

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



December 4th - 11th, 2009

Please visit the [Global Food for Thought Blog](#) which provides expert commentary, debate, and updates on key developments in real time.

For more information on the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, and previous editions of *Global Food for Thought*, please visit the Initiative's new website: www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment.

To receive *Global Food for Thought* weekly, please register [here](#).

CONTENTS

Key Articles

Relevant U.S. Administration and Congressional Activities

New Reports/Policy Briefs/Books

Upcoming Events

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

****SPECIAL SECTION FEATURING REPORTS ON CLIMATE AND CLIMATE CHANGE****

Agricultural Issues

Foreign Assistance

Environment (Water/Climate)

Women

Market Access and Trade Issues

Agribusiness

KEY ARTICLES

Food Outlook: Global Market Analysis, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, December 2009*
Recent developments in world agricultural markets for basic food commodities have raised concern about a possible return to another round of high prices. In general, however, the difficulties facing markets today are different from those experienced during the 2007/08 food price surge. The FAO Food Price Index, a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a food basket composed of cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar, has risen uninterruptedly since August 2009, a trend shared by nearly all its components.
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/ak341e/ak341e00.htm>

See Also: Food Prices Up Again: Grain Stocks Bigger Against 2008 Crisis Replay, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, December, 9*
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/38040/icode/>

A Chorus of High-Level Support for Agriculture, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Climate Change Blog, December 10*

The significance of a side event held at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change lay not just in what the high-level panelists said but in the fact that they had come together to deliver a single, coherent message

about the vital relationship between food security and climate change. The meeting was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with several partners.

<http://cgiarclimatechange.wordpress.com/2009/12/10/a-chorus-of-high-level-support-for-agriculture/>

States, Partners Agree to Support CADDP, *AllAfrica.com, December 10*

African countries signatory to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme (CAADP) and development partners have vowed to recommit to the principles of eliminating poverty by accelerating agricultural development. At the end of the two-day CAADP Post-Compact meeting, African states agreed to follow Rwanda's commitment to implement the programme while the donor platform agreed to fund country-led approaches.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912100018.html>

See Also: Kagame Calls for More Investment in Agriculture, *AllAfrica.com, December 8*

President Paul Kagame called upon African countries to commit more funds to the agricultural sector if the continent is to address the problem of food security and transform one of the major engines for growth and prosperity. The President was speaking at a two-day meeting of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development (CAADP) which opened in Kigali.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912080018.html>

Food Policy Debate: Should Governments Play a Stronger Role in Guiding Food and Nutrition Choices?, *Economist, December 8 - 18*

Kelly Brownell, Professor of Psychology, Yale University: "Three major food issues face the world. Local, national, and global governing authorities must take bold and innovative action to avoid catastrophic health consequences, political upheaval, and political and financial instability around the globe." *Melanie Leech, Director General, Food and Drink Federation:* "The food and drink industry shares society's concerns about the health of the nation, particularly rising obesity levels, and it is committed to playing a positive role in responding to this vital debate."

http://www.economist.com/debate/overview/159&sa_campaign=debateseries/debate37/alert/round/open

World Hunger Requires Research, Not Rancor, *Allen S. Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and J. Brian Atwood, dean of the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota and a former Administrator of USAID, Huffington Post, December 8*

A half-century ago, when similar problems loomed, the Green Revolution -- and the worldwide network of research agencies that grew out of it -- created new higher-yielding, disease-resistant food crops for the areas of the world that most needed them. But today, rather than uniting in a global effort to end hunger, we're settling into the same old "I'm right, you're wrong" camps. Environmentalists see only the negatives from the first Green Revolution: heavy use of environmentally unfriendly pesticides and fertilizers, and fewer options for small farmers in poor countries. Agriculture advocates point out that hunger and starvation would be even more widespread today without the advances from the 1960s and '70s and call for more of the same.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/allen-s-levine/world-hunger-requires-res_b_384057.html

U.S. Aid to Afghan Farmers Seen as Worthy, Tough Goal, *Des Moines Register, December 3*

Obama announced he was dispatching 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, but he also said the United States would send more than arms to the nation. "We will also focus our assistance in areas - such as agriculture - that can make an immediate impact in the lives of the Afghan people," he said. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has maintained a force of up to 40 advisers in Afghanistan since U.S. military forces entered the country in late 2001. Earlier this year, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced a \$27.5 million food for progress aid program for Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan. The U.S. State Department is coordinating agriculture aid to Afghanistan in a program led by special envoy Richard Holbrooke.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091203/BUSINESS01/912030373/1001/NEWS>

Something We Can All Agree On, *Richard Stearns, president of World Vision, Huffington Post, December 7*

The need for American leadership in building a better, safer world is something all Americans can agree upon. Based on our experience, we know that a critical part in accomplishing this is increasing our national investments in development and diplomacy alongside of defense - otherwise known as the "smart power"

approach. Examples range from the past Administration's leadership on the global AIDS crisis and creation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which has produced an innovative model for delivering foreign assistance and holding countries accountable for the results, to President Obama's new Global Food Security Initiative, which emphasizes agricultural production, local capacity, and long-term self sufficiency.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-stearns/something-we-can-all-agre_b_382580.html

How to Mend Fences with Pakistan, *Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan, Op-Ed, New York Times, December 9*

Although we certainly appreciate America's \$7.5 billion pledge over the next five years for nonmilitary projects in Pakistan, this long-term commitment must be complemented by short-term policies that demonstrate American neutrality and willingness to help India and Pakistan overcome their mutual distrust. We need the support of our allies in war but also to help build a new Pakistan that promises a meaningful future to our children. We are not looking for — and indeed reject — dependency. We don't need or want (nor would we accept) foreign troops to defeat the insurgency, and we seek trade more than aid from you in the future.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/10/opinion/10zardari.html>

We Have a Real Emergency, *Mikhail Gorbachev, former president, Soviet Union, New York Times, December 9*

The global environmental crisis is at the heart of practically all the problems now confronting us, including the need to create a global economic model grounded in the public good. It is directly linked to security issues and to increasingly dangerous ethnic and international conflicts; to mass migrations and displacements of people, which are already destabilizing politics and economics; to growing poverty and social inequality; to the water crisis and energy and food shortages.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/10/opinion/10iht-edgorbachev.html>

Bracing for the Flood, *António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and former prime minister of Portugal, Op-Ed, New York Times, December 10*

A particularly disturbing characteristic of climate change developments is their potential to ignite conflicts within and between states, especially in situations where communities are competing for increasingly scarce resources such as fresh water and grazing land. Within the developing world, moreover, disadvantaged women and men — subsistence farmers and fishermen, slum and shantytown dwellers, members of ethnic and religious minorities — will bear the brunt of the changes taking place in our ecosystem. Timely and coherent responses are required in those situations where people are forced to flee due to the impact of climate change, both directly and as an accelerator of other drivers of displacement, such as natural disasters, food insecurity and conflict.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/11/opinion/11iht-edguterres.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Remarks by President Barack Obama at the Acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, *Office of the Press Secretary, White House, December 10*

"It is undoubtedly true that development rarely takes root without security; it is also true that security does not exist where human beings do not have access to enough food, or clean water, or the medicine and shelter they need to survive. And that's why helping farmers feed their own people -- or nations educate their children and care for the sick -- is not mere charity. It's also why the world must come together to confront climate change. There is little scientific dispute that if we do nothing, we will face more drought, more famine, more mass displacement -- all of which will fuel more conflict for decades.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-acceptance-nobel-peace-prize>

Summary: FY 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations, *Joint Committees on Appropriations, December 8*

The FY 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill helps protect our national security through effective diplomacy and development. It provides needed assistance to frontline states – Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq – and it promotes security, economic development, health, education, food security, and

environmental protection around the world. The bill also provides vital resources to rebuild the capacity of the State Department and USAID.

http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/FY10_SFOPS_Conference_Summary.pdf

See Also: Legislative Text

http://docs.house.gov/rules/omni2010/hr3288cr_divf_txt.pdf

See Also: Joint Explanatory Statement

http://docs.house.gov/rules/omni2010/hr3288cr_divf_jes.pdf

Interview With David Gregory of NBC's Meet The Press, Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, December 5

"But look at what has happened. When President Karzai came into office, there were about a million kids in school, and they were all boys. There are now 7 million, and they're 40 percent girls. There is, all of a sudden, a wheat harvest because of better seeds and fertilizer that is giving people, once again, income from their land. There are so many positive examples of what has changed."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/12/133216.htm>

Remarks to U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, December 7

"Last September, USAID and PEPFAR joined with General Mills to improve the capacity of small and medium-sized food businesses across sub-Saharan Africa to produce healthy, fortified food products. This partnership will link the technical and business expertise of General Mills and up to nine additional food companies with as many as 200 small and medium-sized mills and food processors in 15 sub-Saharan African countries. This partnership will benefit an estimated 1.6 million smallholder farmers."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/12/133275.htm>

Vilsack Discusses Link between Climate Change and Global Food Security at Copenhagen Climate Change Talks, USDA, December 10

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spoke to a packed house of 300 attendees at the "Food Security and Climate Change: Unifying Commitment and Action" at the climate change talks in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"There is an important link between global climate change and food insecurity, both daunting challenges that will require shared vision and efforts if we are to make progress in addressing them, said Vilsack.

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

Statement of Ambassador Karl Eikenberry Before the House Armed Services Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, December 8

"Development specialists at USAID, joined by experts from multiple departments and agencies of our government, are focusing on key sectors, such as agriculture. Rebuilding the farm sector is essential for the Afghan government to reduce the pool of unemployed men who form the recruiting base for extremist groups. We estimate that at least illegal narcotics is multi-pronged, involving demand reduction, efforts by law enforcement and the military to detain major traffickers and interdict drug shipments, and support for licit agricultural development."

http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/FC120809/Eikenberry_Testimony120809.pdf

The New Afghanistan Strategy: The View from the Ground, Jacob J. Lew, Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, December 9

"We will continue to expand our programs to bolster Afghanistan's agricultural sector – the traditional core of the Afghan economy - focusing on increasing farmers' productivity and ability to enter higher value markets, rehabilitating degraded watersheds and irrigation infrastructure, and greatly building the Ministry of Agriculture's capacity to deliver extension and other services. This will create jobs, reduce funding that the Taliban receives from poppy cultivation, and draw insurgents off of the battlefield."

<http://www.state.gov/s/dmr/remarks/2009/133338.htm>

Remarks at the American Enterprise Institute, Paul Jones, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, December 7

“To help reverse Taliban momentum, we are focusing our reconstruction effort in areas where we can quickly create jobs, especially agriculture. Rebuilding Afghanistan’s once vibrant licit agriculture will sap the insurgency of not only foot soldiers, but also income from the narcotics trade. Simultaneously, we are rapidly transforming how we deliver assistance, decreasing our reliance on contractors and implementing a process for Afghan institutions to receive direct assistance if they enhance accountability and transparency.”

http://www.state.gov/s/special_rep_afghanistan_pakistan/133262.htm

USDA at Work for Agriculture in Afghanistan, *Fact Sheet, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, December 2009*

Agriculture is the main source of income for the Afghan economy. Eighty percent of Afghanistan’s population is involved in farming, herding or both, even though just 12 percent of Afghanistan’s total land area is arable and less than 6 percent is currently cultivated. In December 2009, President Obama said, “Our top reconstruction priority is implementing a civilian-military agriculture redevelopment strategy to restore Afghanistan’s once vibrant agriculture sector.” The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is helping Afghanistan revitalize its agricultural sector through a variety of activities aimed to strengthen the capacity of the Afghan government, rebuild agricultural markets, and improve management of natural resources.

http://www.fas.usda.gov/country/Afghanistan/FAS%20Afghanistan%20Fact%20Sheet_12.7.09.pdf

See Also: Paths to Progress: USDA Agricultural Experts in Afghanistan, *New Web site, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2009*

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/country/Afghanistan/us-afghanistan.asp>

National Guard Key to President’s Afghan Agriculture Initiative, *U.S. Army, December 8*

The National Guard continues to make a significant contribution to developing agriculture in Afghanistan, one of the initiatives that President Obama discussed Dec. 1, in his speech to the nation. Eight National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams are currently on the ground in Afghanistan, and more teams are preparing to deploy, Guard officials said. The National Guard ADTs partner with land grant colleges, state farm bureaus and federal departments to help Afghans improve agricultural practices. Agriculture provides a majority of Afghanistan’s gross domestic product and employs more than 70 percent of its citizens, said Col. Martin A. Leppert, who oversees the ADT program for the director of the Army National Guard.

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2009/12/08/31496-national-guard-key-to-presidents-afghan-agriculture-initiative/>

More Civilians Heading to Afghanistan, But to Support Which Ministries?, *Washington Independent, December 7*

Nicholson, the Joint Staff’s top man focusing on Afghanistan and a veteran of the war himself, elaborated on which ministries that effort will target: the security ministries of Defense and Interior, as well as the Agriculture ministry and the ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. And it means supporting the National Solidarity Program, an Afghan-led development effort that funds and support projects designed at the local level. One metric Nicholson suggested the administration will be looking at to measure success will be the expansion of wheat production in areas that right now are growing poppy, which helps fund the insurgency.

<http://washingtonindependent.com/69842/more-civilians-heading-to-afghanistan-but-to-support-which-ministries>

See Also: From Clinton, Plain Talk on Afghanistan, *Washington Post, December 8*

In hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Clinton said that there has been a 10-month investigation of what USAID was doing on the ground in Afghanistan, and that “we didn’t particularly come away impressed.” Many of the 300 civilians there were on six-month rotations and did not have well-defined missions, and many spent time out of the country, she said. More important, Clinton added, “most of our civilian aid going into Afghanistan had been contracted out without adequate oversight or accountability.” Plans call for tripling the USAID workforce and changing its mission. “But,” she added, “the numbers are going to have to grow if we expect to deliver on what is required.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/07/AR2009120703844.html>

At Long Last, A New USAID Chief?, *Foreign Policy (The Cable blog), December 8*

The U.S. Agency for International Development could be getting its new leader very soon. Hill sources tell The Cable that a Senate vote on confirming Rajiv Shah for the USAID job could come as early as Friday. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee moved the ball forward by reporting the Shah nomination out favorably Tuesday by a unanimous voice vote. Shah is supposed to play a role on both the QDDR, the State Department's Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, and the NSC's Presidential Study Directive on Global Development, or PSD-7 for short.

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2009/12/08/at_long_last_a_new_usaid_chief

See Also: USAID Chief, Ambassador Nominations Advance, *Politico.com*, December 8

The nomination of Obama's pick to head USAID, Dr. Rajiv Shah, moved to the full Senate for consideration after receiving a unanimous voice vote from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/laurarozen/1209/USAID_chief_ambassador_nominations_advance_to_full_Senate.html

Daniel W. Yohannes Sworn In as MCC CEO, *Millennium Challenge Corporation*, December 8

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who chairs the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board of Directors, presided over the swearing-in ceremony for Daniel W. Yohannes as the new Chief Executive Officer of MCC.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-120809-danielwyohannes.shtml>

Additional \$70 Million in Food Aid Announced by United States: Interview with U.S. Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, *America.gov*, December 9

The U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations agencies in Rome, Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, announced an additional \$70 million in emergency food aid to the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) December 9, providing an additional 92,310 metric tons of food for the 2010 calendar year. Cousin made the announcement just before her departure from Ethiopia for Tanzania, midway through her December 5–12 two-nation tour.

<http://www.america.gov/st/develop-english/2009/December/20091209180130WCyeroC0.3775555.html>

See Also: Livestock as Lifeblood, *Ertharin Cousin, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in Rome, DIPNOTE, U.S. Department of State Official Blog*, December 7

In Jijiga, Ethiopia, livestock are the lifeblood of the community. Wealth is measured in the number of cattle, sheep, goats, and camel an individual owns. Members of this community are working hard to manage these precious assets by attending Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-supported training to better monitor and report on animal disease and through selling their wares at an active livestock market built with USAID funding.

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/entries/livestock_as_lifeblood/

Berman Letter to President, Signed by 189 Members of Congress, Urges Support for International Affairs in FY 2011 Budget, *Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives*, December 9

Howard L. Berman (D-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a bipartisan letter to President Obama signed by 189 members of Congress requesting a robust International Affairs Budget, which includes funding for bilateral diplomacy, international broadcasting, contributions to the United Nations, and humanitarian, development and security assistance.

http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=679

New Date for Obama at Copenhagen Climate Talks, *Washington Post*, December 4

President Obama has changed when he will attend international talks in Copenhagen in December, the White House announced, on the grounds that there is a chance of a meaningful deal being struck now that both China and India have identified near-term climate goals.

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2009/12/new-date-for-obama-at-copenhag.html>

See Also: Statement from the Press Secretary on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, *Office of the Press Secretary, White House*, December 4

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-press-secretary-united-nations-climate-change-conference>

Senators Offer New Climate Proposals, *New York Times (Green Inc. blog)*, December 10

Three Senators, Senators John Kerry (D-Mass.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), and Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), released a broadly-worded blueprint of a climate change and energy bill that they believe can win the 60 votes needed to push the bill through next year.

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/10/senators-offer-new-climate-proposals/>

See Also: Kerry, Lieberman, Graham Release Framework for Climate Change and Energy Independence Legislation, *Jo Lieberman, U.S. Senator, December 10*

<http://lieberman.senate.gov/newsroom/release.cfm?id=320687>

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

Designing and Implementing Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific, *Asian Development Bank and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, December 2009*

This reference book aims to support the implementation of trade facilitation measures and reforms in Asia and the Pacific. It attempts to bridge the gaps among policy makers, practitioners, and economists by outlining operational guidance on how to assess the status of trade facilitation, what measures and reforms are necessary, and how to implement them at national and regional levels.

http://aric.adb.org/pdf/Trade_Facilitation_Reference_Book.pdf

Arson Alert: Philippines Is Playing with Fire! Again!, *Center for Global Development, December 2009*

The most serious shock to global food security in the past 35 years occurred in early 2008, when rice prices more than trebled in the space of four months. Panicked hoarding on the part of governments, farmers, traders, and consumers sparked a fire in the world rice market. Quick action by the United States—urging Japan to sell its WTO stockpile of rice to countries desperate to import, especially the Philippines—quickly doused the flames. Unfortunately, a similar situation is emerging again in the world rice market and again the Philippines are fueling the run-up in rice prices with very aggressive buying techniques.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423328_file_Arson_Alert_Slayton_Timmer_FINAL.pdf

Complementary Strategies to Raise Wheat Yield Potential, *International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, December 2009*

The abstracts herein are of presentations by world-renowned experts for the workshop “Complementary strategies to raise wheat yield potential” (10-13 November 2009, CIMMYT-El Batán, Mexico). Sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the event covered innovative methods to significantly raise wheat yield potential, including making photosynthesis more efficient, improving environmental adaptation, addressing the physical processes involved in lodging, and physiological and molecular breeding.

<http://www.cimmyt.org/english/docs/book/wheatyieldpotential.pdf>

Rice Production Responses in Cambodia, *International Food Policy Research Institute, December 2009*

This paper analyzes how Cambodian farmers and the Cambodian government can respond to increasing rice prices.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00939.pdf>

Land Tenure and Agricultural Productivity in Uganda, *International Food Policy Research Institute, December 2009*

Uganda’s significant economic growth over the last twenty years seemed to create favorable conditions for increased agricultural productivity, but agricultural productivity has failed to increase concordantly. As a result, most increases in aggregate crop production have been achieved from the expansion of cultivated land rather than increased investment in production technologies to raise crop yields per unit area of land. As access to land is increasingly constrained by high population growth, further expansion of cultivated land will be unsustainable. How can Ugandan farmers make more productive use of the land they now have?

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ussppb05.pdf>

See Also: Inorganic Fertilizer in Uganda – Knowledge Gaps, Profitability, Subsidy, and Implications of a National Policy, *International Food Policy Research Institute, December 2009*

This brief specifically addresses fertilizer use in Uganda.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ussppb08.pdf>

A Latent Class Approach to Investigating Consumer Demand for Genetically Modified Staple Food in a Developing Country: The Case of GM Bananas in Uganda, *International Food Policy Research Institute, November 2009*

This study explores consumer acceptance and valuation of a genetically modified (GM) staple food crop in a developing country prior to its commercialization.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00938.pdf>

Sensitivity of Welfare Effects Estimated by Equilibrium Displacement Model: A Biological Productivity Growth for Semisubsistence Crops in Sub-Sahara African Market with High Transaction Costs, *International Food Policy Research Institute, November 2009*

This paper discusses the application of the equilibrium displacement model (EDM) to estimate ex-ante the welfare effects of biological productivity growth for semi-subsistence crop and its impact on poverty reduction.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00936.pdf>

The African Seed Company Toolbox: 52 Tools Every Seed Company Manager Should Know How to Use, *Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, August 2009*

The African Seed Company Toolbox is a collection of tools written for managers of seed companies in sub-Saharan Africa working with smallholder farmers. The tools cover a variety of topics in three general areas: production, marketing and distribution, and business management. Included as part of the Toolbox is a set of interactive exhibits which can be customized for individual company use. The Toolbox was constructed by Aline O'Connor Funk, based on input and questions from the managers of 20 African seed companies, and was funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

http://www.agra-alliance.org/files/1067_file_TheAfrican_SeedCompany_Toolbox_Vs1.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

United Nations Climate Change Conference

Date: December 7th – December 18th, 2009

Location: Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

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

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

Date: December 10th

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

Participants: Thomas Vilsack, Eva Kjer Hansen, Dr. Thelma Krug, Ajay Vashee, Dr. Jacques Diouf

A side-event organized by FAO and the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. Climate change, food security, poverty - key challenges that intersect in land-based sectors - cannot be addressed in isolation from each other. The World Summit on Food Security and UNFCCC COP-15 provide opportunities to promote solutions that manage synergies and trade-offs for multiple benefits.

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

CAADP Post-Compact: High-Level Stakeholders Meeting

Date: December 7th -8th

Location: Kigali, Rwanda

[Agenda](#)

[Concept Paper](#)

Rwanda Calls for Genuine Action on African Agriculture, *New Partnership for Africa's Development, December 7*

Africa has identified the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the avenue for addressing the challenges of food security, but both the donors and African governments are yet to fulfil their commitments to CAADP, said Rwandan President Paul Kagame at the start of a two day high-level meeting on CAADP. Gayle Smith, the Special Advisor to President Barack Obama of the United States reiterated the US Government's commitment to CAADP. "We will succeed if we match word with deed," she advised. She went on to highlight that this success will have to go hand-in-hand with the principles of mutual accountability, engagement, transparency and real tangible commitments to African agriculture.

http://www.nepad.org/News/lang/en/sector_id/6/news/54

See Also: A Concept Note of Rwanda Post CADDP Compact: High Level Stakeholders Meeting, *Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, December 7-8*

<http://partnership-africa.org/content/concept-note-rwanda-post-caadp-compact-high-level-stakeholders-meeting>

The Economics of Structural Change and Competition in the Food System

Date: December 7th

Location: Waugh Auditorium, USDA Economic Research Service, 1800 M Street NW, Washington, D.C

"In today's business environment, a variety of forces are influencing the economics of every sector of the food system," says Farm Foundation President Neil Conklin. "The economics, in turn, are a significant driver of structural changes in every sector of the food system. This conference examines current research on the economics of structural change and competition, with the intent of helping industry leaders and policy makers better understand the factors at work." Targeted to agribusiness leaders, policy makers and researchers, the conference program will feature current research being done by academics from across the United States.

<http://www.farmfoundation.org/webcontent/The-Economics-of-Structural-Change-and-Competition-in-the-Food-System-1721.aspx?a=1721&z=90&>

A Discussion with Barbara Noseworthy

Date: December 10th

Location: Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Washington, D.C.

Barbara Noseworthy, Senior Resource Mobilization Officer for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Partnership to Cut Hunger and poverty in Africa will lead a discussion on current AGRA programs and the strategy of working in breadbasket areas of Ghana, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Mali; early AGRA progress and partnerships already developed; and to explore opportunities for partnership with other organizations already working in these areas.

<http://partnership-africa.org/>

2010 World Ag Expo

Date: February 9th-11th, 2009

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

USADA's 2010 Outlook Forum will be held Feb. 18-19 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Va. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will keynote the forum titled "Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Health & Prosperity." Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will open the annual forum on Feb. 18 at 8 a.m. A panel, which features Whole Foods Market Co-President Walter Robb, recently retired Sysco Corporation CEO

Richard Schnieders, Bon Appétit Management Company CEO Fedele Bauccio, and Science and Technology Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of State Nina Fedoroff, is titled "Sustainability, Stakeholders and Customers: Achieving a Healthier 21st Century." USDA's Under Secretary Jim Miller will present the foreign trade outlook and Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will deliver the domestic agricultural economic outlook. It will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to rural communities, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, conservation, and food safety and security. The forum also will feature traditional USDA commodity supply and demand and food price outlooks. USDA will Web cast the entire morning plenary speeches. USDA has hosted the Outlook Forum since 1923 to provide farmers and ranchers, government, and agribusinesses with sound information for decision-making. Attendees are expected to include members of farm organizations, food and fiber firms, academia, foreign governments, and the news media.

[Session and Speakers](#)

[Program at a Glance](#)

[Public Registration](#)

Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD)

Date: March 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](#)

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

Draft Text of the Agreement: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/files/danish-text-1.pdf>

The CGAIR at COP15: Putting Agricultural Solutions to Work, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, December 2009

Addressing government negotiators and others attending the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the CGIAR and key partners will make the case that, while agriculture is part of the problem – contributing about 14 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions and accounting for most of the 19 percent contributed by deforestation – it must also be part of the solution. Putting agricultural and environmental solutions to work, especially in the developing world, will require major investments in adaptation to the impacts of climate change as well as in improved forestry and other land uses that can significantly mitigate emissions. Such investments will at the same time represent vital contributions to strengthening food security and reducing poverty.

<http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/december2009.html>

EU Agrees on Climate Pledge That May Boost Copenhagen, BBC News, December 11

EU leaders have agreed to pay 7.2bn euros (£6.5bn; \$10.6bn) over the next three years to help developing nations adapt to climate change. Announcing the deal, Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said all 27 EU member nations would contribute and that the EU was doing its "fair share".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8407112.stm>

See Also: E.U. Offers \$3 Billion to Climate Fund, New York Times, December 11

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/11/world/AP-EU-EU-Summit.html>

Drought Pushes Nomads to Edge, *Special Report on Copenhagen Climate Summit, Financial Times, December 11*

Africa has always been a continent of extreme weather and pastoralists are accustomed to coping with the failure of one or even two rainy seasons. But climate change could prove one test too far for their adaptability. Oxfam, an aid agency, says the drought in east Africa is the worst in a decade and that the frequency of severe droughts across the region has risen from once every 10 years to once every two or three. Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change, least responsible for causing it, and least able to afford the costs of managing it.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/61864352-e675-11de-98b1-00144feab49a.html>

Soros Advocates IMF Scheme to Help Poor Nations Fight Climate Change, *Financial Times, December 11*
George Soros, the billionaire financier, unveiled a plan to lend poor countries \$100bn to deal with the threat of climate change.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/964e8a80-e5f4-11de-b5d7-00144feab49a.html>

Q&A: The U.N.'s Ban Ki-Moon on Climate Change, *TIME, December 11*

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon has a wealth of global problems he could turn his focus on: genocide, war, HIV. But the South Korean diplomat has chosen to make climate change his number one priority, even hosting a one-day, high-level summit on warming at the UN in New York this September. Now with a momentous climate change summit under way in Copenhagen, Ban's efforts are bearing fruit. He spoke with TIME's Bryan Walsh about his hopes for the conference, the responsibilities of rich and poor nations and why climate change is ultimately a moral issue.

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1929071_1929070_1947173,00.html

UN Official Warns of Climate Change's Human Costs, *Associated Press, December 10*

The U.N.'s Emergency Relief Coordinator says the effects of climate change are already being felt across the developing world and he hopes much of the money devoted to the problem will go toward helping it adapt. John Holmes said that regardless of what is decided at the climate conference in Copenhagen, the effects, including more intense rains and longer droughts, will be with us for at least 50 years. He said changing weather patterns threaten food security, with the amount of land irrigated by rainfall likely to be "halved" in the coming years.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iA97TfuJ7-HoWzrSQXIH-bXpCynAD9CGN2700>

Jeffrey Sachs: It's 'More Important Than Ever' For World to Act on Poverty, Climate, *Radio Free Europe, December 9*

"Of course, I would hope for an agreement that is strong in terms of commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also strong in terms of helping the poor countries to adapt to the climate change that they didn't cause but from which they're suffering right now. And so there are many things on the agenda, both what the major emitters do and how they help the rest of the world."

http://www.rferl.org/content/Jeffrey_Sachs_Its_More_Important_Than_Ever_For_World_To_Act_On_Poverty_Climate/1899145.html

US Rules Out Climate Aid for China, *Financial Times, December 9*

China will receive no significant funds from the US to fight climate change, the US delegation leader at the Copenhagen conference vowed. The statement was part of a US attack on developing countries for not promising deeper curbs on greenhouse gases.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e1b1f2e4-e4f7-11de-9a25-00144feab49a.html>

See Also: Copenhagen: No "Pass" for Developing Countries, *Scientific American, December 9*

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=climate-todd-stern-copenhagen-developing-countries>

Developing Countries Split Over Climate Measures, *BBC News, December 9*

A major split between developing countries has emerged at the UN climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark. Small island states and poor African nations vulnerable to climate impacts laid out demands for a legally-

binding deal tougher than the Kyoto Protocol. This was opposed by richer developing states such as China, which fear tougher action would curb their growth.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8403745.stm>

Brazil Defends Biofuels at Copenhagen Summit, *Guardian*, December 9

As the world's largest producer and exporter of ethanol, it's no surprise the Brazilian government advocates biofuels as the only real alternative to fossil fuels.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/dec/09/biofuels-brazil-copenhagen-summit>

Neglected Crops in Copenhagen, *Cary Fowler, Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, Huffington Post*, December 8

The impact on food crops from higher temperatures alone could result in the worst famines ever experienced. For example, an analysis of IPCC climate models has found that within the next 20 years, southern Africa's maize crop will be cut by more than a quarter unless we start work now on producing heat-resistant varieties. By 2050 many African countries that are now heavily dependent on maize may not be able to grow it at all. And researchers are already warning about the increase in armed conflict in Africa as a direct result of such food shortages.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cary-fowler/neglected-crops-in-copenh_b_384508.html

Africa Seeking \$40 bn/yr in Climate Aid, *Reuters*, December 8

Rich nations at the Copenhagen climate summit should commit \$40 billion a year in new money to help Africa tackle the consequences of global warming, the president of the African Development Bank (AfDB) said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE5B701720091208>

'Draft Text' Triggers Copenhagen Furor, *Financial Times*, December 9

Environmental campaigners have accused rich countries of trying to strong-arm poor nations into an agreement on greenhouse gas emissions at the Copenhagen summit.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8e18eca8-e454-11de-a0ea-00144feab49a.html>

Micro-tax Call to Support Poor Nations, *Financial Times*, December 8

France is pressing for a modified Tobin tax – a micro-payment on financial transactions – to be included in any agreement at the Copenhagen conference as a means to help the developing world tackle climate change. Bernard Kouchner, French foreign minister, said a “contribution” of 0.005 per cent on all financial transactions could amount to billions of dollars a year for the developing world. This would fill the gap caused by lack of donor funds to meet agreed goals to eradicate poverty in the developing world.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4c205dc6-e428-11de-bed0-00144feab49a.html>

Climate Deal Likely to Bear Big Price Tag, *New York Times*, December 8

If negotiators reach an accord at the climate talks in Copenhagen it will entail profound shifts in energy production, dislocations in how and where people live, sweeping changes in agriculture and forestry and the creation of complex new markets in global warming pollution credits. So what is all this going to cost?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/09/science/earth/09cost.html>

See Also: Developing Nations Call for Rich to Aid Emissions Cuts, *Wall Street Journal*, December 9

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126027972598681805.html>

Bangladesh Is Counting on a Fair and Just Climate Deal in Copenhagen, *S. Jahangir Hasan Masum is Executive Director, Coastal Development Partnership (CDP), Bangladesh. Daily Star*, December 8

Climate change presents significant threats to achieving all of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to eliminating poverty and hunger and promoting environmental sustainability. It may undermine human security by reducing access to, and the quality of, natural resources that are important to sustain livelihoods. It will have a massive impact on food production and may jeopardise food security in many regions. Climate change-related risks may force people into trade-offs that limit their freedom and minimise choice.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=116776>

Agriculture: Copenhagen's Blind Spot, *Ecologist (blog)*, December 7

By not properly discussing agriculture at national or international climate negotiations, we are avoiding tackling not just a huge source of emissions, but also a potential carbon sink.

http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/other_comments/376739/agriculture_copenhagens_blind_spot.html

Countries Affected by Climate Change Look to Summit for Help, *VOA News*, December 7

Relief officials in Africa say environmental studies since the 1970's have shown the steady advance of the desert and irregular rains cause floods and drought in Sahelian countries.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Countries-Affected-by-Climate-Change-Look-to-Summit-for-Help-78684502.html>

Fresh Air in Copenhagen: A Sound Approach for Getting Climate-Change Aid to Developing Countries, *Editorial, Washington Post*, December 7

Now, however, negotiations center on how to transfer hundreds of billions in cash and technology from rich countries to developing ones. Developing nations insist that they need the aid to adapt to the worst effects of climate change, to curb deforestation and to get off carbon-intensive development paths. Though the amounts that developing countries demand are impossibly high, the International Energy Agency estimates that non-OECD countries will, in fact, require \$197 billion of additional investment annually for carbon reduction by 2020. The White House indicated before the conference that developing nations are likely to agree to the \$10 billion figure in Denmark.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/06/AR2009120602396.html>

Climate Talks Open with Calls for Urgent Action, *New York Times*, December 7

A meeting of nearly 200 nations seeking what has so far been elusive common ground on climate began Monday.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/08/science/earth/08climate.html>

Africa Has No Safety Net, *Africa Report*, December 7

As world leaders and climate change experts gather at the UN's Climate Change summit in Copenhagen this week to negotiate a way towards a greener global future, Africa is already battling the effects of higher temperatures and rising sea-levels. In an interview with The Africa Report's Nicholas Norbrook, Jakkie Cilliers, head of South Africa's Institute of Security Studies, says urbanisation will be a major coping mechanism for Africa against the effects of climate change. But urbanisation is not necessarily bad, and could trigger much more economic growth.

<http://www.theafricareport.com/archives2/in-the-know/3285128-africa-has-no-safety-net.html>

Copenhagen: The African Dimension, *Guardian*, December 5

Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change. In our lifetimes, climate shifts will likely inflict severe damage to human welfare in a continent already battling with entrenched poverty, degraded ecosystems and civil strife. More than 40% of the continent's inhabitants live in extreme poverty and 70% of that number are located in rural areas, depending largely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Climate change will affect farmers from the Sahel to the highlands of Lesotho.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cif-green/2009/dec/05/africa-copenhagen-climate-change>

Copenhagen's Many Agendas, *Council on Foreign Relations*, December 4

The UN's December 2009 meeting in Copenhagen is supposed to be the final negotiations on a new set of targets for international cooperation on climate change. Some countries view these negotiations as an update of the Kyoto Protocol's original emissions reductions, set to expire in 2012. However, the framework of legally binding emissions targets for developed countries and none for developing nations is opposed by the United States, which continues to refuse ratification. As a consequence, many developed countries now are looking to create an entirely new framework. The two most controversial elements of the Copenhagen meeting will be whether the Kyoto framework continues and whether developing countries will agree to specific binding commitments. The consensus among experts is that, at best, Copenhagen will provide a

framework for further negotiations going into 2010 and beyond, though some are optimistic that the conference will produce agreements on important issues such as financing and deforestation.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/20906/copenhagens_many_agendas.html

COP 15: What's At Stake for Africa?, *Climate Change Adaptation in Africa, November 2009*

Adaptation to climate change and financing of adaptation to climate change, which are priorities for the African continent, are delayed by the difficulty of industrialized nations' making a clear commitment to a level of financial support commensurate with the needs of African countries to deal with the impact of climate change.

http://www.africa-adapt.net/AA/Uploads/Resources/1c5f934309d54c25b6c05b824c428d6a_12599610951Kaere - COP 15 stakes for Africa.pdf

****SPECIAL SECTION FEATURING REPORTS ON CLIMATE AND CLIMATE CHANGE****

Climate Change and Hunger: Responding to the Challenge, *World Food Programme, December 2009*

Climate change is a defining challenge of our times. Its impact and implications will be global, far-reaching and largely irreversible. Climate change is already increasing the risk of exposure to hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity among the poorest and most vulnerable people. Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and intense, land and water are becoming more scarce and difficult to access, and increases in agricultural productivity are becoming more difficult to achieve.

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/newsroom/wfp212536.pdf>

See Also: Climate Change Will Leave 100 Million More Hungry This Century, UN Warns, *Daily Mail, December 11*

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1234549/Climate-change-leave-100million-hungry-century-UN-warns.html>

Climate, Agriculture and Food Security: A Strategy for Change, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, December 2009*

Agriculture – on which we all depend for our food – is under threat from climate change. There is no doubt that systems worldwide will have to adapt, but while consumers may barely notice in developed countries, millions of people in developing countries face a very real and direct threat to their food security and livelihoods.

http://www.cgiar.org/pdf/CCAFS_Strategy_december2009.pdf

Climate Change Implications for Fisheries and Aquaculture: Overview of Current Scientific Knowledge, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, 2009*

An overview of the current scientific knowledge available on climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture is provided through three technical papers that were presented and discussed during the Expert Workshop on Climate Change Implications for Fisheries and Aquaculture (Rome, 7–9 April 2008). A summary of the workshop outcomes as well as key messages on impacts of climate change on aquatic ecosystems and on fisheries- and aquaculture-based livelihoods are provided in the introduction of this Technical Paper.

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/i0994e.pdf

See Also: Fisheries and Aquaculture in our Changing Climate, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, 2009*

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/policy_brief.pdf

Climate Change on the Move: Climate Migration Will Affect the World's Security, *Center for American Progress, December 2009*

Climate scientists argue that extreme weather events and resource shortages will affect millions of people in Africa, Australia, and Latin America by 2050. In Asia, warming will shrink freshwater resources from large river basins that could adversely affect 1 billion people. Parts of Africa could see rain-fed agricultural yields fall by much as 50 percent from today's output, threatening food insecurity on top of water insecurity. Melting snowcaps in the Andean region will harm important agricultural regions in Latin America.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/climatechangeonthemove.pdf>

Climate Change: A Development Challenge, *International Fund for Agricultural Development, 2009*

Climate change is one of the most serious threats the world faces. It will affect all of us, but will have a disproportionate impact on millions of poor rural people. Climate change is a challenge to everyone working in development. It puts more people at risk of hunger and makes it more difficult to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty. For development work to be effective, we must not only help poor rural people emerge from poverty, we must also enable them to cope with and mitigate the impact of climate change.

http://www.ifad.org/climate/factsheet/climate_e_web.pdf

It's One Climate Policy World Out There – Almost, *Center for Global Development, December 2009*

In the run-up to the December 2009 Copenhagen climate conference, the authors surveyed members of the international development community with a special interest in climate change on three sets of detailed questions: (1) what action different country groups should take to limit climate change; (2) how much non-market funding there should be for emissions reductions and adaptation in developing countries, and how it should be allocated; and (3) which institutions should be involved in delivering climate assistance, and how the system should be governed. About 500 respondents from 88 countries completed the survey between November 19–24, 2009.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423356_file_Birdsall_Goltz_Climate_Survey_FINAL.pdf

Beyond Grants: Climate Finance in Developing Countries, *Geraldine Baudienville, Overseas Development Institute, December 2009*

Developing countries need massive amounts of investment to support a shift to low carbon and climate resilient growth and development. Given the scale of investment needed, the international community needs to give careful thought to options that could generate funding, and financial instruments that will deliver that funding at country level.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4538.pdf>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

GM Is Still a Vital Part of Our Global Future Food Security, *Guardian, December 10*

The problem of food security for the next generation is so great that we cannot afford to let any beneficial technology remain unused. A balanced strategy for technical innovation in food crop production, including the use of GM, would benefit all sectors of society. The advances could be used by small companies, NGOs and the public sector as well as by big business, and it is time to have a constructive debate about these issues.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/dec/10/gm-food-security-climate-change>

ARS Scientists Help Fight Damaging Moth in Africa, *Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, December 10*

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have launched a preemptive strike to combat the false codling moth, a major pest in its native Africa. If the moth enters the United States, it will damage citrus, corn, cotton and a wide range of nuts and fruits, according to entomologist James Carpenter, at the ARS Crop Protection and Management Research Unit in Tifton, Ga. He is working to control the moth in Africa, thereby reducing the risk of its arrival in the United States—and ensuring a future weapon if it does show up.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2009/091210.htm>

Agricultural Robots: Fields of Automation, *Economist, December 10*

Just as the mechanical reaper transformed the economics of cereal farming, a new wave of agricultural automation promises to do the same in other areas of horticulture. Because picking apples is very different to plucking strawberries, the machines are taking various forms. Some have giant mechanical arms and are towed behind tractors through orchards and vineyards. Some are fully autonomous and able to scurry around on their own, even in paddy fields, like the robotic rice-planter developed by Japan's National Agricultural Research Centre.

http://www.economist.com/search/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15048711

Speakers Stress for More Investment in NWFP, FATA, *Daily Times (Pakistan), December 8*

Experts have stressed for increased investment in militancy-hit areas of NWFP and FATA for ensuring food security, which has taken a jolt in the aftermath of the operation against the terrorists. The World Food Programme (WFP), and government of NWFP arranged a consultative meeting on 'Planning Households Food Security in NWFP and FATA'. Experts stressed for provision of quality seeds and fertilizer as well as other important inputs for enhancing agriculture production in these affected areas.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\12\08\story_8-12-2009_pg5_1

China Focuses on Boosting Rural Demand, *Financial Times, December 7*

China will take steps next year to boost rural demand while trying to curb overcapacity in numerous industrial sectors, the government said. Beijing promised to bolster rural demand by raising agricultural subsidies, increasing the minimum purchase prices for grain crops, investing more in infrastructure and improving public services to outlying areas.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/9caf9dce-e34c-11de-8d36-00144feab49a.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Chinese Agricultural Delegation Learns U.S. Expertise in Technology Transfer, *China View, December 10*

A delegation of Chinese agricultural officials began a visit in the United States to study U.S. practices in transferring modern agricultural technology from educational institutions and government to rural communities. The three-day workshop, held in Prairie View A&M University in Texas, includes lectures by college teaching staff and agricultural extension specialists on the role of the Land-Grant System and college-led extension programs.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-12/10/content_12624244.htm

The Afghanistan Decision, *J. Brian Atwood, former administrator of USAID, Huffington Post, December 7*

Despite its weakened state, USAID has the knowledge and experience to carry out programs that will empower Afghans and provide the technical knowledge to effectuate needed changes in government systems. A new, dynamic leader, Dr. Rajiv Shah, will soon take the helm at USAID and I believe he will be able to deliver what is needed in this crisis.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/j-brian-atwood/the-afghanistan-decision_b_382527.html

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

GM Crops, Industrialisation, Key to African Adaptation to Climate Change – Expert, *Reuters, December 11*

Europe "shot itself in the foot" by rejecting genetically modified crops, but by following suit Africa has "shot itself in the heart," Paul Collier, an Africa specialist at Oxford University, said. Maize, the staple crop of southern Africa, will become difficult or impossible to grow there as droughts and other extreme weather associated with climate change take hold, Collier said.

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/60714/2009/11/11-145815-1.htm

Rain 'Not Enough' to End Hunger in Kenya, *CNN, December 10*

Recent rainfall has brought new vegetation to parts of Kenya that haven't seen rain for years, but aid workers say it's too little, too late to undo the damage caused by years of drought.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/12/10/drought.kenya.ethiopia/>

Syrian Farmers Battle Drought, *Al Jazeera English, December 9*

Climate change has left farmers in Syria doing something they have never done before - relying on food hand-outs. Three years of consecutive drought has led to the country producing less than half of its food needs.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/middleeast/2009/12/200912974712995947.html>

FAO Launches New Climate Change Mitigation Programme, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, December 8*

Finland is the first country to contribute to a \$60 million FAO programme to support climate change mitigation in agriculture in developing countries. The multi-donor programme aims to promote sustainable low-emission agriculture in developing countries over the coming five years, in partnership with countries and other relevant organizations.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/38029/icode/>

Must Developing Countries Sacrifice Growth to Save the Planet?, *Karen Ellis, Overseas Development Institute, December 2009*

Examining the arguments that countries can have either economic growth or environmental sustainability, but not both, this Opinion argues that developing countries need to find climate resilient growth strategies (i.e. growth strategies that are achievable despite the impact of climate change). They will also need to identify and manage opportunities (such as new markets or sources of finance) and risks (such as trade barriers or changing patterns of demand) that arise from international mitigation efforts, if they are to maximise their future growth prospects.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4540.pdf>

WOMEN

Empower Women Financially and Develop Communities, *Karol Boudreaux, senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, New Vision (Uganda), December 7*

Developing countries are supposed to meet the MDGs by 2015. They involve halving levels of hunger and poverty, reducing infant and maternal mortality, improving environmental sustainability, empowering women and increasing gender equality, reducing HIV/AIDS infection rates and providing universal education. What if, instead of eight MDGs, each with multiple targets, countries focused on Goal No.3, Empowering Women — particularly poor women? This could actually hasten progress on the seven other MDGs.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/459/703502>

Women...In The Shadow of Climate Change, *UN Chronicle, December 4*

Seventy per cent of the 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women. In urban areas, 40 per cent of the poorest households are headed by women. Women predominate in the world's food production (50-80 per cent), but they own less than 10 per cent of the land. Women represent a high percentage of poor communities that are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, particularly in rural areas where they shoulder the major responsibility for household water supply and energy for cooking and heating, as well as for food security.

http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/chronicle/cache/bypass/lang/en/home/archive/Issues2009/pid/5080?ctnscroll_articleContainerList=1_0&ctnlistpagination_articleContainerList=true

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Africa Is Getting A Better Deal from Beijing, *Financial Times, December 9*

Beijing has offered more than long-necked symbolism. China's approach is built on trade. In 2006 alone, it signed trade deals with African countries worth \$60bn. Dambisa Moyo, the Zambian economist who riled western donors with her book *Dead Aid*, argues that genuine business opportunity is more likely to catalyse development than government-to-government aid that is prone to being siphoned off.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0106079a-e50f-11de-9a25-00144feab49a.html>

A New Spirit of Solidarity Rises in the South, *Op-Ed, Asha-Rose Migiros, deputy secretary-general of the United Nations, Financial Times, December 8*

Together, investment and trade, combined with sound governance, development aid and effective policies, have transformed several countries from aid recipients into aid donors. In less than 50 years, South Korea has evolved from a low-income country into an innovative provider of development assistance. Many Gulf states have also become substantial donors. China's recent announcement that it will provide \$10bn in new

financing to Africa, while at the same time cancelling \$1bn in outstanding debt, underscores its emerging leadership as a development partner.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b05b3322-e448-11de-bed0-00144feab49a.html>

World Bank Eyes India as Africa Rail Partner, *Financial Times*, December 6

The World Bank and New Delhi are in talks about financing the international expansion of Indian Railways, one of the largest and most profitable networks in the world, to bring transport infrastructure to African countries and other developing nations.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/723eb9ea-e28d-11de-b028-00144feab49a.html>

Stitch-Up? Now France Excludes Britain from Special Talks on EU Farm Spending, *Telegraph*, December 6

France has triggered a fresh row over EU power-broking by excluding Britain from key-Europe wide talks on the future of farm subsidies to be held in Paris this week.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/6737797/Stitch-up-Now-France-excludes-Britain-from-special-talks-on-EU-farm-spending.html>

The Vanishing WTO, *Council on Foreign Relations*, December 4

The Doha round was consecrated the "development" round, which would focus on trade barriers in agriculture rather than manufacturing. The wealthiest countries pledged to scale back agricultural subsidies and trade barriers so that the poorest countries could export more rice, sugar, and cotton. The most underdeveloped nations would prosper through trade rather than aid. No such thing has happened.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/20897/vanishing_wto.html?breadcrumb=/index

EAC to Develop Action Plan on Food Security, *AllAfrica.com*, December 4

Efforts are underway to develop a regional food action plan, a senior official of the East African Community (EAC) has said. Agriculture minister Agnes Kalibata, who was one of the delegates at the meeting, said that once developed, the action plan will improve and facilitate trade among EAC partner states as well as increasing access to food among those countries. "This will enhance sharing of resources among all countries in the region. This means a partner state with more food will now be able to share it with her neighbors," Kalibata said in an interview.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200912040029.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Valero Seals Biofuel Deal with Australia's Mission, *Financial Times*, December 11

Valero Energy, the US's biggest independent refiner, has signed a five-year deal, worth up to \$3.5bn, to buy biodiesel from Mission NewEnergy, an Australia-listed biodiesel refiner.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a2c752ea-e61e-11de-bcbe-00144feab49a.html>

Unilever to Appoint New Finance Chief, *Financial Times*, December 10

Unilever is to appoint a new chief financial officer before Christmas as chief executive Paul Polman continues to reshuffle the top ranks of the consumer goods company. Unilever's current CFO, American James Lawrence, who was brought in under former Unilever chief executive Patrick Cescau in September 2007, has resigned and will leave by the end of the year. Mr Lawrence was chief financial officer of US food group General Mills before joining Unilever.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c204adc6-e5cc-11de-b5d7-00144feab49a.html>

Monsanto CEO: Success Brought Scrutiny, *Des Moines Register*, December 9

Monsanto Chief Executive Hugh Grant said that the federal investigation into anticompetitive practices in the seed industry "is the result of the fact that we have grown quickly and have been very successful." The U.S. departments of agriculture and justice have announced a general investigation of competition in agriculture. Monsanto has about one-third of the U.S. corn and soybean seed sales markets and is generally even with

rival Pioneer Hi-Bred of Johnston in market share. But Monsanto is believed to be far ahead in the market for licensed biotechnology traits for seeds.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091209/BUSINESS01/912090355/1029/BUSINESS/Monsanto-CEO-Success-brought-scrutiny>

Simplot Proposes Plan to Fund UI Parma Crop Center, *Associated Press, December 8*

The University of Idaho said Monday that an agricultural research center facing closure because of state budget cuts would survive until 2014 under a proposed agreement with J.R. Simplot Co.

The food processing and agricultural company — one of the main suppliers of McDonald's french fries — would give \$300,000 each year to the center in Parma as part of the five-year agreement.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gGD23HCZ6SDZ79wKMCu09JfddCnAD9CF4P901>

Public and Private Must Work Together to Help Farmers, *Guardian (Katine Chronicles Blog), December 7*

The private and public sectors must do what they do best, but look for ways to cooperate to help smallholder farmers, says Howard Minigh, president of CropLife International.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2009/dec/07/howard-minigh-farmers>

Averting Disaster: How Sainsbury's Is Trying to Limit the Environmental Impact of Palm Oil, *Wall Street Journal, December 7*

Although most shoppers don't know it, thousands of products on supermarket shelves contain palm oil -- it is the world's cheapest vegetable oil and appears in items ranging from ice cream to soap and from peanut butter to toothpaste. Such is the high level of demand that farmers are clearing millions of hectares of virgin rainforests in the tropics, and especially in Southeast Asia, to make way for ever-expanding palm-oil plantations. This year, Sainsbury's, the U.K. supermarket chain, topped the World Wildlife Fund's European palm-oil buyers scorecard, which ranks the purchasing practices of the largest European companies that produce or sell everyday consumer products. Sainsbury's has committed to only use certified sustainable palm oil in its products by 2014.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126013576440879119.html>

DuPont Delays Launch of Next-Generation Corn, Soybean Seeds, *CNN, December 4*

DuPont Co. has pushed back its timelines for the North American release of its Optimum GAT corn and soybean seeds, which have a special herbicide tolerance and provide high yields.

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/dj500/200912040851DOWJONESDJONLINE000556_FOR_TUNE5.htm

See Also: Pioneer Delays New Seed Lines, *Des Moines Register, December 4*

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091204/BUSINESS01/91204011/-1/watchdog/Pioneer-delays-new-seed-lines->

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank