



THE CHICAGO COUNCIL  
ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## Global Food For Thought

Global Agricultural Development Initiative  
Weekly News Brief



December 8<sup>th</sup> – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Quote of the Week:** *"The potential global crisis over food production is less well understood. Whereas research is opening many new frontiers in the energy sphere, the productivity of global agriculture will not keep up with projected food demand unless many countries change their policies. This starts with a much wider embrace of agriculture technology, including genetically modified techniques. The risks of climate change intensify this imperative."* - Senator Richard Lugar, Valedictory Senate Floor Speech, December 12, 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 Global Partnerships Act Of 2012**, *Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 2012*

The Global Partnerships Act of 2012 replaces the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which serves as the foundation for U.S. international aid programs, as well as the Arms Export Control Act, which contains additional authorities for arms sales and military assistance. This bill modernizes the full spectrum of overseas programs, from development to democracy to security assistance.

<http://democrats.foreignaffairs.house.gov/contact.asp?issue=15>

**SEE ALSO: Full Bill Text**, *U.S. Congress*

<http://democrats.foreignaffairs.house.gov/112/GPA112/HR6644.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Leading Democrat Calls Foreign Aid System Outmoded**, *NPR, December*

A leading House Democrat closing out three decades in Congress says a new structure to provide U.S.

assistance worldwide is long overdue, and he has a plan.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=167064055>

**Resource Futures, Chatham House Report, December 2012**

The world is undergoing a period of intensified resource stress, driven in part by the scale and speed of demand growth from emerging economies and a decade of tight commodity markets. Poorly designed and short-sighted policies are also making things worse, not better. In the case of food, the world remains only one or two bad harvests away from another global crisis. Lower prices in the meantime may simply trigger another bout of resource binge, especially in the large and growing developing countries.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/187947>

**SEE ALSO: Nationalism A Threat To Commodity Prices, Financial Times, December 10**

Resource nationalism is making commodity prices more volatile and threatens global security, warns Chatham House, the think-tank. It says “every country for itself” resource grabs mean that markets do not respond properly to higher prices, threatening trade wars, environmental degradation and famine in poorer countries unless the world finds new ways to govern resources.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/5eb377e6-41ab-11e2-a517-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Exjcf9N7>

**SEE ALSO: Governments Must Tackle Sharp Commodity Price Swings – Think Tank, Reuters, December 10**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/10/commodities-volatility-idUSL5E8NA7G520121210>

**Senator Richard G. Lugar Valedictory Floor Speech, U.S. Senate, December 12**

In a few weeks, I will leave the Senate for new pursuits that will allow me to devote much deeper attention to a number of issues that have been a part of my Senate service. Among these are preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and developing more efficient ways to feed the world.

<http://lugar.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=338102&>

**Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds, National Intelligence Council, December 10**

We believe that two other megatrends will shape our world out to 2030: demographic patterns, especially rapid aging; and growing resource demands, which, in the case of food and water, might lead to scarcities. Demand for these resources will grow substantially owing to an increase in the global population. Tackling problems pertaining to one commodity will be linked to supply and demand for others.

<http://globaltrends2030.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/global-trends-2030-november2012.pdf>

**SEE ALSO: Pax Americana ‘Winding Down,’ Says US Report, Financial Times, December 10**

China will be the world’s largest economy by 2030 but the US will still remain “first among equals” in the international system, according to a new US government intelligence assessment of global trends. Climate change and water shortages meant that food prices were likely to continue rising.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/4031c202-42f3-11e2-aa8f-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2Exjcf9N7>

**SEE ALSO: U.S. Intelligence Agencies See A Different World In 2030, Bloomberg, December 10**

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-10/u-s-intelligence-agencies-see-a-different-world-in-2030.html>

**SEE ALSO: Developing World to Overshadow the West by 2030, Study Says, IPS, December 10**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/developing-world-to-overshadow-the-west-by-2030-study-says/>

**How Africa's First Commodity Exchange Revolutionized Ethiopia's Economy, Guardian, December 13**

Eleni Gabre-Madhin is taking a different approach. Concerned by a 2002 famine in her home country of Ethiopia that followed bumper crops in 2000 and 2001, the Stanford-educated economist decided it was time to go beyond food production and take a hard look at distribution. The result? Africa’s first commodity exchange. As the founder and outgoing CEO of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange, Gabre-Madhin established a reliable interface for buyers and sellers to meet.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/13/africa-commodity-exchange-ethiopia-economy>

**China On A Cereal Buying Spree, Financial Times, December 13**

The industry has quietly started to acknowledge that China is in the midst of a structural shift as it becomes a

net importer of grains. Until recently, China only imported small amounts of premium-grade rice, minor quantities of wheat and almost no corn, insisting on self-sufficiency. Already the world's biggest importer of soybeans, China is now adding cereals such as corn, wheat, barley and rice to its shopping list. The shift could have profound implications for global food markets because China's total demand for grains is vast relative to the size of globally traded markets.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/bcd9034a-42f0-11e2-aa8f-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2ExjCF9N7>

**SEE ALSO: Rice Imports By China Set to Jump Fourfold On Local Prices**, *Bloomberg*, December 12

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-12/rice-imports-by-china-set-to-jump-fourfold-on-local-prices-1-.html>

**The Farming Forecast Calls For Change**, *Opinion, Bruce Campbell, New York Times*, December 12

Thus it is curious that most of the conversation surrounding climate change — how the weather has been modified by industrial activity — revolves around reducing emissions and not on how to modify agriculture to new weather conditions. Strikingly, though, there was a lack of consensus on addressing agricultural adaptation. Efforts to implement a formal program that addresses the dire problem of food security ended without agreement and the issue was punted to June for additional discussion. Many governments are not waiting for an international consensus before taking action.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/13/opinion/global/the-farming-forecast-calls-for-change.html>

**How To Feed The Future**, *IRIN*, December 12

Scientists anticipate there will be nine billion people in the world to feed by 2050. As this number rises, so will the earth's temperature, which is expected to increase four degrees Celsius by the end of the century, wreaking havoc on the world's food production. In many ways, food availability and access depends on consumption patterns. Diets containing a lot of meat are notoriously demanding of resources, with large amounts of grains and farmlands dedicated to raising livestock rather than growing food crops.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/97027/FOOD-How-to-feed-the-future>

**Reshaping The Future Of Cocoa In Africa**, *Emma Bryce, New York Times*, December 11

Seventy percent of the world's cocoa now comes from West Africa. Aside from scant agricultural training, weak infrastructure and diseases like black pod that threaten the trees, the West African cocoa farmers are hobbled by the size of their plots. Most are small-scale and family-run, spread across just a few acres. Yet it's the contrast between the chocolate appetite of the affluent West and the struggles of small-scale African farmers that "brings out the passion" for those seeking change.

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/reshaping-the-future-of-cocoa-in-africa/>

**Tightest Corn Crop Since '74 As Goldman Sees Rally: Commodities**, *Bloomberg*, December 11

Three consecutive years of smaller U.S. corn harvests are driving inventories of the world's most-consumed grain to a 39-year low and spurring Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to predict that prices will rise near record highs. Global consumption will exceed supply for the second time in three years, even as a faltering economy erodes demand by 1.7 percent to 862.52 million tons in the season ending Oct. 1.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-11/tightest-corn-crop-since-74-as-goldman-sees-rally-commodities.html>

**Interview with Dr. Klaus Kraemer on Tackling Malnutrition and Micronutrient Deficiencies**, *Global Food for Thought*, December 12

The 2012 Copenhagen Consensus panel of experts ranked providing micronutrients to preschoolers as the single smartest way to allocate global aid dollars, with every \$1 spent generating \$30 in benefits—an astounding return on investment. Investing in nutrition can also raise a country's GDP by at least 2 – 3 percent. When children are properly nourished, they can grow up to be healthy and productive, helping to lift their communities—and their countries—out of poverty. The link is clear, and so tackling malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies has to become a global focus if we are to address poverty.

<http://bit.ly/VArGGi>

**Information Is Power, But Is it Powerful Enough to Halt Climate Change?**, *Opinion, Katy Wilson, Global Food for Thought Blog*, December 10

In a world where almost one billion people are chronically hungry and the current and future state of food security is beset by challenges such as climate change, knowledge and information are powerful. Powerful in terms of understanding the problems, in terms of deriving solutions and in terms of advocating where, how and when decision makers need to act.

<http://bit.ly/TYvjqa>

**Mozambique's 'Growth Corridor' Hopes To Tackle Poverty And Turn A Profit**, *Guardian*, December 10

The marriage of capitalism and poverty reduction is being consummated in a freshly painted office on the first floor of a block of flats in the center of Maputo. "If we do not invest in our smallholder farmers, then poverty will always be around us. I believe you can have a vibrant small farming sector underpinned by the commercial sector," said Emerson Zhou, the executive director of the Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor. But activists such as those in the Mozambican National Peasants' Union are weary.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/10/mozambique-growth-corridor-poverty>

**UN: 'Land Grab' Deals Hurt Local Farmers**, *VOA News*, December 7

Controversial farmland deals in developing countries can have a negative impact on the people who live on the land, according to a new U.N. report. While investment in agriculture is essential to help developing countries reduce hunger and poverty, the FAO says these large-scale "land grabs" don't always help. The surging global demand for food, fodder and fuel crops is driving a land rush in parts of the developing world.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/un-report-land-grab-deals-hurt-locals/1560599.html>

**This I Believe: Agricultural Science And Genetics**, *Opinion*, M.S. Swaminathan, *Frontiers*, December 5

I am confident that the science of molecular genetics developed during the last 60 years will not only help humankind to face the challenges to sustainable food security arising from climate change, but will also help to overcome diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and cancer. Thus, the use of the tools of molecular genetics based on a careful and transparent analysis of the risks and benefits by a competent regulatory agency will help us to enter into an era of biohappiness based on the intelligent application of genetics to human well-being.

[http://www.frontiersin.org/Plant\\_Genetics\\_and\\_Genomics/10.3389/fgene.2012.00282/full](http://www.frontiersin.org/Plant_Genetics_and_Genomics/10.3389/fgene.2012.00282/full)

**Energy Efficiency And Diversification Can Increase Access To Energy And Food Security**, *Opinion*, Jose Graziano da Silva, December 12

Agricultural and energy markets are closely intertwined in a relationship that has grown stronger over time as agricultural productivity has increased through mechanisation, fertilization and increased trade. Globally, the agrifood chain utilizes 30 percent of world available energy with 70 percent of that use coming after the farm gate.

<http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blogs/12-12-13-day-4-energy-efficiency-diversification-increase-access-energy-food-security>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**U.S. Nonemergency Food Aid Programs Have Similar Objectives But Some Planning Helps Limit Overlap**, *GAO*, December 12

USAID and USDA share broad objectives for nonemergency food aid programs; however, the agencies have established some planning processes to limit overlap in these programs. We also found that USAID and USDA nonemergency food aid programs shared common geographic focus areas in which they implemented similar activities.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-141R>

**Follow-up on the Haiti Earned Import Allowance Program**, *GAO*, December 14

This report responds to a mandate in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, which requires GAO to review EIAP annually and conduct an evaluation of the program. We issued our first report under this mandate in June 2010 and a second report in November 2011. This review follows up on the extent to which the EIAP is currently being utilized, as well as trends and developments over the past year.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-219R>

**Remarks By Hillary Clinton For Caribbean Event On Rule Of Law And Ending Gender-Based Violence, State Department, December 12**

Gender-based violence is not cultural, it is criminal. And it must be treated as a crime, with the entire legal system working together to prevent and prosecute these crimes. It starts with having the right laws in place. And these laws need to be implemented to hold people accountable and address impunity. I am grateful to all of you for shining a light on these important issues – and coming up with concrete new ways to end this terrible scourge.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/12/201921.htm>

**Remarks By Administrator Rajiv Shah At The USAID Townhall Meeting, USAID, December 11**

To elevate the role of development, President Obama and Secretary Clinton set forth a different vision for this Agency than the previous administration had advanced. Over the course of the last few years, you have not only delivered against these high expectations, you have pioneered a new model of development. Over the last several months, we've taken a number of steps to address core management challenges. We heard we needed to improve our communications. We are rolling out a number of new efforts and tools to help address this concern, including our first-ever agency-wide Acquisition and Assistance Plan.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/speeches/remarks-administrator-rajiv-shah-usaid-townhall-meeting>

**Albanian Farmers Weather Changing Economic Environment, Opinion, Jim Barnhart, USAID Impact Blog, December 12**

I was very pleased to sign a Development Credit Authority agreement with two local banks. It is our hope that our \$15 million dollar loan guarantee will help to lower barriers to credit, and encourage banks to offer appropriate loan products to enterprising farmers. This marks a logical transition for USAID Albania to move from traditional technical assistance towards sustainable, private-sector led growth in the sector.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/12/albanian-farmers-weather-changing-economic-environment/>

**USAID Reforms Aim To Strengthen Local Institutions And Systems, Opinion, Susan Reichle, Guardian, December 7**

Since taking office, USAID administrator Rajiv Shah has initiated a series of reforms under USAid Forward to create new approaches to development by working directly through local systems to improve sustainable results. While this approach comes with its own set of challenges, it requires a change in mindset – from both inside and outside USAID – which includes a willingness to manage risk and to focus on the long term. The challenges notwithstanding, I am optimistic that these reforms to USAid's development model will succeed.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development-professionals-network/2012/dec/07/usaid-development-local-systems?>

**Remarks By Administrator Rajiv Shah To The CGIAR Board Of Directors, USAID, December 7**

If we're going to take a serious, focused approach to transforming agriculture to meet the challenges of the this century, we must fundamentally change the way we work to scale up a range of technologies that we know will have a lasting impact. We must focus on maximizing impact and holding ourselves accountable. I'm pleased to announce a new competitive exchange program that's designed to encourage U.S. university scientists collaborate with CGIAR scientists around the world.

<http://usaid.gov/news-information/speeches/remarks-administrator-rajiv-shah-cgiar-board-directors>

**US Government Action Plan for Children in Adversity: A Framework for International Assistance: 2012-2017, U.S. Government, December 2012**

<http://www.sfcg.org/programmes/childrenandyouth/pdf/WNCAC101012.pdf>

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**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:

#### **Public Expenditures For Agricultural And Rural Development In Africa, IFPRI, December 2012**

The book brings together recent analysis on the trends in, and returns to, public spending for agricultural growth and rural development in Africa. Case studies of selected African countries provide insights on the contributions of different types of public expenditures for poverty, growth and welfare outcomes, as well as insights into the constraints in gaining development mileage from investments in the agricultural sector.  
<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/public-expenditures-agricultural-and-rural-development-africa>

#### **Catalyzing Smallholder Agricultural Finance, Dalberg, September 2012**

This report identifies five primary growth pathways for deploying investment to address smallholder finance demand: (i) replicate and scale existing financing models; (ii) innovate new financial products beyond short-term export trade finance; (iii) finance out-grower schemes of multinational buyers in captive value chains; (iv) finance through alternate points of aggregation in the value chain; and (v) finance directly to farmers.  
[http://dalberg.com/documents/Catalyzing\\_Smallholder\\_Ag\\_Finance.pdf](http://dalberg.com/documents/Catalyzing_Smallholder_Ag_Finance.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: Catalyzing Smallholder Agricultural Finance, Opinion, Andrew Stern, Tom Carroll, and Dan Zook, Skoll World Forum, December 10**  
<http://skollworldforum.org/2012/12/10/catalyzing-smallholder-agricultural-finance/>

### Media Articles:

#### **IFAD Grant of U.S. \$17.28 Million to Boost National Food Security in Eritrea, AllAfrica.com, December 14**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development will provide a US\$17.28 million grant to the State of Eritrea to help improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers with a particular focus on women in the country. The agricultural sector in Eritrea employs nearly 60 percent of the active population and contributes 24 percent to the country's gross domestic product.  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201212141146.html>

#### **A Less Risky Business, Opinion, Shenggen Fan, December 12**

While smallholder farmers in emerging economies like China and Vietnam may have an opportunity to increase their farm size they will remain small in many parts of the developing world. They are central to global food security and poverty reduction, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. However, like all farmers, they are affected by two global shocks: climate change and increasing volatility of agricultural commodity prices.  
<http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/blogs/12-12-11-less-risky-business-helping-small-farmers-cope-market-climate-risks>

#### **Brazil On The Offensive To Clear Name Over Mad Cow, Reuters, December 10**

Brazil is launching a diplomatic offensive to defend its huge beef industry and clarify details of an 'atypical

case' of mad cow disease that prompted its top customer, Russia, to consider import restrictions after Japan suspended purchases altogether. The World Organization for Animal Health maintains Brazil's status of having an "insignificant risk" of BSE, Brazilian officials said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/10/japan-brazil-beef-idUSL1E8NA77M20121210>

**SEE ALSO: Brazil To Avert Further Beef Import Suspensions**, *Bloomberg*, December 13

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-13/brazil-to-avert-further-beef-import-suspensions-official-says.html>

**The End Of Pasta**, *Newsweek*, December 10

A large, growing body of scientific studies and real-world observations suggest that wheat will be hit especially hard as temperatures rise and storms and drought intensify in the years ahead. Wheat stands to fare the worst in the years ahead, for it is the grain most vulnerable to high temperatures. By 2050, wheat production in that period could decline between 23 and 27 percent.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/12/09/bakken-oil-boom-and-climate-change-threaten-the-future-of-pasta.html>

**Agricultural Revolution**, *Editorial*, *Telegraph*, December 10

As has become abundantly clear in the intervening years, GM food is not just safe, but holds out the last, best hope of feeding an ever more crowded planet. In declaring Europe, in effect, a GM-free zone, the EU has done nothing more than put our farmers and researchers at a grave disadvantage, as their counterparts elsewhere have seized on its promise.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/9734939/Agricultural-revolution.html>

**Seralini Paper Influences Kenya Ban Of GMO Imports**, *Opinion*, *Emily Willingham*, *Forbes*, December 9

Kenya's government has banned GMOs from entering the country, a move that reports say could result in a big negative impact on the country's plans for biotechnology research and development. Perhaps most problematic of all, any GM corn/soy blend-containing food assistance to the country for emergency feeding programs would now, under the decree, be excluded. Now Nigeria's president, Goodluck Jonathan, also is reported to be reconsidering a pending biotechnology bill out of renewed concerns over GM technology.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/emilywillingham/2012/12/09/seralini-paper-influences-kenya-ban-of-gmo-imports/>

**Food Safety Group Calls For Court To Limit GMO Seed Patents**, *Reuters*, December 10

In its brief, the Center for Food Safety said the current intellectual property environment related to transgenic crops has spurred a substantial privatization and concentration of the world's seed supply that has resulted in 10 multinational corporations holding approximately 65 percent of commercial seed for major crops.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/10/us-monsanto-lawsuit-idUSBRE8B917T20121210>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Reports:

**DFID's Oversight Of The EU's Aid To Low-Income Countries**, *Independent Commission for Aid Impact*, December 11

The ICAI Report found that DFID had a clear focus for its engagement with the EU, with evidence of DFID influencing EU policy. DFID, however, does not have the same level of assurance as it has from other multilateral partners such as the World Bank. This is important, given the substantial scale of the UK's contribution and the limited discretion the UK has about the EU as a route for aid.

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/2012/12/11/icai-report-on-dfids-oversight-of-the-eus-aid-to-low-income-countries/>

**SEE ALSO: Aid Watchdog Says Tighter Control Needed Over UK Contribution To EU Aid**, *Guardian*, December 11

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/11/aid-watchdog-control-uk-eu>

**2012 Progress Report: Children in Crisis in the Sahel**, UNICEF, December 2012

The Sahel continues to present a challenging environment for realizing children's rights. Food security is threatened by desertification, droughts and other disasters, population pressures and frequent shifts in staple food prices.

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/UNICEF\\_SAHEL\\_EmrgRprt\\_11.12.12.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/UNICEF_SAHEL_EmrgRprt_11.12.12.pdf)

**SEE ALSO: 850,000 Children Treated In Sahel For Severe Acute Malnutrition In 2012**, UNICEF, December 11

A UNICEF progress report says that more than 850,000 children are expected to have received life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition across nine countries in the Sahel region during the course of 2012.

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_66651.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_66651.html)

Media Articles:

**SYRIA: Bread Shortages Rising**, IRIN, December 13

WFP said it was concerned about rising food insecurity in Syria, as violence affects supply lines and damages bakeries; and as people fleeing the violence increase demand in their areas of refuge. Already, WFP has had to cut rations from about 1,300 kilo-calories per person per day in May to about 1,000 in order to reach more people with the money it has. The WHO is concerned about malnutrition potentially becoming a problem.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/97036/SYRIA-Bread-shortages-rising>

**UNICEF Treats Record Number Of Sahel Children for Malnutrition**, VOA News, December 12

UNICEF says that aid agencies treated a record number of children in the Sahel for life-threatening severe acute malnutrition this year. An estimated 1.1 million children living in Africa's Sahel region suffered from severe acute malnutrition in 2012 as erratic rainfall and severe food shortages aggravated already high rates of chronic malnutrition. Undernourishment contributes to more than half of child deaths in the Sahel.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/unicef-treats-record-number-of-africa-sahel-children-for-malnutrition/1563662.html>

**Helping People Is Always Complicated – In Families, Welfare And In War**, Guardian, December 12

Humanitarian agencies are only one way of responding to war and atrocities. Local and international political actors have much greater responsibility to stop it. They often fail to stop the big crises, such as Syria, Darfur and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That humanitarian agencies can make even a small difference to people's lives in these protracted wars needs to be recognized and celebrated.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/dec/12/helping-people-complicated-families-welfare-war>

**Obamacare Everywhere: U.N. Votes In Favor Of Universal Health Coverage**, Washington Post, December 12

The resolution, which is backed by the United States, encourages governments to come up with systems that avoid direct payments at the point of delivery, include a way to prepay for financial contributions toward health care and a mechanism to pool risks among the population in order to avoid catastrophic expenses.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2012/12/12/united-nations-universal-healthcare/>

**SEE ALSO: UN Resolution: Global Health and Foreign Policy**, UN, December 6

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/L.36](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/L.36)

**Donors Pledge \$384 Million For Life-Saving UN Humanitarian Fund In 2013**, UN News Center, December 11

Donors responded to the UN call to support the emergency fund that is critical to saving the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the aftermath of disasters by pledging \$384 million for next year. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund is one of the world's largest sources of humanitarian funding. This year alone, CERF allocations totaling some \$465 million have made it possible to deliver humanitarian aid to 49 countries, including Syria, South Sudan, Haiti and Pakistan.

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43738&Cr=response+fund&Cr1=#.UMo5\\_az4K1h](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43738&Cr=response+fund&Cr1=#.UMo5_az4K1h)

**Privatizing Aid Is A Dangerous Strategy**, *Opinion, Olivier De Schutter, Guardian, December 11*

The very factors that make Africa a target for agricultural development aid also make it a promising land market for multinational investors. But opportunities should not be mistaken for solutions. Problems can arise when private companies take a central role in aid programmes. It is not necessarily a case of the programmes being ineffective – in many cases New Alliance-style investments will do just what they set out to do, and drive up food production. But what are the costs of this type of approach?

[www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/dec/11/privatising-aid-dangerous](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/dec/11/privatising-aid-dangerous)

**Food Aid Fattens Up Lobbyists**, *Opinion, Farah Stockman, The Boston Globe, December 11*

Each year, the United States spends more than \$1.5 billion feeding starving people overseas. But our charity comes with a catch: The food has to be bought in America, and much of it must be shipped on American ships. Researchers estimate that buying food closer to where needy people are costs about half as much. Christopher Barrett, a Cornell professor who studies food security, has an answer: About a dozen shipping lines and four giant agricultural corporations get the lion's share of the food aid business.

<http://bostonglobe.com/opinion/2012/12/11/better-feed-starving-people-stop-serving-lobbyists/O9BY29FNG4eztYFwji7bnO/story.html>

**UK Announces £75m Fund For Private-Sector Development Projects**, *Guardian, December 11*

The scheme aims to create wealth in some of the world's poorest countries through impact investment, a financial mechanism designed to generate demonstrable social benefits alongside income. Private investors are being invited to submit proposals to the CDC outlining what they intend to do, how much it will cost, and what the likely social and financial impact will be.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/11/uk-private-sector-development-projects>

**UN Officials Urge Support For Integrated Strategy To Tackle Crisis In Africa's Sahel Region**, *UN News Center, December 10*

Top UN officials called on the Security Council and the wider international community to support efforts to develop an integrated strategy to tackle the complex and multifaceted crisis facing the Sahel region of West Africa. The Secretary-General appointed former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi as his Special Envoy for the Sahel, and tasked him with shaping and mobilizing an effective UN and international response to the crisis in the region. Both Mr. Ban and Mr. Prodi acknowledged the need to address the crisis in Mali.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43726&Cr=sahel&Cr1=#.UMpGAaz4K1i>

**More UK Aid Channeled Via Investment Funds In Tax Haven Of Mauritius**, *Guardian, December 10*

Britain's aid budget for Africa is increasingly being channeled through public-private investment funds based in the offshore tax haven of Mauritius, despite David Cameron's recent commitment to tax justice for poor countries. The Department for International Development has sponsored a network of offshore investment funds and trusts in Mauritius for aid spending on infrastructure and agribusiness projects in Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/10/uk-aid-africa-tax-haven-mauritius>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Media Articles:

**Poll: Most Americans Say World Is Warming**, *USA Today, December 14*

Nearly 4 out of 5 Americans now think temperatures are rising and that global warming will be a serious problem for the United States if nothing is done about it, a new Associated Press-GfK poll finds. Overall, 78 percent of those surveyed said they thought temperatures were rising and 80 percent called it a serious problem. That's up slightly from 2009, when 75 percent thought global warming was occurring and just 73 percent thought it was a serious problem.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2012/12/14/climate-change-global-warming-rising-temperatures-poll/1769831/>

**Removal Of Poverty Must For Protection Of Environment: Pranab, Hindu, December 14**

Poverty eradication is of utmost importance to achieve truly sustainable growth, said President Pranab Mukherjee. Removal of poverty is, therefore, a prerequisite for the protection of the environment. The integration of agriculture with land, water management, and ecosystem conservation, is essential for both environmental sustainability and agricultural production, the President said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/removal-of-poverty-must-for-protection-of-environment-pranab/article4200771.ece>

**What If the World's Soil Runs Out?, Time, December 14**

There are two key issues. One is the loss of soil productivity. Under a business as usual scenario, degraded soil will mean that we will produce 30% less food over the next 20-50 years. This is against a background of projected demand requiring us to grow 50% more food, as the population grows and wealthier people in countries like China and India eat more meat, which takes more land to produce weight-for-weight than, say, rice. Second, water will reach a crisis point.

<http://world.time.com/2012/12/14/what-if-the-worlds-soil-runs-out/>

**Africa: Environment - Climate Change As a Contributing Factor Affecting Food Production, AllAfrica, December 13**

Environmental crises lead to drops in production of food crops but also in pastoral activities and climate change makes such crises recurrent thus becoming a big problem we face everyday. Climate change will affect all four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, food utilization and food systems stability.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201212140732.html>

**Philippines Pays Price For Climate Inaction, Opinion, David Pilling, Financial Times, December 12**

It is next to impossible to pin a specific weather event on the broader effects of climate change. High quality global journalism requires investment. The number of floods and severe storms to affect the archipelago has risen more than fivefold since the 1960s. Southeast Asia, it turns out, is one of the world's most vulnerable regions. Home to nearly 600m people, it has long coastlines, high population densities in coastal areas and a strong reliance on agriculture for livelihoods.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/1097f4de-444d-11e2-932a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2ExjcF9N7>

**Climate Treaty Hinges On Obama Making Case, Ex-Aides Say, Bloomberg, December 10**

One of the biggest things President Obama can do to fight global warming is to talk about it. While Obama is succeeding in shaping the international response to the issue, he hasn't said enough about it at home, said the officials. The U.S. joined in backing the consensus at the meeting, signaling its willingness to work toward a treaty that would bind all nations into mandatory cuts for fossil fuel emissions. Obama can't win Senate support for a treaty without making a public argument for it now.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-10/climate-treaty-hinges-on-obama-making-case-ex-aides-say.html>

**Qatar Proposes Climate Finance To Break UN Deadlock, Bloomberg, December 8**

The proposals included an extension to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and a call for industrial nations to channel at least as much annual aid for climate-related projects in developing countries as the average for the past three years. It suggests work next year on a mechanism that would insure against conditions that developing nations say they can't adapt to, including rising seas and droughts.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-08/qatar-proposes-climate-finance-conclusions-to-break-un-deadlock.html>

**Video: Cuba Looks To Marabu Weed For Fresh Power, BBC, December 7**

A British company has just signed the first foreign investment deal in Cuba in a long time - a project to build a renewable energy power plant, to run a sugar mill and power a wide area of housing and businesses. The plant will be powered by the marabu weed - which is currently strangling Cuban agriculture after taking over huge swathes of idle farmland.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-20640977>

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## **WOMEN & GIRLS**

### Reports:

#### **Policy Reform Toward Gender Equality In Ethiopia**, *IFPRI, December 12*

Having female members in the Land Administration Committee has a positive impact on attendance at meetings relating to land registration. In our analysis of the changes in the family law, we find that awareness about the land registration process is positively correlated with the shift in perceptions toward equal division of land and livestock upon divorce. The presence of female members in the LAC also has a positive effect on the shift in perceptions toward a more equal division of assets upon divorce.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/policy-reform-toward-gender-equality-ethiopia-0>

#### **Still a Long Way to Go: Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women in Afghanistan**, *UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, December 2012*

This report provides a synopsis of the situation of violence against women and trends in the Government's implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women through reported cases of violence against women at different stages of the judicial process for the period October 2011 to September 2012.

<http://unama.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Oy9mDiEa5Rw%3d&tabid=12254&language=en-US>

##### **SEE ALSO: Slow Gains in Justice for Afghan Women**, *New York Times, December 11*

The report noted that in some areas, government authorities appeared to be so reluctant to invite public attention that they reported no cases of abuse at all.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/12/world/asia/afghan-law-offering-abused-women-redress-makes-slow-gains.html?>

##### **SEE ALSO: UN: Afghan Women Better Off, but Abuse Lingers**, *VOA News, December 11*

<http://www.voanews.com/content/un-afghan-women-better-off-but-abuse-lingers/1562804.html>

#### **Global Burden Of Disease Study 2010**, *The Lancet, December 13*

The results show that infectious diseases, maternal and child illness, and malnutrition now cause fewer deaths and less illness than they did twenty years ago. As a result, fewer children are dying every year, but more young and middle-aged adults are dying and suffering from disease and injury, as non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, become the dominant causes of death and disability worldwide.

<http://www.thelancet.com/themed/global-burden-of-disease>

##### **SEE ALSO: Life Expectancy Rises Around The World, Study Finds**, *New York Times, December 13*

The shift reflects improvements in sanitation, medical services and access to food throughout the developing world, as well as the success of broad public health efforts like vaccine programs. The results are dramatic: infant mortality has declined by more than half between 1990 and 2010, and malnutrition, the No. 1 risk factor for death and years of life lost in 1990, has fallen to No. 8.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/14/health/worlds-population-living-longer-new-report-suggests.html>

### Media Articles:

#### **Nigeria Votes US\$20 Million To Create Jobs For Women In 2013**, *Star Africa, December 13*

Okonjo-Iweala said the Federal Ministry of Water Resources is to provide 240 sanitation facilities across the country to be managed by women and girls. She recalled that the President, in his 2013 budget, said that five million female farmers would get mobile phones in 2013 to access information on agro-inputs through an e-wallet scheme.

<http://en.starafrika.com/news/nigeria-votes-us20-million-to-create-jobs-for-women-in-2013.html>

#### **To End Hunger In Africa, We Must Put Women At The Center Of Agricultural Growth**, *Opinion, Sheila Sisulu, Skoll World Forum, December 12*

To improve economic growth and agricultural productivity, we must put women, particularly women

farmers, at the center of efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Realizing the productive potential of women is essential, as gender inequality is both a significant cause and an effect of hunger. To kick-start this process, WFP has teamed up with UN Women, FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to develop a five-year strategy to empower rural women in seven countries.

<http://skollworldforum.org/2012/12/12/to-end-hunger-in-africa-we-must-put-women-at-the-centre-of-agricultural-growth/>

**Interview with Lakshmi Puri: The Challenges of Women's Empowerment and Equality**, *IPS, December 11*

603 million women around the world still live in countries where domestic violence is not a crime, and up to seven in ten women are targeted for physical or sexual violence, or both. One organization that has worked for the past two years to protect and empower women is U.N. Women. Lakshmi Puri, deputy executive director of the organization, described what it has achieved so far.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/qa-the-challenges-of-womens-empowerment-and-equality/>

**Women Out Loud**, *Opinion, Michelle Bachelet, Michel Sidibe, and Jennifer Gatsi Mallet, IPS, December 11*

Getting to zero will require accelerated action for women and girls in a number of key areas. First, women and girls, in all their diversity, must be equipped with the knowledge and power to protect themselves from HIV and violence. To that end, gender equality, economic empowerment and women's rights – in particular, their sexual and reproductive rights – are non-negotiable elements of effective HIV responses.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/op-ed-women-out-loud/>

**When Women Drive Economic Growth**, *Opinion, Melanne Vermeer, State Department, December 8*

Given the overwhelming evidence of women being a force behind growth, the U.S.-backed regional women's entrepreneurship symposium in Dhaka must be used to find solutions to the barriers they face. We must develop innovative policies and broker partnerships across sectors and national borders to harness this underutilized potential for growth.

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2012/201938.htm>

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

**The Quiet Revolution In Staple Food Value Chains**, *IFPRI, December 13*

Major changes have been occurring almost unnoticed in staple value chains in Asia. The Quiet Revolution in Staple Food Value Chains documents and explains the transformation of value chains moving rice and potatoes between the farm gate and the consumer in Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, and India. The changes noted are the rapid rise of supermarkets, modern cold storage facilities, large rice mills, and commercialized small farmers using input-intensive, mechanized technologies.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/quiet-revolution-staple-food-value-chains>

### Media Articles:

**Saudi Investor Ties Up With Russian Farmer To Sell Grain**, *Reuters, December 13*

A Saudi Arabian investment company has set up a joint venture with SAHO, a Siberian grain producer, to ship Russian wheat and barley to the Middle East and North Africa. Russia, with abundant farmland and fresh water, is seen as a natural target for Saudi investments aimed at food security, but rivalry on oil and gas, a 2010 ban on Russian grain exports and, more recently, disagreements over Syria have stymied investment flows. The kingdom, the largest foreign buyer of Russian barley, imported about 2.5 million tonnes of grain from Russia in the 2011/2012 crop year.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/13/russia-saudi-grain-idUSL5E8ND9J20121213>

**In Rajasthan, Guar Farmers Wait For A Return To Boom Times**, *New York Times, December 13*

Sanjay Pareek, vice president of Vikas WSP, one of the world's largest guar processing companies, said in an

interview that this year's crop was not as large as many had hoped because of the late arrival of monsoon rains. Prices have since risen modestly, and farmers have earned adequate profit. Still, many farmers have yet to sell their crops because they still hope that the kind of boom that enriched so many last year will recur. <http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/13/in-rajasthan-guar-farmers-wait-for-a-return-to-boom-times/>

**U.S. Import Prices Post Biggest Fall In Five Months, Reuters, December 12**

U.S. import prices recorded the biggest drop in five months in November as food and fuel costs tumbled, keeping inflation pressures subdued against the backdrop of a weak economy. The Labor Department said import prices fell 0.9 percent after three straight months of gains. The global economy is restraining prices here and abroad. This indicates global demand is soft and will remain soft in the near term. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/12/usa-economy-prices-idUSL1E8NC2LQ20121212>

**SENEGAL: Casamance Peanut Farmers Threaten To Block Exports, IRIN, December 12**

Peanut farmers and peanut oil producers in Senegal's southern province of Casamance have threatened to block exports of locally grown peanuts, saying there are insufficient nuts for the home market, and that such a move will affect local livelihoods. Peanuts have been available for export for two years, but producers are concerned that exports are set to soar given increased interest from buyers in China, Russia and Korea. <http://www.irinnews.org/Report/97025/SENEGAL-Casamance-peanut-farmers-threaten-to-block-exports>

**Gulf States Held Back By Volatility, Financial Times, December 12**

For the past four decades, the Gulf Cooperation Council states have shown remarkable economic growth, yet they are still challenged by a volatility they need to eradicate if they are to diversify away from oil and become powerhouse emerging economies. The marked decline of the dollar in the years leading to the financial crisis coupled with the rise in GCC government spending and rising world food prices led to increased imported inflation reaching over 11% in 2008. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/4ba098dc-446c-11e2-952a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2ExjCF9N7>

**France Accepts EU Farm Budget To Be Cut – Minister, Reuters, December 12**

France accepts that European Union farm aid will be cut when national leaders meet early next year in a new bid to agree the bloc's budget through to 2020. France's determination to maintain a high level of spending on farm subsidies and other agricultural credits was one reason why EU leaders failed to reach agreement on a new budget for 2014-2020 worth around one trillion euros late last month. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/12/france-eu-agriculture-idUSL5E8NBFZV20121212>

**Brazil Agriculture Swaps To Bartering, Financial Times, December 12**

Suppliers to the agricultural industry are conducting up to 40 percent of their business by old-fashioned barter in Brazil and eyeing plans to take the system to Russia and other parts of the globe. The shift towards swapping seeds and fertilizers for crops comes as agrochemical manufacturers and other suppliers seek to plug financing gaps in the farm-to-fork chain. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/d3532ef6-3fd6-11e2-b0ce-00144feabdc0.html>

**Hungary Says Feed Maize Contains Toxin, Tightens Control, Reuters, December 10**

Hungary has tightened controls on maize designated as feed for dairy cows after discovering that some of the 2012 crop was contaminated by a toxin released by parasitical fungi. No people have yet been poisoned by the M1 variant of aflatoxin, a potentially carcinogenic product of the Aspergillus fungi species, and samples analysed from milk available to consumers have all been negative. Serbia's Agriculture Ministry said early this month that a severe drought this year may have contributed to an increased presence of aflatoxin. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/10/hungary-maize-idUSL5E8NACY620121210>

**Wheat Set To Climb As Drought Cuts Global Crop, Australia Says, Bloomberg, December 10**

Wheat prices may climb 20 percent in the year through June as drought threatens crops from the U.S. to Russia, boosting global supply concerns, said last year's second-biggest exporter. World food prices, while down 11 percent from a record in February 2011, were the highest ever on average during the past two years and more than doubled in the past decade, according to the UN FAO in Rome. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-11/wheat-set-to-climb-as-drought-cuts-global-crop-australia->

[says.html](#)

**U.S. Seeks China Action On Meat, Other Barriers To Market Access**, *Reuters, December 10*

The United States is looking for action from China next week on market-access barriers blocking U.S. meat and other products and also for stronger protection of intellectual property rights. Senior U.S. lawmakers said they were concerned that China continues to move away from market-based reforms and is more deeply embracing an economic model dominated by state-owned enterprises, World Trade Organization-inconsistent subsidies and economic protectionism.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/10/usa-china-trade-idUSL1E8NAA3M20121210>

**Cuba's Free-Market Farm Experiment Yields A Meager Crop**, *New York Times, December 8*

President Castro has made agriculture priority No. 1. The agriculture exchange, which sprang up last year after the Cuban government legalized a broader range of small businesses, is a vivid sign of both how much the country has changed, and of all the political and practical limitations that continue to hold it back. Yet at this point the project has failed.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/09/world/americas/changes-to-agriculture-highlight-cubas-problems.html?>

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**AGRIBUSINESS**

Media Articles:

**Why Africa's Agribusiness Sector Holds Potential For Private Equity**, *How We Made It in Africa, December 13*

The continent's GDP is on course to expand by 4.8% in 2012 and the acceleration in Africa's growth over the past 10 years reflects material improvements in political stability and the business environment. Moreover, Africa is the world's fastest urbanizing region and its population is forecast to increase by 60% over the next four decades.

<http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/why-africas-agribusiness-sector-holds-potential-for-private-equity/22839/>

**GrainCorp Rejects Higher ADM Offer**, *Financial Times, December 13*

Sydney-based GrainCorp said the new offer of A\$12.20 per share had "not changed the board's view" that ADM's proposal "materially undervalues" the grain handler. GrainCorp is one of the few midsized international grain merchants left after a consolidation spree this year. The company handles 90 per cent of eastern Australia's bulk grain exports through its seven storage and loading facilities.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/b0c99b08-44b9-11e2-8fd7-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2ExjcF9N7>

**SEE ALSO: GrainCorp Rejects Revised Archer Daniels Bid**, *New York Times, December 13*

GrainCorp of Australia rejected a \$2.9 billion revised takeover offer from the Archer Daniels Midland Company on Thursday, saying the bid undervalued the company.

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2012/12/13/graincorp-rejects-revised-archer-daniels-bid/>

**DuPont Curtails Spending Due To Fiscal Cliff**, *Reuters, December 12*

Chemical maker DuPont will spend less on capital projects next year than initially planned due to uncertainty about the U.S. "fiscal cliff." The company had planned to hike spending in the new year. Agriculture and nutrition projects may get more funding due to their growth potential, but there's some uncertainty in the automotive sector, where DuPont sells paints and plastics.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/12/us-dupont-spending-idUSBRE8BB1EF20121212>

**Global Institute For Food Security Launched**, *Ag Professional, December 12*

The Province of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan, and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. (PotashCorp) to develop Saskatchewan-led solutions to feed a growing world population. With initial commitments of up to C\$35-million from PotashCorp and C\$15-million from the province over the next seven years, the institute will apply Saskatchewan's unique resources, innovation and expertise to address the

increasing global demand for safe, reliable food.

<http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Global-Institute-for-Food-Security-launched-182994131.html>

**Tobacco Companies See Africa As Fertile Ground**, *Los Angeles Times, December 12*

Africa is Big Tobacco's last frontier, and companies are conquering the continent stick by stick. Tobacco use is declining in the developed world. It's reached a plateau in the strongest market, Asia. But it is growing in Africa, because of the continent's booming population and rapidly expanding middle class.

<http://www.latimes.com/health/la-fg-south-africa-smoking-20121213,0,4962406.story>

**Better Grain Export Infrastructure An Urgent Need – Bunge CEO**, *Reuters, December 11*

Major agricultural exporters need to urgently upgrade their networks of road, rail and waterways to prepare to feed a world population forecast to grow by one-third by mid-century. Food-exporting nations such as the US, Australia, Brazil and Russia all face constraints on transportation. The World Economic Forum has suggested the private-sector contributions to infrastructure will be essential given the immense needs worldwide and limited government funds.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/11/usa-agriculture-infrastructure-idUSL1E8NBE2720121211>

**DuPont Pioneer invests in Elverson local Denise Beam**, *TriCountry Record, December 11*

Agriculture faces a variety of challenges and opportunities in the near future including finding a way to feed a growing global population and replacing retiring leaders. In this environment, DuPont Pioneer sees great promise in the agriculture industry and is committed to training a new generation of agriculture leaders. One way Pioneer accomplishes this is supporting the Agriculture Future of America.

<http://www.tricountyrecord.com/article/20121211/NEWS01/121219945/dupont-pioneer-invests-in-elverson-local-denise-beam>

**Extended Release Regarding Yara Acquisition of Bunge's Fertilizer Business In Brazil**, *Reuters, December 11*

Yara and Bunge have also agreed to enter into a long-term fertilizer supply agreement, enabling Bunge to continue supplying fertilizer to farmers as part of its grain origination activities and creating a framework for logistics and other commercial activities. Brazil is a key growth market where there is significant further potential for acreage and yield increases and the acquisition creates a strong platform for future growth opportunities within the Brazilian fertilizer industry.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/11/idUS51092+11-Dec-2012+HUG20121211>

**Cargill to Buy Indian Cooking-Oil Brand**, *Wall Street Journal, December 10*

U.S. agribusiness giant Cargill Inc. said it has agreed to acquire the Sunflower brand of vanaspati cooking oil from India's Wipro Ltd. Wipro gets more than three-fourths of its revenue from information technology and is India's third-largest IT company by sales. The Bangalore-based company is in the process of separating its consumer-care and lighting-product business into a separate unit.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324478304578170981959315620.html>

**Fitch: EU Budget Debate To Set Tone For Agribusiness In 2013**, *Reuters, December 10*

A potentially fierce debate in the first weeks of 2013 over the future of the CAP and the broader EU budget will begin a year of high regulatory uncertainty for the European and CIS agribusiness sector. The agriculture sector will remain exposed to a high risk of regulatory intervention through changes in quotas and duties or other trade restrictions. This is particularly true in Ukraine because of potential shortfalls in crop production and the sensitivity of policy makers because soft commodity prices represent such a high proportion of basic consumer product costs.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/10/idUSWLB204920121210>