

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



December 4th – December 10th, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“Strong economic growth is, clearly, not possible without strong markets. And that is precisely why Feed the Future was designed with a heavy emphasis on providing smallholder farmers and their families with greater access to markets. Our development programs – spanning from Guatemala to Mali to Bangladesh – are working directly with smallholder farmers to advance research and biotechnology, expand land rights, teach best agricultural practices, and foster market linkages. More effective and reliable access to markets for producers will lead to better access to quality food for consumers, which, together, is the key to the success and sustainability of our food security efforts. So, we are helping countries accelerate inclusive agriculture growth through improved agricultural productivity, expanded markets and trade, and increased economic resilience in vulnerable rural communities.”* - Ambassador William J. Garvelink, Deputy Coordinator for Development of Feed the Future and Assistant to the Administrator of USAID’s Bureau for Food Security at The Chatham House Conference on Food Security, December 6, 2010

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.
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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

The Rural Poverty Report 2011, IFAD, November, 2010

The Rural Poverty Report 2011 provides a coherent and comprehensive look at rural poverty, its global consequences and the prospects for eradicating it. There is broad agreement that growth in agriculture usually generates the greatest improvements for the poorest people – particularly in poor, agriculture-based

economies. This report recognizes that agriculture, if better suited to meeting new environmental and market risks and opportunities facing smallholders, can remain a primary engine of rural growth and poverty reduction.

<http://www.ifad.org/rpr2011/report/e/rpr2011.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Rural Areas Face Challenges to Eradicate Extreme Poverty, *BBC, December 6*

Some 350 million people living in rural areas have been lifted out of extreme poverty in the past decade. However, in spite of this, more than a billion people around the world still continue to suffer. Factors such as human development, a lack of basic needs, vulnerability, livelihood, unsustainability and social exclusion are considered. The report reflects on rural areas across the world and their implications for global food security.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-11909255>

Ros-Lehtinen: My Mission is to Cut the State and Foreign Aid Budgets, *The Cable, Foreign Policy, December 8*

Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), the incoming chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, isn't wasting any time in pressing for deep cuts to the State Department and U.S. foreign operations around the world. Ros-Lehtinen doesn't actually dole out the funds for the State Department and the foreign operations budgets. That's the job of the House Appropriations State and Foreign Ops subcommittee. But as we've reported, the likely incoming chairwoman of that panel, Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) is of a similar mind as Ros-Lehtinen. The cuts could severely complicate the Obama administration's mission to elevate both diplomacy and development as instruments of national power, as laid out in the National Security Strategy.

<http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/>

SEE ALSO: Is Foreign Aid Too Fat?, *Serra Sippel, President, Center for Health and Gender Equity, Huffington Post, December 9*

"Fat" is not equivalent to funding. The foreign assistance budget makes up approximately one percent of the entire federal budget. Cutting foreign assistance wouldn't even dent our current deficit. It also will not strengthen national security, a stated concern of the incoming chairwoman.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/serra-sippel/is-foreign-aid-too-fat_b_794584.html?ir=World

"Getting Food to Market", *Keynote Remarks, Ambassador William J. Garvelink, Deputy Coordinator for Development, Feed the Future and Assistant to the Administrator, USAID Bureau for Food Security, December 6*
"Strong economic growth is, clearly, not possible without strong markets. And that is precisely why Feed the Future was designed with a heavy emphasis on providing smallholder farmers and their families with greater access to markets. Our development programs – spanning from Guatemala to Mali to Bangladesh – are working directly with smallholder farmers to advance research and biotechnology, expand land rights, teach best agricultural practices, and foster market linkages."

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/12/remarks-from-ambassador-william-j-garvelink-at-the-chatham-house-conference-on-food-security-decembe.html#more>

Material Difference, *Financial Times, December 10*

As reserves fall, it will take more than a bumper crop to bring prices down. Agricultural commodity prices have surged in the past month to peaks last seen at the height of the 2007-08 food crisis, writes Javier Blas. The rise comes on the back of a string of drought-induced crop failures in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan – all leading cereal exporters. The shortage has been aggravated by the imposition of export restrictions that triggered panic buying.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/d1e31d98-023d-11e0-aa40-00144feabdc0.html#axzz17j8lh40h>

Impending Crisis: Earth to Run Out of Food by 2050?, *Time, December 7*

With little chance world leaders from 193 countries gathering in Cancun this week will come to any legal agreement, scientists like Cribb warn that the stakes are high, time is running out and it will be both rich and poor countries who will suffer from the long term impact of climate change leaving millions to go hungry by 2050.

<http://newsfeed.time.com/2010/12/07/impending-crisis-earth-to-run-out-of-food-by-2050/>

"Climate-Smart" Agriculture, FAO, 2010

Food security and climate change can be addressed together by transforming agriculture and adopting practices that are "climate-smart". A number of production systems are already being used by farmers and food producers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change, and reduce vulnerability.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1881e/i1881e00.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Climate Change: More Funding Needed for Agricultural Adaptation, Voice of America, December 6

A U-N agency says there are major funding gaps in efforts to help the agricultural sector adapt to climate change. The Food and Agriculture Organization says this could affect food security. The warning comes as the U-N Climate Change Conference continues in Cancun, Mexico.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/decapua-fao-climate-funding-6dec10-111381269.html>

SEE ALSO: Funding Gaps for Climate Change Adaptation a Threat to Food Supplies, FAO, December 3

Floods and droughts in major grain producing countries this year have triggered a sharp increase in food prices, highlighting the vulnerability of the world's food production systems and agricultural markets. Such developments are likely to reoccur more frequently and with greater intensity in the decades to come due to climate change. Yet while there are many examples of how the agricultural sector can both become more resilient to climate change and reduce its own sizeable carbon emissions, mechanisms for funding such efforts are lacking.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/48182/icode/>

Gender Dimensions of Agricultural and Rural Employment: Differentiated Pathways out of Poverty, FAO, IFAD, 2010

Gender equality is an essential component of sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. Equitable access to more and better jobs in rural areas enables rural women to become effective economic actors and engines of growth, as well as to produce or acquire the food, water, fuel and social services their families need. The important gaps in data availability and analytical work in many key areas handicap policy makers' efforts to address these crucial issues adequately when designing poverty alleviation and growth strategies. The report reflects the latest thinking on the gender dimensions of rural poverty.

http://www.ifad.org/pub/gender/agriculture/GRE_WEB.pdf

When 'Buy American' Harms America and the World's Hungry, Op-Ed, Christopher B. Barrett, Elizabeth R. Bageant and Erin C. Lentz, Cornell University, Washington Post, December 3

Piracy is not the only robbery on the high seas. A 56-year-old policy known as cargo preference is costing U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$140 million each year for humanitarian food shipments and is affecting millions of aid recipients worldwide. It is time to update this well-intentioned but ineffective policy.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/02/AR2010120205208.html>

Budget -Cutting Consequences, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, December 10

The budget-cutting has begun, and governments around the world are paying attention to the sharp-knives in Congress. So when the House of Representatives released a draft Continuing Resolution this week with only \$100 million in fiscal year 2011 allocated to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) – a severe reduction from President Obama's request for \$408 million – a host of humanitarian organizations were quick to pen a letter to the White House sounding a stern warning about the consequences of the cut.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/12/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-budget-cutting-consequences.html>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Announces New Steps to Meet Challenge of Climate Change, USDA, December 9

We felt it was necessary at USDA to review for folks in attendance the work that our farmers, our ranchers, and our forest landowners are, in fact, doing today to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in terms of

conservation activities and techniques, how we are leveraging private sector demand for mitigation services, the work that USDA is engaging in, and the effectiveness of markets for carbon and building capacity within the USDA to understand those markets and improve accounting, so we in turn can do a better job for America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who want to get into this area.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMj8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQcAA_1wkA5kFaGuQBXeASbmnu4uBgbe5hB5AxA0UDfzyM_N1W_IDS7z_dFRUREAZXAypA!!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfUDhNVIZMVDmXMEJUMTBJQ01IMURERDFDUDA!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010%2F12%2F0646.xml

SEE ALSO: U.S. Center at COP-16: Helping Farmers Address the Threats of Climate Change, U.S. Department of State Official Blog, December 9

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is at the forefront of U.S. efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. At the U.S. Center on December 9, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack highlighted how the USDA is helping farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners address the threats posed by climate change.

http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/entires/us_center_vilsack_usda/

Berman: Rethinking Foreign Aid, Op-Ed, Congressman Howard L. Berman, Washington Post, December 8
Foreign assistance programs not only reflect American values and principles but serve as essential means for protecting U.S. economic, foreign-policy and security interests. Regardless of the size of our international affairs budget, we have an obligation to make it more effective, more efficient and more accountable. I stand ready to work with the administration and with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to institutionalize responsible reforms through legislation. While the details undoubtedly will be complicated and sometimes controversial, we can start by identifying areas like the ones above where we all agree and where we can make real progress. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/dec/8/rethinking-foreign-aid/>

Capitol Hill Sets Tone for Corn, Financial Times, December 8

The tax deal between President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans will be key for agricultural commodities, particularly corn. If confirmed, the extension of the tax credit, which formally expires on December 31, will support corn consumption just as inventories shrink to their lowest levels in 15 years. Ethanol is a big part of the corn supply-and-demand balance sheet.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1f2fcda6-029a-11e0-a07e-00144feabdc0.html#axzz17j7NzfEN>

Remarks with Nigerian Foreign Minister Henry Odein Ajumogobia after their Meeting, U.S. Department of State, December 9

Foreign Minister Ajumogobia: "We believe that the framework that – of the Binational Commission which involves not just good governance and elections, but also investment and energy, food security and agriculture and security in the Niger Delta. All these coming together will provide a process to create jobs which, ultimately, perhaps the single greatest threat to democracy in Africa, the fact of the teeming young number of people who are not employed and have no prospects of employment."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/12/152619.htm>

Oklahoma's Lucas Named to Lead House Agricultural Committee, Bloomberg, December 8

Representative Frank Lucas, Republican of Oklahoma, has been selected to lead the House Agriculture Committee when the new Congress convenes in January. "As a lifelong farmer from a diverse, agricultural state, I have lived the real-world challenges farmers and ranchers face across the country," Lucas said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-08/oklahoma-s-lucas-named-to-lead-house-agriculture-committee.html>

GOP Blasts Democrats for Including Food Safety in Funding Bill, The Hill's Congress Blog, December 8

House Republicans objected to the House Democrats' insertion of the food-safety bill into the continuing resolution to fund the federal government through Sept. 30. Rep. Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), the incoming Agriculture Committee chairman, said Democrats are resorting to legislative tricks to pass the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/food-safety/132717-gop-blasts-dems-for-including-food-safety-in-funding-bill>

U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Program in Iraq, *U.S. Department of State, December 8*

During Fiscal Year 2010, the Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs provided nearly \$25 million in Iraq for conventional weapons destruction efforts that cleared landmines and unexploded ordnance from more than 18 million square meters across Iraq, boosting economic and agricultural development throughout the nation.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/12/152571.htm>

Panel Proposes \$10 Billion Cut in Farm Spending, *Des Moines Register, December 4*

The \$10 billion cut in farm spending included in a deficit commission plan could be a taste of what's to come for agricultural subsidies. Sen. Kent Conrad, the North Dakota Democrat who is chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, acknowledged Friday that he played a role in drafting the proposal that was part of a bipartisan commission's plan to reduce the federal budget deficit.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101204/BUSINESS01/12040318/-1/SPORTS09/Panel-proposes-10-billion-cut-in-farm-spending>

Round Eight of the MCA: Which Countries Will the MCC Board Likely Select as Eligible in FY2011?,

Center for Global Development, December 3

For the first time in its history, some MCC compacts have come to their five-year completion, prompting renewed emphasis on innovation and results. Second compacts will comprise a significant portion of the MCC compact pipeline. The MCC has revamped its threshold program and is seeking legislative changes for longer and concurrent compacts and new income category definitions. This analysis draws upon two recent congressionally mandated reports and country indicator performance to predict which countries the MCC board will select as eligible to apply for FY2011 compact or threshold assistance.

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1424647_file_FY11_MCC_Selection_FINAL.pdf

Townterview Hosted by KTR, *Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, December 2*

"Agriculture, what's the best way to improve agricultural productivity? So I would hope that the new government, when it's established, will consist of people who have expertise, who understand business, who understand economy, who understand agriculture, education, health care."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/12/152294.htm>

A Much Needed Shot in the Arm for U.S. Civilian Power, *The Hill's Congress Blog, December 2*

Our war fighters believe that USAID and the State Department are better positioned to avert future crises through accelerated development and poverty reduction, capacity building in fragile states, and conflict prevention. The Obama administration should prioritize securing congressional support for the long-term rebuilding of USAID, the State Department, and other civilian foreign affairs and foreign assistance agencies that were gutted in the aftermath of the Cold War.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/homeland-security/131681-a-much-needed-shot-in-the-arm-for-us-civilian-power>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strengthening Support for Africa's Agricultural Capacity Building

Date: December 16th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

On November 15-19, 2010, African government ministers of education and agriculture, university leaders, and representatives from private sector, civil society and several international organizations gathered in Kampala, Uganda to discuss the role and capacity of Africa's higher education institutions in promoting agricultural and economic development in the continent. Panelists will highlight outcomes from the Kampala meeting, showcase how African universities are meeting the challenge of providing quality education that addresses real development needs, identify specific interventions and responses required to accelerate

Africa's investments in human and institutional capacity for agricultural development, and discuss how CAADP and U.S. Feed the Future programs can help support such capacity building efforts.

https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCHPA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=d08e8876-2283-4075-ae41-04ed7aa008a5&msm=0068c55c-1e0d-4a2b-a26f-be2565c1c8e9&cst=8b965e6f-e185-4dd9-b689-e43f569c466f&ent=49e8447d-9780-4f5d-bff0-26d8a3c5755c

Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health

Date: February 10th – 12th, 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 24th – 25th, 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 1st -2nd, 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>

Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies

Date: June 2nd – June 5th, 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 6th 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/>.

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Food Aid and Agricultural Cargo Preference, Policy Brief, Cornell University, November 2010

The peer-reviewed analysis summarized in this brief offers the clearest, most comprehensive evidence to date on the costs and effectiveness of agricultural cargo preference restrictions in advancing their stated goals. Present ACP policy promotes ineffective shipping subsidies under the guise of humanitarian assistance, national security and "buy American" objectives. But it largely fails to advance these important goals. It is time to revisit the role of ACP as it applies to international food assistance in order to enhance welfare and security both in America and abroad.

<http://www.dyson.cornell.edu/docs/viewpoint/food-aid.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Food and Agricultural Cargo Preference, Cornell University, June 2010

This paper uses an unprecedentedly rich data set to estimate the cost of agricultural cargo preference (ACP) restrictions on United States food aid programs and to document some of the competitiveness and national security impacts. ACP cost US taxpayers \$140 million in 2006, 46 percent above competitive freight costs. The unreimbursed cost of ACP to food aid agencies roughly equals USAID's non-emergency food aid to Africa. Furthermore, 70 percent of ACP vessels did not satisfy criteria to be deemed militarily useful and vessels ultimately owned by foreign corporations carried a large share of ACP food aid shipments.

http://aem.cornell.edu/faculty_sites/cbb2/papers/Cargo%20Preference%2029%20June%202010.pdf

UNCTAD Policy Brief 18: Agriculture at the Crossroads, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, December 8

UNCTAD argues that agriculture is the sector with the potential to transcend from being a problem to becoming an essential part of the solution to climate change. This will, however, require a more holistic vision of food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as of agriculture's contribution to development. The key task is to transform the quick-fix industrial agriculture model, highly dependent on external inputs, into a "regenerative" one. Such a system would consist of a mosaic of sustainable production methods. It would continuously recreate the resources it uses and achieve higher productivity and profitability of the system, with minimal external inputs.

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=5744&lang=1>

Biochar: Assessing the Promise and Risks to Guide U.S. Policy, Steven Brick, Senior Fellow on Energy and Climate at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Natural Resource Defense Council, November 2010

This study aims to assist the Natural Resources Defense Council in gaining an overview of biochar production technologies, and, in particular, of the potential environmental concerns associated with biochar production and use. Producing and using biochar as a climate mitigation strategy has generated considerable interest in the past three years. Although this has, in part, stemmed from the broad attention that biofuels generally have enjoyed, biochar has been especially singled out as a potential means of sequestering large amounts of carbon in soils.

http://www.nrdc.org/energy/files/biochar_paper.pdf

Effects of Inclusive Public Agricultural Extension Service, IFPRI, December 2010

A pilot inclusive agricultural extension system was introduced in 2005 to better meet the diverse needs of small-scale farmers. Three key features of the experiment are (1) inclusion of all farmers as target beneficiaries, (2) effective identification of farmers' extension service needs, and (3) an accountability system to provide better agricultural extension services to farmers. This paper describes design of the reform initiative and examines its effect on farmers' access to extension services. Based on farmer-supplied data from six counties for the years 2005 to 2007, this paper shows that inclusive reform initiatives significantly improve farmers' access to and acceptance of agricultural extension services as well as their adoption of new technologies. Implications for further reforms to the agricultural extension system are also discussed.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/effects-inclusive-public-agricultural-extension-service>

Land Use Change: Science and Policy Review, *Hart Energy Consulting, 2010*

It is the purpose of this paper to provide a concise review and summary of land use change (LUC) issues specifically as it relates to the increasing production and consumption of biofuels. This paper attempts to summarise, add insight and provide understanding of the complexities of these issues from a scientific and policy standpoint in a very brief manner.

http://api.ning.com/files/B2Z-YwjdJzwBDqVfYkGftyKQzcHgFb-0e3RKyuh6JAhWniOLGch2riLmNBdAb37VfBtuk50A0*moFVEC627ADiEpqIOnJe2w/BiofuelsLUCReview.pdf

Media Articles:

Harnessing Technology for Food Security, *Farming First, December 10*

Ensuring food security in China, the world's most populous nation, requires concerted efforts by the central and local governments as well as the private sector. From raising farm productivity to improving food safety, steering China's millions of farmers towards agricultural technology is key in achieving self-sufficiency.

http://www.farmingfirst.org/2010/12/harnessing-technology-for-food-security/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29

The Fight to Stem Africa's Rural Exodus, *CNN, December 10*

While Africa's cities are growing exponentially, Africans are leaving rural areas in their droves because they can no longer make a living from farming.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/12/10/africa.rural.exodus/?hpt=C2>

Wild Relatives of Common Crops May Hold Key to Future of Food, *Globe and Mail, December 9*

Billed as the largest ever initiative of its kind, a decade-long hunt was launched for the hardy, weed-like relatives of 23 global food crops, including rice, beans and bananas. The ultimate goal of the initiative, led by the conservationist Global Crop Diversity Trust and an alliance of national agriculture research institutes, is to build a cache of genetically diverse descendants of essential food crops threatened by climate change.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/wild-relatives-of-common-crops-may-hold-key-to-future-of-food/article1832219/>

Altered Corn Slowly Takes Root in Mexico, *Wall Street Journal, December 9*

Mexico, the birthplace of corn, is edging toward the use of genetically modified varieties to lower its dependence on imports, but strong opposition among some growers and environmentalists, who see altered corn as a threat to native strains, has kept the wheels turning slowly.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703493504576007583645210912.html>

Agriculture is Ireland's Salvation in Economic Crisis, *National, December 9*

As Ireland grapples with one of the biggest economic crises in its history, its farmers and food producers are bucking the trend of retrenchment and contraction. Farming - a forgotten profession during the construction boom that fuelled the Celtic Tiger economy - is enjoying a renaissance, with hopes that agricultural output will contribute to export-led economic growth.

<http://www.thenational.ie/news/worldwide/agriculture-is-irelands-salvation-in-economic-crisis>

Bean Crops May Cut Fertilizer Use, Subsidy Cost, *Voice of America, December 8*

A new study finds that governments can reduce the amount they spend on fertilizer subsidies - and free up resources for health, education or other priorities - by encouraging farmers to alternate maize with certain bean crops.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Bean-Crops-May-Cut-Fertilizer-Use-Subsidy-Costs-111540674.html>

Revitalising Agriculture Starts in a Small Field, *IPS, December 8*

Olivier de Schutter, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, says the most sustainable solution is to increase agricultural investments in developing countries, thereby raising farmers' incomes and bringing greater stability to the sector.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53812>

Blue Tongue, Blight, Beetles Pester a Warmer World, *Reuters, December 8*

Invasive pests have plagued agriculture and nature for thousands of years as mankind's migrations brought them to places without natural enemies. But the price tag to battle them, now estimated at \$1.4 trillion annually, may go up as rising temperatures and more storms and floods unleash species to new areas.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#inbox/12ccbfe0b55b9057>

Countries Meet to Boost Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, *FAO, December 8*

Senior representatives of more than 60 countries including 22 cabinet ministers have met in Rome as part of a new push to galvanize support behind the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and its Benefit-sharing Fund, considered essential to conserve and utilize the world's threatened plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/48559/icode/>

Q&A with Phil Bereano on Genetic Engineering in Agriculture, *Seattle Times, December 8*

It's very hard to say the existing GM products satisfy any criteria I would find socially useful. A UN and World Bank study said there is no necessary role for GM in the future in order to deal with issues of hunger and increasing production. Agroecological methods are able to do it. None of the technologies which have been presented respond to the genuine needs of people. Herbicide resistance has not increased food production or reduced food costs for farmers. But no one really knows because there are no adequate scientific assessments of the risk with the potential benefits. We actually don't know whether it's worth it.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/thebusinessofgiving/2013635923_q_one_of_the_projects.html

Are GM Crops Africa's Path to Food Security?, *Voice of America, December 7*

For decades, Africa has suffered the ravages of an unpredictable climate, repeating cycles of drought, diminished harvests, hunger and poverty. Now, proponents of genetic engineering see biotechnology leading the continent to a bountiful and prosperous future by genetically modifying crops to resist drought and pests, and fend off disease.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Are-GM-Crops-Africas-Path-to-Food-Security-64567512.html>

Mainstreaming Urban Horticulture, *FAO, December 7*

City-planners must make urban horticulture an integral part of their development and planning strategies to meet the challenges of improving nutrition and feeding a growing population in the face of rapid urbanization, FAO Assistant Director-General Modibo Traoré told a symposium on urban and peri-urban horticulture in Dakar, Senegal. "It is time to act to ensure urban and peri-urban horticulture finds its rightful place in greener cities development policies and that it will be synonymous with opportunities and hope for the inhabitants," he said. More than half the world's population, 3.3 billion people, now lives in urban areas, one billion of them residing in slums, mainly in Africa, Asia and Latin America. As the global population increases three billion more city dwellers are expected by 2050.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/48518/icode/>

Running Out of P? World Nears Peak Phosphorus, *Reuters, December 6*

It seems we always take the most basic things for granted. With regards to adequate water, air, and soil (things we assume will always be there) we are gradually becoming more mindful of them, and their limits. But how many of us are worried about phosphorus (P) running out? Well, lately, more and more agricultural scientists have been taking a closer accounting of the world's supply of "vitamin" P. It seems that, at current rates of production (of mined P), and given anticipated agricultural demand over the next 30-40 years, the world will be facing a shortage of P. Peak P will be reached by 2030.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS200842401720101206>

Sneak Preview: State of the World 2011, *Nourishing the Planet, December 6*

State of the World 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet will illuminate a new generation of innovative approaches to hunger alleviation that has emerged from farmers' groups, private voluntary organizations,

universities, and agribusiness companies. After traveling to 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and visiting over 200 projects, groups, and individuals, we found that while these organizations span a large variety of industries and disciplines, they all share the common goal of equipping farmers with the tools to improve their livelihoods and feed their communities while also protecting local ecosystems. And many of their solutions are working.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/sneak-preview-state-of-the-world-2011/>

Agricultural & Rural Development Day 2010, *Agricultural and Rural Development Day, December 5*

This statement is a summary of Agriculture and Rural Development Day (ARDD) held in parallel to COP16 on Saturday 4th December in Cancun. It describes the key issues and outcomes of the Day as well as messages to the UNFCCC on how to take forward agriculture in the negotiations. ARDD was convened by over 19 leading organisations from the UN, governments and development agencies, civil society, farmers groups, research community, private sector and the media to show how agriculture can contribute to a low emission future while adapting to climate change and enhancing food and nutrition security.

http://agricultureday.org/2010-12-05_ARDD2010_Summary-statement.pdf

SEE ALSO: Agriculture and Rural Development Day at the COP16 Climate Talks in Cancun, *Farming First, December 8*

On Saturday, 4 December, five hundred people from across the world, including policy makers, farmers, scientists and representatives from the private sector and civil society, came together to identify and discuss the best practices and technologies in the agriculture sector that can help to meet emissions reduction goals through agriculture.

<http://www.farmingfirst.org/2010/12/agriculture-and-rural-development-day-at-the-cop16-climate-talks-in>

[cancun/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29](http://www.farmingfirst.org/2010/12/agriculture-and-rural-development-day-at-the-cop16-climate-talks-in-cancun/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29)

Bids to Convert Agri into Profitable Business, *Times of India, December 5*

International Society of Extension Education (INSEE) is initiating fresh efforts to evolve an integrated approach for improving the process of agriculture extension on need-based and area specific models. Speaking to TOI about new initiatives of the society LB Kalantri, the new secretary general of society and former state director of sericulture directorate elaborated on the multi-pronged strategy to be adopted for different regions within the country and country-specific problems of the members.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/Bid-to-convert-agri-into-profitable-business/articleshow/7044673.cms>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

More than Money: Impact Investing for Development, *Center for Global Development, December 2010*

Investments designed specifically to promote development are not new, but their application across a broad range of sectors—from moderate-income housing, to health care, water and sanitation, and rural development—is recent. And they raise several critical questions for development policy. Are they an effective new tool for long-term development? Are they likely to reach the scale necessary to be part of an overall development strategy? This report offers an important survey and analysis of the field. Impact investing has the potential to spur development in regions and sectors that traditional foreign direct investment does not target, but it faces many challenges, notably market fragmentation and a lack of infrastructure.

http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424593?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_12072010&

Consultation & Participation for Local Ownership, What? Why? How?, *Save the Children, December 2010*

This brief explores issues for policymakers and practitioners to consider as part of this renewed emphasis on stakeholder participation in development programs. It makes suggestions for how the U.S. government can

best strengthen its own models of engagement and consultation, while also providing support to national governments and civil societies to make their own processes more inclusive, more fully owned, and ongoing rather than one-off.

<http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9DEF2EBE-10AE-432C-9BD0-DF91D2EBA74A%7D/consultation-local-ownership.pdf>

U.S. Foreign Aid Reform Meets the Tea Party, *American Progress*, November 2010

Can U.S. foreign aid reform and a Republican-led House of Representatives coexist? At first blush, this might seem like the most unlikely of bedfellows. Many of the newly elected Republicans in the House are strong fiscal conservatives, boast limited interest in international affairs, and would seem naturally hostile to foreign aid. Yet, in reality, there is far more common ground to be had than one might imagine.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/11/pdf/foreign_aid_meets_tea_party.pdf/

Media Articles:

Leaked US Cable Says China Has 'No Morals' in Africa, *Agence France-Presse*, December 9

The United States thinks China is a "pernicious economic competitor with no morals" whose booming investments in Africa are propping up unsavoury regimes, according to a leaked diplomatic cable. The frank assessment by the US assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Johnnie Carson, was among the latest revelations in thousands of documents released by whistleblower website WikiLeaks.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gNV4PQJy0-vBVobjbRuITqI21wcA?docId=CNG.c41db06392485b1ac24c577f6d55fb67.441>

"Miami Rice": The Business of Disaster in Haiti, *Huffington Post*, December 9

"We were already in a black misery after the earthquake of January 12. But the rice they're dumping on us, it's competing with ours and soon we're going to fall in a deep hole," said Jonas Deronzil, who has farmed rice and corn in Haiti's fertile Artibonite Valley since 1974. "When they don't give it to us anymore, are we all going to die?" Deronzil explained this in April inside a cinder-block warehouse, where small farmers' entire spring rice harvest had sat in burlap sacks since March, unsold, because of USAID's dumping of U.S. agribusiness-produced, taxpayer-subsidized rice.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/beverly-bell/miami-rice-the-business-o_b_794504.html

How Tax Dodging Cancels Out Aid, *Opinion Letter*, Alex Cobham, Chief Policy Adviser, *Christian Aid*, *Financial Times*, December 8

As Angel Gurría, secretary-general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, has highlighted, developing countries suffer revenue losses from tax dodging that are in excess of all aid received.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4e3942a2-025a-11e0-ac33-00144feabdc0.html#axzz17YDesYgl>

Sustainable Investment Holds Key Growth in Low-Income Countries, *International Monetary Fund*, December 7

Low-income countries are poised for a takeoff in growth over the next decade, and strategic investment in infrastructure can be the driver if countries finance it in a sustainable way, said panelists at an IMF conference.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2010/POL120710A.htm>

Bangladesh Joins Microfinance Backlash, *Financial Times*, December 7

The microfinance industry has been accused of "sucking blood from the poor" by the prime minister of Bangladesh as part of a growing backlash against the microlending business in the country of its birth. Critics say aggressive lending has turned microfinance – once touted as a magic bullet against poverty – into a trap for the poor, who struggle to repay loans with interest rates ranging from 20-50 per cent, prompting authorities to cap the rate at 27 per cent last month.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/63757d46-0234-11e0-aa40-00144feabdc0.html#axzz17jAU5aWM>

SEE ALSO: Big Business Destroys Microfinance, *Opinion Letter*, Robert J. Cave, *Plan International*, *Financial Times*, December 7

Sir, If ever there was a misapplication of big business commercial ambition supported by venture capital dollars it's the mess that is now the microfinance industry ("Small loan, big snag", Analysis, December 2).

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/50e1a8b2-0199-11e0-9c3e-00144feab49a.html#axzz17jAzZC1L>

Poll: Americans Have Inflated View of Foreign Aid, *PBS, December 6*

When asked in a recent poll how much the U.S. government spends on foreign aid, Americans vastly overestimated the amount -- which might explain why politicians look to that area first when considering budget cuts, some analysts say. The survey, conducted by the WorldPublicOpinion.org project at the University of Maryland's Program on International Policy Attitudes, asked the question: "What percentage of the federal budget goes to foreign aid?" The median answer was roughly 25 percent, according to the poll of 848 Americans. In reality, about 1 percent of the budget is allotted to foreign aid.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2010/12/foreign-aid.html>

GCC Urged to Help Avert Food Crisis, *National, December 5*

Gulf countries continue to import most of their food supplies and need to invest in farmland overseas to ensure sustainability. Gulf nations need to step up investments in African and South East Asian farmland if the region is to play its part in averting a global food crisis, agriculture experts say. Securing land in Africa could benefit the continent by increasing agricultural production while ensuring sufficient future supplies of food for the Gulf, said Kanayo Nwanze, the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

<http://www.thenational.ae/business/economy/gcc-urged-to-help-avert-food-crisis>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

An Econometric Investigation of Impacts of Sustainable Land Management Practices on Soil Carbon and Yield Risk A Potential for Climate Change Mitigation, *IFPRI, December 2010*

We investigate the impacts of sustainable land management practices on soil carbon stocks and also impacts of soil carbon on the mean and variance of crop production using econometric tools. Using a cross-sectional plot-level dataset collected from three agroecological zones of Uganda with soil carbon measured at a depth of 0 to 15 centimeters, our results have robustly shown that irrigation, fertilizers, improved fallow, crop residues, mulching, and trash lines are positively and significantly associated with higher soil carbon, corroborating results from agronomic experiments.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01038.pdf>

High Mountain Glaciers and Climate Change, Changes to Human Livelihoods and Adaptation, *UNEP, December 2010*

Climate change is causing significant mass loss of glaciers in high mountains worldwide. Although glacier systems show a great amount of inherent complexity and variation, there are clear overall trends indicating global glacier recession, which is likely to accelerate in coming decades. Large gaps remain in our understanding and ability to model accurately the key processes and cause-effect relationships driving glacier response to climate change. In addition, a lot of data on glacier mass changes are not available to the public due to national interests concerning water supply.

http://www.grida.no/res/site/file/publications/glacier/himalayareport_screen.pdf

SEE ALSO: Melting Glaciers Threaten Floods in Himalayas, Andes, *Reuters, December 7*

Residents of the Himalayas and other mountain areas face a "tough and unpredictable future" as global warming melts glaciers and threatens worse floods and water loss, officials said during U.N. climate talks on Tuesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6B65YJ20101207>

Media Articles:

Agriculture Must Play Key Role in Climate Solutions, *World Bank, December 9*

A group of global leaders and policy makers called today for agriculture to play a key role in the architecture of climate finance, announcing at the Cancun climate conference a new initiative to make agriculture part of the solution to climate change and not part of the problem. The Roadmap outlines concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments and policies with the transition to climate-smart growth and highlights a "triple-win" approach.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22786407~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

SEE ALSO: Turning Agriculture from Problem to Solution, IPS, December 5

Global agriculture contributes in the region of 17 percent to the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, but according to the World Bank, climate smart agriculture techniques can both reduce emissions and meet the challenge of producing enough food for a growing world population.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53777>

UN Chief Calls for Compromise at Climate Talks, Financial Times, December 8

Ban Ki-moon, UN secretary-general, urged government ministers meeting in Mexico for climate change talks to agree to a compromise, in the hope of getting the slow negotiations moving. At the opening of the high-level segment of the talks, Mr. Ban told the conference in Cancun: "The world, particularly the poor and vulnerable, cannot afford the luxury of waiting for the perfect agreement."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3b78e358-02f9-11e0-bb1e-00144feabdc0.html#axzz17io41yEu>

As World Warms, Southern Africa Swelters, IPS, December 7

Africa will be amongst the hardest hit regions of the world as the climate heats up, threatening the continent's food security, experts agree. If global temperatures rise 2.0 degrees C, southern Africa will warm an additional 1.5 degrees to a 3.5-degree increase on average.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53797>

Pact Could be Near to Save Tropical Forests, Washington Post, December 7

For years, policymakers and scientists alike have spoken of the need to save tropical forests as a way of curbing climate change. By week's end, U.N. negotiators may finally set the rules of the road for doing it.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/07/AR2010120707318.html>

Agricultural Work Programme under Threat amidst Uncertain Climate Talks, Farming First, December 6

A beneficial and widely supported agricultural work programme is at risk of not being adopted amidst the uncertain state of broader negotiations, leading agricultural experts at the climate negotiations in Cancun warn. Agriculture is a necessary yet significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 14-31 per cent of total emissions. The world's 1.5 billion members of farm families also manage the planet's water, soil and carbon systems.

<http://www.farmingfirst.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/06.12.10-Outcomes-of-COP16.pdf>

Staple Food Crops Do Not Want Global Warming, IRIN, December 5

Taking steps to control global temperatures is a key issue at the UN talks on climate change in Cancun. Within the next four decades maize prices could rise by up to 131 percent, there could be 17 million more undernourished children in the poorest countries, and some African farmers might have to give up agriculture if the planet keeps getting hotter, new studies show.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=91292>

Farming Must Wait in Line at Stalled Climate Talks, Reuters, December 4

Incentives for climate-friendly farming must join a line behind forests and a stalemate over greenhouse gas emissions targets at U.N. climate talks, say experts halfway through a two-week conference. Agricultural experts say the talks in Mexico's Cancun beach resort can "open the door" to the sector, which emits 15-30 percent of global greenhouse gases, depending on whether or not forest clearances for farmland are included.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6B401J20101205>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

Women and Continent's Development, *AllAfrica, December 8*

The deputy minister of Agriculture was indeed right in observing that African women produce 80 percent of the continent's basic food. His observation shows that state technocrats are increasingly recognising the roles of women at the grassroots level for eventual full integration in national development programmes.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201012090256.html>

Wealth, Weight Linked in Women in Poor Countries, *Harvard Crimson, December 6*

Wealthy women in developing countries are more likely to be overweight than their socioeconomically disadvantaged counterparts, according to a recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health. The study, which considered data from 54 countries labeled as low to middle income by the World Bank, found a direct correlation between socioeconomic status and high body mass index in all but Moldova and Kazakhstan.

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2010/12/6/A4/>

Investing in the Resilience of Poor People on the Frontlines of Climate Change, *Huffington Post, December 6*

Among the world's most vulnerable people, it is women who are suffering the most. Poor women in developing countries are typically responsible for providing their household's water, food and fuel supply and they are less likely to have the education, opportunities, and resources they need to adapt to climate impacts. When disaster strikes, women have less access to resources to cope and are more likely to die than men during disasters. And when hunger increases, women are the ones who sacrifice their nutrition for the benefit of their children and family.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/linda-adams/investing-in-the-resilien_b_792426.html

Ending Child Marriage Helps Communities Across the Developing World, *Op-Ed, Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and Desmond Tutu, recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, Washington Post, December 5*

Child marriage is just one factor in the lives of many girls and women, but it affects not just their health, education and employment options but also the welfare of their communities. We know that empowering girls is one of the most effective ways to improve the health and prosperity of societies. Child marriage perpetuates poverty by keeping girls, their children and their communities poor.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/05/AR2010120503301.html>

WFP Helps Subsistence Farmers to Increase Crop Yields, *Voice of America, December 4*

The World Food Program is teaming up with FAO, The European Union, the Gates Foundation and other agencies to help subsistence farmers increase their crop yields; the vast majority of these small farmers are women.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/WFP-Helps-Subsistence-Farmers-to-Increase-Crop-Yields-111316624.html>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

Purpose and Potential for Commodity Exchanges in African Economies, *IFPRI, 2010*

This paper reviews the purpose and potential of commodity exchanges in Africa. Drawing from the existing literature and using indicative empirics, it examines the conditions that enable successful exchanges, highlights the special challenges to setting up exchanges in Africa, and reviews alternatives to domestic exchanges.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/purpose-and-potential-commodity-exchanges-african-economies>

Import Dependence, Water Scarcity Challenge Food Security in Near East, *FAO, December 7*

Rapid population growth in the Near East is not being matched by growth in agricultural production, making the region ever-more dependent on food imports and increasingly vulnerable to market and supply shocks. This trend makes it vital to boost investment in agriculture in the region, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said today.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/48513/icode/>

SEE ALSO: FAO Raises Alarm Over Food Security, *UPI, December 8*

Near East governments need to spend more on agricultural production to ease dependency on imports, a U.N. official said in Sudan.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/12/08/FAO-raises-alarm-over-food-security/UPI-55221291812474/

Media Articles:

Grain Market Set to Be Reshaped by China, *Wall Street Journal, December 10*

China could emerge in the next few years as the world's biggest importer of corn, which would reshape global grain markets, according to a new report by agribusiness lending giant Rabobank Group.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704720804576009790503679556.html>

U.S. May Have 'Problem' Meeting Surging Wheat Demand, FAO's Abbassian Says, *Bloomberg, December 9*

The U.S., the world's largest wheat shipper, may not have the logistical capacity to meet rising global demand after rains cut the quality of the harvest in Canada and Australia, the United Nations said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-09/u-s-may-have-problem-meeting-surging-global-demand-for-wheat-un-says.html>

Soybeans Rise from a One-Week Low on Increased Export Demand, *Bloomberg, December 8*

As of Dec. 2, the U.S. shipped 623.8 million bushels in the year started Sept. 1, up 13 percent from a year earlier, Department of Agriculture data show. Yesterday, the average spot-premium paid for U.S. soybeans delivered to export terminals near New Orleans rose to 81 cents above January futures, the highest since Aug. 25, the USDA said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-08/soybeans-rise-from-a-one-week-low-on-increased-export-demand.html>

Sugar and Cotton Turn Up, With India in Driver's Seat, *Wall Street Journal, December 6*

China may be Asia's fastest-growing major economy, but the continent's second-biggest market, India, is driving prices of two prized commodities. Sugar and cotton prices are surging as India restricts exports to make sure its own booming population has enough of both commodities. Poor harvests from key sugar and cotton producers have left both markets struggling to meet growing global demand.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703350104575653103568116346.html>

Chinese Ban Leaves Australia Awash with Lobster, *Financial Times, December 5*

Tonnes of Australian rock lobster are landing on the tables of the country's finest restaurants after China stopped imports as part of a crackdown on shipments via Hong Kong to avoid duties.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cb47379a-00bb-11e0-aa29-00144feab49a.html>

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

Justice Pursuing Antitrust Leads in Agribusiness, *Varney Says, Bloomberg, December 8*

The Justice Department is pursuing several leads on possible anti-competition cases in agribusiness after a series of hearings on the issue, according to Christine Varney, the head of the agency's antitrust division. Farmers and their lobbyists have asked regulators to examine whether meatpackers such as Tyson Foods Inc. and agribusinesses including Cargill Inc. can control the prices they pay for commodities. A USDA regulation

proposed in June would prohibit meatpackers from selling livestock to each other and require them to justify their choice of one farmer-supplier over another.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-08/justice-pursuing-antitrust-leads-in-agribusiness-varney-says.html>

Large Agricultural Firms Criticized as Top Polluters, *Des Moines Register*, December 8

A report by Environment America said agriculture contributes to pollution that has made 100,000 miles of U.S. rivers and streams and 2,500 square miles of lakes too polluted for swimming, fishing, drinking or supporting wildlife, said Jessica Buchberger, a representative of the nonprofit organization. The report noted that, nationally, ag giants such as Tyson and Cargill rank among the biggest polluters of air and water, based on a federal database of emissions data reported by the firms. Some of the highest emissions in Iowa were to the Cedar, Des Moines, Iowa, Mississippi and Raccoon rivers.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101208/NEWS/12080342/-1/FESTIVALS/Large-agricultural-firms-criticized-as-top-polluters>

Kraft Seeks Injunction against Starbucks, *Business Week*, December 6

Kraft Foods is seeking a preliminary injunction against Starbucks saying the coffee chain violated terms of a distribution deal.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9JUE2J01.htm>

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