

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



December 23rd, 2009 – January 8th, 2010

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Quote of the Week: "We helped spark an agricultural revolution that created the most dramatic increase in food production in history - and helped our partner countries in Asia prevent massive starvation. Now, we have the opportunity, through the Food Security Initiative, to reverse the unacceptable trend of increasing hunger in our world - and help tens of millions of people conquer extreme poverty through agricultural development," Dr. Rajiv Shah, administrator, USAID, January 7, 2010.

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Special Coverage of *World Policy Journal's* "Water Wars," Volume 26, Issue 4 - Winter 2009/10

KEY ARTICLES

Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID Swearing-In Ceremony, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Administration of USAID, Rajiv Shah, USAID, January 7, 2010

Clinton: "There is no doubt that we are going to be taking on an enormous agenda. But we don't have a choice. We're working on major initiatives on food security and global health, we're pursuing new ways and making a greater commitment to women and girls, we're expanding partnerships not only with governments and multilateral institutions, but with the private sector, the NGOs and civil society and the faith community. And we're undertaking the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review through the State Department and USAID. Alonzo has been co-chairing that. Raj will now co-chair it."

Shah: "We helped spark an agricultural revolution that created the most dramatic increase in food production in history - and helped our partner countries in Asia prevent massive starvation. Now, we have the

opportunity, through the Food Security Initiative, to reverse the unacceptable trend of increasing hunger in our world - and help tens of millions of people conquer extreme poverty through agricultural development.”
<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2010/sp100107.html>

See Also: Shah pledges to elevate development as he takes the helm of USAID, *Foreign Policy (The Cable)*, January 7, 2010

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/01/07/shah_pledges_to_elevate_development_as_he_takes_the_helm_of_usaid

See Also: New USAID Chief Sees US Listening More, Forging Deeper Partnerships Overseas, *VOA News*, January 7

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/usa/Rajiv-Shah-Sworn-In-as-USAID-Chief--80907062.html>

Remarks on Development in the 21st Century, *Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, U.S. Department of State*, January 6, 2010

Clinton: “To start, we are investing \$3.5 billion over the next three years in partner countries where agriculture represents more than 30 percent of GDP and more than 60 percent of jobs, and where up to 70 percent of a family’s disposable income is spent on food. Farming in these places plays such a large role that a weak agricultural sector often means a weak country. Small family farmers stay poor, people go hungry, economies stagnate, and social unrest can ignite, as we have seen with the riots over food in more than 60 countries since 2007. By offering technical support and making strategic investments across the entire food system – from the seeds that farmers plant to the markets where they sell their crops to the homes where people cook and store their food – we can help countries create a ripple effect that extends beyond farming and strengthens the security and prosperity of whole regions.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/01/134838.htm>

See Also: Background Briefing on Plans to Elevate and Strengthen Development as One of the Three Pillars of the Nation's Foreign Policy, *U.S. Department of State*, January 6, 2010

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: “Well, food – well, we know food security plays a very important role in this strategy. And fundamentally, this is really about following a set of priorities that are delineated in countries by country leadership. And so the Food Security Initiative, as an important initiative announced by the President earlier this year, is in response to countries that often have their total gross domestic product – more than 30 percent of that coming from the agriculture sector, more than 60 percent of total employment in agriculture, and often more than 70 or 80 percent of that is of average disposable income spent on food. Countries that have those attributes have been, over the past few years, increasingly asking for a more focused and strategic investment set of activities in food security and agricultural development. That’s why the President developed and launched the Food Security Initiative, and that will be an important part of taking this forward.”

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/01/134787.htm>

See Also: On-the-Record Briefing Previewing Secretary Clinton's Speech on Development Via Teleconference, *Anne-Marie Slaughter, Director, Policy Planning Staff and Raj Shah, USAID Administrator, U.S. Department of State*, January 6, 2010

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/01/134781.htm>

See Also: Hilary Clinton on Development Issues, *Nicholas Kristof, New York Times*, January 8, 2010

<http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/06/hillary-clinton-on-development-issues/>

World’s Healthiest Food, *Op-Ed, Nicholas D. Kristof, New York Times*, January 2, 2010

These micronutrients are the miracle substance I’m talking about, and there’s scarcely a form of foreign aid more cost-effective than getting them into the food supply. As the United States reorganizes its chaotic aid program, it might try promoting what just may be the world’s most luscious food: micronutrients.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/03/opinion/03kristof.html>

Copenhagen, Tsunami and Hunger, *Op-Ed, M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)*, *The Hindu*, December 25, 2009

India's food and water security systems will be the worst victims of a rise in mean temperature. Building our defences against potential climate change activated calamities through mainstreaming climate resilience in all developmental programmes should be the priority task in the New Year.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/article70593.ece?homepage=true>

After Copenhagen: Make Agriculture More Resilient, Neil D. Hamilton, Professor of Law and Director, Agricultural Law Center at Drake University, Des Moines Register, December 27, 2009

Regardless of your view on climate change, agriculture needs to become more resilient. Perhaps our "unusually" wet fall that delayed harvest - and caused millions in crop losses across the South (over \$1 billion requested for disaster aid) - was just "the weather." But what if it's a preview of how climate change may increase farming's vulnerability? We care about our future, so we should plan for how we may need to adapt.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091227/OPINION01/912270317/1035/archive/Guest-column-After-Copenhagen-Make-agriculture-more-resilient>

Feeding and Fueling the World Requires Regional Approaches to Global Challenges, Op-Ed, Howard D. Grimes, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Washington State University Graduate School, Seattle Times, December 24, 2009

Making long-term, global predictions based on current data is enormously complex; this complexity leads to some of the controversy surrounding global climate change. However, a vast majority of climate and Earth scientists agree on some key changes we can expect — more droughts, more floods, less snow and ice, more extreme weather conditions and a rising sea level. The impact will vary by region. While one area suffers from drought, another may be experiencing flooding. By 2020, Africa will lose 50 percent of its rain-fed agricultural yields. Across the globe, there will be widespread problems in soil quality, lower crop yields and water availability.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2010587427_guest25grimes.html

US Military Boosts Efforts to Help Afghan Farmers, Associated Press, January 6, 2010

The American military is expanding its efforts to rebuild Afghanistan's agriculture after decades of war left the nation's farm-based economy in ruins. Once a major exporter of dried fruits, nuts and exotic crops such as pomegranates, Afghanistan is now known mainly for growing poppies for the opium trade.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100106/ap_on_bi_ge/us_farm_scene_afghan_agriculture

Why Farms May Be the New Forests, Economist, December 30, 2009

Climate and agriculture matter to each other in several ways. On the downside, farming is a cause of deforestation, and also emits greenhouse gases in its own right—perhaps 14% of the global total. On the upside, agriculture can also dispose of heat-trapping gases, by increasing the carbon content of soils.

http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15179766

Gates Foundation Picks New Head of Ag Program, Associated Press, January 8, 2010

A day after its previous agriculture leader was sworn in to take over the United States Agency for International Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced a new director for agriculture development. Sam Dryden, a managing director of New York-based Wolfensohn & Company, will take over the program Feb. 1. Dryden has 25 years of experience as an investor and entrepreneur in the life sciences. He has served on a number of international boards and commissions focused on agriculture development, economic development and food security.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9514266>

See Also: Gates Foundation Boosts Agricultural Funding and Education, Seattle Times, January 5, 2010

Two recent grants and a \$10 million investment by the Gates Foundation aim to boost access to education and capital for African agriculture.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2010707548_gates_foundation_boosts_agricu.html

Life Changing Leadership in a Small Southern Town, Dan Silverstein, Huffington Post, January 8, 2010

Hunger is an extremely significant and pressing issue and, yet, it is almost universally misunderstood by the people who have the ability to actually do something about it. Worldwide there are more than a billion people who suffer from acute, chronic or hidden. It's not that no one is doing anything about it. Charitable organizations abound. Private donations and government grants support food banks, research, education. In the private sector YUM! Brands has invested heavily worldwide in employee-driven programs to raise awareness and to raise money for WFP.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-silverstein/life-changing-leadership_b_415730.html

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

U.S. Government Agriculture Sector Programs in Afghanistan and Upcoming Travel to the Region, U.S. Department of State, January 7, 2010

Vilsack: "I think it's fair to say that agriculture is the top non-security priority for the United States Government in Afghanistan, and I'm looking forward to traveling to Afghanistan to visit with officials from the Afghan Government. Eighty percent of Afghans earn their income from agriculture. Thirty-five percent of the Afghan GDP comes from agriculture. Fifty percent of their arable land is currently under cultivation. So there is a tremendous opportunity not just in the growing of wheat, but also in horticultural crops for this economy to be strengthened, and for greater stability to be created as a result of a stronger agricultural presence."

http://www.state.gov/s/special_rep_afghanistan_pakistan/2010/134921.htm

Letter to State Department Employees, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, January 8, 2010

"We are investing in agricultural advances that will help the world's farmers feed their own people, helping open schools, and creating economic opportunities that will provide young people with alternatives to extremism. And we are providing microloans for women who will start businesses and lift themselves, their families, and their communities out of poverty. Advancing the rights and opportunities of women and girls has been one of the causes of my life and is now a crucial component of our development agenda. And fostering development and empowering women are both core elements of the 21st century human rights agenda that I laid out last month and will continue to champion in the months ahead – including in the new frontier of Internet freedom, which I will be addressing at length in the coming weeks."

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/0110/Clinton_writes_State_employees.html

The Obama Administration's Challenges in Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard C. Holbrooke, special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Brookings Institution, January 7, 2010

Holbrooke: "Afghanistan was a big agricultural exporting country with India as a prime market. A month ago the Afghans with great fanfare shipped by airplane 12 tons of apples -- they're famous for their apples -- to India as a way of resurrecting their once-vibrant export markets, and that's why we're putting so much attention on agriculture. So answer to your question my friend, we really are listening to the Afghans not just on agriculture, although that is our primary nonsecurity issue, but on everything."

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2010/0107_holbrooke/20100107_afghanistan.pdf

See Also: U.S. Policy in Afghanistan, Richard C. Holbrooke, special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Transcript, Council on Foreign Relations, December 15, 2009

Holbrooke: "We have a major agricultural program which is now our most important non-security program because it's an agricultural country. We had 10 Americans working in agriculture when I took this job. We have over 100 now and building from AID and Department of Agriculture. And that does not count at least five agricultural development teams from the National Guard. And we were ignoring agriculture. And if you get an agricultural economy revitalized, you're going to start to withdraw the incentive, the attractiveness of the Taliban to some of these unemployed youths. So we're going to revitalize agriculture. The Congress has backed us fully on this."

http://www.cfr.org/publication/21000/us_policy_in_afghanistan.html

US Senate Panel OKs Two Top Trade Nominees, Reuters, December 23, 2009

The Senate Finance Committee gave its support to President Barack Obama's nominees for two key trade positions. The panel voted unanimously in favor of Michael Punke to be U.S. ambassador to the World Trade Organization with the rank of deputy trade representative and for Isi Siddiqui to be chief U.S. agriculture

negotiator. The full Senate is expected to take up the nominations in January. Both Punke and Siddiqui are slated to play important roles in the long-running Doha round of world trade talks if confirmed by the Senate.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2315547720091223>

Gates Proposes \$2 Billion in Funds to Aid Unstable Countries, *Washington Post*, December 23, 2009

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has proposed a major overhaul of the way the Pentagon and State Department do nation-building, seeking to end friction between the bureaucracies by putting them jointly in charge of three huge new funds aimed at stabilizing strife-ridden countries. The proposal is aimed at addressing problems that have dogged the U.S. effort in Iraq and Afghanistan -- particularly, disputes over whether civilians or the better-funded military should be in charge of stabilization.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/23/AR2009122302553.html>

Facts about U.S. Foreign Assistance, *Reuters*, January 6, 2010

As President Barack Obama seeks to improve the United States' image overseas and make U.S. aid more effective, there is support for an overhaul of the way the United States distributes foreign assistance. Leading Democrats and Republicans say they want to rewrite the 50-year-old legislation governing U.S. foreign aid. Here are some facts about U.S. foreign aid.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN06147066>

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](#)

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Eastern Africa: A Study of the Regional Maize Market and Marketing Costs, *Agriculture and Rural Development Unit, World Bank, December 2009*

Maize is the most important staple food in the Eastern Africa region and the most widely traded agricultural commodity. Therefore, the performance of grain markets has a significant impact on people's welfare, particularly the poor, and is critical to inducing pro-poor growth in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, i.e. the countries under review in this report. While a number of studies have recognized major barriers to trade in the region, few have actually quantified their relative importance or the magnitudes of these constraints on grain trade. Since much past research has been inconclusive, a key focus of this report is to identify how different barriers contribute to marketing costs within countries and across borders. It also aims to analyze whether a reduction in cross-border trade costs without a simultaneous reduction in domestic costs would be sufficient for greater regional integration in East Africa.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/01/08/000333038_20100108004716/Rendered/PDF/498310REPLACEM11Grain1Trade1printed.pdf

Growth and Equity Effects of Agricultural Marketing Efficiency Gains in India, *U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, December 2009*

Agriculture is the largest source of employment in India, and food accounts for about half of consumer expenditures. Moving agricultural products from the farm to consumers more efficiently could result in large gains to producers, consumers, and India's overall economy. This analysis uses a computable general equilibrium model with agricultural commodity detail and households disaggregated by rural, urban, and income class to study the potential impacts of reforms that achieve efficiency gains in agricultural marketing and reduce agricultural input subsidies and import tariffs. More efficient agricultural marketing generates economywide gains in output and wages, raises agricultural producer prices, reduces consumer food prices, and increases private consumption, particularly by low-income households. These gains could help to offset some of the medium-term adjustment costs for some commodity markets and households associated with reducing agricultural subsidies and tariffs.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR89/ERR89.pdf>

Krueger/Schiff/Valdés Revisited: Agricultural Price and Trade Policy Reform in Developing Countries since 1960, *The World Bank Development Research Group, January 2, 2010*

A study of distortions to agricultural incentives in 18 developing countries during 1960-84, by Krueger, Schiff and Valdes (1988; 1991), found that policies in most of those developing countries were directly or indirectly harming their farmers. Since the mid-1980s there has been a substantial amount of policy reform and opening up of many developing countries, and indicators of that progress have been made available recently by a new study that has compiled estimates for a much larger sample of developing countries and for as many years as possible since 1955. This paper summarizes the methodology used in the new study (pointing out similarities and differences with those used by the OECD and by Krueger, Schiff and Valdes), compares a synopsis of the indicators from Krueger, Schiff and Valdes and the new study for the period to 1984, summarizes the changing extent of price distortions across countries and commodities globally since then, and concludes by evaluating the degree of distortion reduction over the years since 1984 compared with how much still remains, according to the results of a global economy wide model.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/01/05/000158349_20100105091614/Rendered/PDF/WPS5165.pdf

Fundamentals of a Sustainable U.S. Biofuels Policy, *Baker Institute, January 2010*

Each year, billions of dollars in federal subsidies and tax breaks go to domestic ethanol producers in hope that biofuels will become a major plank of an energy security and fuel diversification program for the United States. Biofuels, an alternative to traditional gasoline, are often considered an environmentally friendly way to reduce dependence on foreign oil and to lower greenhouse gas emissions. However, whether the current U.S. biofuels program is worth the high costs of implementation or even benefits the environment is still up for debate.

<http://www.bakerinstitute.org/publications/EF-pub-PolicyReport43-121809.pdf>

Kenya: USAID Humanitarian Assistance in Review, 1999 – Present, *U.S. Agency for International Development, December 2009*

Between fiscal year (FY) 1999 and FY 2009, USAID provided more than \$568 million in humanitarian assistance to Kenya, including nearly \$60 million in USAID/OFDA funding and nearly \$509 million in food assistance from USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) to assist drought- and flood-affected pastoralists and marginal farmers, as well as more than 270,000 refugees residing in camps in Kenya.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2009.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/LSGZ-7Z9JY9-full_report.pdf/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2009.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/LSGZ-7Z9JY9-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf)

Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security in Rural Nigeria: An Assessment of the Challenges, Information Needs, and Analytical Capacity, *International Food Policy Research Institute, November 2009*

The main objective of this knowledge review was to collect and summarize available secondary literature on food and nutrition security in rural Nigeria. The framework for the analysis of food and nutrition security details the factors responsible for low consumption of food and resulting malnutrition.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nssp07.pdf>

See Also: Institutional Capacity for Designing and Implementing Agricultural and Rural Development Policies and Strategies in Nigeria, *International Food Policy Research Institute, December 2009*

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nssp08.pdf>

Developing Countries, Dispute Settlement, and the Advisory Centre on WTO Law, *The World Bank Development Research Group, January 2010*

Critical appraisals of the current and potential benefits from developing country engagement in the World Trade Organization (WTO) focus mainly on the Doha Round of negotiations. This paper examines developing country participation in the WTO dispute settlement system to enforce foreign market access rights already negotiated in earlier multilateral rounds.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/01/07/000158349_20100107103200/Rendered/PDF/WPS5168.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security: Progress to Date and Strategies for Success

Date: February 22, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

On February 22, 2010, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs will convene a symposium in Washington, D.C. to review progress on the Administration's global food security strategy and provide critical thinking on how best to overcome potential obstacles to success. The day-long event will:

- Discuss progress on U.S. and international food security commitments,
- Examine strategies for how to sustain support for these activities, and
- Provide constructive thinking on implementation challenges.

This symposium early in 2010 will provide a unique opportunity to raise attention to these issues: it will be one year since the Obama Administration took office, Congress will begin a new session, and the U.S. and the international community will be evaluating foreign policy priorities for the year ahead.

Event Cochairs

[Catherine Bertini](#), executive director, UN World Food Program (1992-2002)

[Dan Glickman](#), secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture (1995-2001)

[Robert Lane](#), chairman, Deere & Company (2000 – present)

Further information about the symposium will soon be available on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative's website, www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

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 2, 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](#)

International Conference on Food Security and Climate Change in Dry Areas

Date: February 1 - 4, 2010

Location: Amman, Jordan

The dry areas of the developing world occupy some 3 billion hectares, and are home to one-quarter of the global population. About 16% of the population lives in chronic poverty, particularly in marginalized rainfed areas. Characterized by water scarcity, the dry areas are also challenged by rapid population growth, frequent droughts, high climatic variability, land degradation and desertification, and widespread poverty. Poverty and other social problems are leading to unsustainable agriculture, degradation of natural resources and increased migration. Another challenge is the impact of globalization, due to changes in the world trade system and potentially skewed forces of competition. This instability is further exacerbated by the unrest in financial markets. The conference will provide recommendations to policy makers and other stakeholders on steps to be taken to reduce the impacts of climate change on food security in dry areas, as well as a framework for supporting research and development to address the threats identified.

http://www.icarda.cgiar.org/Announcement/2009/IntlConfnc_FoodSecurity/FoodSecurityAndClimateChangeInDryAreas_2009.htm

2010 World Ag Expo

Date: February 9th-11th, 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 18th-19th, 2010

Location: Arlington, Virginia

USDA'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 28th-31st, 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>

18th Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference

Date: April 21st – 22nd, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc.

For more information, contact [Theresa Stephens](#)

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

MSU, African Educators Expand Agricultural Education, *MSU News, January 5, 2010*

Michigan State University researchers will use a \$1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help African educators develop free and open access to agriculture education material, which they hope could improve agricultural practices and build a sustainable economy. AgShare Open Education Resources is an 18-month pilot project. African educational institutions – which are still in discussion – will create a virtual hub of resources and curriculum for Master of Science degrees in agriculture, with areas of emphasis in livestock, crops and agribusiness.

<http://news.msu.edu/story/7249>

GM Food on Agenda as Benn Outlines Strategy, *Financial Times*, January 5, 2010

Genetically modified crops are back on the menu, along with reform of the European common agricultural policy, as part of the UK's first food security strategy since the war.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8d6cbf50-fa2f-11de-beed-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Pick-Your-Own, *Editorial*, *Financial Times*, January 5, 2010

The UK buys its food from around the world – chiefly the EU, which provides 69 per cent of the country's food imports. This does expose the country to global food price spikes. But, for Britain, such fluctuations are not a major worry.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/084268d4-fa2f-11de-beed-00144feab49a.html>

'Can We Feed the World Without Damaging It?', *New York Times (Greenwire blog)*, January 4, 2010

Industrial farming, with its heavy use of pesticides, synthetic fertilizer and irrigation, is exhausting the environment, and with billions more mouths to feed in the upcoming decades, the problem will only worsen unless the efforts of organic farming and genetic engineering are combined, they say.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/01/04/04greenwire-can-we-feed-the-world-without-damaging-it-99381.html>

India's Food Security Challenge, *Op-Ed*, *Lux Lakshmanan*, Director, *California Agriculture Consulting Service*, *The Hindu*, January 4, 2010

The state of India's food security is worsening by the year. The cost of food items is increasing rapidly, making them unaffordable to a majority of the people. Added to these woes is the short supply of pulses and edible oils, which forces the Central government to import them.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/article75033.ece>

Ethiopian Farms Lure Investor Funds as Workers Live in Poverty, *Bloomberg*, December 31, 2009

Until last year, people in the Ethiopian settlement of Elliah earned a living by farming their land and fishing. Now, they are employees. Dozens of women and children pack dirt into bags for palm seedlings along the banks of the Baro River, seedlings whose oil will be exported to India and China. They work for Bangalore-based Karuturi Global Ltd., which is leasing 300,000 hectares (741,000 acres) of local land, an area larger than Luxembourg. The jobs pay less than the World Bank's \$1.25-per-day poverty threshold, even as the project has the potential to enrich international investors with annual earnings that the company expects to exceed \$100 million by 2013.

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601080&sid=aeuJT_pSE68c

Agricultural Prices, *National Agricultural Statistics Service*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, December 30, 2009

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/AgriPric/2000s/2009/AgriPric-12-30-2009.pdf>

The Small Farmers Leading a Genuine Green Revolution, *Op-Ed*, *Mark Ashurst*, director of the *Africa Research Institute*, *Independent*, December 28, 2009

Vision 2020 sets out a plan to boost the productivity of Rwandan farmers by agglomerating small plots of land for large-scale, intensive cultivation of staple crops. Compliant smallholders who follow the prescriptions for "zoning" and "mono-cropping" are promised a stake in larger cooperatives and commercial farms, and targeted subsidies for inputs such as seeds and fertiliser. The policy has been endorsed by foreign donors, for whom Rwanda is a striking example of post-conflict recovery.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/mark-ashurst-the-small-farmers-leading-a-genuine-green-revolution-1851479.html>

Keeper of the Seed, *AgWeek*, December 28, 2009

What scientist Bent Skovmand has done in service to humanity was not fully appreciated in his lifetime. It may not be so until the day comes when an old variety of wheat may be needed to save the world's wheat crops from diseases such as Ug99 rust.

http://www.agweek.com/articles/?id=7888&article_id=15834&property_id=41

Ethiopia's Shumsha Area Provides Example of Success in Achieving Food Security, *Voice of America*, December 28, 2009

For more than two decades, the Ethiopian government, with the help of international aid agencies, has been trying to create communities that can produce enough food to feed themselves access adequate supplies of food. The effort is driven by concern over avoiding another food crisis like the one that led to the 1984 famine. Ever since the fall of the government of Mengistu Haile Mariam, officials have tried new approaches to reducing the effects of drought and poverty that threaten food security.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/Ethiopia-Food-Security-28Dec09-80213777.html> (ag issues)

Soft Commodities Prices at Historic Highs, *Financial Times*, December 27, 2009

The prices of key soft commodities – including tea, cocoa and sugar – have jumped to multi-decade highs, boosted by supply shortages and robust demand. The rises are set to translate into higher retail prices early next year, according to analysts. Coffee and orange juice prices have also risen to their highest level in more than a year.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/92f4cad6-f31c-11de-a888-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Small Farmers Bolster Food Security, *Financial Times*, January 5, 2010

A small farmer can see the changes in prices with his or her own eyes and take decisions about what and when to plant with his or her own hands in his or her own fields. A large farmer or agribusiness concern invariably will come to a decision after proposals to respond to changing prices have worked their way through layers of managers, many of whom will have never worked the fields.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/00c85988-f999-11de-8085-00144feab49a.html>

The Art of Farming - Crop Diversification, *AllAfrica.com*, December 26, 2009

Maize cultivation has been promoted in all parts of the country, without due consideration to agronomic suitability, for a long time since independence era, 1960s. As a result, small-scale farmers even in drought prone areas are growing maize. Because of this situation, the Government formulated the Food Crop Diversification Support Project through the Zambia Agricultural Research Institution (ZARI) with a view of enhancing food security by promoting drought tolerant food crops.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912280565.html>

Beefing Up Food Security: Concentrate on the Next Boro Crop, *Op-Ed, Daily Star (Bangladesh)*, December 26, 2009

A drop on global food output and consequently an increase in foodgrain prices are on the radar bringing in a fresh concern for us. Even though Bangladesh has significantly raised cereal productivity she still has to import a critical amount of rice due to one or the other kind of natural vagary. With the global outlook on food turning bleak following Philippines announcing that it would import food from the global market and India already placing restrictions on exports, Bangladesh has reasons to be apprehensive about import of cereals at high costs. But if we manage to get a sizeable boro crop we would be able to meet such an eventuality.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=119280>

Hunger Amid Record Harvest, *Times of India*, December 26, 2009

Ironically, the decade is ending with two successive years of the biggest-ever harvests in the history of mankind, even as the number of hungry people crossed 1 billion, or one-sixth of humanity, this year. Ever-increasing demand for food is sparking a global resource-hunt, with countries and capital funds snapping up cheap agricultural land in Third World countries.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Hunger-Amid-Record-Harvests-/articleshow/5380602.cms>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Taking an Oath to Improve Aid, *Josh Ruxin, Huffington Post*, January 7, 2010

There's a fundamental irony in U.S. development policy: we give too little, and what we give, we give inefficiently. Currently, the magnitude of U.S. taxpayer dollars is not translating into corresponding levels of

goodwill around the world. While President Obama plans to invest heavily in diplomacy and development to improve the lot of the world's poor and attain a higher level of global security, U.S. programs are simply not up to the task.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/josh-ruxin/taking-an-oath-to-improve_b_415225.html

Somali Officials to Meet WFP to Resume Humanitarian Operations, *Voice of America*, January 7, 2010

A Somali government spokesman says administration officials will meet representatives of the World Food Program this weekend to urge the humanitarian agency to resume its operations.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Somali-Officials-to-Meet-WFP-to-Resume-Humanitarian-Operations--80961757.html>

See Also: Threats Lead Food Agency to Curtail Aid in Somalia, *New York Times*, January 5, 2010

After weeks of receiving threats and demands that it dismiss many female employees and pay a "security fee" to an Islamic extremist group, the United Nations World Food Program announced Tuesday that it was suspending food deliveries to one million people in southern Somalia indefinitely. The cutoff, which includes the withdrawal of more than 40 local staff members, will affect roughly one third of the 2.8 million people whom the food program had anticipated feeding in Somalia in January.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/06/world/africa/06somalia.html>

U.N. Envoy Eide Warns U.S., Allies Not to Ignore Civilian Goals in Afghanistan, *Washington Post*, January 7, 2010

Eide's assessment comes just three weeks before the United States and its military allies meet in London for a conference on security in Afghanistan. His remarks, which stressed greater investment in education, agriculture and infrastructure, marked one of his final efforts to leave an imprint on Afghanistan policy.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/06/AR2010010604698.html>

See Also: U.N. Envoy to Afghanistan Warns of Peril of Emphasizing Security Over Social Issues, *New York Times*, January 6, 2010

Rosemary A. DiCarlo, the American envoy addressing the Security Council, noted that the United States planned to triple the number of civilians sent to help with reconstruction and economic and agricultural development; the number will grow to 1,000 experts from 320 now.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/07/world/asia/07nations.html>

Don't Discount Europe's Commitment to Afghanistan, *Op-Ed, Carl Bildt, Foreign Minister of Sweden and Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General of NATO*, *Washington Post*, January 7, 2010

With the aim of increasing Afghan responsibilities, and in accordance with the priorities set by the government in Kabul, the European Union will concentrate its immediate assistance in six areas: building civilian capacity; strengthening sub-national, or provincial, governance; election review and reform; mechanisms to support the reintegration of former insurgents into society; economic development; and strengthened assistance in building a civilian police force through the E.U. Police Mission in Afghanistan.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/07/AR2010010703243.html>

Countries to Be Allowed a Say in Foreign Aid Usage, *Washington Times*, January 7, 2010

The Obama administration will share control over U.S. foreign aid with recipient countries, ending Washington's longtime policy of "dictating" to those nations how to spend the money, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jan/07/countries-to-be-allowed-a-say-in-foreign-aid-usage/>

U.S. Army Troops in Logar Province, Afghanistan, *C-SPAN*, January 6, 2010

Afghanistan's Logar Province is a mostly agricultural region located south of the capital city of Kabul. Freelance Journalist David Axe was embedded with the U.S. Army in Logar's Baraki Barak district in October and November. He followed U.S. troops as they worked to extend services to the farmers of the area, and connect them with the Afghan government.

<http://www.c-span.org/Watch/Media/2010/01/06/HP/A/28106/US+Army+Troops+in+Logar+Province+Afghanistan.aspx>

Kenya's Agricultural Secretary Appeals for More International Assistance, *Voice of America*, January 4, 2010

Kenya's Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Romano Kiome said his government is doing everything it can to deal with the country's ongoing food crisis. But he said Kenya needs all the help it can get to cope with the situation. Kiome was in the United States recently and talked about some of the factors contributing to Kenya's food insecurity.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Butty-Kenya-Food-Insecurity-01jan10-80560122.html>

Ethiopia Rejects Warning of Hunger after Drought, *BBC News*, December 31, 2009

An Ethiopian minister has denied reports that millions of people need urgent food aid after failed rains. He was speaking after the US-funded Famine Early Warning System warned of increased hunger in parts of the country in the coming months. Ethiopia has been extremely sensitive to images showing its people as starving since the famine of 1984-5.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8436534.stm>

UN Agency Helps Côte d'Ivoire Resuscitate War-Hit Agricultural Sector, *UN News Centre*, December 31, 2009

The United Nations agency responsible for financing agricultural development in poor countries has given \$10 million to Côte d'Ivoire to help some 86,000 families revive a farming sector affected by the civil war that in 2002 split the West African nation into a rebel-held north and Government-controlled south.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33378&Cr=ivoire&Cr1>

USDA and Iraqi Farmers Team to Improve Agriculture, *America.gov*, December 29, 2009

The Green Mada'in Association for Agricultural Development celebrated the completion of its first year of operations by opening a new office and warehouse space and holding its first board of directors meeting in December. The co-op provides low-interest credit lines to farmers to enable them to buy or rent equipment and supplies, like seeds and fertilizer. It also offers farmers free technical assistance and training. A collaboration among the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Iraq Ministry of Agriculture and 47 Mada'in Qada agricultural associations, the co-op is part of the USDA's efforts under the umbrella of the U.S. provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq.

<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2009/December/20091229161912kcsniggi0.5153314.html> (

Afghanistan Strategy Should Also Focus on Improving Quality of Life, *Op-Ed, Stanley A. Weiss, founding chairman of Business Executives for National Security, Los Angeles Times*, December 28, 2009

The Obama administration has pledged a new, improved approach to development aid. Yet USAID has been without an administrator for 10 months, and the president's nominee, Rajiv Shah, has yet to be confirmed. It's now time, with the president's commitment in his West Point speech to "focus our assistance in areas, such as agriculture, that can make an immediate impact in the lives of the Afghan people," to heed the experience of successful social entrepreneurs who, with far fewer resources at their disposal, have achieved impressive progress on the ground.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-weiss28-2009dec28.0.3295335.story>

Rebuilding Afghanistan: Locals Want More Say, *NPR*, December 24, 2009

Since 2002, international donors have pledged nearly \$56 billion to build and develop Afghanistan, making it one of the largest recipients of foreign aid in the world. U.S. ambassador, Karl Eikenberry, told Afghans in a speech last week that they can expect billions more from Americans in the coming year. "We will concentrate on agriculture and other key sectors of the economy, while reducing the pool of poor, unemployed men who are most vulnerable to the recruiters of extremism and militant violence," he said.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=121771885>

State Guard Troops Arrive in Afghanistan, *Tulsa World*, December 24, 2009

Some 60 soldiers from the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 1-45th Agri-business Development Team have arrived in Afghanistan, where they will spend the next 10 months helping to restore that country's agricultural industry.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20091224_12_A13_Member279723

Report Says Afghan Drug Effort Lacks Strategy, *New York Times, December 23, 2009*

Despite what it says is a consensus that eradication of poppy crops is essential, the report noted a midyear decision by the State Department to shift from eradication efforts to financing interdiction of drug traffickers. The report said that while contractors, doing work as varied as crop eradication and educating farmers on poppy alternatives, are generally meeting agreed-upon goals, their contracts include vague performance measures.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/24/world/asia/24poppy.html>

See Also: Status of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Counternarcotics Programs in Afghanistan, *Office of the Inspector General, U.S. State Department December 2009*

<http://oig.state.gov/documents/organization/134183.pdf>

U.N. Stops Food Aid to Over Half a Million Nepalis, *Reuters, December 23, 2009*

The United Nations has been forced to stop feeding over half a million people in Nepal due to a critical funding shortfall caused by the financial downturn, a World Food Programme (WFP) official said on Wednesday. The U.N. agency says it needs \$20 million to continue feeding 600,000 people -- more than a quarter of the total number it was assisting -- in the impoverished Himalayan nation over the next three months.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/southAsiaNews/idINIndia-44937020091223>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

India to Combat Climate Change without Waiting for Funds, *Bloomberg, January 7, 2010*

India will go ahead with its plans to combat climate change without waiting for global finance as nations prepare for fresh talks after failing to agree on a binding global treaty at Copenhagen last month.

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

Animal Health Body to Study Meat Impact on Climate, *Reuters UK, January 7, 2010*

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) is to study the impact of meat output on climate change in the light of debate about meat's contribution to greenhouse emissions.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE6063SM20100107>

Namibia's Landmark Trees Dying from Climate Change, *Associated Press, January 5, 2010*

Climate change could also hurt the economy, particularly farming and fishing, said environment and tourism minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. "Climate change may reduce Namibia's fishing industry landings by up to 50 percent. Crop and cereal production that currently contribute together 1.5 percent of GDP will decrease by 10 percent to 20 percent," Nandi-Ndaitwah said. "Traditional (subsistence) agriculture that contributes 1.5 percent of gross domestic product could decline by 40 percent to 80 percent," the minister added. The former German colony has a population of some two million, with about 70 percent in rural areas dependent on subsistence agriculture.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iWjA7XAgDk2GTYVQRyreeDhiwNfg>

In Yemen, Locals Worry about Obama Policy on Al Qaeda, *Christian Science Monitor, January 4, 2010*

From smoky halls to the rugged mountains of Yemen, locals are worried that their country -- threatened more by poverty and water shortages than terrorism, they say -- could turn into another Afghanistan.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2010/0104/In-Yemen-locals-worry-about-Obama-policy-on-Al-Qaeda>

See Also: Why Is Yemen So Poor?: Conflict, Corruption, and Qat, *Slate, January 4, 2010*

More problematic for Yemen's long-term prosperity is the mismatch between the country's needs and means. Agriculture is a good example. While 43 percent of its employed adult men are farmers, the nation imports more than 75 percent of its food.

<http://www.slate.com/id/2240481/>

Environmental Refugees Unable to Return Home, *New York Times*, January 3, 2010

Natural calamities have plagued humanity for generations. But with the prospect of worsening climate conditions over the next few decades, experts on migration say tens of millions more people in the developing world could be on the move because of disasters. Such rapid and unplanned urbanization is expected to put even further strains on scarce water, energy and food resources, said Koko Warner, who works in environmental migration at the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security in Bonn.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/04/world/asia/04migrants.html>

Africa-Wide "Great Green Wall" to Halt Sahara's Spread?, *National Geographic*, December 28, 2009

The proposed wall of trees would stretch from Senegal to Djibouti as part of a plan to thwart the southward spread of the Sahara, Senegalese officials said earlier this month at the UN's Copenhagen climate conference. In many central and West African countries surrounding the Sahara, climate change has slowed rainfall to a trickle, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Crops have died and soils have eroded—crippling local agriculture.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/12/091228-great-green-wall-trees-senegal-sahara-desert.html>

Cellulosic-Ethanol Mandate Faces Snags, *Wall Street Journal*, December 28, 2009

Cellulosic-ethanol production, a cornerstone of the U.S. government's plan to curb greenhouse-gas emissions, is earmarked to overtake corn ethanol over the next decade. But the industry's expected takeoff could be delayed by a year.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704718204574616552027656082.html>

To Save the Planet, Save the Seas, *Op-Ed*, Dan Laffoley, Marine Vice Chairman of the World Commission on Protected Areas at the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Principal Specialist for Marine at Natural England, *New York Times*, December 27, 2009

Worldwide, coastal habitats like these are being lost because of human activity. Extensive areas have been altered by land reclamation and fish farming, while coastal pollution and overfishing have further damaged habitats and reduced the variety of species. It is now clear that such degradation has not only affected the livelihoods and well-being of more than two billion people dependent on coastal ecosystems for food, it has also reduced the capacity of these ecosystems to store carbon.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/27/opinion/27lafolley.html?th&emc=th>

Copenhagen is a Disaster for Africa, *Guardian*, December 23, 2009

Food production has been plummeting across Africa because of increasingly irregular rainfall. In Uganda, this year the country will post its fourth successive poor harvest of first season crops. In countries such as Somalia, half of the population now depends on food aid.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/dec/23/copenhagen-africa-climate-change-deal>

Next-Generation Water Policy for Businesses and Government, *McKinsey Quarterly*, December 2009

The solution to water scarcity, in part, will come from new technologies for better managing water as a resource. But to make these technologies more effective, business and policy leaders will need to work more closely to implement them.

http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Public_Sector/Economic_Policy/Next_generation_water_policy_for_businesses_and_government_2481

WOMEN

Bipartisan Will Needed to End Poverty, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Op-Ed* by Bob McMullan, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, January 7, 2010

Tackling global poverty must be a bipartisan issue, because the challenges we face are truly significant: 25,000 children will die today from preventable diseases, 900 million people around the world will go to sleep hungry tonight, and tomorrow 1.4 billion people will be forced to survive on less than \$US1.25 for the

day – more than two-thirds of them women and children. It is imperative that we invest in the health and wellbeing of women and children.

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/bipartisan-will-needed-to-end-poverty-20100106-ltva.html>

Hazaras Hustle to Head of Class in Afghanistan, *New York Times*, January 3, 2010

In a country that has one of the world's lowest female literacy rates — just one in seven women over age 15 can read and write — the progress of Hazara women is even more stark, especially compared with Pashtun provinces.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/04/world/asia/04hazaras.html?pagewanted=print>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Tea Shortage to Widen as Rising Demand Exceeds Supply, *Bloomberg*, January 6, 2010

A global tea shortage may widen this year and extend into 2011 as a rebound in production in Africa, Sri Lanka and India trails demand growth, the world's biggest tea-plantation company said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=aiTtP6AFDm6l>

Iran Fears Losing Pistachio Race to US, *Financial Times*, January 6, 2010

Iran has been a pistachio producer since the fifth century BC and the days of the Achaemenid Empire. Aficionados of the Iranian nuts ascribe their dominant position in global markets to superior taste and quality. Iranian farmers fear, however, that their glory days are numbered and they are losing top position to, of all countries, the US, an arch political foe.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f85c47d6-fae3-11de-94d8-00144feab49a.html>

Taiwan Votes to Block US Beef Imports, *Financial Times*, January 5, 2010

Parliament's decision to block a deal to expand US beef imports will damage Taiwan's standing and ties with one of its biggest allies, Ma Ying-jeou, the president, said on Tuesday. Mr Ma spoke after legislators amended food safety laws that bar the import of offal and ground beef from regions affected by "mad cow disease" in the past 10 years. This in effect reverses an agreement that Taipei and Washington reached last October to lift Taiwan's US beef ban, and drew a rebuke from the US.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9bcc7f7e-f9d8-11de-adb4-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Taiwan Leader Vows to Repair U.S. Ties, *Wall Street Journal*, January 6, 2010

Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou pledged to try to repair ties with the U.S. after lawmakers passed an amendment to resume a ban on certain U.S. beef imports.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126266936838016151.html>

See Also: Joint Statement From USTR, USDA On The Proposed Passage Of An Amendment To Taiwan's Food Sanitation Act, *Office of the U.S. Trade Representative*, January 6, 2010

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2009/december/joint-statement-ustr-usda-proposed-passage-amendm>

Manipulation Did Not Cause 2008 Cotton Spike-CFTC, *Reuters*, January 5, 2010

Market manipulation did not cause cotton futures prices to artificially spike in 2008, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission said on Tuesday, after a lengthy investigation spanning nearly 20 months.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0510515120100105?feedType=RSS&feedName=everything&virtualBrandChannel=11563>

EU Tariff Policy Hurts Region's Banana Export Push, *AllAfrica.com*, January 5, 2010

The East African Community's bid to promote the production and export of the region's bananas is headed for the rocks as the European Commission (EC) moves to implement a new trade policy that effectively lowers tariffs on Latin American produce only.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201001051049.html>

U.S., China Locked in Trade Disputes, *Washington Post*, January 4, 2010

Trade disputes between Beijing and Washington over exports of tires, chickens, steel, nylon, autos, paper and salt are multiplying and further damaging the already tense relationship between the two economic powers.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/03/AR2010010301961.html>

Bad Weather Fueled Gains in Futures for Corn, Soy, *Wall Street Journal, January 4, 2010*

Mother Nature wreaked havoc on producers of agricultural commodities in 2009 and gave the food market a jolt, sending prices for staples like corn and soybeans on a wild ride only to end the year close to where they started.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704718204574616244118475268.html>

Higher Prices May Spur U.S. to Plant More Cotton, *Wall Street Journal, January 4, 2010*

While it is still early for farmers to make their final planting decisions, analysts say U.S. cotton acreage could climb by more than 10% in 2010. In addition to higher prices, there are favorable field conditions for cotton in big-producing states.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704789404574636423833718820.html>

Indian Companies Buy Land Abroad for Agricultural Products, *Economic Times, January 2, 2010*

Indian companies are buying land overseas, mainly in Africa, to grow agricultural products that can be exported to large markets, including India.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/Indian-companies-buy-land-abroad-for-agricultural-products/articleshow/5403216.cms>

Russia Decides to Ban U.S. Poultry Imports, *Washington Post, December 31, 2009*

Russia will begin to block imports of U.S. poultry as of Jan 1. because of concerns about a commonly used chlorine treatment, U.S. government officials and a Russian news agency said on Thursday.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/31/AR2009123102104_pf.html

Europe's Vast Farm Subsidies Face Challenges, *New York Times, December 29, 2009*

2013 is closer at hand and a new round of maneuvering has begun to reshape the richest system of agricultural handouts in the world.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/business/global/30subsidy.html>

In Southeast Asia, Unease over Free Trade Zone, *New York Times, December 29, 2009*

When the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, China and 10 Southeast Asian nations will usher in the world's third-largest free trade area. While many industries are eager for tariffs to fall on everything from textiles and rubber to vegetable oils and steel, a few are nervously waiting to see whether the agreement will mean boom or bust for their businesses.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/29/business/global/29trade.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Water as a Scarce Resource: An Interview with Nestlé's Chairman, *McKinsey Quarterly, January 2010*

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, chairman of Nestlé, has repeatedly warned that water is becoming a scarce resource. Water tables are falling particularly fast in regions where agricultural output is increasing, such as in India. "The water crisis that seems possible within the next 10 to 20 years will therefore quite probably trigger significant shortfalls in cereal production and, as a result, a massive global food crisis," he says.

http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Energy_Resources_Materials/Environment/Water_as_a_scarce_resource_An_interview_with_Nestles_chairman_2482

Kraft-Cadbury Takeover Failure Would Test CEOs' Growth Pledges, *BusinessWeek, January 8, 2010*

Rosenfeld is in her fifth month of pursuing an 11 billion- pound (\$18 billion) hostile takeover offer, which Cadbury has rejected as "derisory." Stitzer has predicted increased growth as an independent company.

Rosenfeld says Kraft can achieve "top-tier" performance regardless of the outcome.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-08/kraft-cadbury-takeover-failure-would-test-ceos-growth-pledges.html>

See Also: Kraft Quits Pizza as it Gains Taste for Cadbury, *Financial Times*, January 6, 2010

For Kraft Foods, frozen pizza has been a star of the US consumer slump and the sale of the division to Nestlé took markets by surprise.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fad4638a-fb11-11de-94d8-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Buffett Warns on Kraft Bid for Cadbury, *Financial Times*, January 5, 2010

Kraft Foods has suffered an unexpected setback in its pursuit of Cadbury after encountering opposition from Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett's investment vehicle.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/991c1018-f9ca-11de-adb4-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Kraft Set to Raise Bid for Cadbury, *Financial Times*, January 3, 2010

Kraft is drawing up plans to raise its £10.3bn hostile offer for Cadbury ahead of a deadline this month as the takeover battle for the UK confectionery group reaches its final stages.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/17f68bda-f89e-11de-beb8-00144feab49a.html>

Seed Giant Monsanto Sees "Technology Explosion," *Reuters*, January 6, 2010

Monsanto Co said it was accelerating research and development efforts in agricultural seed technology with a focus on 11 key projects that should help drive revenue gains over the next decade by offering farmers better yields and weed and bug control.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0615549420100106?type=marketsNews>

Monsanto Loss Trails Estimates on Seed, Roundup Drops, *BusinessWeek*, January 6, 2010

Monsanto Co., the world's largest seed producer, reported a first-quarter loss that trailed analysts' estimates as sales of corn and soybean seeds dropped and prices for Roundup herbicide declined.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-06/monsanto-loss-trails-estimates-on-seed-roundup-drops-update3-.html>

Nestle Resumes Operations in Zimbabwe - But Message to Investors is Cautionary, *Voice of America*, January 5, 2010

Although Swiss-based multinational Nestlé said last week that it was reopening its Harare plant, the incident continues to reverberate in business circles. Pressure by ZANU-PF ministers on Nestlé to buy milk from a dairy controlled by the family of President Robert Mugabe, leading to Nestlé's pre-Christmas shutdown of its plant, has been seen as a red flag to potential investors.

<http://www1.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/economy/Zimbabwe-Nestle-Resumes-Operations-But-Government-Image-Suffers-04jan10-80632192.html>

See Also: Zimbabwe Assures Nestle, Asks Firm to Reopen – Report, *Reuters*, December 25, 2009

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE5B001S20091225>

African Group Brews New Customers, *Financial Times*, January 4, 2010

Until Bruno de Castro received some good news recently, life had not been easy of late. He oversees rural development for the local government in Cacucaco, a small town about 20 miles outside Angola's capital, Luanda, whose relentless expansion has been eating into the amount of agricultural land. On top of that, the Seco river, which flows through the area, recently flooded, putting dirt-poor subsistence farmers under further pressure. So it was a welcome surprise for 40-year-old Mr de Castro when SABMiller, the beer multinational, offered a few weeks ago to buy tons of the local output of cassava, a root vegetable similar to the potato or yam, which flourishes in the region and has long been a staple food in tropical regions of west Africa, south-east Asia and Latin America.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c55f7318-f957-11de-80dc-00144feab49a.html>

McLeod Russel Acquires a Taste for African Tea, *Financial Times*, December 31, 2009

McLeod Russel, the world's largest tea producer, has hit the acquisition trail in Africa, buying estates in Uganda to boost its production beyond India.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/fb97dfb4-f5ac-11de-90ab-00144feab49a.html>

Bunge Doubles Brazil Sugar Bet with \$452 Million Deal, *Reuters*, December 24, 2009

U.S. agribusiness giant Bunge Ltd will buy Brazilian sugar and ethanol producer Moema for \$452 million, its biggest bet yet on the fast-growing cane and ethanol industry in the world's top exporter.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE5BN2MT20091224>

Argentina Approves New Syngenta GMO Corn Strain, *Reuters, December 22*

Argentina has approved a new variety of genetically modified corn developed by Switzerland's Syngenta to be resistant to insects and herbicides, the Agriculture Ministry said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2212258420091222>

SPECIAL COVERAGE OF *WORLD POLICY JOURNAL'S* "WATER WARS," VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4 - WINTER 2009/10

Water Wars, *World Policy Journal, Volume 26, Issue 4 - Winter 2009/10*

"Water—more so than oil, diamonds, gold, or any other tangible attribute of our planet—appears increasingly likely to shape the future of diplomacy and confrontation, cooperation and conflict. [...] It is this one commodity, as the writers in these pages suggest, in all corners of this world, that will soon define how we live with one another, the quality of that life, and whether we manage to transcend conflict over water and arrive at a way of accommodating ourselves to the changes that invariably lie ahead."

<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/toc/wopj/current?cookieSet=1>

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Beyond the Blue Revolution, *The Editors*

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