



THE CHICAGO COUNCIL  
ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## *Global Food For Thought*

Global Agricultural Development Initiative  
Weekly News Brief



**December 1<sup>st</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Quote of the Week:** *"By focusing on the right investment sectors, governments can increase the impact of public expenditure. Above all, they must focus on building the institutions, human capacities, investment environment and infrastructure needed for farmers to invest in their own futures – and in our collective food, nutrition and environmental security. In short, it is not just a question of money. To end hunger and malnutrition, feed the world's growing population, and safeguard our food security and environment, we must invest more in agriculture. But we must also invest better."* – FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva in "Farmers Are The Ones Ploughing Money Into Agriculture", December 6, 2012

For more information:

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

**The State of Food And Agriculture, UN FAO, December 2012**

Eradicating hunger sustainably will require a significant increase in agricultural investments, but also an improvement in their effectiveness. Farmers are the largest investors in developing country agriculture and must be central to any strategy for increasing investment in the sector, but if they are to invest more in agriculture they need a favorable climate for agricultural investment based on economic incentives and an enabling environment.

<http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/en/>

**SEE ALSO: Farmers Are The Ones Ploughing Money Into Agriculture**, *Opinion, Jose Graziano da Silva, Guardian, December 6*

New data compiled for the FAO's State of Food and Agriculture report shows that farmers are, by far, the greatest source of investment in agriculture. Farmers in low- and middle-income countries invest more than \$170bn (£105bn) a year in their farms – about \$150 (£93) a farmer. This is three times as much as all other sources of investment combined, four times more than the public sector's contribution and more than 50 times the size of official development assistance to those countries.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/dec/06/farmers-ploughing-money-agriculture>

**SEE ALSO: Hunger Seen By FAO Linked To Decades Of Falling Farm Investment**, *Bloomberg, December 6*

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-06/hunger-seen-by-fao-linked-to-decades-of-falling-farm-investment.html>

**Building Resilience To Recurrent Crisis: USAID Policy And Program Guidance**, *USAID, December 2012*

Drawn from decades of experience providing humanitarian relief and development assistance, this guidance aims to reduce chronic vulnerability and promote more inclusive growth in areas of recurrent crisis.

Ultimately, we seek to save and improve lives and decrease the need for repeated infusions of humanitarian assistance in these areas.

<http://transition.usaid.gov/resilience/USAIDResiliencePolicyGuidanceDocument.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Remarks By Administrator Rajiv Shah**, *USAID, December 3*

We know we cannot prevent droughts or floods, but we can work much harder and more strategically to ensure these shocks don't devastate families or set back hard-won development gains.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/speeches/remarks-administrator-rajiv-shah-resilience-policy-launch>

**FAO Food Price Index**, *FAO, December 6*

The FAO Food Price Index averaged 211 points in November 2012, down 3 points (1.5 percent) from October and the lowest since June 2012. Except for dairy, international prices of all the commodity groups included in the Index fell in November, with sugar undergoing the sharpest dip, followed by oils and cereals. The decline puts the November index value nearly 3 percent below one year ago.

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/>

**SEE ALSO: FAO Cereal Supply and Demand Brief**

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/csdb/en/>

**SEE ALSO: UN: Food Prices Dip In November, Index Down From A Year Ago**, *Washington Post, December 6*

Earlier this year the food agency had warned that bad weather could send prices soaring and trigger rioting and unrest. But prices in recent months have been steadily declining.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/un-food-prices-dip-in-november-index-down-from-a-year-ago/2012/12/06/971a6508-3f8b-11e2-8a5c-473797be602c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/un-food-prices-dip-in-november-index-down-from-a-year-ago/2012/12/06/971a6508-3f8b-11e2-8a5c-473797be602c_story.html)

**Wheat May Take Over From Corn As Grain Market Driver, FAO Says**, *Bloomberg, December 6*

Wheat may take over from corn as the driver of grain prices next year because of potential production setbacks. There are concerns about wheat conditions ahead of winter dormancy in Russia, the U.S. and Europe, particularly the U.K., as well as worries about Argentina's wheat and corn harvests this season.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-06/wheat-may-take-over-from-corn-as-grain-market-driver-fao-says.html>

**SEE ALSO: Global Grain Reserves Tighten Even As Food Prices Fall**, *Reuters, December 6*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/06/food-fao-idUSL5E8N660V20121206>

**How Severe Weather Impacts Global Food Supply**, *CNN, December 5*

Rising food prices have been blamed on a number of factors -- for example, rising energy costs, changing land use for biofuel production, local conflicts, and an increasing demand for meat and dairy products. But 2012's severe weather events around the world have led to low yields in nations such as the U.S. that export grain.

Oxfam fears climate change is responsible and that impoverished people could be facing a future of high food prices driven by extreme weather trends.

[http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/04/world/asia/food-price-impact/index.html?](http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/04/world/asia/food-price-impact/index.html)

**Cutting Aid To Rwanda Hurts The Poor Without Solving Africa's Mineral Curse**, *Opinion, Mark Malloch-Brown, Financial Times, December 4*

More than 48 percent of Rwanda's budget is funded by donors. The EU, the US, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden have already suspended aid to Rwanda – the World Bank will not put forward further requests for money to its board, fearing it is financing the rebellion. But the main impact will be felt by Rwanda's poor. Britain will restrict aid that has contributed to lifting 1m Rwandans out of poverty in the past five years.

<http://blogs.ft.com/the-a-list/2012/12/04/cutting-aid-to-rwanda-hurts-the-poor-without-solving-mineral-curse/#axzz2Elm2kG8Z>

**Going Beyond Food Aid: The Challenge Of Improving Nutrition**, *The Guardian, December 3*

The World Bank identifies five 'pathways' that link food production to nutrition: subsistence-oriented production, income-oriented production for sale in markets, increased agricultural production, empowerment of women to control household food and health, and macroeconomic growth. But in practice, one is favored over another. According to SUN, a 2005 Ethiopian health survey found that chronic malnutrition was highest in its most agriculturally productive regions. The inference was large-scale production can lead directly to export, or simply a lack of local food diversity.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development-professionals-network/2012/dec/03/food-aid-improving-nutrition>

**Enhancing Resilience In The Horn Of Africa**, *IFPRI, December 7*

Being the dominant livelihood for the foreseeable future, and potentially quite a profitable one given growing demand for livestock products, pastoralism therefore needs to be an important component of local and regional development strategies. The goal of livestock investments should be to transform the pastoralist sector into a more profitable, more integrated, and more resilient economic system.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/enhancing-resilience-horn-africa-1>

**Senate Resolution 607--Relative To The Death Of The Honorable George Mcgovern, Former United States Senator And Congressman From The State Of South Dakota**, *U.S. Senate, November 30*

The Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret of the passing of the Honorable George McGovern and extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of the Honorable George McGovern.

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?r112:S30N02-0023:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?r112:S30N02-0023)

**Big Facts, CGIAR Research Program On Climate Change, Agriculture And Food Security**, *November 30*

The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security's "Big Facts" site represents the latest and most authoritative research on topics at the intersection of climate change, agriculture and food security. Find out why it's impossible to address climate issues without including agriculture—and vice versa.

<http://ccafs.cgiar.org/bigfacts/>

**SEE ALSO: In Brief: One-Stop Site For Climate Change & Food Facts**, *IRIN, November 30*

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96933/In-Brief-One-stop-site-for-climate-change-food-facts>

**Eating Orange Flesh**, *Opinion, Sir Gordon Conway, Huffington Post, November 29*

Eating orange flesh in Mozambique is not an episode from a bizarre horror movie. On the contrary it is a message of life-saving nutrition and hope for millions of young children. Orange is the colour of a new range of varieties of sweet potato that contain beta-carotene, a pre-cursor of vitamin A. Over 180 million children in the world suffer from severe malnutrition, over 40 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/professor-sir-gordon-conway/eating-orange-flesh\\_b\\_2177454.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/professor-sir-gordon-conway/eating-orange-flesh_b_2177454.html)

**Development Co-operation Report 2012**, *OECD, December 2012*

The Development Co-operation Report 2012: Lessons in linking sustainability and development seeks to provide insights into how to address today's sustainable development challenges, with a focus on inclusiveness and good governance to ensure that our finite resources are equitably distributed, now and in

the future.

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/dcr2012.htm>

**Howard G. Buffett Foundation To Provide \$1 Million To WFP In Support Of Returning Congolese Displaced In North Kivu**, *World Food Program, December 7*

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation announced a US \$1 million grant to the World Food Programme to provide emergency logistics support and food assistance to displaced families returning to their homes following the most recent outbreak of conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/howard-g-buffett-foundation-provide-1-million-wfp-support-returning-congolese-disp>

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## COMMENTARIES

**Coding for Hunger: Not Development as Usual**, *Dr. Maura O'Neill, USAID, December 7*

Barbara's mother was desperate- there was nothing in the house to feed her children or herself. All that remained was a bag of seed that she'd been planning to sow on her small plot of land. Could the seeds be eaten as food? She could no longer look at her children whose bodies were aching from hunger. There was one huge risk: the seeds contained potentially lethal pesticides intended to encourage higher yields. As countless mothers have done, she tested the seeds on herself.

<http://bit.ly/UsjFEq>

**More Scientific Advancements In Agriculture Show Strong Potential to Help Increase Farmers' Yields**, *Dr. Robert T. Fraley, Monsanto, December 7*

It is no secret that the world's demand for grain is accelerating as both population and per capita consumption increase at an unprecedented rate. The quest to grow food to meet that demand and feed the global population will continue to be one of the most important issues of our time. To put it in perspective, in order to meet the needs of more than 9 billion people by 2050, farmers will have to grow as much food as they have in the last 10,000 years, combined!

<http://bit.ly/TZ05yy>

**Tackling Poverty with Nutrition Innovations**, *Dr. Manfred Eggensdorfer, DSM Nutritional Products, December 5*

One hundred years ago, a scientist named Casimir Funk stood in a laboratory, determined to figure out why chickens fed a diet of white rice were more likely to die of beriberi disease than chickens fed brown rice. He eventually isolated vitamin B1 and coined the term "vitamin" to describe the bioactive substances we now know to be essential for human health. It was a pivotal discovery that has contributed to a century of innovative research, improved health and increased prosperity.

<http://bit.ly/VwBvuy>

**Post-Harvest Technology Solutions: Think Big, Start Small, Scale Fast**, *Dr. Alexandra Spielloch, Compatible Technology International, December 4*

There is little reliable data on post-harvest loss and until recently it hasn't played a big part in agricultural investment strategies. Only four percent of development assistance goes to agriculture and little of it for post-harvest programs. In light of high prices and lack of food availability, there seems to be new recognition that the world community can do more to prevent post-harvest loss as a means to meet world food demand.

<http://bit.ly/WGW2YF>

**Biotechnology And Africa's Strategic Interests**, *Dr. Calestous Juma, Harvard University, December 3*

There is a clear disconnect between comfort with familiar agricultural practices and the food challenges that lie ahead. Though food is recognized as a national security issue, it has yet to acquire the strategic importance it deserves, especially in African countries. The lack of strategic thinking underlies many of the poor decisions that many African countries make regarding agricultural biotechnology.

<http://bit.ly/11HbW9P>

**Resilience: Safety Net For Reducing Hunger And Malnutrition**, *Opinion, David Beckmann, December 4*

With the right support, countries and local communities can build systems and develop responses that help people get through these difficult seasons. This way, they are not stuck in the powerless position of hoping, year after year, that emergency assistance will arrive in time.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/12/resilience-safety-net-for-reducing-hunger-and-malnutrition/>

**Putting People At The Heart Of Resilience**, *Opinion, Raymond Offenheiser, December 3*

This guidance should be considered a breakthrough, and Oxfam congratulates USAID on a very thoughtful framework to saving lives and creating conditions where families and communities can prosper.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/12/putting-people-at-the-heart-of-resilience/>

**Does The New Resilience Policy Have Staying Power?**, *Opinion, Neal Keny-Guyer, December 3*

Resilience transcends many of the basic organizing principles that have long characterized the relief and development worlds; it challenges all of us to make major changes to how we do business.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/12/does-the-new-resilience-policy-have-staying-power/>

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**RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Report to the President on Agricultural Preparedness and the Agricultural Research Enterprise**, *The White House, December 2012*

This report addresses the scientific challenges facing the Nation's agricultural research enterprise and makes recommendations on how to refocus and rebalance the Federal Government's support of agricultural research to enable U.S. farmers to meet the critical challenges facing U.S. agriculture in the 21st century. PCAST calls for increased public investment in agricultural research to meet these growing challenges.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast\\_agriculture\\_20121207.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_agriculture_20121207.pdf)

**Transformation and Opportunity: The Future of the U.S. Research Enterprise**, *The White House, December 2012*

In this report, PCAST describes a series of specific opportunities for the Federal Government, universities, and industry to strengthen the U.S. research enterprise. These opportunities fall into three categories: the Federal Government's role as the foundational investor in basic research; a better policy environment to encourage industry investment in R&D; and the new role of research universities as hubs of the innovation ecosystem.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast\\_future\\_research\\_enterprise\\_20121130.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast_future_research_enterprise_20121130.pdf)

**Boehner Statement on GOP Steering Committee Recommendations for Committee Chairmanships in the 113th Congress**, *U.S. Congress, December 2012*

House Speaker John Boehner issued the following statement today on the House Republican Steering Committee's chairmanship recommendations for the 113th Congress.

<http://www.speaker.gov/press-release/boehner-statement-gop-steering-committee-recommendations-committee-chairmanships-113th>

**SEE ALSO: Pelosi Announces Ranking Members for the 113th Congress**, *December 2012*

[http://www.democricleader.gov/Democratic\\_Ranking\\_Members\\_113th\\_Congress](http://www.democricleader.gov/Democratic_Ranking_Members_113th_Congress)

**USDA And USAID Collaborate To Improve Productivity Of The Common Bean To Strengthen Global Food Security**, *USDA, December 7*

USDA today awarded five grants totaling \$4.5 million in support of research to improve the production of the common bean, a main staple produced throughout food insecure areas of the world, including East and Southern Africa. The funded projects will work to address challenges to common bean production faced by smallholder producers. The program is part of the Feed the Future Initiative.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/12/0355.xml>

**Testimony Of Assistant Administrator Earl Gast Before The Senate Subcommittee On African Affairs,**

USAID, December 5

Mali is facing a complex emergency: a political crisis, recovery from a major drought, and threats to internal and regional security. While USAID has made significant contributions to Malian development through its long engagement in the country and the hard work and diligence of the Malian people, recent events stand to reverse these gains. The restoration of democracy and the return to a development focus in Mali is important to the region and to Africa as a whole.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/congressional-testimony/testimony-assistant-administrator-earl-gast-senate>

**SEE ALSO: Remarks By Johnnie Carson: Addressing Developments In Mali: Restoring Democracy And Reclaiming The North**, State Department, December 5

<http://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/rm/2012/201583.htm>

**A New Tool For Breeding Better Wheat**, *Opinion*, Olin Anderson, USDA Blog, December 4

Wheat is one of the world's "big three" crops, along with rice and corn, and unlocking its secrets will help researchers develop an overall picture of the plant's genetic makeup and broaden their understanding of how genetics and environment determine a crop's health and viability.

<http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/12/04/a-new-tool-for-breeding-better-wheat/>

**Does Foreign Aid Work? Efforts to Evaluate U.S. Foreign Assistance**, *Congressional Research Service*, November 19

The primary U.S. agencies charged with implementing foreign assistance have made significant steps in the last two years to address ongoing deficiencies in evaluation practices that make it difficult to judge whether foreign assistance is achieving its various objectives. There is widespread agreement, reflected in new policies, on the need for consistent performance evaluation of aid programs. The value of rigorous impact evaluation is broadly recognized as well, though the agencies differ in their capabilities and aspirations in this respect.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R42827.pdf>

**PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating An AIDS-Free Generation**, U.S. State Department, December 2012

The vision for this blueprint is simple: Scientific advances and their successful implementation have brought the world to a tipping point in the fight against AIDS. The United States believes that by making smart investments based on sound science, and a shared global responsibility, we can save millions of lives and achieve an AIDS-free generation.

<http://www.pepfar.gov/documents/organization/201386.pdf>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Food Security 2012: Sustainable Intensification: Miracle Or Mirage? Many Highlighted Speakers**

*Date:* December 10-11, 2012

*Location:* United Kingdom

<http://www.chathamhouse.org/Foodsecurity2012/agenda>

**Mobile Technology: A Change Agent in the United States and Across the Globe**

*Date:* December 13, 2012

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

<http://www.brookings.edu/events/2012/12/13-mobile-technology>

**World Soybean Research Conference 2013**

*Date:* February 17-22, 2013

*Location:* Durban, South Africa.

<http://www.wsrc2013.co.za/>

**USDA 2013 Agriculture Outlook Forum: Managing Risk in the 21st Century**

*Date:* February 21-22, 2013

Location: Arlington, VA  
[www.usda.gov/oce/forum/](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/)

### **Commodity Classic**

Date: February 28-March 2, 2013

Location: Kissimmee, Florida.

<http://www.commodityclassic.com/>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### Reports:

#### **The Supply Of Inorganic Fertilizers To Smallholder Farmers In Uganda, IFPRI, December 7**

This paper presents the results of a broad study of fertilizer supply to smallholder farmers in Uganda that was done to assess whether the taxes (explicit or implicit) that are applied at various points along the fertilizer importation and marketing chain or the absence of key public goods and services reduce the access that smallholder farmers have to fertilizer.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/supply-inorganic-fertilizers-smallholder-farmers-uganda>

### Media Articles:

#### **Crying Over Nearly Spilt Milk, Economist, December 8**

America's agriculture is facing a cliff of its own. At the moment negotiations over the fiscal cliff are consuming all the political air. From soil conservation to price supports to trade, American farm policies are all on hold. No one really expects Congress to plunge taxpayers into this "agriculture abyss". But as with the rest of the fiscal cliff, the mere fact that both sides want a solution is no guarantee it will happen.

<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21567951-another-washington-crisis-unfolds-crying-over-nearly-spilt-milk>

**SEE ALSO: Senate Democrat Says She Will Consider Higher Food Stamp Program Cuts To Get Farm Bill Passed, Washington Post, December 5**

<http://wapo.st/TQj2ji>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. House, White House Aim For \$32-\$45 Bln In Farm Bill Cuts, Reuters, December 3**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/04/usa-agriculture-farm-bill-idUSL1E8N3GAY20121204>

#### **China Sacks Three Officials For GMO Rice Test, Reuters, December 6**

China has sacked three officials for testing genetically modified rice on children as part of a Sino-U.S. research project, state media said on Thursday. The controversial test first came to light when environmental group Greenpeace said a USDA -backed study used 24 Chinese children aged between six and eight to test genetically modified "golden rice".

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/06/us-china-gmo-golden-rice-idUSBRE8B51CZ20121206>

#### **Artificial Insemination Means More Milk In Mauritania, IPS, December 6**

Local cattle breeds lacked some important characteristics. To overcome these shortcomings, between 2006 and 2009, the rural development ministry put a program in place to improve the genetic stock and promote animal health. The campaign targeted 1,000 dairy cows. While Mauritania's traditional cattle breeds don't produce more than three liters of milk per day, the hybrid cattle can produce over 16 liters per day, according to a vet with the rural development ministry.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/artificial-insemination-means-more-milk-in-mauritania/>

#### **From Doha To Dakar, Food Insecurity Is The Norm, IPS, December 4**

While Qatar's issues of food insecurity stem from its terrain, African countries are struggling with food insecurity because of poverty and erratic weather patterns that have dramatically reduced agricultural production over the years. As African countries struggle to make use of their vast land resources to improve food production because of climate change, Qatar, like other Gulf States and emerging economies such as

China, is leasing and buying land in Africa.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/from-doha-to-dakar-food-insecurity-is-the-norm/>

**Wheat DNA Map Could Help Breed Better Crops**, *VOA News, November 30*

The most complete map ever of wheat's genetic blueprint could provide plant breeders with new clues to improving one of the world's most important food crops. These markers will help guide researchers and breeders who are working to better understand how the plant copes with salty soil or drought, for example. Such insights, theoretically, will allow them to create better varieties of wheat much more quickly than in the past.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/wheat-dna-map-could-open-path-to-better-crops/1556172.html>

**SEE ALSO: Food: Decoding Food Security**, *IRIN, November 30*

A significant scientific breakthrough could see the development of extreme-climate-tolerant and disease-resistant varieties of wheat much sooner than previously possible. The researchers developed a technology that can read DNA hundreds of times faster than the systems that were used to sequence the human genome.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96931/FOOD-Decoding-food-security>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Media Articles:

**Burundi Bemoans UK's 'Sad, Sad' Decision To Close Aid Office**, *Guardian, December 7*

The Department for International Development no longer has an office in the capital, Bujumbura, a small city where electricity is intermittent in most quarters. Last year, Britain gave £13.7m to Burundi – 3.6% of all the African country's aid – mainly for projects related to education, health, access to justice, and regional economic integration. Around 90% of its people are subsistence farmers and around half of the national budget is financed by donors.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/07/dfid-closes-office-upsets-burundi>

**Somalia's Journey From Disaster To Resilience A Test Case For Development**, *Guardian, December 7*

Somalia remains fragile with about 3.8 million people in need of life-saving assistance, out of a population of 9.5 million, and 1.4 million people internally displaced. Given the country's precarious condition, the UN this week launched a \$1.3bn (£807m) appeal for Somalia for the next three years. The appeal is a test of the resilience-building approach to managing disaster, much discussed by humanitarian and development agencies but difficult to put into practice because of institutional rivalries and the problems of co-ordination.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/07/somalia-journey-disaster-resilience-development>

**Food Shortages In Syria Send Prices Soaring, Compounding Hunger Problem**, *Washington Post, December 6*

The UN's World Food Program warned that the escalating violence in Syria is causing food shortages throughout the country. Factories have been bombed. Roads and farm fields are pockmarked with deep craters left by missiles. Thieves have held up trucks carrying food, as demand has swelled in towns housing at least 1.2 million Syrians displaced from their homes by the fighting. Some of the most acute food shortages are in northern Syria, where fighting has been intense since the summer.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/food-shortages-in-syria-send-prices-soaring-compounding-hunger-problem/2012/12/06/a47af3d4-3f22-11e2-bca3-aadc9b7e29c5\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/food-shortages-in-syria-send-prices-soaring-compounding-hunger-problem/2012/12/06/a47af3d4-3f22-11e2-bca3-aadc9b7e29c5_story.html)

**Autumn Statement: Foreign Aid Budget Slashed By £800m To Fund Schools And Roads**, *The Telegraph, December 5*

The Chancellor has managed to make savings on aid because the UK's spending on development is linked to national income. Development spending will still rise next year from £8.7 billion to £11.3 billion as David Cameron has promised to spend 0.7 per cent of national income on aid from 2013. The fact that the economy is struggling to recover from the recession means there will be a lower bill than previously expected.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9724929/Autumn-Statement-foreign-aid-budget-slashed-by-800m-to-fund-schools-and-roads.html>

**Video: Philippines Typhoon: 'Food, Water And Power Are Priority', *BBC, December 5***

Getting food to people who have been cut off or left homeless by the Typhoon in the Mindanao Island of southern Philippines is the one of the main priorities for aid agencies helping in the relief effort according to the head of the Red Cross in the country.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20610277>

**India Shrugs Off UK Aid Cuts, Despite Poverty, *IPS, December 5***

Some Indian commentators say the country can well do without the financial aid it currently receives from the UK. But for others, the direct aid that the U.K. government plans to terminate could affect the welfare of the most poverty-stricken. The move has annoyed Indian officials and brought them closer to the UK's fellow EU member, France. But while officials haggle over political details, NGOs fear that the 360 million people still living in crushing poverty in India will bear the brunt of this abrupt change in policy.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/india-shrugs-off-uk-aid-cuts-despite-poverty/>

**UK Pledges £133m More For Africa To Tackle Climate Change, *Guardian, December 4***

Britain will give a further £133m to help Africa adapt to climate change and reduce emissions, the energy secretary, Ed Davey, has announced in Doha. The pledges make Britain one of the world's largest providers of climate finance. £1.5bn of the total £2.9bn commitment has been earmarked for the fast-start fund, set up in 2009 but due to end next month.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/04/uk-pledges-africa-climate-change>

**Joint Report Highlights Gains In Food Security In Iraq, *Reuters AlertNet, December 3***

A new report by the UN WFP and the Government of Iraq shows that the number of Iraqis who are food insecure has decreased by more than quarter of a million compared to 2007. The report presents an analysis of the cost effectiveness of a poverty-targeted PDS in achieving improved food security and compares it to three possible alternatives: replacing the food basket with direct cash transfers to the poor; distributing the current food basket to those under the poverty line using electronic food vouchers; and using electronic cards to target the poor with alternative food baskets.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/joint-report-highlights-gains-in-food-security-in-iraq>

**Keep Resource Companies Out of Foreign Aid? You'd Only Be Hurting Africans, *Opinion, Lucas Robinson, Globe and Mail, December 3***

After Mr. Fantino announced a new policy in which the private sector, especially mining companies, would be more directly involved in the delivery of foreign aid alongside CIDA, the response from many quarters was nothing short of venomously hateful. Indeed, many in Canada's aid community appear to be against any engagement by the private sector in reducing global poverty. This is not a constructive approach to reducing poverty.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/keep-resource-companies-out-of-foreign-aid-you-d-only-be-hurting-africans/article5910531/>

**African Union Head: 'Development Is Essential For Peace And Progress', *Guardian, December 3***

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma describes her appointment to head the African Union as a "victory for Africans ... in particular for women". And it's no understatement. The AU may, however, prove a much harder proposition. Underfunded, understaffed and overstretched, the AU commission – the AU's secretariat, which Dlamini-Zuma chairs – is badly in need of administrative reform. Dlamini-Zuma says the biggest challenges facing the continent are underdevelopment, poverty and the inequitable distribution of wealth.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/03/african-union-development-peace-progress>

**Over 3.5 Million People In Drought-Hit Areas Of Africa To Receive Food Relief From UN, *UN News Center, November 30***

The UN food relief agency announced it is scaling up its efforts to assist more than 3.5 million people in drought-hit areas of southern Africa. The UN agency notes that southern Malawi, southern Zimbabwe, and the

southern highlands of Lesotho face particularly severe food shortages, while the prices of staple foods are increasing. Over the past year, the price of maize has increased 60 percent in the markets of Lesotho and nearly 80 percent in Malawi.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43641&Cr#.UMKBqqz4K1g>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Media Articles:

#### **Green Fund May Use \$100 Billion A Year To Encourage Carbon Price**, *Bloomberg, December 6*

The Green Climate Fund, designed to channel about \$100 billion a year to emerging nations, may try to wean recipients off of fossil-fuel subsidies and encourage nations to put a price on carbon. The fund may guarantee bank loans in developing nations for projects ranging from wind farms to building insulation and less-polluting agricultural equipment. A key question for UN envoys is whether to withhold climate funds for nations that don't have a carbon price in place.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-06/green-fund-may-use-100-billion-a-year-to-encourage-carbon-price.html>

#### **SEE ALSO: Investors Warn Over UN Climate Fund**, *Financial Times, December 4*

International investor bodies representing institutions with more than \$10tn of assets say a flagship fund designed to channel billions of dollars to poor countries is at risk of being "strangled at birth" at this week's annual UN climate talks.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/db80026a-3ded-11e2-93cb-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Eilk8TLa>

#### **Norway To Pay Brazil \$180 Million For Slowing Deforestation**, *Reuters, December 6*

Norway has promised \$1 billion each to Brazil and Indonesia for protecting their tropical rainforests and warned Jakarta earlier this year that its progress in reforming its forestry sector will not be sufficient to meet its pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 26 percent by 2020.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/06/us-norway-brazil-aid-idUSBRE8B50WA20121206>

#### **EU Seeks Help On Climate Talk Snags**, *Financial Times, December 5*

The EU has asked the Qatari hosts of the global climate talks to step in to help speed up negotiations amid signs that envoys could fail to meet even the meager expectations for the two-week meeting. As these divisions continued on Wednesday, the negotiators who were supposed to be dealing with the new Durban treaty abruptly suspended their meetings, saying more work was needed on the older negotiations, known as Long-term Co-operative Action. This could be damaging for the Durban deal's prospects

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/34ef3bf0-3f00-11e2-a095-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Eilk8TLa>

#### **SEE ALSO: EU Climate Aid Promises Fail To Unlock U.N. Deal In Doha**, *Reuters, December 6*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/06/climate-talks-idUSL5E8N610T20121206>

#### **When A Green Revolution Runs Out Of Water**, *Opinion, David Agren, New York Times, December 5*

The Green Revolution sprang forth from this valley of wheat farms in Sonora State, producing the food required to feed a rapidly expanding population. But the water that has nourished crops here for decades and sustained the Yaqui people for centuries is threatened. The conflict in Sonora raises water management questions that are common across Mexico. Other issues include whether industry should take priority over agriculture.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/05/when-a-green-revolution-runs-out-of-water/>

#### **Russia To Set 2020 Carbon Target That Will Let Emissions Rise**, *Reuters, December 5*

Russia plans to set itself a binding 2020 goal for carbon emissions, a top climate change official said on Wednesday - the only problem is it would allow them to rise. Russia's emissions plunged after the collapse of Soviet-era smokestack industries to 2.21 billion tons in 2010, or 34 percent below 1990. However, it is still the world's fourth biggest emitter of greenhouse gases behind China, the United States and India.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/05/climate-talks-russia-idUSL5E8N540M20121205>

**India, World's Largest Livestock Owner, Balks At Farming Gas Curbs In Doha**, *Betwa Sharma, New York Times, December 5*

At the UN climate talks in Doha this week, India opposed any move that would require developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. With an estimated 485 million cattle, goat, buffalo and sheep, India has the most livestock in the world, and it is the second largest producer of methane in the world after China.

<http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/05/india-worlds-largest-livestock-owner-balks-at-farming-gas-curbs-in-doha/>

**SEE ALSO: A Conversation With: India's Chief Climate Change Negotiator**, *New York Times, December 3*

<http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/03/a-conversation-with-indias-chief-climate-change-negotiator/>

**Africa's Largest Solar Power Plant To Be Built In Ghana**, *Guardian, December 4*

The largest solar power plant in Africa will be built in Ghana, the British company behind the plan said. Source of much of the world's cocoa and an increasingly significant oil producer, Ghana's new drive to exploit the sun's energy is predicted to create hundreds of jobs and increase the country's electricity capacity by 6%, as well as cutting emissions.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/dec/04/africa-largest-solar-power-plant-ghana>

**Hotter, Drier -- Greener? Dryland Farming Confronts Climate Change**, *Opinion, Bruce Campbell, Huffington Post, December 4*

I'm in Doha, Qatar, where the global climate change community has gathered to determine how we should address climate change, yet again. I'm here with a consortium of agricultural agencies, farmers, and research groups to highlight the concrete solutions for achieving global food security as the climate changes, while also reducing the emissions that agriculture puts into the atmosphere. Despite these practical innovations, progress on getting agriculture into the official climate change negotiations has been excruciatingly slow, much slower than the urgent need to achieve food security.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-campbell-phd/drylands-climate-change- b 2226143.html>

**Rural Co-Ops In Central America Speak Out On Climate Change**, *IPS, December 4*

Delegations from farming cooperatives from Central America and the Dominican Republic came together in the conference, where they discussed a regional agenda for dealing with the impacts of climate change, and for learning how to sustainably manage natural resources. It was the culmination of national meetings held in nearly every country of the region, as a result of the concern of members of rural cooperative about the effects of climate change in the world and in Central America in particular.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/rural-co-ops-in-central-america-speak-out-on-climate-change/>

**Gulf Showing Signs Of Green Revolution**, *Financial Times, December 2*

It is not the sort of thing you expect to see in the middle of oil-rich Abu Dhabi, but here in a sandy spot by the emirate's airport is a field of solar panels so vast it could easily blanket several football pitches. With 8 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, Abu Dhabi is not about to desert the fossil fuel business any time soon. But the large sums some countries are starting to spend on renewables will change. For now, Abu Dhabi is undoubtedly the Gulf's green leader.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/444a39a0-3c63-11e2-a6b2-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2EIlk8TLA>

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

**2012 Annual Report**, *Landesa, December 2012*

Landesa and USAID's pilot project engages the community's Kalenjin and Maasai tribal elders and local chiefs, women, youth, and teachers in intensive community conversations and workshops about the new constitution and the rights it affords women. Before the project started, many community members didn't

know much about the new constitution and what little they had heard worried them. It seemed to go against their tribal culture and values.

<http://www.landes.org/annual-report/2012/impact>

**During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, Working Together To End a Global Scourge,** *Opinion, Melanne Vermeer, State Department Blog, December 7*

Violence against women and girls is sadly a global epidemic, rooted in the low status of women and girls. To turn back the tide, we know we must work on prevention efforts, protection from violence, and prosecution of perpetrators. We must support these brave women and girls as they move from pain to empowerment. The U.S. government, through this strategy and our many programs around the world, is committed to this effort.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/16\\_days\\_gender\\_violence\\_2012](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/16_days_gender_violence_2012)

**Collective Farming Empowers Dalit Women In India,** *UPI, December 6*

The government has invited thousands of Dalit women to take up collective farming to empower themselves economically. The women say the program also elevates their social status within their communities. Caste-baste discrimination is illegal in India but continues against Dalits. The program's success in changing this in one state is prompting plans to expand it nationwide.

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2012/12/06/Collective-farming-empowers-Dalit-women-in-India/PC-3441354830031/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/12/06/Collective-farming-empowers-Dalit-women-in-India/PC-3441354830031/)

**Trust Women Conference: A Delegate's Reflections,** *Opinion, Laetitia Belmadani, New York Times, December 6*

The conference confronted difficult subjects like modern-day slavery, the role of women after the Arab Spring, child marriage, corruption and development. Home-grown grass-roots action and leadership is needed to change some of these vast issues in different cultures, which are intrinsically linked to strong traditions. Personally, I am compelled by the topic of public-private partnerships to achieve some of the important development goals broached during the conference.

<http://rendezvous.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/06/trust-women-conference-one-delegates-reflections/>

**Violence Against Afghan Women On The Rise,** *IPS, December 5*

Afghan women are no strangers to gender-based violence. Now, officials and rights groups have noticed an alarming surge in these incidents, with crimes against women becoming more frequent – and more savage. The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission estimates a 22 percent increase in cases of violence against women. Meanwhile, the ministry of women's affairs says a total of 471 cases of violence against women were registered in 2012.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/violence-against-afghan-women-on-the-rise/>

**The African Villages Declaring An End To Female Genital Mutilation,** *Guardian, December 5*

Villages in the west African state with which Melching's organization, Tostan, has been working, will make public declarations of their intention to live according to the principles of human rights. And by doing so, they promise to end the practice of female genital mutilation, a practice prevalent in at least 28 African countries. The declarations follow three years of education and discussion in families, villages and wider communities about people's rights, specifically the rights of women and girls, and what they mean for future wellbeing.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/05/african-villages-female-genital-mutilation>

**Bihar Village Bans Women And Girls From Using Mobile Phones,** *Amarnath Tewary, New York Times, December 4*

A village council in the state of Bihar this week prohibited unmarried women and girls from using mobile phones, saying that they promote extramarital affairs and unsanctioned marriages and erode the moral fabric of society. Married women will be allowed to use them only indoors and in the presence of a relative. They also said that women below the age of 40 could not go to the market, and unmarried women and girls would not be allowed to use mobile phones on the streets.

<http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/04/bihar-village-bans-women-and-girls-from-using-mobile-phones/>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Media Articles:

#### **Investing In The New China Syndrome**, *Opinion, John Wasik, Reuters, December 6*

The world's most populous country is becoming a primary buyer for resources and technologies for its growing population. China's growing demand will continue to boost prices on everything from farmland to oil. The country now consumes more than 40 percent of the world's base metals, 23 percent of major agricultural commodities and 20 percent of non-renewable energy resources China's most immediate needs, once it works through its current infrastructure boom, is food and water.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/06/column-wasik-china-idUSL1E8N696Z20121206>

#### **Nigeria Seeks Farming Boom With \$3 Billion Rail Plan: Freight**, *Bloomberg, December 5*

Nigeria is pushing to reverse years of neglect of its agriculture and mining industries by revamping railways in a bid to reduce the economy's dependence on oil. Still, rail expansion faces a lack of planning, as well as corruption and violent conflict. Nigeria has gone from growing enough food to feed itself in the 1960s to the world's largest importer of rice and sub-Saharan Africa's biggest buyer of wheat and sugar. More than half of the population of 160 million live in rural areas.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-05/nigeria-seeks-farming-boom-with-3-billion-rail-plan-freight.html>

#### **'The Global Farms Race' And The Quest For Food Security**, *Foreign Policy, December 5*

As the authors of the recently released book *The Global Farms Race* argue, cash-rich but resource-poor governments have been quietly making controversial bids for the arable fields of foreign lands to shore up their own food security. This development marks "a new phase of the global food crisis" -- one that may help countries importing food, but has grave implications for the countries hosting the crops.

<http://drezler.foreignpolicy.com/category/topic/food/agriculture>

#### **Argentina Complains To WTO Over US, EU Barriers To Trade In Beef, Lemons And Biodiesel**,

*Washington Post, December 5*

Argentina filed complaints with the WTO Wednesday over trade barriers it blames for keeping its beef and lemons out of the U.S. and blocking biodiesel sales to Europe. Foreign Minister Hector Timerman said that if the WTO doesn't resolve the problem Argentina will seek compensation for damages. The government is preparing an additional challenge of the subsidies that farmers get in the U.S. and Europe.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/argentina-complains-to-wto-over-us-eu-barriers-to-trade-in-beef-lemons-and-biodiesel/2012/12/05/936e78c6-3f2d-11e2-8a5c-473797be602c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/argentina-complains-to-wto-over-us-eu-barriers-to-trade-in-beef-lemons-and-biodiesel/2012/12/05/936e78c6-3f2d-11e2-8a5c-473797be602c_story.html)

#### **Rice Exports From Pakistan May Miss Target As India Boosts Sales**, *Bloomberg, December 4*

Pakistan, the world's fourth-largest rice shipper, may miss a target to boost sales by 8 percent this year as surging shipments from India increase competition. Pakistan will continue to export rice to traditional buyers such as Somalia and Kenya and also to China and the Philippines. Rice export prices declined as shippers including India, Vietnam and Pakistan competed for market share, curbing food costs and preventing a global food crisis.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-05/rice-exports-from-pakistan-may-miss-target-as-india-boosts-sales.html>

#### **U.S. Must Comply With WTO Meat-Labeling Ruling By May**, *Reuters, December 4*

The WTO ruled on June 29 that the U.S. country-of-origin labeling program unfairly discriminated against Canada and Mexico because it gave less favorable treatment to beef and pork imported from those countries than to U.S. meat. The labeling program has led to a sharp reduction in U.S. imports of Canadian pigs and cattle, because it raised costs for U.S. packers by forcing them to segregate those animals from U.S. livestock. Some U.S. groups, however, have said it offers consumers valuable information about the origin of their food.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/04/us-wto-usa-meat-idUSBRE8B30TW20121204>

**European Corn Imports Seen Expanding To Second-Highest On Record**, *Bloomberg, December 3*

European Union corn imports may be the second-highest on record this season after drought parched crops and a surge in wheat exports curbed domestic grain supply. The extra supplies are most likely to come from Ukraine and South America. The planting of Brazil's second corn crop in January and February may be delayed after dry weather postponed soybean sowing this year. The U.S., Argentina, Brazil and Ukraine are the largest corn exporters.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-04/european-corn-imports-seen-expanding-to-second-highest-on-record.html>

**Libya Pays Extra For Food Imports As Sellers Fear Disarray**, *Reuters, December 3*

Libya is having to pay extra for food imports and traders say some foreign firms are diverting shipments elsewhere due to fears - dismissed as unfounded by Tripoli - that growing disarray in the country could delay payments. Libya's main grains buyers are the Matahan agencies in Tripoli and Benghazi, which issue tenders and sell milled goods to the state agency that ensures stable food prices through subsidies. While this process gives some protection to Libyans, the higher import prices will be costly for the subsidy mechanism. There are also smaller private buyers.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/03/libya-trade-idUSL5E8MU51520121203>

**Position Limits Split Traders And Regulators**, *Financial Times, December 1*

The debate around commodities speculation is proving a heavy burden for asset managers and investors worldwide as they struggle to cope with slow-burning regulation. Regulators in the US and Europe have paid close attention to commodities trading since the 2008 financial crisis as food shortages and soaring oil prices intensified the debate on speculation and cash prices. Speculative bubbles certainly can and do cause financial crises, as was the case in 2007 and 2008, when food prices were at record highs and oil reached \$147 per barrel.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/31bf233e-38aa-11e2-981c-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Eilk8TLa>

**New Norm High Food Costs Boost Supply Risk As World Hunger Grows**, *Bloomberg, November 29*

High and volatile global food prices have become the "new norm," creating increased risk for supplies at a time when 12 percent of the population remains chronically undernourished. Weather will play a large role in determining food prices in the near future, along with the cost of fuel and export competition. While costs have dropped in recent months, fats and oils still are 12 percent more expensive than a year earlier, and grains are "very close" to the all-time high reached in 2008.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-30/new-norm-high-food-costs-boost-supply-risk-as-world-hunger-grows.html>

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**AGRIBUSINESS**

Reports:

**2012 Sustainability Progress Report**, *DuPont, December 2012*

DuPont is pioneering innovation in food science, devoting 62 percent of our research and development budget to unlocking solutions to help end hunger. We are invested in getting more food to more people, and providing healthier food options, to more people, for a better tomorrow.

<http://www2.dupont.com/inclusive-innovations/en-us/sites/default/files/DuPont%20Sustainability%20Report%202012%20111612.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Dupont Reports On Sustainability**, *Delaware Online, December 4*

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20121204/BUSINESS06/312040027/DuPont-reports-sustainability?>

Media Articles:

**PepsiCo Aims To Increase Contract Farming Of Potato**, *Business Standard, December 7*

PepsiCo India Holdings Private Limited is looking at increasing the contract farming of potato and doubling

its potato procurement to 480,000 tonne in five years. The company said it had reduced the ratio of water to beverages. Around nine years ago, for 1 ltr of beverage seven litres of water was used. This has now come down to 2.2 ltr of water and even less, he said.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/pepsico-aims-to-increase-contract-farmingpotato/494637/>

**Meet Dhanin Chearavanont, The Man Who Swooped In On Ping An**, *Financial Times*, December 6

Dhanin Chearavanont, the 73-year-old patriarch of the Charoen Pokphand group of companies, told a business gathering in Bangkok some months ago the time was right for Thai companies to go shopping abroad. CP Group has extensive and diverse interests ranging from telco operator True to agribusiness company CP Foods, its Thai-listed flagship agribusiness, and convenience store operator CP All. The question is why CP Group would make such a bold entry into China's insurance market – as large and vibrant as it is.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2012/12/06/meet-dhanin-chearavanont-the-man-who-swooped-in-on-ping-an/>

**Olam Faces Questions Despite Fundraising**, *Financial Times*, December 5

Is Olam, the Singapore agribusiness, out of the woods? Two weeks into a bruising battle against US short seller Carson Block, the company has won the backing of Temasek, Singapore's state investment agency, for a \$1.25bn bond and warrants issue, via a rights offering. It is designed to remove any lingering worries about short-term liquidity. And as votes of confidence go, it is the best that Olam could have hoped for.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/99fc7fec-3eb7-11e2-a095-00144feabdc0.html>

**Monsanto to Resume Collection of Soybean Royalties in Brazil**, *Bloomberg*, December 4

Monsanto, the world's biggest seed company, will resume collecting royalties for its Roundup Ready soybeans in Brazil while it appeals a state court ruling there on intellectual property rights. The Court of Justice in Mato Grosso ruled that collections in the state can resume, St. Louis-based Monsanto said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-04/monsanto-to-resume-collection-of-soybean-royalties-in-brazil.html>

**For The Food And Drink Industry, Water Security Is No Small Beer**, *Guardian*, December 4

The case is particularly clear when it comes to agriculture, which of all global sectors is by far the largest user of water. Addressing these supply-side risks calls for innovation. Experiments in drought-resilient crops provide a case in point. PepsiCo, for example, is researching water-efficient varieties of potato for use in crisp manufacture. In a similar vein, General Mills has been pioneering an advanced drip irrigation system with broccoli and cauliflower growers in Mexico.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/localism-water-security-food-drink-industry>

**ADM Ups Pressure On Australia's GrainCorp With \$2.9 Bln Bid**, *Reuters*, December 3

U.S. agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland Co tightened its grip on GrainCorp Ltd, hiking its bid to \$2.9 billion and buying more shares, but may need to offer more to win over Australia's last major independent grains handler. GrainCorp is the last available independent asset of scale in Australia, the world's second-largest wheat exporter and an attractive market due to stable policies and good links to Asia.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/04/graincorp-adm-idUSL1E8N3G6Y20121204>

**SEE ALSO: Archer Bid May Grow On GrainCorp**, *Wall Street Journal*, December 5

GrainCorp would be a useful addition to Archer's business. Australia is one of the world's top wheat exporters and GrainCorp operates seven out of the eight grain ports in eastern Australia. That could give Archer good access to growing markets in Asia and Africa.

<http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324640104578160532103280150.html>

**VIDEO: Godiva Partners With FEED Projects On World Hunger**, *Bloomberg*, November 29

James Goldman, chief executive officer of Godiva, and Lauren Bush Lauren, a niece of President George W. Bush who is co-founder FEED Projects, talk about the chocolate maker's philanthropic efforts and world hunger. They speak with Trish Regan on Bloomberg Television's "Taking Stock."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/video/godiva-partners-with-feed-projects-on-world-hunger-jTQU~v48SySTvA3i0fxmw.html>

**Pioneer Proposes \$50 Million Expansion In Johnston**, *Des Moines Register*, November 15

DuPont Pioneer proposes investing \$50.4 million in new office, lab and greenhouse space in Johnston, one of several recent expansions for the growing seed company. Pioneer, with about one-third of the North American corn and soybean seed market, proposes investing \$13 million in construction and equipment, and \$9.4 million to lease space. An estimated \$28 million will be spent on research and development.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20121115/BUSINESS01/121115020/Pioneer-proposes-50-million-expansion-in-Johnston?>