

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



August 27<sup>th</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** –*“We know that resources are necessary to advance our national security interests and prosperity around the world, and we are at risk of not getting them. This is no time to retreat from the world, because as everyone knows, it is a critical moment in our foreign policy. We have a chance to capitalize on opportunities in the Middle East and to be part of an historic pivot point in the Arab world. We have the chance to invest in programs to curb and even prevent humanitarian crises. We need the resources to sustain our diplomatic presence and effectiveness in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The reality is that if we don’t seize these opportunities, someone else will.”* – Remarks by Thomas Nides, Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. August 31

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

**Agriculture Is Resilient Through Disaster**, *Opinion, Thomas Vilsack, USDA Blog, September 2*

American agriculture is as resilient as ever. In fact, according to USDA’s new estimates, farm income is at an all-time high, and even adjusting for inflation this will be the best year since the mid-1970s. Net farm income is up more than 30% over last year. And it will mean higher incomes for farm families. We are also in the middle of a record year for agricultural exports, which we should match again next year. This will help

support more than 1 million American jobs and mean an agricultural trade surplus of about \$42.5 billion.  
<http://blogs.usda.gov/2011/09/02/secretarys-column-agriculture-is-resilient-through-disaster/>

**A Unified Security Budget for the United States**, *Thomas Nides, Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, U.S. State Department, August 31*

In the Fiscal 2011 budget, which has now been finished, State and USAID took a massive hit, a 13.6 percent cut from what the Administration believed we needed in 2011. And although it's unclear what's going to happen in 2012, we could face more catastrophic cuts. Secretary Clinton has made the case that State and USAID are essential to our national security, and ought to be considered part of a national security budget.  
<http://www.state.gov/s/dmr/remarks/2011/171327.htm>

**SEE ALSO: The Politics of American Militarism**, *Joshua Foust, The Atlantic, August 31*

According to a CNN/Opinion Research poll conducted in March of this year, Americans think foreign affairs make up forty percent of the budget, with thirty percent of the budget devoted to the military and the remaining ten percent devoted to foreign aid.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2011/08/the-politics-of-american-militarism/244376/>

**SEE ALSO: Smarter National-Security Spending**, *Opinion, Mark Thompson, TIME, September 1*

The nation's niggardly funding of the State Department was a drum former defense secretary Robert Gates never tired of banging. And it's not only guys like him: when you speak to officers serving in Afghanistan, they bemoan the lack of civilian help the U.S. (and its allies) provide: most will take an agricultural expert over an artilleryman any day of the week.

<http://battleland.blogs.time.com/2011/09/01/smarter-national-security-spending-what-a-concept/>

**SEE ALSO: We Don't Want to Fight DOD for Money, but We might Have To**, *Foreign Policy, September 1*

Nides, who has only been at State since the beginning of this year, recounted the rise in State Department and USAID funding that began in 2007, but which is now set to be reversed in what promises to be the most frugal spending season in a generation.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/09/01/nides\\_we\\_don\\_t\\_want\\_to\\_fight\\_dod\\_for\\_money\\_but\\_we\\_might\\_have\\_to](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/09/01/nides_we_don_t_want_to_fight_dod_for_money_but_we_might_have_to)

**Clinton adds Voice to Agriculture Debate**, *Opinion, Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse, August 31*

The views of Clinton and Shah on agriculture are not just important to the international community. They provide a vital perspective as we move into a difficult farm bill and appropriations process with more competition for every federal dollar. Their statements justify our nation's expenditures on agriculture research and make it clear that our commitment to agriculture is not just a nostalgic reflection of the past. Agriculture remains a key to our current U.S. economy, balance of payments and position of leadership around the globe.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Clinton\\_adds\\_voice\\_matz\\_09012011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Clinton_adds_voice_matz_09012011.asp)

**World Bank to Contribute Millions to Help Kenya Withstand Drought**, *VOA News, August 30*

The drought and famine currently rippling through east Africa has shown no signs of slowing. The World Bank has announced it will contribute \$39 million to help fill gaps it found in the various drought and famine response efforts. The World Bank is also looking at ways to improve the long-term livelihoods of people living in drought-prone areas, specifically in Kenya.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/World-Bank-to-Contribute-Millions-to-Help-Kenya-Withstand-Drought-128677203.html>

**SEE ALSO: US Official Decries Slow Progress Reducing Somalia's Child Mortality Rates**, *Peter Heinlein, VOA News, September 1*

The top U.S. official for refugee issues says that relief agencies have made little progress in reducing child mortality rates at refugee camps along Somalia's border with Ethiopia.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/US-Official-Decries-Slow-Progress-Reducing-Somalias-Child-Mortality-Rates-128899933.html>

**SEE ALSO: More Somali Famine Victims Fleeing to Yemen**, *Reuters, August 27*

There has been a jump in the number of Somalis, hit by famine, instability and high food prices who

are fleeing to Yemen instead of other countries in the drought-ridden Horn of Africa region.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2011/08/27/world/africa/news-us-somalia-famine.html>

**The Big Questions China still has to Answer**, *Opinion, Robert Zoellick, Financial Times, September 1*  
Without fundamental structural changes, China is in danger of becoming caught in a “middle income trap” – exacerbating the world’s growth problems. In the short term, there is the risk of inflation driven by food prices. In the longer term, the drivers of China’s meteoric rise are waning. Then there are other challenges, including serious environmental degradation; rising inequality; heavy use of energy and production of carbon; an underdeveloped service sector and an over-reliance on foreign markets.  
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/df766246-d332-11e0-9ba8-00144feab49a.html>

**Washington Journal's Interview with Chairman Dan Glickman**, *CSPAN, September 1*  
USGLC Chairman Dan Glickman took the chair on CSPAN's Washington Journal morning program to discuss U.S. global leadership in an age of budget cuts. He took calls and emails from the public and made a strong case for U.S. global engagement, even – or especially – in tough economic times.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmK5qoKlAiU&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmK5qoKlAiU&feature=player_embedded)

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**US Government Increases Assistance to Horn of Africa**, *USAID, September 1*  
Dr. Rajiv Shah, the Administrator of the USAID, announced an increase in United States humanitarian assistance to East Africa. In total, the United States is now providing more than \$600 million in aid that is helping more than 4.6 million people suffering from drought and famine in the Horn of Africa. "I am happy to announce over \$23 million in additional U.S. funding, including nearly \$10 million expressly for Somalia."  
<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2011/pr110901.html>

**SEE ALSO: Somali famine draws Pelosi to University of Minnesota**, *August 31*  
A forum on the famine in the Horn of Africa drew House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi to the Twin Cities. Dr. Raj Shah, who heads the USAID, also came to Minnesota to take part in the forum. He said an estimated 12.4 million people in that region are suffering from malnutrition.  
<http://www.kare11.com/news/article/936458/396/Somali-famine-forum-draws-Pelosi-to-U-of-Minn>

**Big Changes atop State's Political-Military Bureau**, *Foreign Policy, August 31*  
The Political-Military bureau at the State Department has a host of new leaders this week. Andrew Shapiro is the assistant secretary for PM and reports up to Undersecretary of State for Arms Control Ellen Tausher. Shapiro and Tausher aren't going anywhere, but below them there are a lot of new faces. Thomas Kelly replaces Kurt Amend as principal deputy assistant secretary for PM.  
[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/31/big\\_changes\\_atop\\_state\\_s\\_political\\_military\\_bureau](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/31/big_changes_atop_state_s_political_military_bureau)

**African Solutions for African Problems**, *Opinion, Michael Battle and Ertharin Cousin, DipNote, U.S. State Department Blog, August 31*  
The African Union has been using the phrase, "African Solutions for African Problems," to mean that Africa as a continent must endeavor to be full partners in addressing African problems. By taking leadership, in concert with the United Nations and African Union Partner Group Nations, the African Union has demonstrated commendable leadership and has put into action the proverbial statement of "putting your money where your mouth is."  
[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/african\\_solutions](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/african_solutions)

**Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade**, *USDA, August 31*  
Fiscal 2012 agricultural exports are projected at \$137 billion, the same as the 2011 forecast. The forecast for 2012 imports is \$105 billion—11 percent higher than 2011. The revised U.S. import bill for 2011 is \$94.5 billion, a 20-percent jump from 2010. Given that the forecast for exports is unchanged while imports are rising, the trade balance for 2012 is a surplus of \$32 billion, which would be the third highest ever. The 2011

surplus, at \$42.5 billion, remains a record.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/AES/AES-08-31-2011.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Ag Exports seen Strong Through Next Year**, *Philip Brasher, Des Moines Register, September 1*

The strong exports are helping support U.S. farm income, which is expected to top \$103 billion this year, a 31 percent increase from last year. The farm sector is one of the few bright spots in the U.S. economy, a point that Vilsack has been seeking to highlight.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/09/01/ag-exports-seen-strong-through-next-year/>

### **2011 Farm Sector Income Forecast**, *USDA, August 30*

Net farm income is forecast at \$103.6 billion for 2011, up \$24.5 billion for a rise of 31 percent from 2010. Net farm income reflects income from production in the current year, whether or not sold within the calendar year, and is a measure of the increase in wealth from production.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FarmIncome/nationalestimates.htm>

**SEE ALSO: ERS Forecasts Net Farm Income up 30 percent for 2011**, *Agri-Pulse, August 30*

The report states that all three measures of farm sector earnings, which include net farm income, net cash income and net value added, are forecast to rise more than 20 percent in 2011. Net farm income and net cash income are both projected to exceed \$100 billion for the first time in 2011. Also, total expenses are forecast to increase by \$32.5 billion, exceeding \$300 billion for the first time.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/ERS\\_Farm\\_Income\\_Report\\_8302011.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/ERS_Farm_Income_Report_8302011.asp)

### **Ros-Lehtinen Introduces United Nations Reform Bill Legislation Seeks Changes to UN Funding Mechanism, opposes Anti-Israel Policies**, *Committee on Foreign Affairs, August 30*

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced the UN Transparency, Accountability, and Reform Act (H.R. 2829), which places conditions on U.S. funding to the UN in order to achieve long awaited reform at that body. Ros-Lehtinen's bill seeks to fundamentally change the way in which the UN is funded.

[http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press\\_display.asp?id=1958](http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=1958)

**SEE ALSO: Ros-Lehtinen introduces U.N.-Bashing Bill**, *Josh Rogin, Foreign Policy, August 30*

The bill would shift U.S. contributions to the UN to a "voluntary basis," rather than have them follow assessed fees system that is in place now. If the UN doesn't get 80 percent of its money from voluntary contributions, the bill would then require the US to cut its contribution by 50 percent.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/30/ros\\_lehtinen\\_introduces\\_un\\_bashing\\_bill\\_ahad\\_of\\_palestinian\\_statehood\\_vote](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/08/30/ros_lehtinen_introduces_un_bashing_bill_ahad_of_palestinian_statehood_vote)

**SEE ALSO: FULL TEXT: United Nations Transparency, Accountability and Reform Act of 2011**

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp\\_uploaded\\_documents/110830\\_ROSLEH\\_085\\_xml.pdf](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/files/fp_uploaded_documents/110830_ROSLEH_085_xml.pdf)

### **Peterson: Too Soon to Know Impact of Crop Insurance Program Cuts**, *Jerry Hagstrom AgWeek, August 29*

U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson said that there should be no changes to the crop insurance program in the 2012 farm bill. Peterson noted that in the 2008 farm bill, Congress cut back on the cost of the crop insurance program and authorized the Agriculture Department's Risk Management Agency to renegotiate the agreement with the companies that govern the program, which had resulted in further savings. Peterson defended those cuts, but said he thinks it is too early to evaluate the impact of those changes.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/18987/group/Agribusiness/>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **The Food Dialogue**

*Date:* September 22

*Locations:* Washington, D.C.; New York City, N.Y.; Fair Oaks, I.N; Davis, C.A.

The U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance will hold The Food Dialogues – the launch of a new effort to bring together different viewpoints on farming and ranching and the future of food to solve our most challenging problems. USFRA is inviting people with different backgrounds, farmers of all shapes and sizes as well as our agribusiness partners to be part of the discussion. The Food Dialogues will feature a series of panels in key

locations around the U.S. on the food issues Americans say they have the most questions about. There will also be opportunities for people to participate virtually.

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

### **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>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **Reconciling Food Production and Biodiversity Conservation: Land Sharing and Land Sparing Compared**, *Science*, September 2

The question of how to meet rising food demand at the least cost to biodiversity requires the evaluation of two contrasting alternatives: land sharing, which integrates both objectives on the same land; and land sparing, in which high-yield farming is combined with protecting natural habitats from conversion to agriculture. To test these alternatives, we compared crop yields and densities of bird and tree species across gradients of agricultural intensity in southwest Ghana and northern India.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/333/6047/1289>

#### **The Seed and Agricultural Biotechnology Industries in India**, *IFPRI*, August 2011

The structure of India's seed and agbiotech industries, as well as the policies designed to support their growth, will be a significant determinant of this expected impact. This paper examines the structure of India's cereal seed and agbiotech industries, its potential effects on innovation and social welfare, and the policies that may improve both industry performance and the delivery of new technologies to resource-poor, small-scale farmers in India's cereal production systems.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/seed-and-agricultural-biotechnology-industries-india>

### Media Articles:

**Mauritania Makes a Fresh Attempt to Boost Agriculture**, *Med Abderrahmane, Guardian, September 2*  
Mauritanian government is turning to several new approaches to agriculture, including expanded irrigation schemes, popularizing new crops, and harnessing the energy of recent graduates. The new strategies follow a period that focused on training for smallholder farmers, the introduction of mechanization for large-scale production, and guaranteeing good prices to farmers as a means of ensuring a steady supply of produce.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/sep/02/mauritania-attempt-boost-agriculture-farming>

**Investment in Pastoralists could help Combat East Africa Food Crisis**, *Mark Tran, Guardian, September 2*  
Governments need to build a coalition of support for pastoralists to tap their potential for economic development in east Africa, a top US official said. About 70 million people live in arid lands, and many of them are herders. In Kenya, the pastoral livestock sector is estimated at \$800m. The best way to prevent famine in arid lands is to ensure herders have access to critical dry-season grazing and watering areas.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/sep/02/east-africa-crisis-investment-pastoralists>

**Battling Crop Diseases to Help Small Farmers**, *Impatient Optimist Blog, September 1*  
There are several ways to create crops that are disease resistant. One uses what's called conventional approaches to plant breeding. This approach has helped create some varieties of cassava that are tolerant to these diseases, but we know that conventional approaches sometimes aren't enough to create truly resistant plants. Another approach to crop breeding uses transgenic plant breeding approaches, sometimes referred to as genetic modification.  
<http://www.impatientoptimists.org/Posts/2011/09/Battling-Crop-Diseases-to-Help-Small-Farmers>

**Cotton Farmers make Historic Reversal on Farm Policy**, *Philip Brasher, Des Moines Register, August 31*  
In a historic move that changes the politics of farm policy, U.S. cotton growers have dropped their insistence that Congress preserve the existing system of farm subsidies. The National Cotton Council now is calling for shifting some existing subsidies into a revenue-based insurance program, a position that is similar to one that the Iowa Farm Bureau and other groups have been pushing.  
<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/08/31/cotton-farmers-make-historic-reversal-on-farm-policy/>

**Tighter Child-Labor Rules on Farms Proposed**, *Scott Kilman, Wall Street Journal, August 31*  
The U.S. Labor Department proposed to increase for the first time in four decades its list of jobs too hazardous for hired hands age 15 and younger to do on the farm, long one of the most dangerous places in America for children to work. The children of farmers working for their parents are exempt from the regulations. They can do any kind of farm work under the theory that their parents are naturally inclined to look out for them.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904716604576542731161090742.html>

**Upstate Farmers Find That a Fertile Flood Plain Is a Two-Edged Sword**, *Lisa W. Foderaro, New York Times, August 30*  
From the Hudson Valley to areas farther north, along the Mohawk River and Schoharie Creek, New York growers, many of whose farms have been in the family for generations, were dealt a devastating blow by the storm, which dumped heavy rain on the region. Some farmers, who were without power and hobbled by disabled equipment, were not even able to assess the full extent of the damage.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/31/nyregion/after-irene-upstate-new-york-farmers-suffer-in-flood-plain.html>

**SEE ALSO: NY Farmers need to Document Damage from Irene**, *Associated Press, September 1*  
The New York Farm Bureau is advising farmers to take the time to carefully document all damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene. Complete records will give farmers the best chance to get maximum aid from the government as compensation for losses and rebuilding.  
<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/09/01/business-us-irene-ny-farmers-new-york-8654168.html>

**Small Seed Packets could Play Big Role in Africa's Battle Against Drought**, *Guardian, August 29*

Farmers traditionally cultivate these crops on part of their fields to feed their families: millet, sorghum, pigeonpea, chickpea, cowpea, beans etc. But yields are often low, partly due to lack of access to better seeds. If more smallholder farmers in drought-prone regions grew improved varieties of dryland crops, their communities would be better prepared for prolonged dry spells and scarce rain. The challenge is to get these seeds to farmers and encourage their use. To make a real difference, though, governments have to weigh in. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/aug/29/seeds-role-africa-farmers-drought>

**Monsanto Corn Plant Losing Bug Resistance**, *Scott Kilman, Wall Street Journal, August 29*

Widely grown corn plants that Monsanto Co. genetically modified to thwart a voracious bug are falling prey to that very pest in a few Iowa fields, the first time a major Midwest scourge has developed resistance to a genetically modified crop. The discovery comes amid a debate about whether the genetically modified crops that now saturate the Farm Belt are changing how some farmers operate in undesirable ways.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904009304576532742267732046.html>

**Path to White House is a Dirt Road**, *Opinion, Phillip Hayes, Politico, August 22*

Barack Obama recognized something in 2008 that few Democratic presidential hopefuls before him had: Rural voters matter. And the best way to cultivate their support is on the farm. A continued courtship appears to be well underway for 2012. Rural economies are stronger now than they were in 2008—thanks to rebounded commodity prices, higher land values and a popular Farm Bill.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0811/61770.html>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Media Articles:

**In Africa, U.S. Watches China's Rise**, *Peter Wonacott, Wall Street Journal, September 2*

The U.S. is the largest foreign donor to Zimbabwe. The U.S. funnels much of its assistance through NGOs, some of which are critical of Zimbabwe's government. "China is my favorite country," said Mr. Mutambara a 45-year-old politician who attended U.S. universities. Washington has taken notice. Some U.S. officials say the number of governments in Africa finding favor with China's path of development gives Chinese firms an edge over U.S. competitors and reflects Beijing's strategic ambitions for the continent.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903392904576510271838147248.html>

**North Korea Readies for Harvest as Food Aid Flows In**, *Reuters, September 2*

Impoverished North Korea appears to have emerged from the depths of a bad winter and late spring in reasonable shape, at least in the far north and south, where a variety of crops are nearly ready for harvest. The North has pleaded for food aid this year due to bad weather and the impact of international sanctions imposed for its nuclear program. South Korea and the United States granted only emergency aid to help the impoverished state deal with flood damage from a series of bad storms in the middle of the year.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2011/09/02/world/asia/international-us-korea-north-food.html>

**Rio+20 Summit Coordinator seeks to put Agriculture Center Stage**, *Guardian, September 2*

The Rio+20 global development summit coordinator is pushing for a tight focus on agriculture in an attempt to inject new energy into the landmark event. Such a departure from UN tradition could be controversial, but Brice Lalonde, the UN's coordinator for the meeting, argues it would be more effective than the traditional laundry list of aspirations in pushing countries to meet clearly defined goals.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2011/sep/02/rio-20-summit-agriculture>

**Drought Not the Real Cause of East Africa Famine**, *Opinion, Thomas Keneally, CNN, September 1*

Famines, above all, occur in places where people get by on a few food items. Though in the cities, including Mogadishu, Somalia, people might eat canned food and a range of other food, for farmers in East Africa, the normal foods are lentils and the bread made out of dhurra, millet or a grain named teff. So the question arises: Why are people on Earth now, in the 21st century, still surviving on one staple?

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/OPINION/08/29/kennealy.drought.famine/>

**IKEA Giving UN \$62 Million to Expand Overcrowded Refugee Complex in Kenya**, *Washington Post*, August 30

The IKEA Foundation is donating \$62 million (42.8 million euros) over three years to expand the world's largest refugee complex in Dadaab, Kenya. U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, in a statement, called it the largest private donation in the agency's 60-year history, enough to help up to 120,000 people fleeing a crisis that "continues to deepen with thousands of people fleeing Somalia every week."

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ikea-giving-un-62-million-to-expand-overcrowded-refugee-complex-in-kenya/2011/08/30/gIQA1UMDpJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ikea-giving-un-62-million-to-expand-overcrowded-refugee-complex-in-kenya/2011/08/30/gIQA1UMDpJ_story.html)

**Interview: Navyn Salem Manufactures Success by Helping to Feed the World's Hungry**, *Graham Salinger*, *Christian Science Monitor*, August 30

In 2009 Navyn Salem founded Edesia that specializes in producing Plumpy'nut, a high-calorie edible paste made of peanuts that is rich in vitamins and provides nutrition to starving children. Edesia was created with the purpose of creating jobs and contributing to economic development as well as having a social mission that contributes to a global health challenge.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Making-a-difference/Change-Agent/2011/0830/Navyn-Salem-manufactures-success-by-helping-to-feed-the-world-s-hungry>

**Aid Floods into Tripoli as Fighting Stops**, *Reuters*, August 29

Although the violence in Tripoli has not completely ended, the relative peace has reassured aid agencies that they can now get into the capital, rescuing stranded foreigners and resupplying hospitals and relieving exhausted medical staff. The World Food Program has sent a humanitarian convoy of trucks carrying 500 tons of food and five water tankers.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE77S0Q720110829?>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

**Toward a Green Climate Finance Framework**, *Bloomberg New Energy Initiative*, September 1

Investment flows of the order of \$100bn per annum can only be achieved if the bulk is provided by the private sector, not the public sector. The global investment industry, even after the financial crisis and recent market turbulence, sits on assets of over \$100 trillion in the form of pension funds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, insurance funds, private equity funds, hedge funds and sovereign wealth funds.

[http://media.bloomberg.com/bb/avfile/rCg8pWT9dl\\_M](http://media.bloomberg.com/bb/avfile/rCg8pWT9dl_M)

### Media Articles:

**Tanzania Aims to Reduce Power Shortages by Developing Geothermal Power**, *Sarah McGregor*, *Bloomberg*, September 2

Tanzania, East Africa's second-biggest economy, aims to relieve electricity shortages by promoting geothermal energy as the country looks for sources of renewable power. Drought has drained Tanzania's main hydropower dams, resulting in power rationing amid a 264-megawatt grid deficit.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-02/tanzania-aims-to-reduce-power-shortages-by-developing-geothermal.html>

**Global Warming Fears rise in Developing World**, *Louise Lucas*, *Financial Times*, August 29

The US recorded one of the steepest declines in concern about global warming: less than half of Americans polled fret about climate change and only 58 percent of Brits. By contrast, 90 percent of Latin Americans are concerned, up from 85 percent in 2009, and 93 percent of Thais.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/9ec3dde6-d17f-11e0-89c0-00144feab49a.html>

**Time for Smart Energy Policy is Now**, *Opinion, Stephanie Herseth Sandlin and Thomas W. Ewing, AgWeek, August 29*

Thanks to advances in technology, American agriculture has a remarkable capacity to provide food, feed, fiber and a significant amount of our nation's energy. While fields and forests are growing our energy feedstocks, they also can capture carbon, provide wildlife habitat and filter the water that feeds our rivers and lakes. This can mean jobs and a vital financial boost for the American economy.

<http://www.agweek.com/event/article/id/18994/>

**INDONESIA: From Drought to Floods**, *IRIN News, August 29*

Erratic weather has exacerbated food insecurity in one of Indonesia's regions, leaving farmers and families hoping for the best as October's planting season approaches. Although Nusa Tenggara Timur province is notoriously dry, with only four months of rain a year, the government estimates 80 percent of the 4.5 million people toil away on often rocky, unfertile plots to survive, with little other industry to generate an income.

<http://irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93588>

**An Amazonian Battle**, *Joe Leahy, Financial Times, August 28*

The future of the Amazon rainforest – the world's largest, most of which falls within Brazil's borders – is once again hanging in the balance. At stake for Brazil – the biggest exporter of coffee, orange juice, sugar and beef; the second largest of soyameal; and one of the country's most capable of supplying the increasingly voracious appetites of China and other Asian giants – is its reputation both as an emerging agricultural superpower and as a guardian of the global environment.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/eaaf7c08-cf02-11e0-86c5-00144feabdc0.html>

**The Upside to Global Warming**, *Stefan Theil, The Daily Beast, August 26*

An increasingly rich trove of data suggest that in large parts of the world, the more likely outcome is that warmer temperatures lead to more rainfall, richer plant growth, and the re-greening of areas that have been inhospitable for many centuries. Farming is expanding again in frosty Greenland, which got its name because farming was possible when the Vikings first settled there during the "Medieval Warm Period," a previous phase of global warming.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/08/26/climate-change-is-making-deserts-greener.html>

**Gore: Eat Less Meat to Fight Warming**, *Robin Bravender, Politico, August 26*

Al Gore wants society to ditch meat-heavy diets and go organic to combat global warming. Instead, Gore advocated organic farming and relying on "more productive, safer methods that put carbon back in the soil" to produce "safer and better food." he former vice president also criticized climate change skeptics, urging those who support curbs to greenhouse gases to "win the conversation" when it comes to global warming.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0811/62160.html>

**Global Warming has Wildlife on the Move**, *Clive Cookson, Financial Times Magazine, August 26*

The most comprehensive study so far, published in the journal *Science*, shows that species have responded to climate change – by moving to higher latitudes and elevations where conditions are cooler – two to three times faster than scientists had appreciated. The researchers found that on average they have moved to higher altitudes by 12.2 meters per decade and to higher latitudes by 17.6 meters per decade.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/afd5c698-cde8-11e0-a409-00144feabdc0.html>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Reports:

**Unintended Pregnancy in the United States**, *Lawrence B Finer and Mia R. Zolna, Guttmacher Institute, August 24*

A new analysis shows that following a considerable decline between 1981 and 1994, the overall U.S. unintended pregnancy rate has remained essentially flat—about 5% of U.S. women have an unintended pregnancy every year. However, the rate has increased dramatically among poor women, while among

higher-income women it has continued to decrease substantially.

<http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/journals/j.contraception.2011.07.13.pdf>

#### Media Articles:

#### **Haiti Quake Creates New Crisis among Women, Girls**, *Jacqueline Charles, Miami Herald, September 2*

Twenty months after the disaster, the crisis has triggered a breakdown of Haiti's social fabric and made an already vulnerable population of girls and women even more desperate amid a population spike in the tent cities. Haiti's tent baby phenomenon comes as the country continues to struggle to rebuild, and as the nearly 600,000 Haitians still living in hundreds of squalid camps in quake-ravaged communities see the avalanche of medical assistance from foreign doctors and nongovernmental organizations disappear.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/08/29/v-fullstory/2381092/haiti-quake-creates-new-crisis.html>

#### **Violence Against Women and Girls in the Horn of Africa**, *Opinion, Sarah Costa, Huffington Post, August 31*

The International Rescue Committee found a fourfold increase in reports of sexual violence at Dadaab in June 2011 compared to January-May. The real numbers are likely much higher, because many women and girls fail to report attacks for fear of their safety, because they don't want to be ostracized by their families and communities or because they don't trust that their rapists will ever be caught or prosecuted. The world can -- and must -- act quickly to stop this.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-costa/violence-against-women-an\\_b\\_942305.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-costa/violence-against-women-an_b_942305.html)

#### **Unilever Extends 'Shakti' Scheme to Africa**, *Louise Lucas, Financial Times, August 30*

The Shakti programme, which recruits women to sell to friends and family in remote villages, started in India with 17 "Ammas" (women) in two states and now boasts 45,000 women serving more than 3m households. While the Shakti programme allows Unilever to distribute its products to far-flung places it could not otherwise reach, the conglomerate points out that it also provides a livelihood for people – especially women – who might otherwise struggle to find work

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/732067cc-d012-11e0-81e2-00144feabdc0.html>

#### **Family Planning as a Pro-Life Cause**, *Opinion, Michael Gerson, Washington Post, August 29*

The complications of childbirth are as dangerous as the militias in the countryside. Women sometimes deliver in the fields while working. Medical help can be a few days' journey away. In Congo, almost one in five deaths of women during childbearing years is due to maternal causes. When contraceptive prevalence is low, about 70 percent of all births involve serious risk. When prevalence is high, the figure is 35 percent.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/family-planning-as-a-pro-life-cause/2011/08/29/gIQAR9XHoJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/family-planning-as-a-pro-life-cause/2011/08/29/gIQAR9XHoJ_story.html)

#### **Pregnant in Putin's Russia**, *Natalia Antonova, Foreign Policy, August 26*

"Russia needs babies" may as well be the unofficial slogan of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's ruling United Russia Party. The country is in a demographic crisis, shedding 2.2 million people (or 1.6 percent of the population) since 2002, and the government is trying to encourage more women to bring Russian citizens into the world. These days, thankfully, maternal mortality is decreasing in Russia, but this doesn't mean that most women have renewed faith in the medical establishment.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/08/26/pregnant\\_in\\_putins\\_russia?page=0.0](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/08/26/pregnant_in_putins_russia?page=0.0)

#### **The Horn of Africa: Women Play a Pivotal Role**, *Opinion, Clarissa Burt, Huffington Post, August 23*

African women have risen to the occasion to provide for their families, even if it means they go without. African women play a pivotal role in their communities. They are not only the caregivers but also the emotional backbone, and political leaders. They are expected to be strong for their families when so often it would seem easier to give up.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/clarissa-burt/the-horn-of-africa-women-\\_b\\_934314.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/clarissa-burt/the-horn-of-africa-women-_b_934314.html)

## Reports:

### **How Far Do Shocks Move Across Borders?**, IFPRI, August 2011

This paper examines the level of interdependence and volatility transmission across major exchanges of maize, wheat, and soybeans in the United States, Europe, and Asia. The period of analysis is 2004–2009 for maize and soybeans and 2005–2009 for wheat. The results indicate that there is a strong correlation among international markets. In particular, we find both own- and cross-volatility spillovers and dependence between most of the exchanges.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/how-far-do-shocks-move-across-borders>

### **Overcoming Successive Bottlenecks**, IFPRI, August 2011

Although the role of industrial policy in economic development is a frequent topic of debate in both the literature and the political arena, most such discussions focus on industrial policymaking at the national level. Using a case study of a potato cluster in China, we show that industrial policymaking at the local level contributes greatly to economic development.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/overcoming-successive-bottlenecks>

## Media Articles:

### **Flooded Fields in ND Lead to Higher Pasta Prices**, ABC News, September 2

Consumers are paying more for pasta after heavy spring rain and record flooding prevented planting on more than 1 million acres in one of the nation's best durum wheat-growing areas. While prices may be higher, pasta will be available. World production of durum is expected to increase to 1.3 billion bushels this year, up 3 percent from last year with better harvests in North Africa and Canada.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=14433202>

**SEE ALSO: Hurricane Irene adds to US Farm Woes. Will it Raise Food Prices?**, *Christian Science Monitor*, August 30

While the final tallies for crop losses could be weeks away, analysts say the storm's impact on food prices, if any, likely will pale compared to the effects of the extreme drought gripping parts of the South and West, including Texas, which has seen a record \$5.2 billion crop loss this year.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2011/0830/Hurricane-Irene-adds-to-US-farm-woes.-Will-it-raise-food-prices>

### **The Research and Development Gap**, *Opinion*, Norm Augustine, *TheHill.com*, September 2

While our investment in our future falls, other nations have learned from the American way, and drastically increased their R&D. China is investing in science, engineering, manufacturing, energy and transportation. China now dominates the US in the manufacture of clean energy technologies. China has leaped over its global competitors in the making of wind turbines and solar panels.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/technology/179367-the-research-and-development-gap>

**SEE ALSO: China set to Challenge Global Wind Industry**, *Financial Times*, August 28

China overtook the US last year in terms of total installed wind generating capacity. But as China's electricity system struggles to absorb thousands of new turbines, the government has slowed the growth of new wind farms. Against that backdrop the country's turbine makers – whose machines can be 30 per cent cheaper than western rivals – are increasingly looking abroad.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/2a1af330-b2d0-11e0-bc28-00144feabdc0.html>

### **Russia's Grain Snarled in Backlog**, Tom Polansek and Caroline Henshaw, *Wall Street Journal*, September 1

Russia is putting the brakes on grain cargoes snaking their way from the fields to a key port, underscoring doubts about the reliability of the country's supplies. This week, Russia's railway authority banned further shipments of grain to the Black Sea port of Novorossiisk because a bottleneck of more than 3,600 railcars clogged an entire branch of the national network. Hiccups in Russia's transportation system could convince foreign buyers to shift grain purchases to the U.S., particularly if the rail jam persists longer than expected.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904583204576542912136963814.html>

**Argentina Debates Foreign Land Buys**, *Matt Moffett, Wall Street Journal, September 1*

The proposal by President Cristina Kirchner would bar individual foreigners from owning more than 2,500 acres and would limit aggregate foreign ownership to 20% of Argentina's total rural land. President Kirchner has touted the bill as her top legislative priority for this fast-growing agrarian economy, which was the world's second-largest corn exporter and third-largest soybean exporter last year.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904716604576542783551318472.html>

**Agriculture 'Next Big Thing' in Africa, says World Bank Expert**, *Robyn Curnow, CNN, August 31*

Some 12.4 million people in the Horn of Africa currently require humanitarian assistance as a result of food shortages, the U.N. estimates. According to Nigerian Obiageli Ezekwesili, vice president of the World Bank's Africa region, market reforms to encourage the growth of new agri-businesses could help tackle food insecurity in the future and help African nations become major food exporters.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/BUSINESS/08/31/ezekwesili.africa.agriculture/index.html>

**S. Africa: Black Farmers Sell Farms Back to Whites**, *Seattle PI, August 31*

A document shows South Africa's government is far behind land reform efforts, a setback that could prove explosive in a country with staggering inequality almost a generation after white rule ended. After black majority rule was won in 1994, the government set a goal of redistributing 30 percent of agricultural land to blacks by 2014 — targeting a total of 24.6 million hectares. Instead, the government has bought only about 6 million hectares to date, of which nearly 2 million has been resold.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/S-Africa-Black-farmers-sell-farms-back-to-whites-2148978.php>

**Food is the Ultimate Security Need, New Map Shows**, *Guardian, August 31*

A new map of food security risk around the world is, in some ways, depressingly familiar. Sub-Saharan Africa leaps out as the place where the most people fear for their next meal, while the rich world has more to fear from obesity. But there's plenty of salutary reminders and fascinating detail, like India's food problems and the vulnerability of Spain. And it demonstrates the relationship between lack of food and conflict: where one leads, the other follows.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/damian-carrington-blog/2011/aug/31/food-security-prices-conflict#>

**UK Farmers Turn to Renewables for Profit**, *Karolin Schaps, Reuters, August 30*

The bank's business arm launched a 100-million pound fund to help farmers finance renewable energy projects, including solar panels, wind farms, hydro plants and organic waste power as a growing number of agricultural businesses seek to benefit from government support tariffs. A Barclays survey of 300 agricultural customers also showed four out of five farmers recognize renewable energy can save costs and 60 percent see it as a source of additional income.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/30/us-britain-barclays-renewables-idUSTRE77T0QX20110830>

**Managing Future Food Crises Through Better Price Data and Policies**, *Opinion, Prabhu Pingali and Peter Timmer, Impatient Optimist Blog, August 30*

The development community needs to support these steps, beginning with agreement at the upcoming G20 meeting in France this November. This initial show of support by leaders in Cannes could signify a crucial step towards recognizing that food price volatility is a serious problem that needs to be addressed through better and more timely data and appropriate government actions.

<http://www.impatientoptimists.org/Posts/2011/08/Managing-Future-Food-Crises-Through-Better-Price-Data-and-Policies>

**Sugar Shortfall in Mexico Won't Squeeze Supplies**, *Jean Guerrero, Wall Street Journal, August 29*

Sugar output in Central America is expected to rise during the coming season and compensate for anticipated shortfalls in Mexico, which normally supplies more than half of U.S. sugar imports. Earlier this month, the USDA said it would allow imports of low-tariff or duty-free sugar one month early to deal with tight supplies. Mexico's sugar is exempt from the quota system, covered by the North American Free Trade Agreement.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904875404576532542840850846.html>

### **Ranchers in Drought-Stricken Southern Plains Struggle to Find, Afford Hay to Feed Their Cattle,**

*Washington Post, August 29*

A scorching drought in the southern Plains has caused hay prices to soar, benefiting farmers to the north but forcing many ranchers to make a difficult choice between paying high prices or selling their cattle. Officials say only a handful of Texas' 254 counties received enough rain to grow hay this year, so significantly less is available at the same time demand has skyrocketed because pastures are parched. That's why the average price of hay climbed to \$170 per ton this summer from \$112 per ton last July.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/ranchers-in-drought-stricken-southern-plains-struggle-to-find-afford-hay-to-feed-their-cattle/2011/08/29/gIQAzspWmJ\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/ranchers-in-drought-stricken-southern-plains-struggle-to-find-afford-hay-to-feed-their-cattle/2011/08/29/gIQAzspWmJ_story.html)

### **China's Food Chain Lures Private Equity,** *Lingling Wei and Laurie Burkitt, Wall Street Journal, August 29*

Global private-equity firms, including Carlyle, Blackstone Group LP and 3i Group PLC, are increasingly looking to China's food chain—from dining and food retailing to fishing—as the Chinese government seeks to consolidate the industry and improve food safety. Foreign private-equity groups invested \$2.6 billion last year in the country's food and agriculture sectors, more than triple from a year earlier.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904009304576532053961249980.html>

### **Distrust between White House, GOP leaves Free Trade Bills in Limbo,** *Vicki Needham, TheHill, August 27*

While there's general agreement among the White House and Republicans that the trade accords should be passed, the two sides remain stuck in an interminable game of chicken wherein promises to move the accords aren't convincing either side to budge. The administration is vowing to send the trade deals to Congress as long as Republicans agree to push through Trade Adjustment Assistance.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/178459-distrust-between-white-house-gop-leaves-free-trade-bills-in-limbo%3Fpage%3D3>

### **Brazil's Latest Export: Farmers,** *Iona Teixeira Stevens, Financial Times, August 26*

Brazil has finally found something other than iron ore, soybeans and oil to export: farmers. Next month a group of Brazilian farmers are off to Mozambique as the first part of the so-called Pro-Savana deal. The deal will concede 6m hectares of land in the northern regions of Niassa, Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Zambézia to Brazilian farmers for 21 reais (\$13) per hectare.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2011/08/26/brazils-latest-export-farmers/>

### **Famine in the Horn of Africa: Malthus Beware,** *Opinion, William G. Moseley, Al Jazeera, August 23*

With nearly 12m people at risk of starvation in a region whose population has doubled in the past 24 years, one might assume that these two factors are causally related in the Horn of Africa. While the current crisis in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya would appear to be perfect proof of the Malthusian scenario, we must be careful not to make overly simplistic assumptions.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2011/08/20118178844125460.html>

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## **AGRIBUSINESS**

### Media Articles:

#### **Japanese Company Invests in UK Wind Farm,** *David Blair, Financial Times, September 1*

Marubeni Corporation, a Japanese conglomerate, has paid £200m to become co-owner of a UK wind farm, marking the first equity investment by an Asian enterprise in this sector of Britain's renewable energy industry. Offshore wind is the most expensive way of generating electricity, with total costs exceeding £140 per MW hour, compared with less than £100 for gas-fired power stations. Offshore wind in the UK can be highly profitable thanks to generous subsidies.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/75450e7c-d4c7-11e0-a7ac-00144feab49a.html>

#### **Monsanto Seeks OK for Low-Fat Soybean,** *ABC News, August 31*

The soybean industry is seeking government approval of a genetically modified soybean it says will produce oil lower in saturated fat, offer consumers a healthier alternative to foods containing trans fats and increase

demand for growers' crops. The FDA approved the new bean, called Vistive Gold, earlier this year, and Monsanto and several state and national soybean groups are now seeking approval from the U.S.D.A.  
<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=14419677>

**Sara Lee Names Executive to Oversee Coffee**, *Wall Street Journal*, August 30

Michiel Herkemij, 47 years old, will join Sara Lee as chief executive of its international beverage business, and will also keep that title when Sara Lee's split up occurs sometime in the first half of 2012. Sara Lee's coffee business includes the Douwe Egberts brand and the single-cup system Senseo.  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB100014240531119041994045765403097520160.html>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*