First US Fast Food Chain in East Africa's Untapped Market**,

*Washington Post*, August 23

The shiny red-and-white KFC in the new wing of an established Nairobi mall is the first American fast food outlet in East Africa's most developed economy, and there are indications its entrance could herald a rush of U.S. chains into this untouched but potentially lucrative landscape. The major reason that neither golden arches or Whoppers are found in Nairobi is concern over the supply chain.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/col-sanders-comes-to-kenya-kfc-is-first-us-fast-food-chain-in-east-africas-untapped-market/2011/08/23/gIQAF7eyYI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/col-sanders-comes-to-kenya-kfc-is-first-us-fast-food-chain-in-east-africas-untapped-market/2011/08/23/gIQAF7eyYI_story.html)

**A Regional Approach to Managing Africa's Food Shocks**, *The Brookings Institution, August 23*

Regional efforts to implement medium and long-term strategies should be immediately accelerated and supported by international donors while has international attention and urgency. The efforts of individual nations must be reinforced by a regional "food governance" strategy.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0823\\_africa\\_food\\_shocks\\_kimenyi.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0823_africa_food_shocks_kimenyi.aspx)

**US Corn Crop Pressure Increases Grain Prices**, *Gregory Meyer, Financial Times, August 23*

Signs of stress in the US corn crop sent grain prices higher, suggesting food inflation could persist well into 2012. The US Department of Agriculture cut its estimate of the standing corn crop in good or excellent shape to 57 per cent, down from 60 per cent a week ago and 70 per cent a year ago. This could mean a smaller crop and hobble efforts to rebuild low stocks.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/5814665a-cd9b-11e0-bb4f-00144feabdc0.html>

**Big Harvest May Cool Down Coffee**, *Jean Guerrero, Wall Street Journal, August 22*

Colombia and other high-quality coffee producers are expecting their largest harvest of beans in three years, a shift that could bring prices off their recent highs. Coffee officials attribute the increase to improved productivity due to coordinated programs and a steep drop in the smuggling of beans to neighboring Guatemala.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903639404576518733036089302.html>

**Fitch: Sub-Saharan Africa Economy Improving**, *VOA News, August 16*

One company that rates investments around the world, Fitch, says Sub-Saharan Africa will continue with "robust" economic growth if it can overcome problems with infrastructure and governance. The report says better management of the economy, economic liberalization, improved political stability and democratization have helped speed growth in the long term.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Fitch-Sub-Saharan-Africa-Economy-Improving-127881223.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

**Food Giants Clash over Access to China**, *Javier Blas, Financial Times, August 24*

The legal battle between Syngenta and Bunge reveals that the trading house believes that imports from China would grow much more than the level suggested by the USDA. It also confirms an open secret in the industry: all the ABCD companies are battling to establish themselves as Beijing's favorite party to carry the corn deals.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/753130a6-ce27-11e0-99ec-00144feabdc0.html>

**Indian Agribusiness Sets Sights on Land in East Africa**, *John Vidal, Guardian, August 24*

Indian agribusiness companies are ready to spend \$2.5bn buying, or renting for decades, several million hectares of cheap land in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda in what could be some of the largest farming deals struck in Africa in the last 50 years. But in a separate development, plans for a US-based investment company to lease up to 1m hectares of South Sudan for only \$25,000 a year appears to have stalled following protests by local communities over the potential "land grab".

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/zimbabwes-finance-minister-says-rising-food-prices-have-driven-up-inflation/2011/08/23/gIQAncBDZl\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/zimbabwes-finance-minister-says-rising-food-prices-have-driven-up-inflation/2011/08/23/gIQAncBDZl_story.html)

**Argentina to Approve Planting Bayer's Modified Soy**, *Reuters, August 20*

Argentina next week will approve the use of genetically-modified soy seeds made by German company Bayer as part of its push to increase farm production. The South American country -- a top provider of soybeans, meal and oil -- has for years embraced genetically modified technology in its drive to help meet world food demand and cash in on high grains prices.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/20/grains-argentina-seeds-idUSN1E77I02820110820>

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