

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



December 31st – January 7th, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** *“When prices of staples soar, the poor bear the brunt. Without global action, people in poor countries will be deprived of adequate and nutritious food, with tragic consequences for individuals and for the future prosperity of their countries. The G20 should agree to put food first – because food is the essence of life, and because practical action by the G20 could help make a real difference to hundreds of millions of people. The overarching goal should be to ensure that the most vulnerable people and countries are no longer denied access to nutritious food. The G20 can achieve this, providing we take the following practical and interconnected steps.”*  
– Robert Zoellick, President, World Bank, Financial Times, January 5, 2011

**For more information:**

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

**Global Food Prices Hit Record High**, *Financial Times*, January 5

Food prices hit a record high last month, surpassing the levels seen during the 2007-08 crisis, the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organisation said on Wednesday. The Rome-based organisation said the increase did not constitute a crisis. But Abdolreza Abbassian, senior economist at the FAO, acknowledged that the situation was “alarming”. He added: “It will be foolish to assume this is the peak.” The jump will increase fears about the repetition of the crisis of 2007-2008. However, poor countries have not so far seen the wave of food riots that rocked countries such as Haiti and Bangladesh two years ago, when prices of agricultural commodities jumped. The increase in food costs will also hit developed economies, with companies from McDonald’s to Kraft raising retail prices.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/51241bc0-18b4-11e0-b7ee-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/201115/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1ABHFTqwR>

**A Serious Crisis, Made Worse by Shortsighted Governments**, *Op-Ed, Paul Collier, Professor, University of Oxford, Independent, January 6*

The responses to the food crisis have been dysfunctional. By banning exports, food-exporting countries intensify shortages and discourage their farmers from investing in extra output. Food-importing countries have been grabbing land in an attempt to pre-empt supply; such blatant neo-colonialism is a recipe for political confrontation.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/prof-paul-collier-a-serious-crisis-made-worse-by-shortsighted-governments-2177222.html>

**Africa's Impressive Growth**, *Economist, January 6*

Africa is now one of the world's fastest-growing regions. Much has been written about the rise of the BRICs and Asia's impressive economic performance. But an analysis by *The Economist* finds that over the ten years to 2010, six of the world's ten fastest-growing economies were in sub-Saharan Africa. On IMF forecasts Africa will grab seven of the top ten places over the next five years (our ranking excludes countries with a population of less than 10m as well as Iraq and Afghanistan, which could both rebound strongly in the years ahead). Over the past decade the simple unweighted average of countries' growth rates was virtually identical in Africa and Asia. Over the next five years Africa is likely to take the lead. In other words, the average African economy will outpace its Asian counterpart.

[http://www.economist.com/blogs/dailychart/2011/01/daily\\_chart](http://www.economist.com/blogs/dailychart/2011/01/daily_chart)

**Defeating Hunger A USAID Priority**, *Voice of America, January 3*

USAID will be the lead agency for the Presidential initiative on food security, known as Feed the Future. USAID administrator, Dr. Rajiv Shah, told reporter Christiane Amanpour in a recent interview that Feed the Future has a strong emphasis on nutrition and supporting local farmers so that countries can move away from a dependence on food aid. He also talked about engaging other partners, including the private sector, and the central role innovation and research are playing in this effort. Feed the Future, a whole-of-government initiative launched by the Obama Administration, is aimed at helping countries produce more and higher quality local foods, said Dr. Shah. The United States has become the largest provider of resources for locally procured foods, Dr. Shah said.

<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/Defeating-Hunger-A-USAID-Priority-112906439.html>

**Free Markets Can Still Feed the World**, *Opinion, Robert Zoellick, President, World Bank, Financial Times, January 5*

When prices of staples soar, the poor bear the brunt. Without global action, people in poor countries will be deprived of adequate and nutritious food, with tragic consequences for individuals and for the future prosperity of their countries. The G20 should agree to put food first – because food is the essence of life, and because practical action by the G20 could help make a real difference to hundreds of millions of people. The overarching goal should be to ensure that the most vulnerable people and countries are no longer denied access to nutritious food. The G20 can achieve this, providing we take the following practical and interconnected steps.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/64ccfdae-1904-11e0-9c12-00144feab49a.html#axzz1AIEb633s>

**Women Are Key to Conservation**, *Interview with Bina Agarwal, Indian Economist, Newsweek, January 4*

Climate change is likely to adversely affect the poor in many ways, including threatening their livelihoods, food security, water supplies, and health. Women in poor households are especially vulnerable on all these counts, with few resources for adaptation. On food production, for instance, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to be especially hard hit. Here women's livelihoods could be markedly threatened, since they are much more dependent on agriculture than men, who have shifted in larger proportions to nonfarm jobs. Also, in India women often eat last and least, and their nutrition and that of breast-fed children could be affected severely under food scarcity.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2011/01/04/bina-agarwal-on-women-s-role-in-conservation.html>

**SEE ALSO: Tree-economics**, *New York Times*, January 3

The economist Bina Agarwal recently published an impressive study of women and community forestry in India and Nepal, entitled "Gender and Green Governance." In most developing countries, rural women take more responsibility for collecting fuel wood on a regular basis, while men are more likely to harvest wood episodically, for home repairs and tools. Professor Agarwal finds that effective representation of women in community forestry decision-making significantly improves conservation outcomes, as well as the likelihood of meeting women's needs.

<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/03/tree-economics/>

**The Fat Cat's of Agribusiness**, *Globe and Mail*, December 30

Big Agribusiness is supposed to be the farmer's and the consumer's best friend. It provides seeds, fertilizers and biotechnology to farmers, and the logistics and processing that get bananas, beans, coffee and rice to a supermarket near you. Consumers benefit from economies of scale—the bigger the agribusiness, the lower the farm-to-fork costs. Yes, food prices have gone up recently. But if you look at food spending as a percentage of disposable income, it's still a bargain for Europeans and North Americans, which helps to explain why so many of them look like asteroids.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-magazine/the-fat-cats-of-agribusiness/article1849336/>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**USDA's Risk Management Agency Unveils Proposed Rule to Reward Farmers Participating in Federal Crop Insurance Program**, *USDA*, January 6

The Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced today that it has published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would reward farmers participating in the federal crop insurance program for good performance.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2011/01/0002.xml>

**Lucas Elected as Chairman of Agriculture Committee**, *House Committee on Agriculture*, January 6

Rep. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma issued the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Resolution 6, which formally elects him as the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee for the 112th Congress. "As a student of agriculture economics, a rancher by trade, and a Member of this Committee from the start of my service in Congress, I am honored to have this opportunity and responsibility. I am also proud to be serving as the first Chairman of the Agriculture Committee from Oklahoma. I will continue to use my experience and perspective as a producer to help shape our nation's agriculture policy."

<http://agriculture.house.gov/pr110106.shtml>

**Obama Set to Sign 21<sup>st</sup> Century Food Safety Bill**, *Associated Press*, January 4

In an indication of coming tensions with the GOP-controlled House, President Barack Obama on Tuesday was signing into law an overhaul of the nation's food safety system as Republicans talked of withholding \$1.4 billion needed to put the new requirements into place.

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40905257/ns/politics-white\\_house](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40905257/ns/politics-white_house)

**SEE ALSO: Food Safety Modernization Act: Putting the Focus on Prevention**, *White House*, January 3

Even before the President signs the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), the passage of this legislation set in motion sweeping improvements to the security and safety of our nation's food supply.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/01/03/food-safety-modernization-act-putting-focus-prevention>

**Obama to Increase Engagement with Africa in 2011**, *Associated Press*, January 4

President Barack Obama is quietly but strategically stepping up his outreach to Africa, using this year to increase his engagement with a continent that is personally meaningful to him and important to U.S. interests.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jLSjVudID-pKVfHsxXFketGHTcUg?docId=a3ddd46915c34909b10001b453f33874>

**Clinton to Staff: A Busy Year Ahead for Diplomacy**, *Foreign Policy*, January 4

Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton: "Our diplomatic agenda extends to every continent. We will continue working with the Israelis and Palestinians towards a lasting peace with security and prosperity for everyone in the region, and maintaining pressure on the governments of Iran and North Korea to honor the obligations that they must meet as members of the international community. And on the development front, we remain committed to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals to extend hope and opportunity to millions of people in the developing world. We will also continue to improve the way we work-with a particular focus on implementing the reforms in the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR)."

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/01/04/clinton\\_to\\_staff\\_a\\_busy\\_year\\_ahead\\_for\\_diplomacy](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/01/04/clinton_to_staff_a_busy_year_ahead_for_diplomacy)

**USDA: A Look Back on 2010**, *Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, USDA*, January 3

I am very proud of our work last year. USDA's programs have touched the lives of millions of people across America, bringing help to those who were hungry, relief to rural communities, and helping preserve our natural resources. But we have more work to do. When I look back on 2010's wide range of accomplishments, I am motivated to push even harder toward another year of successes in 2011.

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2011/01/03/usda-a-look-back-on-2010/>

**G.O.P. Sets Up Huge Target for Budget Ax**, *New York Times*, January 3

The incoming Republican majority in the House is moving to make good on its promise to cut \$100 billion from domestic spending this year, a goal eagerly backed by conservatives but one carrying substantial political and economic risks.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/04/us/politics/04fiscal.html?\\_r=1&ref=todayspaper](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/04/us/politics/04fiscal.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper)

**I Was Just Looking for Common Ground**, *Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wall Street Journal*, December 30

A Dec. 27 editorial, 'Ag Department Uproots Science', discusses a pending U.S. Department of Agriculture decision on genetically engineered (GE) alfalfa and my asking diverse groups to meet. My goal was simple: to determine if common ground exists that advances all interests, including those of farmers of GE crops, conventional and organic producers. But agricultural issues are complex and rarely lend themselves to simple solutions. The editorial suggests USDA had abandoned science-based decision-making, which is certainly not the case. As a regulatory agency, we must base decisions on sound science, and science strongly supports the safety of genetically engineered alfalfa.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703909904576051850902203330.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703909904576051850902203330.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

**SEE ALSO: Open Letter to Stakeholders**, *Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA*, December 2010

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's open letter to stakeholders on the subject of genetically modified (GM) alfalfa regulation.

[http://www.usda.gov/documents/GE\\_Alfalfa-to\\_stakeholders-2010Dec.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/GE_Alfalfa-to_stakeholders-2010Dec.pdf)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Driving Innovation: How Enterprise ICT Models are (and will) Change Agricultural Extension**

*Date:* January 12

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

According to ITU, the UN agency for information and communications technologies, at the close of 2010 there were more than 5 billion mobile subscribers in the world - that's 70% of the world's population. More than 6.1 trillion SMS messages were sent in 2010. But how do we unlock the promise of mobile technology and innovation for the world's small holder farmers? Erin Mote, Chief of Party, of the newly announced USAID Global Broadband and Innovations Alliance will share lessons learned from an integrated field worker technology and outreach platform. Created by a unique public private partnership, this platform helped to

introduce 50 new forms of Cassava to eradicate Cassava disease in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Mote will discuss what technologies are emerging as cutting edge platforms to shape the future of agricultural extension work, the opportunity offered by occasionally connected and field worker based systems, and what's next - including an overview of the progress of Weather Information for All - a World Economic Forum/Gates/Rockefeller technology platform that will change the way farmers respond to weather and climate change throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

RSVP to [agrilinks@kdid.org](mailto:agrilinks@kdid.org)

### **IFAD Conference on New Directions for Smallholder Agriculture**

*Date:* January 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Rome

IFAD is organising an International Conference on “New Directions for Smallholder Agriculture” on 24-25 January 2011 in Rome, Italy to discuss the future of some 500 million smallholders. In much of Africa and South Asia, small farms still account for the largest share of agricultural output. Smallholders have proved remarkably persistent; the area operated in small farms in the developing world appears to be rising, and the average farm size continues to decline in large parts of the developing world. Most of the smallholders and their dependents, some two billion of them, live in poverty, are more fragmented than before, and have limited capacity to link up to market opportunities.

<http://www.ifad.org/events/agriculture/index.htm>

### **Launch of the UK Global Food and Farming Futures Foresight Project Report**

*Date:* February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* London

The report will look out to 2050 and take a global view of the food system, considering issues of demand, production and supply as well as broader environmental issues. Because of the report's global perspective, the work will draw heavily on the skills and perspectives of leading experts and stakeholders from around the world. As with all Foresight reports, the Foresight Global Food and Farming Futures report will seek to apply leading scientific and other evidence and futures analysis to identify critical issues and their consequences, and to identify and analyse possible policies and interventions for addressing those challenges.

Please RSVP to James Birch on [birchj@parliament.uk](mailto:birchj@parliament.uk) <<mailto:birchj@parliament.uk>>

### **Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health**

*Date:* February 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people's nutrition and health, and people's nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people's nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world's poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

### **USDA's 2011 Agricultural Outlook Forum: Today's Strategies & Tomorrow's Opportunities**

*Date:* February 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Arlington, VA

Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver the Forum's keynote address followed by a distinguished speaker. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will deliver the Forum's welcome. Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will discuss the Domestic and Foreign Agricultural Economic Outlooks. Plenary and session speakers will be announced in the near future. Twenty-five breakout sessions will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to risk management, foreign trade and domestic markets, rural communities, conservation and the environment, renewable energy, broadband, nutrition and food safety, dietary guidelines, land tenure issues, and sustainability. The Forum also will feature traditional commodity and supply and demand outlook sessions.

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

### **Getting Down to Business: Building Partnerships to Expand African Agricultural Development**

*Date:* March 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa is pleased to announce the third annual US-Africa Forum.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/getting-down-business-building-partnerships-expand-african-agricultural-development>

### **COMESA Investment Forum 2011**

*Date:* March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The conference will provide an interactive platform to find out first-hand about the opportunities in the region, where investors and business leaders are putting their money, and how they are going about generating high long-term returns. The agenda will focus on 5 key sectors: Trade, Finance, Logistics, Agriculture/Agribusiness and Infrastructure.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/comesa-investment-forum-2011>

### **Agriculture 2.0**

*Date:* April 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* San Francisco

This event will be the 5th installment in the conference series and for the first time we are adding several tracks to a multi-day format. This expansion will facilitate the creation of a commercial marketplace for the industry—a first of its kind, one-stop shop not only for venture capitalists and early stage companies, but also for senior decision makers in agribusiness and farmland funds, commodities experts, growth stage and institutional investors, key industry insiders, and policy makers. They all come together at Agriculture 2.0 with one intent – to catalyze and capitalize on this rapidly evolving industry.

[https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm\\_source=SilverpopMailing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520\(1\)&utm\\_content=&step=start](https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520(1)&utm_content=&step=start)

### **CropLife America National Policy Conference: Lost in Translation? Deciphering the Discourse on Modern Agriculture**

*Date:* May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The CropLife America National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of agriculture, food safety and security, agricultural technology and policy to offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Our Master of Ceremonies will again be Marc Gunther, contributing editor at FORTUNE magazine and a senior writer at [Greenbiz.com](http://Greenbiz.com) who has appeared on NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/nationalpolicyconference>

### **Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Tufts University, Medford, MA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: emerging from protracted crises; new directions in policy; innovations in humanitarian practice; and advances in public health and food security in crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

### **Leland Hunger Fellows Program – Now Accepting Applications**

The Leland International Hunger Fellows Program is now accepting applications for the 6<sup>th</sup> class (2011-2013). Information on the fellowship and how to apply is accessible here:

<http://www.hungercenter.org/international/international.cfm>. Applications can be submitted online from now through January 7, 2011 at: <http://www.hungercenter.org/international/apply/>.

### **Chicago Council Job Announcement: Project Manager/Lead Researcher, Agriculture & Health**

The Chicago Council is accepting applications for a Project Manager/Lead Researcher position to support a new initiative exploring the linkages between shifting agricultural and food production trends, food availability, and the rise in non-communicable diseases. For a full position description and how to apply, please visit: [http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago\\_council\\_career\\_details.php?career\\_id=41](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/chicago_council_career_details.php?career_id=41)

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### **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

#### Reports:

#### **Review of Agricultural Extension in India**, *IFPRI, December 2010*

Despite a wide range of reform initiatives in agricultural extension in India in the past decades, the coverage of, access to, and quality of information provided to marginalized and poor farmers is uneven. This paper aims to ascertain why farmers are not accessing information and where information gaps exist, despite the variety of extension approaches in India. Using information provision and access as the basis for analysis, the paper reviews some of the major agricultural extension programs in India by considering their ability to provide information and facilitate information sharing and use in farming communities. The review concludes that there is an increasing need to work in partnership and to share knowledge and skills in order to provide locally relevant services that meet the information needs of marginal and smallholder farmers in India.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/review-agricultural-extension-india>

#### **Cash and Food for Work**, *World Food Programme, January 2011*

To date, more than 150 Cash and Food for Work projects have been undertaken, giving employment to a total of 80,000 Haitians. Activities are implemented in collaboration with the Government, local authorities, UN agencies and NGO partners. The objective of the programme is to employ 140,000 Haitians. Workers are paid the equivalent of 200 Gourdes (US\$ 5) daily in cash, food or a combination of the two.

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp229986.pdf>

#### **Patterns of Widespread Decline in North American Bumble Bees**, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, January 3*

Bumble bees (*Bombus*) are vitally important pollinators of wild plants and agricultural crops worldwide. Fragmentary observations, however, have suggested population declines in several North American species. Despite rising concern over these observations in the United States, highlighted in a recent National Academy of Sciences report, a national assessment of the geographic scope and possible causal factors of bumble bee decline is lacking.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2011/01/03/1014743108.abstract>

#### Media Articles:

#### **We Have No Bananas**, *New Yorker, January 10*

Tropical Race Four is a soil-borne fungus threatening Cavendish banana cultivation. More than a thousand kinds of banana can be found worldwide, but a variety called Cavendish, which a nineteenth-century British explorer happened upon in a household garden in southern China, represents ninety-nine per cent of the banana export market. The vast majority of banana varieties are not viable for international trade: their bunches are too small, or their skin is too thin, or their pulp is too bland. Your supermarket likely sells many varieties of apples, but when you shop for bananas you usually have one option. The world's banana plantations are a monoculture of Cavendishes.

[http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/01/10/110110fa\\_fact\\_peed](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/01/10/110110fa_fact_peed)

#### **Animal Feed Known to Have Been Contaminated for Months**, *Deutsche-Welle, January 7*

Germany's scandal over toxic dioxin levels in chicken feed escalated, as government officials accused the firm at the center of the controversy of detecting the dioxin well before the scandal erupted. German animal feed firm Harles and Jentzsch was aware of elevated levels of dioxin in its fat as early as March 2010, eight months earlier than previously thought, a state official said Friday.

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,14755372,00.html>

**SEE ALSO: Germany Shuts 4,700 Farms in Dioxin Scandal**, *Wall Street Journal*, January 7

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704739504576067191480060056.html?mod=rs\\_s\\_europe\\_whats\\_news](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704739504576067191480060056.html?mod=rs_s_europe_whats_news)

**Poorest Continent Can 'Feed Itself in a Generation'**, *Mail and Guardian*, January 7

"Africa can feed itself. And it can make the transition from hungry importer to self-sufficiency in a single generation." This is the claim of a new book that argues that the world's poorest continent could break its dependence on foreign aid and become a food exporter by realising its rich agricultural potential.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2011-01-07-poorest-continent-can-feed-itself-in-a-generation>

**SEE ALSO: Serious About Food**, *IRIN*, January 6

The record prices of staple grains in 2008 made investment in agriculture an attractive proposition for countries exporting as well as importing food. The African Union (AU), with its mix of producers and buyers, has been steadily gearing up for self-sufficiency. Shortly after Malawian president Binguwa Mutharika became AU chair in 2010, he announced a plan to make Africa food secure in the next five years.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=91547>

**SEE ALSO: Agriculture in Africa is Set to Grow**, *Business Day*, January 5

In Agriculture, Africa can do more. Between 1997 and 1999, about 228-million hectares, or just 22%, of sub-Saharan Africa's arable land was in use. On present estimates, by 2030 that figure will rise to 300-million hectares, or just 28% of the total. There is clearly room for Africa to grow more food. "The big constraint is infrastructure," says Nick Vink, a professor of agricultural economics at Stellenbosch University, who cites the figures. "Especially for irrigation, it's electricity."

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=130789>

**Dollar Trees Line Conservation Road**, *BBC*, January 6

Maybe money does grow on trees. Certainly, you can find a growing number of people in the conservation movement suggesting that it does; and that if the money is to keep flowing, the wealth in the trees needs to be secured as safely as gold bars in any bank. If forests do not actually sprout banknotes, they do provide services whose value in monetary terms can be measured... refuges for pollinating insects, roots that prevent landslides, absorption of climate-changing carbon dioxide - even places where we like to walk.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-12121077>

**Reform in the Countryside**, *Times of India*, January 5

Agriculture remains the most repressed sector in the economy, facing frequent government interventions and with a distorted market structure. It faces several other challenges including low crop yields per hectare, low incomes for farmers and unpredictable weather conditions. With population growth expected to add another 300 million people in the next three decades, a food crisis looms large unless there is a sizable increase in the production of rice, wheat, sugar, pulses, edible oil and other essential commodities. A substantial budget allocation should be made to improve agricultural productivity by addressing farming's research needs to facilitate introduction of modern technology that makes agriculture less susceptible to the weather's vagaries, and by altering market structures which requires cooperation from state governments.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/opinion/edit-page/Reform-in-the-countryside/articleshow/7217381.cms>

**Agriculture is Wisconsin National Guard Unit's Mission**, *Chicago Tribune*, January 5

A Wisconsin National Guard unit specializing in agriculture will begin training next month in preparation to deploy to Afghanistan later this year. The 82nd Agribusiness Development Team with its 58 members will assess local farming practices and assist Afghan farmers during its 10-month deployment. Col. Darrell Feucht says Afghanistan used to be a rich crop-producing country, but with its long history of war, the agriculture-sustaining infrastructure has deteriorated or been destroyed.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-militarymission-a,0,5275339.story>

**'The Best Food is a Human Right' says Soil Association Director**, *Guardian*, January 5

Helen Browning, the incoming Soil Association director, wants to see organic farming go mainstream, writes Bibi van der Zee. Consumers have been noticeably less willing to pay the premium for organic food since the economic downturn. Meanwhile, the number of farmers converting to organic is static (although the numbers leaving have fallen this year).

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/jan/05/helen-browning-soil-association-organic-food-human-right>

**Pesticides Threaten Ant-Eating Tradition in Brazil**, *New York Times*, January 4

The harvest of queen ants in Brazil, a rare gastronomic delicacy, has been smaller than usual as a result of the use of pesticides on eucalyptus trees targeted for cellulose and other products, according to officials in Silveiras. For generations the ants - seen as an aphrodisiac, as well as a source of antibiotics - have served as a protein for indigenous peoples without access to fish and monkeys.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/05/world/americas/05ants.html? r=2&ref=world>

**Doubts on China's Grain Productivity**, *Wall Street Journal*, January 4

One of China's oldest worries is that the country might stop being able to feed itself and start to depend on imported food. In these days of rising wealth, the problem isn't whether China will actually starve. It's how long it can sustain its declared aim of self-sufficiency in grain—a long-standing keystone of Communist Party agricultural policy. China's growing appetite for food imports has already sent ripples in the last year through international markets for corn, wheat, rice and animal feed.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2011/01/04/doubts-on-chinas-grain-productivity/?KEYWORDS=agriculture>

**An 'Image Problem' for a Food That Could Save African Lives**, *Voice of America*, January 3

The World Health Organization links vitamin A deficiency to as many as two hundred fifty thousand child deaths every year. One excellent source of vitamin A is found in sweet potatoes with orange flesh. Orange sweet potatoes contain high levels of beta-carotene, which the body changes into vitamin A. Experts say orange sweet potatoes specially bred for growing conditions in Africa could help solve the lack of vitamin A there. But, first, more people will need to be persuaded to eat them. Jan Low with the International Potato Center, a research organization, says the sweet potato needs a better image in Africa, "We do have an image problem with sweet potato in general in sub-Saharan Africa. It is seen as a crop of the poor."

<http://www.voanews.com/learningenglish/home/health/An-Image-Problem-for-a-Food-That-Could-Save-African-Lives-112822614.html>

**Farming Subsidies Face 'Green' Reform**, *Telegraph*, January 3

Farmers will be expected to do more to protect the environment in future if they want to pick up European subsidies, Caroline Spelman, the Environment Secretary, has warned.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/8236007/Farming-subsidies-face-green-reform.html>

**New Crops Bring More Nutrients to Hungry**, *Media Newswire*, December 30

Crop breeders are developing new varieties of seven staple food crops, each with high levels of essential micronutrients and each with potential for rewarding farmers who grow them with higher yields. Their new approach is called biofortification. The goal is to bring healthier diets to people who rely on food staples for most of the calories they consume. (Most plant breeding so far has focused on helping farmers produce higher yields by building disease and pest resistance into seeds.)

[http://media-newswire.com/release\\_1137550.html](http://media-newswire.com/release_1137550.html)

**Haitian Rice Farmers Won't Farm**, *UPI*, December 29

Haitian rice farmers may lose part of their crop due to fear of working in possibly cholera-contaminated paddy fields, a United Nations organization said. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said Wednesday it is working with the Haitian ministries of agriculture and health to spread hygiene information to farmers, many of whom in the northwest of the country are reluctant to harvest their rice paddies in fear of contamination by cholera-causing bacteria.

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2010/12/29/Haitian-rice-farmers-wont-farm/UPI-49891293668704/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/12/29/Haitian-rice-farmers-wont-farm/UPI-49891293668704/)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Media Articles:

#### **America Needs a Diplomatic-Industrial Complex**, *Huffington Post, January 10*

It is fashionable these days to argue that America needs to focus on repairing itself internally, rebuilding its infrastructure and focusing on competitiveness. This is certainly true, but there is a virtuous circle to making sure all sectors of American society continue to engage internationally. When multinationals expand and grow abroad, the clear evidence is that they actually create more jobs at home as well. American financial institutions manage one-third of the world's investable assets. As they invest in and help build businesses overseas, they also generate returns for Americans across the spectrum. This is how globalization is good for America, especially when more American companies participate in it.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/parag-khanna/america-needs-a-diplomati\\_b\\_803646.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/parag-khanna/america-needs-a-diplomati_b_803646.html)

#### **Investor's Wake Up to Africa**, *Mail and Guardian, January 7*

Walmart's entry into Africa through the purchase of a majority stake in Massmart reflects a significant change in the attitude of global investors to the continent. African nations are being recognised as consumers -- modest consumers in the global context, but consumers nonetheless.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2011-01-07-investors-wake-up-to-africa>

#### **A Bipartisan Strategy for Sharpening U.S. Foreign Aid**, *Rich Tafel, President, Public Squared, Huffington Post, January 6*

America gives the bulk of our international aid through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), but the agency lacks a clear focus. This year alone, USAID is proposing to "focus" on the following: USAID Forward (all seven points); the eight Millennium Development Goals; the President's Global Development Policy; Feed the Future; Global Health Initiative; Global Climate Change; Science and Technology; major realignments within the Agency, the new Office of Food Security, the Open Government policy; the recently released Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review and Development Innovation Ventures. Sure, USAID can chew gum and walk at the same, but too many goals means no focus when we need it most.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rich-tafel/a-bipartisan-strategy-for\\_1\\_b\\_805099.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rich-tafel/a-bipartisan-strategy-for_1_b_805099.html)

#### **Microlenders, Honored with Nobel, Are Struggling**, *New York Times, January 5*

Microcredit is losing its halo in many developing countries. Microcredit was once extolled by world leaders like Bill Clinton and Tony Blair as a powerful tool that could help eliminate poverty, through loans as small as \$50 to cowherds, basket weavers and other poor people for starting or expanding businesses. But now microloans have met with political hostility in Bangladesh, India, Nicaragua and other developing countries. Most borrowers do not appear to be climbing out of poverty, and a sizable minority is getting trapped in a spiral of debt, according to studies and analysts.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/06/business/global/06micro.html?src=busln>

#### **Asian Cup Matches Against Hunger**, *FAO, January 5*

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will dedicate a series of three soccer matches in the fight against hunger and poverty at an impressive show of football solidarity during the Asian Cup to be played in Doha, Qatar, promoted by FAO and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). This Asian Football against Hunger solidarity campaign is urging soccer fans to sign an online petition calling on governments to give priority to the elimination of hunger as well as to mobilize donations for FAO's TeleFood community-level food production projects. "The 1 billion hungry project" is a global outreach initiative of FAO and its partners which has over 3.2 million signatures.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/49102/icode/>

#### **Digging into Farmland**, *CNBC, January 3*

Emerging players are snapping up land worldwide. World-class gurus like commodities kingpin Jim Rogers and hedge fund-luminary George Soros have been fueling demand, repeatedly citing rising demand and

shrinking supply. "Farmland is a theoretically safe, investment producing, inflation-protected hedge," says Barton Biggs, the former Morgan Stanley strategist who now runs the hedge fund Traxis Partners. The downside, he quickly adds, is that farmland is also "very illiquid" and a "complicated thing." Farmland returns are nearly rock steady, though. Biggs pins them at 6 percent to 7 percent annually.  
<http://www.cnbc.com/id/40784051>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

#### **Study: No-Till Farming Reduces Greenhouse Gas, *NPR, January 5***

Cropland that's left unplowed between harvests releases significantly smaller amounts of a potent greenhouse gas than conventionally plowed fields, according to a new study that suggests no-till farming can combat global warming. Researchers said the findings could also help farmers make more efficient use of the costly nitrogen-based fertilizers used to promote plant growth. No-till farming apparently slows the breakdown of fertilizers in the soil, they said. The three-year, federally funded Purdue University study looked at the amount of nitrous oxide released by no-till fields compared to plowed fields. No-till farmers don't plow under their fields between crops and disrupt the soil surface as little as possible, although they do cut into it to plant seeds and inject fertilizers. The study found no-till fields released 57 percent less nitrous oxide than chisel tilling, in which plants are plowed back into the soil after harvest, said Purdue agronomist Tony Vyn, who led the research. They also produced 40 percent less gas than fields tilled with moldboard plows, which turn the dirt over onto itself.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=132669531>

**SEE ALSO: Soil Nitrous Oxide Emissions in Corn Following Three Decades of Tillage and Rotation Treatments, *Soil Science Society of America Journal, January-February 2011***

<http://www.soils.org/files/publications/ssaj/abstracts/75-1/s09-0147-4-12-7-2010.pdf>

### Media Articles:

#### **U.S. Farmers Have Adapted Before to Sharp Shifts in Temperature, *New York Times, January 6***

Thanks to global warming, North American wheat production is set to move back in time. Temperatures in the nation's bread basket could rise by 4 degrees or more over the next century, according to U.N. projections, forcing American farmers to change how they go about growing more than 2 billion bushels of wheat each year. It is a stark shift - but one that has happened before, according to a study published late last month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/01/06/06greenwire-us-farmers-have-adapted-before-to-sharp-shifts-5535.html>

#### **The World Bank's Work on Climate Change and Agriculture, *Dr. Andrew Steer, Special Envoy for Climate Change, World Bank, Farming First, January 6***

Dr. Andrew Steer, Special Envoy for Climate Change at the World Bank Group, discusses his views on the link between agriculture and climate change adaptation and mitigation. He says, "We really will fail if we do not incorporate agriculture into the way we think about climate change." Focusing on the concept of a "triple win" for agriculture, he highlights the need to secure farmers' livelihoods, to help them become more resilient to climate change and to help in the joint effort to reduce its future impacts globally.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/FarmingFirst>

#### **Extreme Weather Helps Drive Up Food Prices, *Green Blog, New York Times, January 5***

As my colleague William Neuman reports, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization announced this week that food prices hit a record high last month. Its Food Price Index was 214.7 for December, the highest level since the organization created the index to measure the price of a standard basket of goods in 1990. Some environmental groups are attributing this partly to an increase in extreme weather that scientists say is probably linked to global warming. OxfamAmerica said that a "major contributor" to this price surge has been the disastrous effect of extreme weather events on harvests of certain crops.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/05/extreme-weather-sends-food-prices-soaring/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

**How Assam's Tea is Beginning to Feel the Strain of Global Warming**, *Independent*, January 3

Researchers and planters worry that a rise in temperatures and change in rainfall patterns are threatening the production and quality of Assam's famous tea. About 850 tea gardens in Assam produce 55 percent of India's tea, but crop yields are decreasing and amid fears of a correlation with environmental change. Production in the state fell from 564,000 tons in 2007 to 487,000 tons in 2009, and the crop was estimated to have fallen to 460,000 tons in 2010, according to the Assam Branch Indian Tea Association.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/how-assams-tea-is-beginning-to-feel-the-strain-of-global-warming-2174678.html>

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## **WOMEN & GIRLS**

### Media Articles:

**A New Microlending Fund for Women Entrepreneurs**, *BusinessWeek*, January 6

Kiva and skin-care company Dermalogica launch a campaign to promote microloans for women in the U.S. and overseas. The microfinance model, and particularly for-profit lenders seeking returns for investors, has come under increased scrutiny in recent months in India and other countries, and in October officials in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh put restrictions on the practice in the wake of suicides by some borrowers. Still, Grassano says microloans appropriately administered can help entrepreneurs in developing countries. Of the nearly \$125 million in completed loans Kiva has funded, 98.91 percent of them have been repaid by the end of the loan's term—a rate that includes guarantees on defaulted loans paid by some of Kiva's partner lending institutions.

[http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/jan2011/sb2011015\\_490752.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/jan2011/sb2011015_490752.htm)

**Family Planning Helps Women...and Slows Climate Change**, *Guardian*, January 5

With women empowered to plan their pregnancies, the world's population will grow more slowly, as will carbon emissions. We now know that meeting women's needs for family planning not only strengthens the health and rights of families around the world, but will also help slow dangerous climate change. Recent research suggests that simply meeting existing "unmet need" would deliver up to one-seventh of the carbon reductions essential to slow global warming, and at a very low cost. With women empowered to plan their pregnancies, the world's population grows more slowly, as do carbon emissions.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jan/05/family-planning-women-population>

**Iron, Vitamin D May Lead to Smarter, Healthier Children**, *Voice of America*, January 4

Many people have low iron in their blood. But pregnant women need extra iron for their own health and their baby's health. Iron is important to the development of a baby's brain and central nervous system. In poor countries, however, providing all pregnant women with iron supplements can be a financial issue. Some experts say giving supplements to babies after they are born is enough.

<http://www.voanews.com/learningenglish/home/health/Iron-Vitamin-D-May-Lead-to-Smarter-Healthier-Children---112908674.html>

**What UN Women Needs to Make a Difference**, *Guardian*, January 1

UN Women becomes operational today, but will it have the clout and the funds to end gender discrimination around the world? UN Women has been created because the UN has been failing women by fragmenting responsibility for their rights across four small, poorly funded and poorly coordinated entities. Until now, despite numerous international agreements on women's equality, no UN agency had responsibility for ensuring governments delivered on these promises and, as a result, progress has been slow and inadequate. UN Women must be different. But it will only be as effective as the power it has and the funding it receives.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jan/01/un-women-agency-funding>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Media Articles:

#### **Are Speculators Adding to World Hunger?**, *CNBC*, January 7

The latest big trade to profit from is agriculture. But with international food prices hitting record highs, campaigners are furious and it is adding to a regulatory zeal. "Food isn't an asset, it's a basic human need," says the World Development Movement's Heidi Chow. "The (futures) market was set up for farmers and food producers to hedge risks inherent in what they do. Betting on the price of food is having a catastrophic effect on the lives of millions of people in developing countries – or even those on low incomes in the U.S. and U.K." <http://www.cnbc.com/id/40958201>

#### **Economic Fears as Indian Food Prices Soar**, *Financial Times*, January 6

Indian food prices have hit their highest level in more than a year, rising at an annual rate of 18 per cent in what economists have taken as a worrying sign that the impact of surging commodity prices is hitting the broader economy. Food inflation in India is being driven by many of the same factors that have pushed the price of global commodities like wheat and barley to record highs. It also highlights rising fears of a global prices in the developing world, with the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation warning this week that global prices had surpassed levels seen during the 2007-08 crisis.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/66b88094-1976-11e0-a853-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/201116/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1A9JH5PF>

#### **SEE ALSO: Rising Food Prices: Déjà Vu All Over Again**, *Wall Street Journal*, January 6

The last time the economy was really hot – before the chill winds of the economic crisis swept across the globe – the big worry was that rising inflation, especially in food prices, would scupper the Indian miracle. Here we are three years later, with robust growth in India and some signs that the global economy is starting to pick up a bit and what do we have: renewed fears that high inflation, driven by soaring food prices, will undermine India's economic promise.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2011/01/06/rising-food-prices-deja-vu-all-over-again/?KEYWORDS=agriculture>

#### **Australian Producers Face Huge Floods Bill**, *Financial Times*, January 5

Devastating floods in the north-eastern Australian state of Queensland have wreaked havoc on coal and commodity producers there, industry bodies said, with losses already pegged at A\$2bn (\$2.01bn) in terms of lost production. Agricultural industry body AgForce expects more than A\$1bn in lost production, with the export-oriented sugar and cotton industries among the worst affected. The floods have damaged about 50 per cent of Queensland's agricultural crops, which include sorghum and wheat, it said.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/81beb9c6-17f0-11e0-9033-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=crm/email/201115/nbe/AsiaPacificBusiness/product#axzz1ABEbsDn3>

#### **U.N. Food Price Index Jumps in December**, *New York Times*, January 5

Prices of corn, wheat and other grains can go much higher and current weather patterns are of concern, the United Nations' food agency said Wednesday after announcing a jump in its food price index in December. The FAO's food price index, which measures monthly price changes for a food basket composed of cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar, averaged 215 points last month, up from 206 points in November.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/06/business/global/06food.html?emc=eta1>

#### **SEE ALSO: FAO Draws Comfort at Lack of Food Riots**, *Financial Times*, January 5

The Food and Agriculture Organisation, the UN body in charge of global food policy, is drawing comfort from the absence of widespread riots, usually the defining element of a food crisis. The FAO's food price index, a basket tracking the wholesale cost of wheat, corn, rice, oilseeds, dairy products, sugar and meats, has jumped to a record high, surpassing in December the peak of the 2007-08 food crisis. Yet so far, unrest has been limited.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#inbox/12d5a059459eb161>

**SEE ALSO: New Outlets Examine Potential Implications of Record High Food Price Levels,** *Kaiser Family Foundation, January 6*

<http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2011/January/06/GH-010611-Food-Security.aspx>

**SEE ALSO: UN Food Price Index Tops Records Dating to 90s,** *Bloomberg, January 5*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-06/un-food-price-index-tops-records-dating-to-90.html>

**SEE ALSO: World Food Prices Jump to Record on Sugar, Oilseeds,** *Washington Post, January 6*

<http://washpost.bloomberg.com/Story?docId=1376-LEJJE66K50XX01-68DET4U1BP9S6IDE5H0BKN2SRH>

**SEE ALSO: Algerians Riot Over Rising Price of Food,** *Financial Times, January 6*

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bbdba3c8-19bf-11e0-b921-00144feab49a.html#axzz1ALFYMEhk>

**SEE ALSO: G20 to Tackle Food Prices as Countries Reassure,** *Reuters, January 7*

The Group of 20 leading economies will discuss ways to tackle soaring food prices that are stoking fears of a repeat of the 2008 food crisis, as some Asian countries sought to reassure nervous consumers on Friday.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE7060BQ20110107>

**European Union's Farm Policy is 'Morally Wrong,' U.K. Cabinet Member Says,** *Bloomberg, January 4*

European Union farm policy is "morally wrong" because it undercuts agriculture in developing countries with import tariffs and export subsidies, said Caroline Spelman, the U.K. environment secretary. The Common Agricultural Policy "continues to distort trade by maintaining high EU prices," Spelman said in an e-mailed speech to be delivered today at the Oxford Farming Conference. "This gives rise to high import tariffs and the use of export subsidies to clear market surpluses."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-05/european-union-s-farm-policy-is-morally-wrong-u-k-cabinet-member-says.html>

**SEE ALSO: Halting Food Exports Should be Illegal, says Caroline Spelman,** *Guardian, January 5*

The environment minister, Caroline Spelman, today risked incurring the wrath of many major food-growing countries by saying it should be illegal to halt food exports even at times of national crisis. In a clear reference to Russia and the Ukraine, which temporarily halted exports of wheat and other grains in order to protect supplies for their own people during an unprecedented heatwave last year, she said no country should be allowed to interfere with the global food commodity market.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jan/05/food-export-caroline-spelman>

**Asian Grain Outlook: Supply Concerns Dominate Trade Entering 2011,** *Wall Street Journal, January 3*

Supply concerns will continue to be the dominant factor in the Asian grains trade in the new year, as traders and analysts brace for uncertain global weather conditions.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110103-701178.html>

**India Wheat Output to Top Estimate,** *Wall Street Journal, December 31*

India will likely reap more wheat than the government's estimate this crop year despite late sowings, a top scientist said Friday, indicating that the South Asian nation will have ample supplies of the staple grain to help fight stubbornly high food prices.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704543604576053030165677532.html>

**Spice Price Rise Hard to Swallow in India,** *Financial Times, December 30*

Prices of India's spices have hit record highs because of a combination of extreme weather conditions and booming demand with their cost soaring up to 50 per cent this year.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/605dd9f6-1435-11e0-a21b-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/20101231/nbe/WorldNews/product#axzz1AAxXSFgp>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

#### **Ex-DraftFCB exec to lead Google food team in Chicago**, *ChicagoBreakingBusiness*, January 7

Google is establishing a food-and-beverage team in Chicago to link with advertisers and marketers including Northfield-based Kraft and Purchase, N.Y.-based PepsiCo. Karen Sauder, who recently resigned from her position as managing director at DraftFCB Chicago, will become Industry Director for Food and Beverages at Google. In the new role, Sauder is expected to build a Chicago-based team, focusing on Google's efforts to build its advertising and marketing business in the food and beverage industries for the first time, according to a Google spokesman.

<http://chicagobreakingbusiness.com/2011/01/draftfcb-exec-karen-sauder-to-run-google-food-team-in-chicago.html>

#### **Monsanto Swings to Profit on Growth in Seed Unit**, *Wall Street Journal*, January 7

Monsanto Co. swung to a profit as its seeds and genomics business turned in strong sales growth, and the agribusiness giant recovered from a sharp drop in sales of its Roundup and other herbicides.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704415104576065591053830516.html?KEYWORDS=agribusiness>

#### **Monsanto Announces Nine Project Advancements in Annual Research and Development Pipeline Update**, *PRNewswire*, January 6

Several projects across platforms and crops designed to improve farmers' on-farm productivity and profitability advanced phases today as part of Monsanto Company's (NYSE: MON) annual pipeline update.

<http://multivu.prnewswire.com/mnr/monsanto/48030/>

#### **DuPont Wades Into Drought-Tolerant Corn**, *Wall Street Journal*, January 5

DuPont Co. will start sales in the U.S. this year of corn seeds adapted to cope with dry climates, an opening step in what is expected to develop into a multibillion dollar global industry for growing crops in drought conditions. Pioneer Hi-Bred, DuPont's agribusiness arm, has been testing the conventional new hybrid seeds since 2008 and said on average the seeds generate a 5% higher yield over existing products.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704405704576063961961160744.html?KEYWORDS=agricultural+development>

#### **PepsiCo's Latest Challenge: 'Snackify' Some Beverages**, *Wall Street Journal*, December 28

PepsiCo Inc. is betting that consumers want to "snackify" drinks. As part of its strategy to tap into the market for more nutritious convenience foods, the company is hoping people will pay a premium for a new pureed fruit product that it considers thick enough to be a snack rather than a beverage.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204467204576047900383643010.html?mod=WSJ\\_hp\\_MI\\_DDLTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204467204576047900383643010.html?mod=WSJ_hp_MI_DDLTopStories)

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*