

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



December 11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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**Quote of the Week:** *"While climate change will affect us all, there are particular vulnerabilities and challenges for farmers, ranchers, and those who make a living off the land. Higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme events like droughts and flooding -- threatens to reduce yields and increase the occurrence of crop failure. Climatic stresses could have real consequences on food production, dramatically affecting the yields of staple food crops, resulting in scarcity and threatening people's livelihoods, particularly in developing nations."* – United States Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack, December 12, 2009.

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**\*\*SPECIAL SECTION ON UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN\*\***

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Agribusiness

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Beyond Copenhagen: Agriculture and Forestry Are Part of the Solution**, *Joint Statement, December 14*

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon from agriculture and forests must be an essential component of any strategy to keep global warming below the 2 degree Celsius threshold. Climate adaptation and mitigation measures must have multiple sustainable development benefits, including conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The agricultural community is committed to playing an active role in reducing emissions, while increasing the productivity and sustainability of agriculture.

[http://www.agricultureday.org/ARDD\\_Joint-Statement.pdf](http://www.agricultureday.org/ARDD_Joint-Statement.pdf)

**U.S. Congress Approves Over \$1 Billion FY2010 Budget for MCC, Millennium Challenge Corporation, December 13**

The U.S. Senate passed the FY2010 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which includes a \$1.105 billion budget for Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) work to reduce poverty through economic growth. The FY10 budget number represents a 26 percent increase over MCC's budget in FY2009, signifying Congress' strong support of MCC's mission to work with some of the poorest countries to find sustainable solutions to global poverty. The House of Representatives passed the measure on Thursday, December 10.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-uscongressapproves-121309.shtml>

**Who is Rajiv Shah?, National Journal, December 17**

As Rajiv Shah prepares to lead the U.S. Agency for International Development, former colleagues, lobbyists and current and past administration officials paint a picture of a man with dizzying brainpower and social intelligence who has won over skeptics time and again. But the 36-year-old wunderkind will need those gifts to overcome his own inexperience and myriad bureaucratic hurdles, they said, as he attempts to restore the troubled agency to its former glory. "He's not going to have all the latitude that he had at Gates," said Catherine Bertini, a Syracuse University professor of public administration who Shah recruited to work at Gates in 2006. "Here he's got 535 bosses in Congress, plus the State Department and the White House and [the Office of Management and Budget] and USAID itself. It's a different situation."

[http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/no\\_20091215\\_5390.php](http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/no_20091215_5390.php)

**See Also: Raj Shah and America's Development Future, Bill Frist (Former Senate Majority Leader and member of the Millennium Challenge Corp.'s board of directors), Roll Call, December 17**

In most years, Senate deliberations over a nomination for administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, which leads American efforts to fight poverty and disease in the developing world, would pass without note. This year is different. American efforts to improve the lives of the world's poorest people have never been so important. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted last week to refer the nomination of Dr. Rajiv Shah for USAID administrator to the floor for a full vote, which is expected soon. Dr. Shah should be confirmed without delay for three key reasons.

<http://www.rollcall.com/news/41672-1.html>

**See Also: Shah to Meet with Coburn, Politico, December 16**

In what's seen as one of the few remaining steps before he could come up for a Senate confirmation vote, USAID chief nominee Rajiv Shah is due to meet with Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) tomorrow. "My guess right now is that if Coburn clears then Shah will be fine," one Hill staffer says.

[http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/1209/Shah\\_to\\_meet\\_with\\_Coburn.html?showall](http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/1209/Shah_to_meet_with_Coburn.html?showall)

**Time to Make U.S. Foreign Assistance Work – for Women and Men, Ritu Sharma, Huffington Post, December 14**

We now finally have a real shot at getting U.S. foreign assistance programs to work more effectively, and to benefit both women and men. New global challenges such as climate change, rising food and energy costs, and HIV/AIDS all undermine efforts to combat poverty in developing countries and must be better addressed. But for this to happen, our outdated foreign assistance system must be reformed to meet the needs of a changing world. Rajiv Shah, the new head of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) committed to addressing this, making the point during his recent Senate confirmation hearing that "... effective gender integration is often the difference between success and failure of a broad variety of development investments."

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ritu-sharma/time-to-make-us-foreign-a\\_b\\_387166.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ritu-sharma/time-to-make-us-foreign-a_b_387166.html)

**How to Hold the Rich to Their Word, Jeffrey Sachs, director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, Op-Ed, Financial Times, December 15**

With days remaining in the Copenhagen climate talks, the rich have finally begun to discuss climate financing for the poor. The negotiating round has gone on for two years with little serious discussion on financing and many other topics, a gaping failure of a process run by and for rich-country politicians who do not like to be bothered with unpleasant details. This will not do. Climate financing needs a formula.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f78f7aa2-e9af-11de-9f1f-00144feab49a.html>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Pakistan Assistance Strategy Report**, *The White House, December 2009*

Investments in agriculture will address the impending water crisis, which the Pakistanis repeatedly raised with Secretary Clinton during her October 2009 visit to Pakistan, and will improve the profitability of agricultural markets. Pakistan's agricultural sector, which affects the livelihood of 60 percent of the Pakistani people, uses 90 percent of Pakistan's water. Management of the Indus Basin Irrigation System, which sustains the agricultural sector, is reliant on water flows from diminishing Himalayan glaciers and is so inefficient that half the water is lost to seepage. To avoid potential disruption in rural incomes and food supplies from this pending water crisis, the Pakistanis urgently need investments in storage, canals, and irrigation services to improve water management. High impact, high visibility U.S. agriculture programs will likely include rehabilitation and/or expansion of irrigation to help make Pakistan's agricultural industry more stable and profitable.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/images/091216\\_121409\\_Pakistan\\_assistance\\_strategy\\_reportFINAL.pdf](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/images/091216_121409_Pakistan_assistance_strategy_reportFINAL.pdf)

**See Also: New Details on Obama's \$7.5 Billion Aid Package to Pakistan**, *Foreign Policy (The Cable)*, December 16

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/12/16/exclusive\\_new\\_details\\_on\\_obamas\\_75\\_billion\\_aid\\_package\\_to\\_pakistan](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/12/16/exclusive_new_details_on_obamas_75_billion_aid_package_to_pakistan)

**See Also: Holbrooke Calls for More Aid to Pakistan**, *Washington Independent*, December 16

Congress may have appropriated the first installment of a \$7.5 billion aid package for Pakistan, but Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, the Obama administration's special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, urged an even greater increase in assistance to "broaden out" the U.S. relationship with a nation he called crucial to the U.S.'s national security.

<http://washingtonindependent.com/71101/holbrooke-calls-for-more-aide-to-pakistan>

### **Remarks at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, *Secretary Hillary Clinton, U.S. Department of State, December 17*

"We know what the consequences will be for the farmer in Bangladesh or the herder in Africa or the family being battered by hurricanes in Central America. Without that accord, there won't be the kind of joint global action from all of the major economies we all want to see, and the effects in the developing world could be catastrophic. We know what will happen. Rising seas, lost farmland, drought and so much else. Without the accord, the opportunity to mobilize significant resources to assist developing countries with mitigation and adaptation will be lost."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/12/133734.htm>

**See Also: Clinton Says U.S. Would Take Lead on \$100 Billion Climate Fund**, *CQ Politics*, December 17

<http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?parm1=5&docID=cqmidday-000003269786>

**See Also: The U.S. is on Board**, *Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Op-Ed, U.S. Department of State*, December 15

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/12/133559.htm>

### **Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Highlights Role of Agriculture in Climate Change**, *United States Department of Agriculture, December 12*

"While climate change will affect us all, there are particular vulnerabilities and challenges for farmers, ranchers, and those who make a living off the land. Higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme events like droughts and flooding -- threatens to reduce yields and increase the occurrence of crop failure. Climatic stresses could have real consequences on food production, dramatically affecting the yields of staple food crops, resulting in scarcity and threatening people's livelihoods, particularly in developing nations."

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/12/0610.xml>

**See Also: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Discusses Link Between Climate Change and Global Food Security at Copenhagen Climate Change Talks**, *United States Department of Agriculture*, December 10

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/12/0609.xml>

**See Also: U.S., 20 Other Nations Team to Research Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Farms**, *Washington Post*, December 17

The United States will join 20 other countries in a "research alliance" to better understand -- and prevent -- greenhouse-gas emissions from farms, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/16/AR2009121601833.html>

**See Also: Farmers Must Earn Carbon Market Rewards: Report**, *Reuters*, December 12

Agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack said farmers worldwide must be rewarded for fighting global warming, for example using carbon markets which would add to public climate cash.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BB1B520091212>

### **Remarks by the President at the Morning Plenary Session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference**, *White House*, December 18

"We must have financing that helps developing countries adapt, particularly the least developed and most vulnerable countries to climate change. America will be a part of fast-start funding that will ramp up to \$10 billion by 2012. And yesterday, Secretary Hillary Clinton, my Secretary of State, made it clear that we will engage in a global effort to mobilize \$100 billion in financing by 2020, if -- and only if -- it is part of a broader accord that I have just described."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-morning-plenary-session-united-nations-climate-change-conference>

### **Remarks on the Human Rights Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, *U.S. Department of State*, December 14

"And we must light a fire of human potential through access to education and economic opportunity. Build the foundation, lift the ceiling, and light the fire all together, all at once. Because when a person has food and education but not the freedom to discuss and debate with fellow citizens, he is denied the life he deserves. And when a person is too hungry or sick to work or vote or worship, she is denied a life she deserves. Freedom doesn't come in half measures, and partial remedies cannot redress the whole problem."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/12/133544.htm>

### **Remarks at the American Pakistan Foundation's Inaugural Gala Benefit**, *Secretary Hillary Clinton, U.S. Department of State*, December 11

"As we move forward, the United States plans to focus more of our assistance on these large "signature" projects -- not only in energy, but in transportation, agriculture, water, and education as well. In order to highlight our partnership, we want to make it clear that the United States is investing in the people of Pakistan. We want to see more children in school. We want to see more mothers given the healthcare they need to bear and raise healthy children. We want to see more young men working toward a better future of peace and stability and prosperity."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/12/133472.htm>

### **Testimony by George A. Krol, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs**, *Department of State*, December 15

"Agricultural reform is sorely needed throughout Central Asia and could make the region more food secure, economically diversified, and promote economic and political stability. In addition, for 2010 the United States will begin a comprehensive assistance program to address food insecurity in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan designed to increase agricultural productivity, bolster farmers' income, and reform unfair land regulations. Sustained funding over the next three years will help ensure that this now food security assistance program will have a sustainable impact."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/KrolTestimony091215a.pdf>

### **U.S. Eyes Moving Afghan Farmers Away from Poppy**, *National Public Radio*, December 14

A key piece of the puzzle in Afghanistan is how to transform an agricultural economy dominated by opium production into one in which farmers grow crops that don't fund the Taliban. Otto Gonzalez, senior agricultural adviser to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, discusses U.S. efforts.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=121480808>

**A New Era of Engagement: Agency Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2009**, *U.S. Department of State, December 2009*

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/132214.pdf>

**See Also: Performance ratings take a dive in Foggy Bottom**, *Foreign Policy (The Cable blog)*, December 18

The 100-plus page document, the annual Agency Financial Report, is meant to give a snapshot of how all financial aspects of the State Department are faring, but includes an interesting aside. Only 63 percent of employees' performance ratings in fiscal 2009 were deemed to be "on or above target" and 38 percent were judged "below target or improved but not yet met." But wait. The numbers don't tell the whole story. Apparently, the measures for grading performance changed somewhat for 2009, meaning that the numbers don't represent a genuine apples-to-apples comparison. "Marked by increasing rigor and intensive engagement at multiple levels of the organization, the process for developing and selecting performance indicators changed significantly in FY 2009," the report states.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/12/17/performance\\_ratings\\_take\\_a\\_dive\\_in\\_foggy\\_bottom](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/12/17/performance_ratings_take_a_dive_in_foggy_bottom)

**USTR Ron Kirk Remarks on Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations**, *Office of the United States Trade Representative, December 15*

United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk commented on the announcement that President Obama intends to enter into negotiations of a regional, Asia-Pacific trade agreement, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. Kirk said: "We will have to confront big challenges, from rationalizing rules of origin amongst our current FTA partners to addressing agricultural, developmental, and labor challenges elsewhere to adding additional countries in ways that ensure that we maintain a comprehensive, high standard agreement. But with our initial group of partners, we expect to break new ground, to create a true 21st century trade agreement."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2009/december/ustr-ron-kirk-remarks-trans-pacific-partnership-n>

**See Also: Increasing U.S. Exports, Creating American Jobs: Negotiating for Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement**, *Office of the United States Trade Representative, December 14*

The huge markets of the Asia Pacific already are key destinations for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural and services suppliers. U.S. goods exports to the Asia Pacific totaled \$747 billion in 2008, up 8.3 percent over 2007, with agricultural products comprising \$76 billion in 2008 - a 30-percent increase over the previous year.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/fact-sheets/2009/december/economic-opportunities-and-tpp>

**With Rumors Swirling, Rep. Collin Peterson Confirms Re-Election Bid**, *MinnPost, December 15*

Rep. Collin Peterson will be running for re-election, he confirmed, putting to bed rampant speculation that the House Agriculture chairman would retire.

[http://www.minnpost.com/derekwallbank/2009/12/15/14330/update\\_with\\_rumors\\_swirling\\_rep\\_collin\\_peterson\\_confirms\\_re-election\\_bid](http://www.minnpost.com/derekwallbank/2009/12/15/14330/update_with_rumors_swirling_rep_collin_peterson_confirms_re-election_bid)

**Economic Partnership Dialogue Advances U.S.-Brazil Cooperation**, *Agreed Minutes, Fourth Session of the Economic Partnership Dialogue Between the U.S. Department of State and Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, December 16*

The Parties noted the importance of agriculture to both countries and welcomed continuing cooperation. The Parties noted the importance of the Consultative Committee on Agriculture, to explore opportunities to increase bilateral agricultural trade. Brazil expressed its wish to convene a CCA meeting as soon as possible, and the U.S. side agreed to explore this. The Parties also agreed to explore convening a technical level meeting in advance of the CCA to continue momentum on current discussions.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/dec/133722.htm>

**USDA to Give Dairy Farmers Special Subsidy Payment**, *Reuters, December 17*

Struggling U.S. dairy farmers, who have seen milk prices plunge 30 percent since 2008, will receive a one-time subsidy payment, the U.S. Agriculture Department said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BG4HM20091217>

**Testimony by Robert Hormats, Under Secretary of State Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs**, *Department of State, December 9*

“The EU has sometimes imposed non-science based measures on U.S. agricultural and industrial exports, such as the bans on the use of growth hormones in beef and pathogen reduction treatments for poultry, restrictions on the cultivation and marketing of biotech products, and various labeling schemes. We will continue to support the efforts of USTR, USDA, and the Department of Commerce to encourage the EU to remove these barriers to trade.”

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2009/HormatsTestimony091209p.pdf>

**FOR MORE SUMMARIES OF AND LINKS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND FOOD SECURITY, PLEASE VISIT OUR [AG & FOOD POLICY LIBRARY](#)**

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**NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

**The Challenge of Hunger: Focus on Financial Crisis and Gender Inequality**, *2009 Global Hunger Index, November 2009*

In 2009, high and volatile food prices combined with economic recession posed significant risks to poor and vulnerable households, with often dire consequences for their food security. The 2009 Global Hunger Index (GHI), the fourth in an annual series that records the state of hunger both worldwide and country by country, shows that the global economic downturn could make many countries even more vulnerable to hunger and that high rates of hunger are strongly linked to gender inequalities. Overall, limited progress has been made in reducing hunger since 1990.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ib62.pdf>

**Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region: Report on the E-Consultation**, *Global Forum on Agricultural Research, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Asian Development Bank, and Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions, October 2009*

Through a series of electronic and face-to-face regional and global consultations, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) in collaboration with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) aims to reshape the global agricultural research agenda for development and reorient it to the needs of the poor through both the generation of new and relevant knowledge and the empowerment of rural communities to make use of all that is known.

<http://www.apaari.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/ap-summary1.pdf>

**See Also: Agricultural Research for Development in the Asia-Pacific Region: Regional Report**, *October 2009*

<http://www.apaari.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/regional-report-for-ap.pdf>

**See Also: South-Asia Sub-regional Report**, *September 2009*

<http://www.apaari.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/south-asia-sub-regional-report.pdf>

**See Also: Southeast Asia Sub-regional Report**, *October 2009*

<http://www.apaari.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/southeast-asia-sub-regional-report21.pdf>

**See Also: Pacific Sub-regional Report**, *December 2009*

<http://www.apaari.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/pacific-sub-regional-report.pdf>

**Critical Need for New Definitions of “Forest” and “Forest Degradation” in Global Climate Change Agreements**, *Nophea Sasaki and Francis E. Putz, Conservation Letters, December 2009*

If global policies intended to promote forest conservation continue to use the definition of “forest” adopted in 2001 by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, great quantities of carbon and other environmental values will be lost when natural forests are severely degraded or replaced by plantations but

technically remain “forests.” While a definition of “forest” that is globally acceptable and appropriate for monitoring using standard remote-sensing options will necessarily be based on a small set of easily measured parameters, there are dangers when simple definitions are applied locally.

<http://www.redd-monitor.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/2009-Putz-Conservation-Letters-on-REDD.pdf>

### **Economic Drivers of Conflict and Cooperation in the Horn of Africa: A Regional Perspective and Overview**, *Chatham House, December 2009*

Among the drivers of conflict in the Horn of Africa economic motivations have been ubiquitous and pervasive in prompting and sustaining conflict. At other times economic drivers have exhibited a potential for peaceful cooperation. An understanding of their role and relationship with other forces of change is essential.

Underlying the various sub-regional conflicts are a number of recurrent economic themes, including access to sea ports, livestock as a basis for livelihoods, energy-related issues, the wider impact of localized conflict, drought, land rights and remittances.

[http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/15571\\_bp1209horn.pdf](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/15571_bp1209horn.pdf)

### **The Missing Middle in Agricultural Finance**, *Oxfam International, December 2009*

Private-sector finance has made a start in filling this long-established gap, widened over the last decade as public-sector financing frameworks for small-scale agriculture have been withdrawn. However, the flow of capital to agricultural SMEs needs to be scaled up. This paper looks at the barriers to doing so. Both transaction costs and risks are high in lending to agricultural SMEs compared to microcredit, and returns are lower than in other sectors. More private capital will flow if there are competitive lenders and investors with the necessary local presence and understanding, and if the balance between risks and returns, net of costs, becomes more favourable.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/trade/downloads/research\\_agricultural\\_finance.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/trade/downloads/research_agricultural_finance.pdf)

### **How Do Food Prices Affect Producers and Consumers in Developing Countries?** *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, December 2009*

High food prices in 2008 brought global attention to the difficulties that producers and consumers in developing countries have faced for many years. This note examines trends in global agricultural production and surveys some of the newest information that has come to light to probe how food prices have affected agriculture.

[http://ictsd.org/downloads/2009/12/cap\\_vera6.pdf](http://ictsd.org/downloads/2009/12/cap_vera6.pdf)

### **Constraints to Increasing Agricultural Productivity in Nigeria**, *International Food Policy Research Institute, September 2009*

This paper reviews the constraints hindering growth of agricultural productivity in Nigeria by: 1) providing an overview of the policy environment that affects agricultural productivity, 2) establishing how the policy environment affects productivity improvement, and 3) proposing lessons relevant for future research and policymaking to promote productivity growth in Nigeria.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nssp06.pdf>

### **Agricultural Subsidies in the WTO Green Box: Ensuring Coherence with Sustainable Development Goals**, *International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, December 2009*

Current WTO requirements set no ceiling on the amount of green box subsidies that governments can provide, on the basis that these payments cause only minimal trade distortion. Governments are thus increasingly shifting their subsidy spending into this category, as they come under pressure to reduce subsidies that are more directly linked to production. However, growing evidence suggests that green box payments can affect production and trade, harm farmers in developing countries and cause environmental damage.

<http://ictsd.org/downloads/2009/10/green-box-web-1.pdf>

**See Also: Non-Distorting Farm Subsidies May Still Distort – Study**, *Reuters India, December 15*  
Efforts to overhaul agricultural support in rich countries are increasingly under challenge for failing to remove the unfair distortions in global trade that they purport to eliminate, a new study says.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-44734020091215?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0>

**Achieving Sustainable Development**, Annual Review of Development Effectiveness, World Bank, December 2009

The Annual Review of Development Effectiveness provides an independent assessment of the World Bank's performance in achieving key development objectives, with a special focus on support for environmentally sustainable development consistent with economic growth and poverty reduction.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXT2009ARDE/Resources/arde09\\_web.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXT2009ARDE/Resources/arde09_web.pdf)

**Sick and Tired: Climbing Out of the Health-Poverty Trap**, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, December 2009

Poor health is the number-one poverty trigger. It can quickly tip people into poverty, specifically those already near the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder who lack health insurance or substantial savings to cover out-of-pocket healthcare costs. The financial repercussions related to health shocks also have the power to keep poor people submerged in poverty by quickly depleting any of their accumulated wealth with often exorbitant medical bills.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpriforum2009vol3.pdf>

**Sudan: Preventing Implosion**, *International Crisis Group*, December 2009

The centre would be Khartoum, wealthy and secure thanks to oil and agricultural export revenues and foreign direct investment from Gulf states. The central areas – including Gezira, East Sudan and the North up to Dongola – that would become economic pillars are currently benefiting from massive investment in dams, roads, air and sea ports. Egypt is a key partner, one for whom Sudan's stability is a national security priority and that is also concerned about food security and access to water.

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/horn\\_of\\_africa/b68\\_sudan\\_preventing\\_implosion.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/africa/horn_of_africa/b68_sudan_preventing_implosion.pdf)

**See Also: Sudan Looks to Attract Middle Eastern Investment in Farmland**, *Bloomberg*, December 17

Sudan wants to attract foreign investors to cultivate vast tracks of land that are currently unused in Africa's largest country, State Minister for Finance Tarek Shalabi said. "We have millions of acres of land, very flat and unspoiled and it hasn't really been even explored yet," said Shalabi, 41, in an interview on Dec. 15 in the capital, Khartoum. "Sudan is a very good place for agricultural investment."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=acbg4fhdJ3ss>

**Doha and the Global Crisis**, *Overseas Development Institute*, November 2009

Trade and growth have been key drivers in reducing poverty. This Briefing Paper contends that leaving the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) hanging and the WTO in isolation is not the best policy strategy in the current economic environment. As well as examining the current international macroeconomic environment and pressures for non-market intervention, it looks at what the DDA can offer, in terms of bindings, market access and benefits for poor countries. It argues that concluding the DDA is central to enhancing multilateral cooperation and future prospects.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4160.pdf>

**Haiti: A Gathering Storm – Climate Change and Poverty**, *Oxfam International*, December 2009

In 2008, four hurricanes and tropical storms (Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike) hit the mountainous Caribbean island of Haiti. In the space of a few weeks, the hurricanes tore apart the lives of millions of people, hitting the poor the hardest. With little time for recovery in between, the small island could barely cope. Crops, livestock, and homes were destroyed; roads and bridges left damaged; water pipes ruptured; school buildings ripped apart. The damage was nation-wide affecting nearly 900,000 people. This report gives an insight into how poor people are experiencing climate change in Haiti, already one of the poorest countries in the world, and what challenges they are currently facing, and will continue to face in the future.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate\\_change/downloads/oi\\_report\\_climate\\_change\\_haiti\\_gathering\\_storm\\_en\\_301109.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/downloads/oi_report_climate_change_haiti_gathering_storm_en_301109.pdf)

**Big Ideas in Development, Fair Miles, Recharting the Food Map Miles**, *Oxfam International, December 2009*

Today's food is well travelled. A pack of green beans in a Northern supermarket may have journeyed 6000 miles, or 60. But while food miles loom large in our carbon-aware times, transporting it counts for less than you might think. And there is a far bigger picture. Food is more than a plateful of emissions. It's a social, political and economic issue that involves millions of small farmers in poor countries who export produce to the North.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate\\_change/downloads/fair\\_food\\_miles.pdf](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/downloads/fair_food_miles.pdf)

**The Effects of Climate Change in U.S. Ecosystems**, *United States Department of Agriculture, November 2009*

The report provides an accessible summary of findings contained in a U.S. scientific assessment project commissioned by the U.S. Global Change Research Program and released in May 2008. New information has been added to provide additional detail on the original findings. Based on a wealth of source and review literature, the report concludes that climate change is already affecting U.S. agriculture, land resources, water resources, and biodiversity, and will continue to do so. The report identifies the effects climate is having and is expected to have on natural resources and ecosystems services in the U.S. over the next several decades.

<http://www.usda.gov/img/content/EffectsofClimateChangeonUSEcosystem.pdf>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **United Nations Climate Change Conference**

*Date:* December 7<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

*Location:* Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://en.cop15.dk/frontpage>

#### **Climate Change and Food Security: Unifying Commitment and Action in Land-based Sectors**

*Date:* December 10<sup>th</sup>

*Location:* Copenhagen, Denmark

*Participants:* Thomas Vilsack, Eva Kjer Hansen, Dr. Thelma Krug, Ajay Vashee, Dr. Jacques Diouf  
A side-event organized by FAO and the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. Climate change, food security, poverty - key challenges that intersect in land-based sectors - cannot be addressed in isolation from each other. The World Summit on Food Security and UNFCCC COP-15 provide opportunities to promote solutions that manage synergies and trade-offs for multiple benefits.

<http://www.fao.org/climatechange/19147-0-0.pdf>

### **The Oxford Farming Conference**

*Date:* January 4 – 6, 2010

*Location:* Oxford, United Kingdom

Agriculture faces a huge challenge which affects every race and country; how to feed a global population of 9 billion by 2050 with less land, less water, less oil and greater climatic extremes whilst minimising the impact on the environment. All of this needs to be achieved under increased economic pressures. It is this challenge which the Oxford Farming Conference in 2010 will address. The findings of the latest OFC commissioned research will be presented. Undertaken by IGD and the National Farm Business Research Unit, the research aims to determine what science will be needed to produce food in the future based on the needs of both the food chain and farmers.

<http://www.ofc.org.uk/>

[2010 Conference Programme](#)

[Speaker Biographies](#)

### **Global Forum for Food and Agriculture**

*Date:* January 14 - 16, 2010

*Location:* International Congress Center, Berlin, Germany

Climate protection is one of the key challenges facing us today in environmental, social and economic policy terms. This holds true for all sectors at global and at regional levels. With the subject "Agriculture and Climate Change – New Concept Proposals from Policymakers and Industry" the Germany's Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) will take up the challenges associated with climate change at the forthcoming International Green Week and, at the same time, follow up on "food security" which was the main focus in 2009. Agriculture Ministers from around the globe are invited to come to Berlin to attend the International Agriculture Ministers' Panel Discussion and the Berlin Summit of Agriculture Ministers on 16 January 2010 during the Green Week in order to discuss experiences and concept proposals in the field of climate protection and the adaptation strategies pursued by their countries. In doing so, they can already draw on the outcome of the G8 Summit in L'Aquila and the UN Climate Conference of December 2009 and discuss in more concrete terms how the results can be implemented in the new climate regime from 2012.

[Program](#)

[Online Registration](#)

### **2010 World Ag Expo**

*Date:* February 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Tulare, California

With 2.6 million square feet of show grounds and 1,600 exhibitors, World Ag Expo is an industry leader in agriculture expositions. Attracting an annual average of 100,000 attendees, this three day expo transforms Tulare, California into the World's hot spot for agriculture technology and innovation.

<http://www.worldagexpo.com/General-Info/About-The-Show.htm>

[Register](#)

### **Agricultural Outlook Forum 2010**

*Date:* February 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Arlington, Virginia

USADA's 2010 Outlook Forum will be held Feb. 18-19 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Va. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will keynote the forum titled "Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Health & Prosperity." Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will open the annual forum on Feb. 18 at 8 a.m. A panel, which features Whole Foods Market Co-President Walter Robb, recently retired Sysco Corporation CEO Richard Schnieders, Bon Appétit Management Company CEO Fedele Bauccio, and Science and Technology Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of State Nina Fedoroff, is titled "Sustainability, Stakeholders and Customers: Achieving a Healthier 21st Century." USDA's Under Secretary Jim Miller will present the foreign trade outlook and Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will deliver the domestic agricultural economic outlook. It will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to rural communities, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, conservation, and food safety and security. The forum also will feature traditional USDA commodity supply and demand and food price outlooks. USDA will Web cast the entire morning plenary speeches. USDA has hosted the Outlook Forum since 1923 to provide farmers and ranchers, government, and agribusinesses with sound information for decision-making. Attendees are expected to include members of farm organizations, food and fiber firms, academia, foreign governments, and the news media.

[Session and Speakers](#)

[Program at a Glance](#)

[Public Registration](#)

### **Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD)**

*Date:* March 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Montpellier, France

The GCARD process will address the below questions: What are the development needs where AR can play its best role? How best do we turn research in development impacts at scale? How can more effective pathways be developed to create impact for the poor? What investments, institutions, policies and capacities are necessary?

<http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard>

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference**

*Date:* April 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

Location: Washington, DC  
Hosted by Informa Economics Inc.  
For more information, contact [Theresa Stephens](#)

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**\*\*SPECIAL SECTION ON UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN\*\***

**Draft Text of the Agreement:** <http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/climate-change/copenhagen-accord-4.30pm.pdf>

**The Post-Copenhagen Agenda for Agricultural Science**, *David Lobell, Assistant Professor at Stanford University and Center Fellow in Stanford's Program on Food Security and the Environment, Global Food for Thought Blog, December 18*

Revamping the global energy system and adapting to climate change will be huge tasks involving trillions of dollars. It should be no surprise, therefore, that millions of businesses, NGO's, and others will be clamoring for a piece of the mitigation and adaptation pies. Like most people who have chosen a career focused on agriculture and food security, I am inclined to think that agriculture should feature prominently in both mitigation and adaptation efforts. But looking at the science, it is clear that we could do a much better job defining the potential benefits and costs of investing in agriculture, and pinpointing the particular investments that are most worthwhile.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2009/12/expert-commentary-the-postcopenhagen-agenda-for-agricultural-science.html>

**Copenhagen Meetings Bring Unprecedented Push for Action on Agriculture and Forestry Issues**, *Mark Rosegrant, Director, Environment and Production Technology Division, International Food Policy Research Institute, Global Food for Thought Blog, December 15*

The build-up to the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen united a variety of groups eager to ensure that agricultural adaptation and mitigation are included in a final agreement at the COP-15. The world's poor people, most of whom live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for a living, will be devastated by climate change's effects on crop yields and livestock, and only if a Copenhagen accord represents their voices can a crisis be averted. Farmers will require assistance adapting to climate change—both in terms of policies and financing—while developing country agriculture also provides a significant opportunity to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through improved farming methods, with potential income benefits for farmers. At the same time, despite the challenge of climate change, crop production must meet the needs of a global population expected to reach 9 billion by 2020.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2009/12/expert-commentary-copenhagen-meetings-bring-unprecedented-push-for-action-on-agriculture-and-forestr.html>

**World leaders reach deal on climate change**, *Washington Post, December 18*

Agreement provides a means to monitor and verify emissions cuts by developing countries but has less ambitious climate targets, official says.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/18/AR2009121800637.html>

**At Climate Talks, Trade Pressures Mount**, *New York Times, December 18*

Could a legacy of the Copenhagen climate conference turn out to be higher tariffs?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/18/science/earth/18trade.html>

**Saving the rainforests: REDD or dead?**, *CNN International, December 18*

The U.N.'s forest carbon scheme which has formed part of the negotiations at the climate talks in Copenhagen has been one of the few areas where countries are broadly in agreement.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/12/18/un.redd.program.rainforests/>

**Bangladesh: Food Security in Great Peril from Climate Change**, *Reuters, December 18*

Unless the world comes to its aid, Bangladesh says the vulnerability of its agriculture sector to climate change could spell severe consequences for its millions of people, who stand to lose their main source of livelihood.

"As a poverty-stricken and densely populated country, we cannot cope with these challenges unless we have a proper financial and technological support from the developed world," said Sabir Hassan Chowdhary, one of the delegates from Bangladesh to the Copenhagen climate talks.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ips/ee511b23a11cb0eea0804b229f9a3ba8.htm>

**Climate change and forests: Touch Wood**, *Economist*, December 17

On December 16th six rich nations pledged \$3.5 billion as a down payment on a much larger effort to "slow, halt and eventually reverse" deforestation in poor countries. The benefactors—Australia, France, Japan, Norway, Britain and the United States—endorsed tree protection in terms that went beyond the immediate need to stem emissions. Keeping trees standing would protect biodiversity and help development of the right sort, they said.

[http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=15129518](http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=15129518)

**Poor and Emerging States Stall Climate Negotiations**, *New York Times*, December 17

The Group of 77, a group of poor and emerging nations, has raised repeated objections to what its members see as the economic and environmental tyranny of the industrial world.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/17/science/earth/17climate.html>

**See Also: At Copenhagen, Both Rich and Developing Nations Offer Concessions**, *Washington Post*, December 16

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/16/AR2009121600701.html>

**See Also: Showdown at Climate Talks**, *Wall Street Journal*, December 18

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126104774041695279.html>

**Internal Stresses Begin to Crack the Bloc of Developing Nations at Climate Talks**, *New York Times*, December 17

Developing countries have formed a powerful interest bloc in climate talks over the years, fighting collectively for the rights of poor nations. That's starting to fall apart.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/12/17/17climewire-internal-stresses-begin-to-crack-the-bloc-of-41204.html>

**Climate Change a 'Ticking Time Bomb' for Food: UN**, *Agence France Press*, December 16

A UN expert on the right to food said Wednesday that climate change represented a "ticking timebomb" that would hit the poorest countries and those who struggled to feed themselves the hardest. "Climate change is a ticking time bomb for global food security," said United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food Olivier De Schutter as the UN climate summit in Copenhagen struggled to reach agreement.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jzyZIKuRfXjZ9HOyNkHIBAJKdag>

**World Leaders Remain Far from a Deal in Copenhagen**, *Editorial*, *Washington Post*, December 16

The big fissures generally lie between rich and poor. Developing nations variously want rich countries to commit to emissions cuts on the order of 25 to 40 percent of 1990 levels by 2020; to provide at least \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help poorer countries adapt to climate change, curb deforestation and decrease the carbon intensity of their development; and to preserve the Kyoto Protocol, as of now the only binding treaty on climate change, even though it obliges neither the United States nor China -- nor, for that matter, any developing nation -- to curb greenhouse pollution.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/16/AR2009121603547\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/16/AR2009121603547_pf.html)

**See Also: Two Days and Counting**, *Editorial*, *New York Times*, December 17

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/17/opinion/17thu1.html>

**The Copenhagen Shakedown**, *Editorial*, *Wall Street Journal*, December 16

On Monday, the so-called G-77—in effect, the Third World—walked out of the talks for several hours in protest of the unwillingness, as they saw it, of rich countries to foot the bill for averting or mitigating climate catastrophe in the developing world. The negotiations have since resumed, but with the most difficult questions set aside and expectations lower than ever. More than anything else, Monday's walkout revealed the real reason that the developing world is in Copenhagen in the first place: They see climate change as a

potential foreign-aid bonanza, and they are at the table to leverage the West's environmental angst into massive transfers of wealth.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704398304574597900307712862.html>

**British PM Warns of Failure but Brings Hope**, *Copenhagen Summit, December 16*

According to British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the first sign of progress in the negotiations could be seen Wednesday with new proposals for climate change from African Union climate negotiator Meles Zenawi.

<http://en.cop15.dk/news/view+news?newsid=3014>

**Developing Nations Hold Key to Climate Change**, *Los Angeles Times, December 16*

Rich nations still hold some bargaining chips, but many negotiators and observers say key decisions by poor and emerging nations will make or break any deal.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-fg-climate-crunchtime16-2009dec16,0,6485815.story>

**Asia Still Split Over Climate Change: ADB**, *Financial Times, December 16*

Asian countries are divided over climate change, but all share a long-term interest in tackling the problem, the head of the region's development bank said. Haruhiko Kuroda, president of the Asian Development Bank, said countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand, with large populations in low-lying coastal areas were at the greatest short-term risk, but problems such as sea level rise, extreme weather and water shortages could eventually hit the whole region. "Even big countries like China, India and Pakistan, who are very dependent on irrigated water for agriculture, could be very much affected," he said.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/393cff08-e9b3-11de-9f1f-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=d68cb1fc-a38d-11de-a435-00144feabdc0.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/393cff08-e9b3-11de-9f1f-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=d68cb1fc-a38d-11de-a435-00144feabdc0.html)

**EU Woos Emerging Nations for Climate Alliance**, *Reuters, December 16*

European leaders are courting some African, Asian and Latin American nations to counter the clout of China and the United States at the climate change talks in Copenhagen, French officials said. French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his EU allies were wary of letting Beijing present itself as a spokesman for emerging economies, they said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE5BF0CN20091216>

**Envoy Expects India Emissions Offer to Help Bargain**, *Bloomberg, December 16*

For Jairam Ramesh, India's environment minister, United Nations climate-change talks in Copenhagen are as much about easing poverty in his country as preventing the world from overheating. "Since the first and overriding priority is for poverty alleviation and sustainable development, we cannot accept under any circumstances the concept of a peaking year" for developing countries, Ramesh said in an interview. "So we must limit the global goal to a temperature increase."

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

**U.S. Gives \$1 Billion for Forests**, *Washington Post, December 16*

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak announced Wednesday the United States would provide \$1 billion over the next three years to preserve tropical forests overseas. At the same time, leaders of the African Union and the European Union announced they are close to reaching agreement on how much rich countries should provide poor ones in a long-term finance package to cope with climate change.

[http://views.washingtonpost.com/climate-change/post-carbon/2009/12/us\\_gives\\_1\\_billion\\_for\\_forests.html](http://views.washingtonpost.com/climate-change/post-carbon/2009/12/us_gives_1_billion_for_forests.html)

**See Also: Deforestation and Greenhouse-Gas Emissions**, *Backgrounder, Council on Foreign Relations, December 16*

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/14919/deforestation\\_and\\_greenhousegas\\_emissions.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/14919/deforestation_and_greenhousegas_emissions.html)

**Copenhagen Must Bring Gender Justice**, *Guardian, December 15*

Adaptation to climatic variability is perhaps the greatest challenge facing humanity in the coming decades. Two intertwined factors shape this challenge and determine how we respond. The first concerns water – the basis for human life – and the second concerns questions of social equity and gender justice. Both find little mention in the various policy documents under negotiation at Copenhagen. Yet by 2025, it is estimated that almost two-thirds of the world's population are likely to experience water stress, and for 1 billion of them,

this will be severe and socially disruptive. Across the developing world, the predominant responsibility that poor rural and urban women have for domestic water collection, food security and health suggests that they will be among the most vulnerable.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/dec/15/copenhagen-women-developing-world>

**Brown Offers £1.2bn in a Bid to Break Climate Deadlock**, *Independent*, December 15

Gordon Brown is preparing to offer more money from Britain to help the world's poorest countries combat climate change in an attempt to break the deadlock at the Copenhagen summit. Aides to the Prime Minister, who has already announced £1.5bn over the next three years for African and other nations affected by global warming, said he is also planning to contribute to a separate £15.3bn global fund to reduce deforestation.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/brown-offers-16312bn-in-a-bid-to-break-climate-deadlock-1840944.html>

**Climate Deal in Balance Over Aid**, *Financial Times*, December 15

The United Nations has conceded that a deal in Copenhagen on climate change might not include promised financial aid for developing countries, an admission that will infuriate poorer nations and potentially scupper a broad-based agreement.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3c00c420-e9b0-11de-9f1f-00144feab49a.html>

**Africa Cool on Obama in Copenhagen**, *Politico*, December 15

President Barack Obama proclaimed he had “the blood of Africa within me” during his emotional trip to Ghana this summer. But to African climate negotiators in Copenhagen, he’s just another U.S. president pushing a preachy, penurious agenda.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1209/30597.html>

**Poor Nations Stall Talks on Global Warming**, *Washington Post*, December 15

Global warming talks were suspended for hours because of a walkout by developing countries, as rich and poor nations struggled to reconcile the divisions that have dominated international climate policy for decades.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/14/AR2009121400762.html>

**Climate Talks Near Deal to Save Forests**, *New York Times*, December 15

Negotiators were closing in on a sweeping deal that would compensate countries for preserving forests and other natural landscapes.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/science/earth/16forest.html>

**Prince Charles Warns Climate Change Will Drive Starvation and Terrorism**, *Telegraph*, December 15

The world has only seven years before climate change causes a “point of crisis” that will drive food shortages, terrorism and poverty, the Prince of Wales has warned.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/copenhagen-climate-change-confe/6819392/Copenhagen-climate-summit-Prince-Charles-warns-climate-change-will-drive-starvation-and-terrorism.html>

**At Climate Talks, Key Decisions Unresolved**, *Washington Post*, December 15

The question of long-term financing is critical, because many developing countries see little incentive to sign off on an agreement that does not provide them with significant new money to deal with the effects of global warming.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/15/AR2009121505077.html>

**In Copenhagen, ‘To Be Elaborated’ Is a Stalemate**, *New York Times*, December 15

Agriculture was the theme of the event, a noon protest that drew 300 to 400 people to Islands Brygge, a neighborhood on the south side of the inner canal here. Organized under the slogan “Resistance Is Ripe,” they contended that agricultural issues were being overlooked or mishandled by the government delegates gathered at the Bella Center.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/science/earth/16notebook.html>

**Guest Blogger: Agriculture Plays Key Role at Copenhagen Climate Talks**, *Des Moines Register*, December 14

On Monday afternoon, Dec. 14, three days of outside meetings in Copenhagen came to a head in an official COP 15 side event, "Beyond Copenhagen: Agriculture and Forestry are Part of the Solution." More than 400 people crowded the Niels Bohr room in Hall H at the Bella Center for a meeting organized by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). The main message was food security and climate change are inexorably linked, and any agreement coming out of Copenhagen that does not address the role of agriculture will not succeed.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009912160331>

**US Reveals Fund for Green Tech in Poor Nations**, *Associated Press*, December 14

The White House on Monday announced a new program drawing funds from international partners to spend \$350 million over five years to supply developing nations with clean energy technology to curb greenhouse gas emissions and reduce global warming.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091214/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/climate\\_energy\\_poor\\_nations](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091214/ap_on_bi_ge/climate_energy_poor_nations)

**EU: Poor Countries Agree to Resume Climate Talks**, *Associated Press*, December 14

The European Union says poor countries have stopped their boycott of climate change negotiations at Copenhagen and have found a solution to their dispute with rich nations.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i9TuMrvrknh-ZXwqmZ2N-48kff3wD9Cj70FG0>

**See Also: Climate Talks Stall as Poorer Nations Walk Out in Protest**, *New York Times*, December 14

Saying that that richer countries were not doing enough to cut emissions, developing countries' delegates upended climate talks on Monday.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/15/science/earth/15climate.html>

**A Tiny Pacific Island Faces Climate Change**, *TIME*, December 14

At first glance, Ifalik seems like an advertisement for a certain kind of paradise. Kids play on outrigger sailing canoes, women prepare lunch over open fires and men bag coconuts to sell to traders who have just arrived by ship, the first in months. But in December 2008, extreme high tides hit the island and others in FSM, damaging homes, eroding coastlines and inundating crops. Pekaicheng says he knows whom to blame. "The big countries are contaminating the whole universe", he says. "And it's getting us before it gets them."

[http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1929071\\_1929070\\_1947456,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1929071_1929070_1947456,00.html)

**WFP Director Pushing Climate Change Aid**, *Ag Week*, December 14

Citing the likelihood of volatile harvests and food prices in the future, World Food Program executive director Josette Sheeran Dec. 9 urged world leaders gathering in Copenhagen to establish programs immediately to help developing countries plant trees, save water and take other actions to adapt to climate change.

[http://www.agweek.com/articles/?id=7777&article\\_id=15805&property\\_id=41](http://www.agweek.com/articles/?id=7777&article_id=15805&property_id=41)

**African Farmers Can Mitigate Climate Change Effects**, *Op-Ed, Morrison Rwakakamba, Uganda National Farmers Federation, New Vision*, December 13

I told the meeting that, agriculture, which produces multiple services from food, feed, fuel and fibre, is essentially dependent on water as one of its key strategic resources. Yet water availability and access, is under severe stress due to climate change and other man made environmental degradation tendencies on the continent. I reminded the audience that 95% of the food in sub-Saharan Africa depends on rain-fed agriculture and on average, 7% of sub-Sahara Africans are employed by agriculture.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/459/704136>

**Climate Change, the Great Leveller**, *Op-Ed, Christopher Caldwell, senior editor of The Weekly Standard, Financial Times*, December 12

Africa is warmer and drier than most continents, and more dependent on agriculture. It may be that fluctuations in the global climate will hit Africa harder.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/07feaf12-e6a8-11de-98b1-00144feab49a.html>

**New Farm Tactics Urged to Stem Climate's Impact on Food Supply**, *Globe and Mail*, December 11

The world's largest alliance of agricultural scientists unveiled a new strategy early today in Copenhagen, aimed to lessen the impact climate change is expected to have on the global food supply. Their goal is to jump-start efforts before climate change worsens food-supply problems. For years, experts have warned that the amount of food on our tables will be directly affected by the onset of hotter, drier climates.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/new-farm-tactics-urged-to-stem-climates-impact-on-food-supply/article1396625/>

**Around the Halls: Copenhagen Climate Change Conference**, *Brookings Institution*, December 9

Although Africa only contributes between two to five percent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, it faces some of the greatest threats from climate change: floods and droughts further imperil agricultural production and food security, water availability, and threaten coastal cities and towns. More than rhetoric, African countries desperately need a quantifiable and binding commitment by the wealthy nations to support efforts by African governments to 1) transform agriculture through technology transfer, and 2) provide financial aid and capacity building for mitigation activities.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/1209\\_halls\\_copenhagen.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/1209_halls_copenhagen.aspx)

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**AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

**Bangladesh Tests New Rice Strains**, *BBC*, December 16

Researchers in Bangladesh are in the final stage of testing three new rice varieties which they say will be able to survive the country's annual floods. In most years more than 20% of Bangladesh goes under water, and millions of tonnes of rice are lost.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8415391.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8415391.stm)

**Firm Farming Rice Technique to World**, *China Daily*, December 16

Since 2008, a growing shortage and the rising price of food have put many developing countries, especially those in Africa, in dire need of more grain. Once a rice exporter, Madagascar transformed into a rice importer in 2008 due to its expanding population, shifting climate and the country's still primitive rice-cultivation technique.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-12/16/content\\_9184225.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2009-12/16/content_9184225.htm)

**Uganda: Scientists Fence Off Land for GM Maize Trial**, *All Africa.com*, December 16

Scientists at the National Crop Resources Research Institute, Namulonge, have fenced off six hectares of land in Kasese district to conduct research on genetically modified maize. The site, located at Mubuku irrigation scheme, will be used for testing drought-tolerant maize. The project, which is being coordinated by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates and the Howard Buffet foundations. It is also being implemented in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912170346.html>

**Romanian Cioloş Named as New EU Farm Commissioner-Designate**, *Roger Waite, FarmPolicy.com*, December 15

Well, we now have a name for the next EU Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development. Or at least the Commissioner-designate. It's the 40-year-old former Romanian Minister for Agriculture, Dacian Cioloş. I thought I'd share a few thoughts on his nomination – and what it might mean for future policy, although it is far too soon for any firm conclusions.

<http://www.farmpolicy.com/?p=1716>

**UN Development Partnership Seeks to Boost Agricultural Sector in Myanmar**, *UN News Service*, December 15

United Nations development officials held talks with Government ministers in Myanmar aimed at boosting the impoverished country's agricultural sector to help it reclaim its status as the rice bowl of Asia.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33267&Cr=myanmar&Cr1>

**Agricultural Biotechnology Can Ensure Food Security: Experts, Yahoo! News India, December 14**

With food prices rising sharply over the last few months, agricultural biotechnology is the need of the hour as it increases crop productivity and ensures food security, experts in India said Monday. At a two-day conference on 'Modern Biotechnology in Indian Agriculture' starting Monday, biotechnology experts pointed out that agricultural biotechnology would modernise agriculture, increase crop yield, enhance the livelihood of farmers and make food affordable.

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/43/20091214/836/tbs-agricultural-biotechnology-can-ensur.html>

**South Africa Struggles to Put New Black Farmers on the Land, Des Moines Register, December 13**

Isaac Khuto, 65, got a late start at farming, but he's making the most of it. He grows corn, or maize, on a portion of the land using top-of-the-line seed from three companies - two top U.S. biotech companies, Pioneer and Monsanto, and a South African supplier. This year, he's conducting his own trial of conventional and biotech seed to see which one gives a better return. Khuto is one of the success stories among programs being run by South Africa's farm commodity organizations to train new black farmers to become commercial-scale producers.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091213/BUSINESS03/912130324/1029/BUSINESS/South-Africa-struggles-to-put-new-black-farmers-on-the-land>

**Central African Republic Must Focus on Farming, World Bank Says, Bloomberg December 12**

The Central African Republic must focus on developing agriculture, energy and education to foster economic growth rather than exploiting the nation's mineral resources, according to Obiageli Ezekwesili, the World Bank's vice-president for Africa.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=a1aL9UtG4ImY>

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**FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

**EU Backs 6% Budget Boost; France Fights for Farm Aid, Bloomberg, December 17**

The deepest economic slump in 60 years has sparked fresh calls in Europe to shift EU spending from agriculture to growth-boosting areas such as research. A U.K.-led group aims to slash EU agricultural aid, a legacy of continental Europe's goal after World War II to ensure adequate food production, while France heads an alliance keen to maintain European farm subsidies. The other main part of the EU budget goes to foster development in poorer European regions, leading this policy area and agriculture together to soak up around four-fifths of the total. The 2010 spending plan earmarks 57 billion euros in farm expenditure and 36 billion euros in regional aid.

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aCrO2\\_L2qmCA](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aCrO2_L2qmCA)

**U.S. Spends \$23 Billion on Afghan Contracts So Far, Reuters, December 17**

The United States has spent over \$23 billion on reconstruction and development contracts in Afghanistan since 2002, and auditors say about \$1 billion of this is waste, a U.S. senator said. The money has gone to projects ranging from road-building and power generation to agricultural and urban development and water sanitation, McCaskill's staff said in a memorandum prepared for the hearing of the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight, which she chairs.

<http://www.indiajournal.com/pages/event.php?id=9317>

**Can African Countries Achieve the Millennium Goals Without Foreign Aid?, Guardian, December 16**

A UN representative has said relying on foreign aid to achieve the Millennium Development Goals did a disservice to Africa, and has called on African governments to find alternative funding sources and clean up their act.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2009/dec/16/millennium-development-goals-aid>

**Nepal's 'Silent' Food Crisis, Guardian, December 15**

Mugu is a long way from the parts of Nepal familiar to tourists. In fact, it's a long way from anywhere. There are no cosy lodges for trekkers to relax in after a hard day's walking. Most people in Mugu are subsistence

farmers. If their growing season is interrupted for whatever reason – like the civil war, or unusual weather events – then people go hungry.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/dec/15/world-food-programme-nepal-crisis>

**U.N. Experts Get Threats in Inquiry into Somalia**, *New York Times*, December 13

According to officials close to the investigation, several Somali businessmen, who have been working for years with the United Nations World Food Program to deliver emergency rations, may be diverting money to terrorist groups that are trying to bring down Somalia's weak transitional government and possibly wage attacks on Western targets in Kenya. Concerns about these same Somali businessmen recently led the American government to delay food shipments to Somalia at a time when millions of Somalis are a few meals away from starvation.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/13/world/africa/13somalia.html>

**USAID: Understaffed and Overwhelmed in Afghanistan: Obama's Troop Surge Fails to Address how to Improve Delivery of Aid**, *Global Post*, December 11

Understaffing combined with unwieldy budgets on rushed schedules in an active war zone have severely undercut the U.S. Agency for International Development's ability to deliver nearly \$10 billion in aid for development projects in Afghanistan. A new report by USAID's inspector general raises serious questions about how U.S. taxpayer dollars are being spent — or misspent — in Afghanistan on the construction of roads, bridges, schools and other projects.

<http://www.globalpost.com/print/5077755>

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**ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)**

**PM Seeks Greater Synergy Between Agricultural, Water Policies**, *India Journal*, December 17

Voicing concern over climatic distortions adversely affecting ground water table and impacting crop productivity, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Dec 10 sought greater synergy between agricultural and water policies. Improvement in irrigation is key not only to step up agricultural productivity but also the strategy for sustainable water use, he said.

<http://www.indiajournal.com/pages/event.php?id=9317>

**Aid Group: Rains Fail Again Across East Africa**, *Associated Press*, December 17

Failed seasonal rains across East Africa will drive millions of people to hunger and poverty unless swift action is taken, an aid group said. Oxfam said some areas had received less than 5 percent of the normal November rains and that many people are malnourished in Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. It is the sixth failed rainy season for war-ravaged Somalia and the worst drought there for 20 years, the group said. The report says cattle prices have tumbled from \$200 to \$4 in some areas as families try to sell dying animals to buy food. One clinic in Tanzania has reported a 400 percent increase in malnutrition cases since August, the agency said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5haPdQ5cEWmurV21adg585wBMrHagD9CL26QG0>

**See Also: Millions At Risk as East Africa Rains Fail, Oxfam Says**, *BBC News*, December 17

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8417516.stm>

**Environment: Billions are Struggling to Stay Afloat**, *Guardian*, December 16

World food supplies came under increased strain following a succession of droughts, typhoons and floods, and the human toll was increased by the worldwide financial crisis which led to widespread unemployment and recession in poor countries and the loss of remittances from abroad.

<http://www.guardianweekly.co.uk/?page=editorial&id=1387&catID=17>

**New Delhi's Filth Continues to Choke Once-Sacred Yamuna River**, *Washington Post*, December 16

The 13-mile stretch of Yamuna that runs through the capital is the dirtiest of any river in India, unable to sustain aquatic life and unfit even for animals to bathe in. After descending from the Himalayas, the Yamuna flows through five states. But it is reduced to a dirty trickle in New Delhi, in part because of heavy usage by factories and farms upstream.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/16/AR2009121603782.html>

**E.U. Urged to Open Doors to Migrants**, *New York Times*, December 15

Climate change is expected to unseat conflict as the main driver of mass migration in coming years, predicted António Guterres, the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, calling on rich nations to provide financial aid to poorer nations most affected by global warming. Even if the current climate talks in Copenhagen are successful, he said, the impact of hotter weather caused by cumulative greenhouse gas emissions already in the atmosphere is likely to increase the number and scale of phenomena displacing populations: natural disasters, food scarcity, water shortages and conflicts.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/15/world/europe/15iht-migrants.html>

**'Evergreen Agriculture' Wins for Climate and Hunger**, *Op-Ed, M.S. Swaminathan, winner of the 1987 World Food Prize and founder and chairman of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in India, and Dennis Garrity, director general of the World Agroforestry Centre, SciDev.net*, December 15

Soil science and agroforestry can help tackle climate change and boost crop yields,

<http://www.scidev.net/en/opinions/-evergreen-agriculture-wins-for-climate-and-hunger-1.html>

**China: A Blast for the Past**, *Financial Times*, December 14

Still held up by the party as a patriotic model of the communist "spirit", the Red Flag Canal is now little more than a tourist attraction. The water level has dropped as the source river dwindles, much of Lin county has dried up again and upstream pollution makes the water unpotable. There are bitter disputes between Lin county farmers and those upstream who had their water taken, and who now receive compensation from the Lin county government. Already some of the peasant farmers shifted from their homes to make way for the central route of the project are complaining that money set aside for their compensation and relocation has been stolen by local officials, a story familiar from other giant projects such as the Three Gorges dam, which involved the relocation of more than 1.3m people.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d5b9172e-e8ee-11de-a756-00144feab49a.html>

**Kashmir's Climate Frontline**, *Aljazeera.net*, December 13

Kashmir is beginning to recover from two decades of bloody conflict. But the region, once known as "Paradise on Earth" because of its stunning natural beauty and abundant resources, is now facing another crisis - a changing climate. The thousands of glaciers in the Western Himalaya Mountains that wind through Kashmir are receding as fast as any on the planet, melting due to increased temperatures. This causes heavy flooding in the region, which is followed by drought during critical planting times. The early glacier melt, combined with a decrease in rainfall and snowfall, directly affects farmers.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/climatesos/2009/12/20091278368975161.html>

**Under the Icy North Lurks a 'Carbon Bomb'**, *Boston Globe*, December 13

While the northern forest's beauty is undeniable, it is tropical forests, with their towering tree canopies and enormous number of colorful and charismatic species that have riveted the world. And, scientists say, there is good reason for that: Agriculture and development are causing massive deforestation, totaling more than 20 million acres a year by some estimates, and the forests are being further degraded by illegal and shoddy logging practices and fire.

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/canada/articles/2009/12/13/under\\_the\\_icy\\_north\\_lurks\\_a\\_carbon\\_bomb/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/canada/articles/2009/12/13/under_the_icy_north_lurks_a_carbon_bomb/)

**Climate Change Threatening Survival of Himalayan Communities – UN Report**, *UN News Centre*, December 11

Climate change is posing a serious threat to communities in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, bringing both drought and catastrophic floods to hundreds of millions of people, according to a new United Nations-backed report. Food security, housing, infrastructure, business and even the survival of people living in mountainous regions and their neighbours in river basins downstream in the region are extremely vulnerable to climate change, it said.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33228&Cr=drought&Cr1>

**See Also: Satellite Rainfall Estimation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region**, *International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, 2009*

[http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-satellite\\_rainfall\\_estimation\\_in\\_the\\_hindu\\_kush-himalayan\\_region.pdf](http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-satellite_rainfall_estimation_in_the_hindu_kush-himalayan_region.pdf)

**Climate Change Puts World's Fisheries at Risk Says U.N.**, *Voice of America, December 11*

The world has grown more dependent on fish for food. But the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization says climate change is putting fisheries and fish farms at risk.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/environment/decapua-climat6e-fisheries-11dec09-79069282.html>

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## WOMEN

**Pakistan: Primary School Girls Bring in the Cooking Oil**, *IRIN, December 16*

A major school feeding programme in Pakistan is helping some of the poorest families. The programme had increased girls' enrolment by 25 percent and attendance by 62 percent since 1998, said Marcelo Spinahering of WFP Pakistan.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87455>

**Climate Change: Adaptation Funds Must Reach Africa's Women Farmers**, *Inter Press Service News Agency, December 11*

Women make up a majority of smallholder farmers in Africa and in other developing countries. In contrast to the options open to many men, few women can respond to drought, for example, by relocating to cities or other rural areas in search of work. Women are often tied down by the need to care for children, or social obstacles to mobility; they are also frequently without even the smallest cash savings of their own or assets to sell to bridge hard times.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=49647>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

**India Food Prices Likely to Stay High, Complicating Exit Policy**, *Wall Street Journal, December 18*

Food prices in India are likely to remain high for now and monetary policy needs to take inflationary pressures into account as the government exits its easy fiscal stance, a report said Friday. Food prices have risen sharply in recent months, hurt by supply constraints in an economy ravaged by its worst drought in 37 years.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126113295699596913.html>

**No Climate Mitigation with Expanding Agriculture Trade**, *Times of India, December 17*

Knowing that trade does not happen on bullock carts, the amount of fossil fuel burned to trade goods, including agricultural commodities, would in any case bring the world closer to the tipping point. Felling forests for pastures, converting food for biofuels, and acerbating industrial farming practices, both for crops and animals, have already added a quarter of greenhouse gases in the environment.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/No-climate-mitigation-with-expanding-agriculture-trade/articleshow/5345882.cms>

**EU Banana Dispute Ends in Favor of Latin American Exporters**, *Deutsche Welle, December 15*

Bananas will likely be a few cents cheaper for European shoppers as a result of the settlement of the 'banana war' between Latin American banana exporters and the EU.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5017556,00.html>

**See Also: EU- Latin American Accord Ends Banana-Import Dispute**, *Bloomberg, December 15*

The European Union and Latin American countries including Ecuador and Guatemala reached an agreement over the EU's banana-import policies, settling the longest-running dispute at the World Trade Organization.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=alBtv4vXaZZo>

**Asian Sugar Rush Sees Prices at All-Time Peak**, *Financial Times*, December 15

White sugar prices in London hit a fresh all-time high this week, supported by signs that Asian countries are buying refined quantities of the sweetener to cover domestic shortfalls.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0bd486cc-e917-11de-a756-00144feab49a.html>

**Fastest Food Inflation since Riots Means Milk Up 39%**, *Bloomberg*, December 14

Falling production in commodities from rice to milk is bad news for just about everyone except investors.

Global food costs jumped 7 per cent in November, the most since February 2008, four months before reaching a record, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=aBYSp0.XfXZs&pos=14>

**See Also: Global Food Prices Set to Skyrocket**, *CBS News*, December 14

<http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2009/12/14/business/econwatch/entry5977802.shtml>

**Ensuring the Food Security**, *Financial Express (Bangladesh)*, December 2009

Amid the growing concern afresh over the surging prices of rice in the international market, it should be considered a good luck for Bangladesh for having reaped good major harvests of rice crops in succession in about last one and a half years. This has led to reduced import of food grains and also to abatement of price pressures.

[http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news\\_id=86619](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=86619)

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**As Patent Ends, a Seed's Use Will Survive**, *New York Times*, December 17

Facing antitrust scrutiny over its practices in the biotechnology seed business, Monsanto has said it will not stand in the way of farmers eventually using lower cost alternatives to its genetically modified soybeans.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/18/business/18seed.html>

**Deere Bids for Israeli Cotton Equipment Co. Assets**, *Associated Press*, December 15

Heavy equipment maker Deere & Co. offered to buy certain assets and customer relationships of BHC Manufacturing, an Israeli manufacturer of repair parts for cotton-picking machines.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/34430495>

**Kraft Stands Firm on Its Cadbury Offer**, *New York Times*, December 15

Kraft Foods, the consumer products company, questioned the growth targets of its takeover target, Cadbury, as it stuck by its £9.8 billion hostile bid for the British chocolate company.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/16/business/global/16kraft.html>

**See Also: Cadbury in Fierce Rebuff to Kraft Bid**, *Financial Times*, December 14

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7ebf9a00-e8ef-11de-a756-00144feab49a.html>

**AP Investigation: Monsanto Seed Biz Role Revealed**, *Associated Press*, December 14

Confidential contracts detailing Monsanto Co.'s business practices reveal how the world's biggest seed developer is squeezing competitors, controlling smaller seed companies and protecting its dominance over the multibillion-dollar market for genetically altered crops, an Associated Press investigation has found.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j8W6nfSayR05KaPseqcPMSfTXjKOD9Cj3QA00>

**Not So Fair Trade**, *Guardian*, December 12

Nestlé has just announced that KitKat – Britain's biggest-selling chocolate bar – will carry the Fairtrade logo from next month. But how much do consumers really know about the Fairtrade movement? Is it, as some say, an essential safety net that helps poor farmers earn a better living or, as others say, an example of western feel-good tokenism that holds back modernisation and entrenches agrarian poverty?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/dec/12/fair-trade-fairtrade-kitkat-farmers>

**See Also: Kit Kat Biscuits to Go Fairtrade in the New Year**, *BBC*, December 7

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/8397870.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8397870.stm)

**Unilever Cuts Palm Oil Ties Over Environment Fears**, *Financial Times*, December 11

Unilever, one of the world's largest single purchasers of palm oil, has stopped buying oil from Indonesian company PT Smart amid Greenpeace allegations that its plantations destroy forests. It is the first time that Unilever, which uses palm oil in its margarines, soups and shampoos, has stopped buying oil from one of its suppliers for environmental reasons.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e3bb462-e655-11de-bcbe-00144feab49a.dwp\\_uuid=d68cb1fc-a38d-11de-a435-00144feabdc0.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6e3bb462-e655-11de-bcbe-00144feab49a.dwp_uuid=d68cb1fc-a38d-11de-a435-00144feabdc0.html)

**Moffitt Named Chairman of Ag Export Council**, *Produce News*, December 9

Kevin Moffitt, president and chief executive officer of the Pear Bureau Northwest, has been named chairman of the U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council.

<http://theproducenews.com/StoryNews.cfm?ID=9253>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*