

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



February 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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**Quote of the Week:** *"Our global food security initiative is not just simply about providing assistance to countries because it is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do because it creates relationships that in turn lead to ultimate business opportunities."* – Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Remarks at USDA Outlook Conference, February 18, 2010.

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### KEY ARTICLES

**The Importance of Agriculture on Confronting Hunger, Poverty, and Unemployment in Haiti**, Cheryl Mills, Counselor and Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, *Huffington Post*, February 13

Both Haiti and hunger - in particular, assuring food security - have figured prominently in the United States foreign policy. Since this Administration came into office, at the request of Secretary Clinton, I have been working on our Haiti Policy and Feed the Future, our Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative. Despite my familiarity with these subjects and the possibilities that lie ahead, I am deeply saddened that the devastating earthquake in Haiti has prompted increased focus on their intersection.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cheryl-mills/the-importance-of-agricul\\_b\\_461556.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cheryl-mills/the-importance-of-agricul_b_461556.html)

**See Also: One Month Later, Haiti's Humanitarian Crisis Remains**, Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID, *Huffington Post*, February 12

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rajiv-shah/one-month-later-haitis-hu\\_b\\_459964.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-rajiv-shah/one-month-later-haitis-hu_b_459964.html)

**Beyond the Emergency, Outrage & Inspire**, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow for Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, February 18

Lack of support to agriculture throughout the developing world has been a dire lament for the past three decades. Haiti's recent history illuminates an oft-overlooked reality of global hunger: the vast majority of today's hungry are far from the crisis hotspots and the cameras that flock to them. Instead, their hunger is a chronic, everyday grind. For them, every day is a food emergency.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/02/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire-haiti.html>

**See Also: Hunger in Haiti**, ONE, February 18

<http://www.one.org/blog/2010/02/18/hunger-in-haiti/>

**See Also: City Exodus Adds to Fears for Haiti Crops**, Financial Times, February 15

Rural Haiti is tranquil, but no longer productive. Most of the fields are not laden with crops, their soil is no longer fertile, the nation cannot feed itself and the earthquake of January 12 could make prospects even worse. The outlook was already bleak before the earthquake. Thanks to decades of slash-and-burn agriculture, 97 per cent of Haiti's rainforest has been destroyed, leaving soils so degraded that little can grow.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ec5e15d8-1a4e-11df-a2e3-00144feab49a.html?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ec5e15d8-1a4e-11df-a2e3-00144feab49a.html?nclick_check=1)

**The Secretary-General's Message to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development Governing Council**, Ban Ki-moon, United Nations, February 17

"Despite the hardships of the global recession, last year saw an upturn in investment in agriculture, along with promises from world leaders of large additional increases over the next three years. Eight African countries have reached or exceeded the Maputo Declaration target by allocating 10 per cent or more of their national budgets for agriculture. The growing international recognition of the role of agriculture and rural development in poverty reduction is helping to build the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition."

<http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=4392>

**See Also: Smallholders, Rural Producers Key to Slashing Global Hunger and Poverty – Ban**, United Nations, February 17

Smallholders and rural producers have a vital role to play in overcoming global hunger and poverty, and new and varied partnerships are needed, with particular emphasis on the interests of women, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33798&Cr=ifad&Cr1>

**Don't Forget the World's Food Gap**, Op-Ed, Tom Daschle, former Senate Majority Leader, Politico, February 16

In order to feed a global population boom of 9 billion people by 2050, we will need to more than double our current levels of food production and develop a set of innovative strategies to combat a host of global-hunger-related and nutritional issues.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0210/32980.html>

**See Also: DuPont Advisor Daschle: Biotech Key to Growing Food**, Des Moines Register, February 16

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/02/16/dupont-advser-daschle-pushes-biotech-food/>

**Donors' Mixed Aid Performance for 2010 Sparks Concern**, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, February 17

Aid to developing countries in 2010 will reach record levels in dollar terms after increasing by 35 per cent since 2004. But it will still be less than the world's major aid donors promised five years ago at the Gleneagles and Millennium + 5 summits. Though a majority of countries will meet their commitments, the underperformance of several large donors means there will be a significant shortfall, according to a new OECD review. Africa, in particular, is likely to get only about USD 12 billion of the USD 25 billion increase envisaged at Gleneagles, due in large part to the underperformance of some European donors who give large

shares of official development assistance (ODA) to Africa.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34447\\_44617556\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37413,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3343,en_2649_34447_44617556_1_1_1_37413,00.html)

**See Also: Development Assistance Committee Members' Commitments and Performance**, *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*, February 15

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/20/19/44607047.pdf>

**See Also: Wealthy Countries Fail to Hit Aid Target**, *Financial Times*, February 17

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8c49d874-1b63-11df-838f-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: Broken Promises**, *Economist*, February 17

[http://www.economist.com/daily/news/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=15542846](http://www.economist.com/daily/news/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15542846)

**Andrew Natsios Extended Interview**, *Andrew Natsios, former director of U.S. Agency for International Development*, *PBS*, February 19

"The Department of Agriculture, for example, has been one of the major factors trying to stop USAID's agriculture program because they will actually say it to you, 'We don't want them growing more food. Then they won't buy American food,' which, by the way, is nonsense. We had a huge agriculture development program in India, very successful. India still imports huge amounts of food from the US of certain kinds, so these interest groups have a growing influence on USAID'S program, because every federal department has their own international aid program."

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/february-19-2010/andrew-natsios-extended-interview/5720/>

**Haiti: Food Security Task Force Established by Three Rome-Based United Nations Agencies**, *World Food Program*, February 12

The heads of the three United Nations Rome-based agencies announced the establishment of a Task Force for Food Security in Haiti. The Task Force will support the government of Haiti in the implementation of a concerted, coherent and targeted, immediate and longer-term food security strategy that integrates agricultural production, and social safety nets.

<http://www.wfp.org/news-release/haiti-food-security-task-force-established-three-rome-based-united-nations-agencies>

**See Also: Web-Based Information Tool for Food Security for Haiti**, *Food and Agriculture Organization*, *United Nations*, February 15

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/40042/icode/>

**See Also: Haiti's Farms Sow Hope for Rebuilding**, *PBS*, February 12

A new push to improve Haiti's struggling agricultural sector could provide jobs for many people displaced after January's earthquake. But the nation's farmland is limited in supply and often degraded of nutrients.

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/international/jan-june10/agriculture\\_0212.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/international/jan-june10/agriculture_0212.html)

**Economist Debate: The House Believes that China's Growing Involvement in Africa Is to Be Welcomed**, *Economist*, February 15-22

[http://www.economist.com/debate/overview/165&sa\\_campaign=debateseries/debate42/alert/round/open](http://www.economist.com/debate/overview/165&sa_campaign=debateseries/debate42/alert/round/open)

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**President Obama Addresses the U.S.-Islamic World Forum**, *White House*, February 13

"And we're partnering to promote global health. We worked together to address H1N1, which was a concern of many Muslims during the hajj. We've joined with the Organization of the Islamic Conference to eradicate polio. And as part of our increased commitment to foreign assistance, we've launched major initiatives to promote global health and food security around the world."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/02/13/president-obama-addresses-us-islamic-world-forum>

**See Also: Remarks at the U.S. - Islamic World Forum**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, February 14

"Now, the United States and 42 other nations may have increased our military presence, but we have also increased our civilian effort to help the government strengthen its ability to lead, especially in Afghanistan's once-thriving agricultural sector."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/02/136678.htm>

**Remarks at USDA Outlook Conference, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, February 18**

"Our global food security initiative is not just simply about providing assistance to countries because it is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do because it creates relationships that in turn lead to ultimate business opportunities."

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/02/0076.xml>

**See Also: Q&A with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Washington Post, February 16**

When Tom Vilsack became head of the Agriculture Department last year, he faced a backlog of 11,000 civil rights complaints and several unresolved class-action lawsuits from minority farmers and ranchers.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/15/AR2010021503001.html>

**Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 18**

Fiscal 2010 agricultural exports are forecast at \$100 billion, up \$2 billion from the November forecast and \$3.4 billion above final FY 2009 exports. Global economic recovery and healthy commodity prices are supporting exports.

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/ers/AES/2010s/2010/AES-02-18-2010.pdf>

**U.S.-African Trade More Than Doubled in Eight Years, America.gov, February 17**

In the past eight years, U.S. trade with sub-Saharan Africa has more than doubled as Africans improve their lives and livelihoods while exporting an ever-expanding list of goods to the United States, says Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis.

<http://www.america.gov/st/business-english/2010/February/20100217140055dmslahrellek0.4736444.html>

**See Also: Remarks by Ambassador Demetrios Marantis at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, Office of the United States Trade Representative, February 16**

"Over the last eight years, U.S.-sub-Saharan African trade - both exports and imports - has more than doubled. That means that, all across the continent, more Africans are building their lives and their communities by exporting more of the goods Americans want - jewelry, fruits, nuts, fruit juices, leather, plastic, cocoa, and much more. At the same time, American companies and workers have found new opportunities to do business in Africa - providing inputs and expertise to aspiring African entrepreneurs, participating in joint venture partnerships, and increasing American exports and investment."

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/february/remarks-ambassador-demetrius-marantis-maker>

**See Also: United States Holds Trade and Investment Talks with East African Community, Office of the United States Trade Representative, February 19**

United States and East African trade and development officials met in Kampala, Uganda to discuss implementation of the United States-East African Community (EAC) Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). The TIFA Council examined U.S. and EAC work on implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and issues related to market access, trade capacity building, the financial sector, agricultural trade, and the business environment.

<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/press-releases/2010/february/united-states-holds-trade-and-investment-talks-ea>

**2010 Agricultural Economic Outlook Forum, Washington, D.C., Ambassador Ron Kirk, U.S. Trade Representative, February 18**

"The global flow of agricultural goods - from harvesting nations to hungry families - is a valuable slice of international trade. Last calendar year, the United States exported more than \$100 billion worth of agricultural products, supporting a \$30 billion agricultural trade surplus. Now, like almost every other kind of

trade, agricultural exports have suffered during the global economic downturn. But this year, American agricultural exports are expected to begin to grow again. USTR is committed to supporting that growth.”  
<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/speeches/transcripts/2010/february/remarks-ambassador-kirk-2010-agricultural-e>

**2010 Agricultural Economic Outlook**, *Joseph Glauber, Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 18*

“The year 2009 was marked by much uncertainty following the global financial collapse in the fall of 2008. Record crop production, both home and abroad, has further weakened price prospects for grains and oilseeds. Five years ago, such large crops might have resulted in \$2 corn, \$3 wheat and \$5 soybeans, but because of strong domestic and foreign demand, crop prices still remain high relative to historical levels.”  
[http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/2010\\_Speeches/Speeches/GlauberJ.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/2010_Speeches/Speeches/GlauberJ.pdf)

**Farm Outlook for 2010**, *Joseph Glauber, Chief Economist, USDA, February 12*

[http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/2010\\_Speeches/Presentations/GlauberJ.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/2010_Speeches/Presentations/GlauberJ.pdf)

**See Also: U.S. Corn, Cotton Acres May Rise as Wheat, Soy Fall**, *Bloomberg, February 18*

U.S. corn and cotton acreage will rise this year as more land is available because of smaller wheat plantings and federal conservation programs, the government said. Soybean acres may also fall.  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aGvSUF1961A8>

**U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation FY 2011 Congressional Budget Justification**, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, February 2010*

By providing grants to countries implementing good economic, political, and social policies, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) works to fight poverty by removing barriers to economic growth. The President has requested \$1.28 billion from Congress to fund the agency in Fiscal Year 2011. This figure represents a slight increase in funding for MCC from the amount provided by Congress in FY 2010.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/bm.doc/mcc-fy2011-cbj.pdf>

**See Also: Challenging Times Ahead for the MCC**, *Foreign Policy, February 18*

Entering its sixth year, the Millennium Challenge Corporation is entering a new phase of its maturation, transitioning off its first set of major projects while adjusting to life under the Obama administration. But big questions linger on the horizon for the MCC, such as whether its mission can be sustained with smaller budgets in a tight fiscal environment and whether the agency will maintain its independence from the rest of the government as the State Department and the White House reorganize the U.S. development community.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/02/18/challenge\\_times\\_ahead\\_for\\_the\\_mcc](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/02/18/challenge_times_ahead_for_the_mcc)

**See Also: U.S. Seeks Corporate Help in Aid to Poor Countries**, *Reuters India, February 13*

The United States is making a new push for U.S. corporate investments in poor countries, hoping to rope in the private sector as a partner in overseas development, a senior U.S. official said on Friday. Daniel Yohannes, the new chief executive of the government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), said bringing in the private sector was a key new goal for the innovative U.S. overseas aid program.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-46134120100212>

**U.S. Nominates Tony Lake to Head UNICEF**, *Foreign Policy, February 17*

Susan E. Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, formally put forward W. Anthony Lake's name as the U.S. choice to serve as the new executive director of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), raising expectations that he will take over the popular U.N. relief agency when its current leader Ann Veneman steps down in April.

[http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/02/18/us\\_nominates\\_tony\\_lake\\_to\\_head\\_unicef](http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/02/18/us_nominates_tony_lake_to_head_unicef)

**FOR MORE SUMMARIES OF AND LINKS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND RESOURCES ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND FOOD SECURITY, PLEASE VISIT OUR [AG & FOOD POLICY LIBRARY](#)**

**The Future of Food: Scenarios for 2050**, *Crop Science*, March-April 2010

This background article addresses key challenges of adequately feeding a population of 9 billion by 2050, while preserving the agroecosystems from which other services are also expected.

<https://www.crops.org/files/publications/crop-science/abstracts/50-2/c09-09-0530.pdf>

**The State of Food and Agriculture: Livestock in the Balance**, *U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization*, February 2010

Livestock contribute 40 percent of the global value of agricultural output and support the livelihoods and food security of almost a billion people. Rapidly rising incomes and urbanization, combined with underlying population growth, are driving demand for meat and other animal products in many developing countries. These changes and the speed with which they are occurring have created systemic risks for livelihoods, human and animal health and the environment. To meet the challenges and constraints of the twenty-first century, the livestock sector requires appropriate institutions, research, development interventions and governance that reflect the diversity within the sector and the multiple demands placed upon it.

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

**See Also: Call for Tax on Livestock Emissions**, *Financial Times*, February 18

The novel suggestion by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation to use taxation comes as campaigners focus on the impact on climate change of emissions of methane from cattle, sheep and pigs. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/38154ea0-1cb2-11df-8d8e-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: Towards a More Sustainable Livestock Sector**, *Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*, February 18

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/40117/icode/>

**Micro-Level Practices to Adapt to Climate Change for African Small-Scale Farmers**, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, February 2010

This paper discusses micro-level practices for adapting to climate change that are available to small-scale farmers in Africa. The analysis is based on a review of 17 studies about practices that boost small-scale farmers' resilience or reduce their vulnerability to observed or expected changes in climate; it includes data from more than 16 countries in Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Asia. The review shows that African smallholders are already using a wide variety of creative practices to deal with climate risks; these can be further adjusted to the challenge of climate change by planned adaptation programs.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00953.pdf>

**Agricultural Productivity Strategies for the Future: Addressing U.S. and Global Strategies**, *Council for Agricultural Science and Technology*, January 2010

The authors of the current paper address (1) future demands facing agriculture; (2) the relationship of bioenergy and bioproducts to agriculture; (3) major issues impacting future U.S. agricultural productivity; (4) major issues facing agricultural productivity in other parts of the world; (5) strategies to meet future food needs; and (6) examples of research areas that could enable the next "Green Revolution."

<http://www.cast-science.org/websiteUploads/publicationPDFs/CAST%20Ag%20Policy%20IP45%20FINAL168.pdf>

**Impacts of the Triple Global Crisis on Growth and Poverty in Yemen**, *International Food Policy Research Institute*, February 2010

Yemen is an oil-exporting and food-importing country on the Arabian Peninsula with persistently high levels of poverty. The impacts of the food, fuel, and financial global crises are likely to further complicate preexisting conditions of internal conflicts, decreasing oil revenues, and governance failure. In this paper, a consistent economic framework is presented to help close this information gap and to better understand growth and poverty dynamics during crises. Results show that economic growth in Yemen accelerated during the food and fuel crises in 2008 because oil-driven growth dominated the negative growth impacts of the food crisis.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00955.pdf>

**Adaptation of Agriculture and the Food System to Climate Change: Policy Issues**, *Resources for the Future*, February 2010

One of the most important sectors of the economy, U.S. agriculture depends heavily on climate. Farms and ranches are also the largest group of owners and managers of land that impacts ecosystem services, such as greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation, water quality and quantity regulation, and wildlife habitat and biodiversity conservation. In addition, agriculture is playing an increasingly important role in the energy sector through biofuels production. Consequently, the impacts of climate change on agriculture, and agriculture's ability to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, are critical issues for agricultural households as well as the general public and public policy decision-makers.

<http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-IB-10-03.pdf>

**Agricultural Land Elasticities in the United States and Brazil**, *Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, February 2010*

The elasticity of aggregate supply is one key to understanding the degree to which policy-induced increases in demand for biofuel feedstocks or agricultural CO<sub>2</sub> offsets will result in higher prices or expanded supply. In this paper the authors report land supply elasticities for the United States and Brazil estimated directly from the observed changes in cropland and estimated changes in expected returns.

<http://www.card.iastate.edu/publications/DBS/PDFFiles/10wp505.pdf>

**Modeling the Effects of Pasture Expansion and Yield Increase on Emissions from Land-Use Change**, *Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, February 2010*

This paper evaluates the land-use and greenhouse gas emission impact of higher yields in the European Union and a livestock tax in the United States using a global agricultural outlook model and a greenhouse gas model that includes land-use change from cropland and pasture.

<http://www.card.iastate.edu/publications/DBS/PDFFiles/10wp504.pdf>

**Reforming Pakistan's Civil Service**, *International Crisis Group, February 2010*

While Pakistan remains a predominantly agrarian country, its system of maintaining land records and assessing and collecting land revenue remains "one of the most antiquated and obsolete in the world", according to a former member of the Punjab Board of Revenue. At the centre of this system lies the colonial-era office of the patwari (village revenue officer), responsible for assessing and collecting agricultural revenue, recording the inheritance, sale and transfer of land, and maintaining all land records in its area of jurisdiction. All information is noted manually by the patwari in several voluminous registers.

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/south asia/185 reforming pakistans civil service.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/south%20asia/185_reforming_pakistans_civil_service.pdf)

**Madagascar – Economic Update: 2009 and Beyond**, *World Bank, February 1*

A few economic sectors were isolated from the global recession and the political crisis. First, the agricultural sector benefited from previous investments and good climatic conditions, as evidenced by the 10-15 percent expansion in rice production (in volume) between 2008 and 2009 (reaching the record level of 4.5-5.0 million tons).

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/files/african/MADAGASCAR%20update%20feb%201%202010.pdf>

**The State of the Humanitarian System: Assessing Performance and Progress**, *Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action, January 2010*

This report provides the most comprehensive effort to date to assess the performance and progress of the international humanitarian system. The pilot State of the Humanitarian System report provides those within and outside the sector the opportunity to examine how well the system has performed in the past few years, and highlights key areas for improvement in the future.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4743.pdf>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Agricultural Outlook Forum 2010**

*Date:* February 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Arlington, Virginia

USADA's 2010 Outlook Forum will be held Feb. 18-19 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Va. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will keynote the forum titled "Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Health & Prosperity." Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will open the annual forum on Feb. 18 at 8 a.m. A panel, which features Whole Foods Market Co-President Walter Robb, recently retired Sysco Corporation CEO Richard Schnieders, Bon Appétit Management Company CEO Fedele Bauccio, and Science and Technology Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of State Nina Fedoroff, is titled "Sustainability, Stakeholders and Customers: Achieving a Healthier 21st Century."

[Session and Speakers](#)

[Program at a Glance](#)

[Public Registration](#)

### **Putting Principles into Action: A US-Africa Forum on Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa**

*Date:* February 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington D.C.

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa ("the Partnership") will host a two-day US-Africa Forum on Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa on February 25-26, 2010, in Washington, DC, to explore specific challenges related to the implementation of the US Global Food Security Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa. The objectives of the workshop will be to:

- Develop a clearer, shared understanding of the challenges affecting the ability of the US to respond to country-determined food security priorities and other principles for action endorsed at the 2009 World Food Summit; and
- Identify pragmatic options for addressing these challenges in order to achieve measurable progress over the next 12-24 months.

<http://partnership-africa.org/sites/default/files/Preliminary%20Agenda.pdf>

### **Food and Agriculture Policies for a Sustainable Future: Responding to Global Challenges and Opportunities**

*Date:* February 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France

In the coming decades, the global food and agriculture system will have to provide sustainably for billions more people and meet greater demands on quality, affordability and availability. Farming will be competing with other sectors for land, water and investment, while climate change adds a new unknown to the equation. Ministers from OECD member countries and key emerging economies will meet in Paris on 25-26 February to identify action that best responds to the needs of a rapidly changing world.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/53/0,3343,en\\_21571361\\_43893445\\_43909109\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/53/0,3343,en_21571361_43893445_43909109_1_1_1_1,00.html)

### **5th Annual University Hunger Summit**

*Date:* February 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Auburn, Alabama

With the number of hungry people dramatically increasing worldwide, never has the challenge to address both short-term and long-term solutions to ending hunger been greater. In response, President Obama has pledged to end child hunger in America by 2015 and recently dedicated \$3.2 billion to agricultural development in an effort to assist in the fight against global hunger. You don't want to miss this opportunity to learn more about these efforts and to be actively involved in Universities Fighting World Hunger, a dynamic partnership with the UN World Food Programme. We recommend that a combination of students, faculty, and/or university administrators from each university attend the Summit. Other attendees will include NGO, government, and corporate representatives.

<http://www.universitiesfightingworldhunger.org/summit.php>

### **Rural Development Institute's Annual Women & Land Luncheon**

*Date:* March 11, 2010

*Location:* Seattle, Washington

Together, we will raise awareness and support for women's land rights – the most important asset for the world's poorest families to thrive and create a safer, better world.

[http://www.rdiland.org/PDF/IWD2010\\_Evite.pdf](http://www.rdiland.org/PDF/IWD2010_Evite.pdf)

### **FamilyFarmed EXPO**

*Date:* March 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* UIC Forum, Chicago, Illinois

FamilyFarmed EXPO is a three day gathering of Chicago-area fans of locally grown and responsibly produced food and artisanal goods. Thursday and Friday feature business-to-business connections. Saturday features cooking demos, interactive seminars and a busy Kids Corner. There will also be over 120 exhibitors offering a wide selection of local food, gifts and lots of useful information that will help you eat healthy year-round, while supporting local, family-run businesses.

<http://www.familyfarmedexpo.com>

### **Global Harvest Initiative 2010 Symposium**

*Date:* March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The Global Harvest Initiative has commissioned a four-part study to provide additional perspective on the difficulty of the agricultural challenges ahead, as well as the global consequences of not closing the productivity gap. This work will be presented by the authors at a symposium on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.globalharvestinitiative.org/events.php>

### **AGRA Middle East 2010**

*Date:* March 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Dubai, United Arab Emirates

AGRA Middle East 2010 is one of the biggest consumer markets for agribusiness, poultry & livestock, fishing & aquaculture and flower & garden in the region. AGRAME is a leading regional platform which offers immense opportunities for regional agribusiness professionals, international manufacturers and service providers involved in the agribusiness industry. The event co-locates four distinct yet closely linked vertical exhibitions at one comprehensive and powerful B2B platform, providing opportunities for agribusiness professionals from all over the world.

<http://www.tradechakra.com/events/dubai- united-arab-emirates/agra-middle-east-2009-311.php>

### **Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD)**

*Date:* March 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Montpellier, France

The GCARD process will address the below questions: What are the development needs where AR can play its best role? How best do we turn research in development impacts at scale? How can more effective pathways be developed to create impact for the poor? What investments, institutions, policies and capacities are necessary?

<http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard>

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference**

*Date:* April 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Washington, DC

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc.

For more information, contact [Theresa Stephens](#)

### **Informa Economics - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference**

*Date:* April 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Arlington, Virginia

[http://www.informaecon.com/Washington\\_Conference.asp](http://www.informaecon.com/Washington_Conference.asp)

### **2010 U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference**

*Date:* April 27<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>

*Location:* Washington, DC

This year's conference, which is themed "Building Dynamic Growth in Africa," focuses on key economic sectors in Africa, including information and communication technology, alternative energy, and human security. The effects of climate change on Africa are also a focus, along with available instruments for project finance. Immediately following the World Bank spring 2010 meetings, the conference brings together senior U.S. and African private sector and government officials; key decision makers from leading U.S. infrastructure companies; financial institutions; and international organizations with a vested interest in infrastructure investment and growth on the continent.

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S.M3.f2a576ef-3b24-4af2-81ed-33bf7d9b760b>

### **2010 Borlaug Dialogue - "Take It to the Farmers": Reaching the World's Smallholders**

*Date:* October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Location:* Des Moines, Iowa

Inspired by the last words of Nobel Laureate and World Food Prize Founder Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 2010 Borlaug Dialogue international symposium will gather the top minds and foremost leaders in global agriculture, food, and development this October in Des Moines – with a special focus on the world's small-scale farmers. As global leaders and institutions carry out work to increase agricultural production and ensure food security worldwide – on the heels of severe food shortages, economic crises, and other upheavals of the past several years – the small-holder farmer is poised to play a unique role in enhancing the food supply for families and communities around the globe. However, small-holder farmers also face particular challenges that must be overcome in order to meet international goals to produce enough food for a growing population in the face of limited resources.

<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/symposium/2010.htm>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **Food Is a Human Right**, *Letter to the Editor, New York Times, February 18*

Food is a human right, yet we allow those in power to treat it as a commodity to be bought and sold by profiteers interested in a quick buck. We, the consumers, must demand that our policy makers create conditions that allow small-scale farmers around the world to compete with conglomerates and speculators on equal terms and enable local markets to flourish.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/19/opinion/19hunger.html>

### **Funding Should Support Agricultural Development in Africa, Says Expert**, *Voice of America, February 18*

The chairman of the African Development Bank (ADB) has reportedly said the bank will triple its capital to support development in Africa. Kenyan-born Calestous Juma, professor of the practice of international development at Harvard University's Kennedy School said he hopes the money, if and when it becomes available, would be used to support agricultural development.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/west/Butty-Africa-ADB-Funding-19Feb10-84755557.html>

### **Proposed Agricultural Deal Carries Risk for Cambodia's Rural Poor**, *Voice of America, February 18*

An investment group out of Australia has unveiled a \$600 million plan to create a massive farm project in Cambodia. However, human rights workers are concerned that this deal, and others like it, will do little to help Cambodia's rural poor.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/asia/Proposed-Agricultural-Deal-Carries-Risk-for-Cambodias-Rural-Poor-84702432.html>

#### **See Also: Catching Cambodia on the Cusp of Development**, *Financial Times, February 14*

Agriculture remains one of the dominant industries in Cambodia and a number of countries such as Malaysia and Korea have taken advantage of the cheap price of land to lease thousands of hectares to grow rice.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0c877240-1807-11df-91d2-00144feab49a.html>

### **Pioneer, Gates to Give African Farmers Biotech Seed**, *Des Moines Register, February 17*

Pioneer Hi-Bred is joining with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help scientists in Africa develop genetically engineered corn varieties that would allow poor farmers increase their yields with less fertilizer. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100217/BUSINESS01/100217010/Pioneer-Gates-to-give-African-farmers-biotech-seed>

**Guinea Pigs Could Provide Food for War-Torn Congo, Scientists Say, *Guardian, February 16***

This is one experiment where the guinea pigs are just that: guinea pigs. The small rodents have been discovered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and could, scientists believe, help end food shortages in the war-torn country.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/feb/16/guinea-pigs-food-congo-war>

**See Also: Food Running Short for Northern DR Congo Refugees, *Reuters Africa, February 17***

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E61G02A20100217>

**Economics Improve for First Commercial Cellulosic Ethanol Plants, *New York Times, February 16***

Many cellulosic fuel producers are working with enzymes to break down tough, inedible plant parts, such as corncobs or switch grass, into simpler sugars that can be fermented to ethanol. Now enzyme companies say they are near to breaking down another tough obstacle: the cost of enzymes that will make the next generation of low-carbon fuels.

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/02/16/16climatewire-economics-improve-for-first-commercial-cellu-93478.html>

**India, with a Billion Mouths to Feed, Shies Away from Genetically Modified Crops, *Associated Press, February 15***

Last week, India halted the commercial release of the world's first genetically engineered eggplant, called Bt brinjal. The environment minister, Jairam Ramesh, said that given the lack of consensus within the scientific community and the pitch of public opposition, further study was needed to guarantee consumer safety. Why the skepticism over a technology many scientists say is crucial for feeding the 9 billion people who will populate the planet by 2050?

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-as-india-gm-food,0,2758782,print.story>

**See Also: Now Pawar Bats for GM Crops to Meet Food Security, *Times of India, February 17***

Strongly arguing for the genetically modified crops, which he said could solve the country's food security problem, agriculture minister Sharad Pawar asked scientists to double efforts to remove all misgivings about GM crops from the minds of policy-makers and the public.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Now-Pawar-bats-for-GM-crops-to-meet-food-security/articleshow/5584530.cms>

**See Also: India's Green Counter-Revolution, *Op-Ed, Wall Street Journal, February 13***

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704140104575058383515565108.html>

**See Also: Debate over Genetically Modified Eggplant Consumes India, *Reuters, February 16***

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61F0RS20100216>

**Kenyan Farmers Persevere Despite Cultivation Challenges, *Huffington Post, February 15***

Driving through the crowded streets of Kibera slums in Kenya, it's nearly impossible to describe how many people live in this area of about 400 hectares, the equivalent of just over half the size of Central Park in Manhattan. Everywhere you look, there are people. Anywhere from 700,000 to 1 million people live in what is likely the largest slum in sub-Saharan Africa. And despite the challenges people here face -- lack of water and sanitation services, space and lack of land ownership are the big ones -- they are thriving and living.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/kenyan-farmers-persevere\\_b\\_462516.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/danielle-nierenberg/kenyan-farmers-persevere_b_462516.html)

**Moderate Use of Fertilizer Will Double Banana Yield, Says Study, *AllAfrica, February 15***

Moderate use of mineral fertilizer could yield double the production of bananas in East Africa thereby improving the lives of over 70 million people who depend on the crop for food and income. According to the USAid-funded study carried out by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in nearly 200 farmer fields in Uganda, few banana growers are using fertilizers in the region, missing out on the opportunity to maximise their crop's food and income potential.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201002160416.html>

**South Africa Drafting New Land Policy: Minister**, *Reuters Africa, February 15*

South Africa's government will introduce a new draft policy on land tenure this year aimed at speeding up its programme to give land to landless blacks, a government minister said on Monday.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E61E0B020100215>

**EU Biofuels Significantly Harming Food Production in Developing Countries**, *Guardian, February 15*

EU companies have taken millions of acres of land out of food production in Africa, central America and Asia to grow biofuels for transport, according to development campaigners. The consequences of European biofuel targets, said the report by ActionAid, could be up to 100 million more hungry people, increased food prices and landlessness.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/feb/15/biofuels-food-production-developing-countries>

**Haiti's Tomorrow May Be Rooted in Trees, Fertilizer**, *Joseph B. Treaster, Huffington Post, February 12*

Before the earthquake in Haiti, international aid groups had begun working on a comprehensive plan to convert the country's treeless, dirt hills and mountains and its over-farmed valleys into verdant, productive land. The key features of the plan would be linked together in mutual support. It would be the opposite of piecemeal.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-b-treaster/haitis-tomorrow-may-be-ro\\_b\\_459061.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-b-treaster/haitis-tomorrow-may-be-ro_b_459061.html)

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**FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

**The Disaster Diet**, *Time, February 22*

Across the quake zone, relief agencies were quickly distributing some 30 tons of high-energy cookies that the World Food Programme (WFP) developed for just this kind of emergency. Each 100-g packet--that's roughly the weight of two Snickers bars--delivers 450 calories of energy, a bunch of vitamins and minerals and up to 15 g of protein and 15 g of fat. Oh, and no more than 15 g of sugar. This is meant to be survival food, not Red Bull in solid form.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1963757,00.html>

**How to Fix Haiti's Fixers**, *Paul Collier, Professor of Economics at Oxford University, Foreign Policy, February 18*

Aid groups in the earthquake-battered country are inefficient and unaccountable. Luckily, there's a solution.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/02/18/how\\_to\\_fix\\_haitis\\_fixers](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/02/18/how_to_fix_haitis_fixers)

**U.N. Aid Chief "Disappointed" with Haiti Earthquake Relief Efforts**, *Washington Post, February 18*

The United Nations' top humanitarian relief coordinator has scolded his lieutenants for failing to adequately manage the relief effort in Haiti, saying that an uneven response in the month after the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake has undercut confidence in the world body's ability to deliver vital assistance, according to a confidential e-mail.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/17/AR2010021705051.html>

**UN: US Aid Restrictions Hurting Hungry Somalis**, *Associated Press, February 17*

U.S. restrictions designed to stop terrorists in Somalia from diverting aid are hurting humanitarian operations in the lawless Horn of Africa country, U.N. officials said Wednesday. U.N. agencies have not seen any evidence from the American government that food aid is being diverted to Islamists fighting the U.N.-backed Somali government, said the top U.N. humanitarian official for Somalia, Mark Bowden.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-02-17-un-us-aid-somalia\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2010-02-17-un-us-aid-somalia_N.htm) (foreign assistance, source is Associated Press)

**The Walmart Foundation and CARE Launch Agricultural Economic Development Initiative in Peru**,

*Press Release, February 16*

The Walmart Foundation and CARE today launched the Peru Agricultural Economic Development Initiative, which seeks to help 2,300 small-scale farmers in Peru. The program is expected to increase participants' incomes by 30 percent and create more than 300 new jobs in the region.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-walmart-foundation-and-care-launch-agricultural-economic-development-initiative-in-peru-84474087.html>

**Guard Readies for Largest Deployment in Generation**, *Associated Press, February 16*

The Iowa National Guard is facing its largest deployment in a generation but will still be able to handle domestic emergencies. The latest deployment involves the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and a smaller unit of about 60 soldiers and airmen that will focus on the revitalization of the agriculture infrastructure in Afghanistan.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-iowanationalguard.0,509623.story>

**UN Says US Aid Restriction Hurting Hungry Somalis**, *Associated Press, February 16*

U.S. restrictions designed to stop terrorists in Somalia from diverting aid are hurting humanitarian operations in the lawless Horn of Africa country, U.N. officials said. U.N. agencies have not seen any evidence from the American government that food aid is being diverted to Islamists fighting the U.N.-backed Somali government, said the top U.N. humanitarian official for Somalia, Mark Bowden. "What we are seeing is a politicization of humanitarian issues," Bowden told journalists in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. "The options for a lot of Somalis look pretty bleak."

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hoTcx3Q-ekiHLtr27feDV6S3eHKAD9DTT75G0>

**Haiti and the Rules of Generosity**, *Peter Singer, Guardian, February 16*

Why do people give generously to earthquake victims, but not to prevent the much larger number of deaths brought about by extreme poverty, insufficient food, unsafe water, lack of sanitation, and the absence of even the most basic healthcare?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/feb/16/haiti-aid-future-damage>

**U.S. Troops Fight, Then Work, to Win Hearts, Minds**, *Associated Press, February 13*

A rumble of explosions could be heard shortly before Hickok, of Puyallup, Wash., and his soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry, left their Stryker armored vehicles Saturday and walked into farm fields in search of laborers. Repairing the irrigation canals is an important step toward reviving agriculture in the area. And the Americans were offering hard cash for anyone willing to work. But conditions for sustained economy-building appeared a long way off.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ibLSjY1pQ0T-n7t23PTSbU0mqVBwD9DRF8N81>

**What to Read on Foreign Aid**, *Foreign Affairs, February 2010*

An annotated *Foreign Affairs* syllabus on foreign aid.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/node/65912>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**UN's Top Climate Official to Resign**, *Wall Street Journal, February 19*

The top climate-change official at the United Nations is leaving to become a private consultant, a move that follows the failure of a U.N. climate summit in Copenhagen to produce a binding agreement to curb global greenhouse-gas emissions.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703315004575072952846950296.html#mod=todays\\_us\\_page\\_one](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748703315004575072952846950296.html#mod=todays_us_page_one)

**See Also: Climate Pact Appears Increasingly Fragile; U.N. Official Quits**, *Washington Post, February 19*

Yvo de Boer, the United Nations' top climate official, announced that he would step down from his post in July to work in the private sector on environmental sustainability.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/18/AR2010021801490.html>

**Overpopulation and Climate Change**, *Op-Ed, Arthur H. Westing, Former Director of United Nations Environment Program Project on Peace, Security, and Environment, International Herald Tribune, February 18*

With the continuing failure of governments to reach agreements on combating climate change, the outlook for both humans and nature remains bleak. And nowhere is the failure more conspicuous than in the avoidance of the subject of population growth. Population is a double-barreled environmental problem — not only is population increasing; so are emissions per capita.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/18/opinion/18iht-edwesting.html>

**Yemen's Water Crisis Eclipses al Qaeda Threat**, *Reuters, February 17*

The West frets that al Qaeda will exploit instability in Yemen to prepare new attacks like the failed Dec. 25 bombing of a U.S. airliner, but this impoverished Arabian peninsula country faces a catastrophe that poses a far deadlier long-term threat. Nature cannot recharge ground water to keep pace with demand from a population of 23 million expected to double in 20 years.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLAE656628.CH.2400>

**Climate-Research Controversies Create Opening for Critics**, *Wall Street Journal, February 16*

The spate of recent controversies about climate research has given fresh voice to a group of scientists who question the mainstream view that human activity is warming the planet to dangerous levels.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704804204575069723794293584.html>

**See Also: Series of Missteps by Climate Scientists Threatens Climate-Change Agenda**,

*Washington Post, February 15*

With its 2007 report declaring that the "warming of the climate system is unequivocal," the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won a Nobel Prize -- and a new degree of public trust in the controversial science of global warming. But recent revelations about flaws in that seminal report, ranging from typos in key dates to sloppy sourcing, are undermining confidence not only in the panel's work but also in projections about climate change. Scientists who have pointed out problems in the report say the panel's methods and mistakes -- including admitting Saturday that it had overstated how much of the Netherlands was below sea level -- give doubters an opening. It wasn't the first one.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/14/AR2010021404283\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/14/AR2010021404283_pf.html)

**See Also: With Stakes This High**, *Editorial, New York Times, February 17*

Errors found in a global warming report do not undermine its main finding, but they are still costly.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/17/opinion/17wed2.html>

**Copenhagen Accounting**, *Economist, February 16*

Another of the accord's purposes was to provide a way for the world to move beyond the besetting problem of the Kyoto protocol. That protocol requires developed countries that have ratified it to reduce their emissions while imposing no such strictures on the rest of the world, and politicians from the rich world who are critical of Kyoto make much of this iniquity. They may be surprised, then, to learn that the bulk of the commitments to reduced emissions in the Copenhagen accord come from developing countries.

[http://www.economist.com/daily/columns/greenview/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story\\_id=15539489](http://www.economist.com/daily/columns/greenview/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15539489)

**Climate Changes Are Proven Fact**, *Op-Ed, Kerry Emanuel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston Globe, February 15*

With all the interest in alleged misdeeds of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and hacked email exchanges among climate scientists, it is easy to lose track of the compelling strands of scientific evidence that have led almost all climate scientists to conclude that mankind is altering climate in potentially dangerous ways. Recent suggestions by gubernatorial candidate Charles Baker that the scientific community is split on this issue have unfortunately added fuel to this largely manufactured debate.

[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial\\_opinion/oped/articles/2010/02/15/climate\\_changes\\_are\\_proven\\_fact/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2010/02/15/climate_changes_are_proven_fact/)

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## WOMEN

### **Widespread Gender Gap in Land Rights Spotlights by New Online Database**, *UN News Centre, February 17*

A new online database produced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization shines a light on how women lag far behind men in their access to land, major stumbling block to rural development. The Gender and Land Rights Database offers up-to-date information on the legal rights of men and women differ in nearly 80 countries, allowing users to find the total number of women landholders and rural households headed by women, among other statistics, in these nations.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33795&Cr=fao&Cr1>

**See Also: Gender and Land Rights Database**, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

<http://www.fao.org/gender/landrights>

### **Ending Violence against Women Is a Foreign Policy Priority**, *Melanne Verveer, Director, Office of Global Women's Issues, DipNote, U.S. Department of State Official Blog, February 8*

No matter what country women around the world live in, no matter what religion they are, how much money they earn, or what age they are, they have at least one thing in common: They are potential victims of violence. Violence against women is endemic around the globe.

[http://blogs.state.gov/sgwi/index.php/site/entry/ending\\_violence\\_against\\_women](http://blogs.state.gov/sgwi/index.php/site/entry/ending_violence_against_women)

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### **Ministers Won't Meet on Doha Prospects Soon: Sources**, *Reuters, February 19*

Trade ministers are unlikely to gather in late March as proposed to decide whether a deal is possible this year in the World Trade Organisation's long-running Doha round, trade sources said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E61I02U20100219>

### **U.S. Corn Concerns Spur Japan to Boost Brazil Imports**, *Bloomberg, February 18*

Japan, the world's largest corn importer, is increasing purchases from Argentina and Brazil on concern that U.S. crop quality from the past harvest declined, the head of a grain-trading company said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aQVdoZBpbZp4>

### **Thailand May Sell 2 Million Tons of Stockpiled Rice**, *Bloomberg, February 18*

Thailand, the biggest rice exporter, will probably sell almost 2 million metric tons from state stockpiles over two months to take advantage of demand from buyers and lulls in competitors' shipments, an official said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=amDo6A26vGWo>

### **Food and Agriculture Organization Sees Demand, Biofuels, Oil Fueling Food Prices**, *Reuters, February 18*

Resumed demand for agricultural commodities for food and energy use and higher input costs on the back of rising oil prices may fuel a new food price surge, the United Nations' food agency said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61H25820100218>

### **Food Safety Rules to Emerge from Fight over Imported Catfish**, *Washington Post, February 16*

The whiskered, bottom-feeding catfish is one of the lowliest creatures on Earth. But for months, catfish have been at the center of an intense Washington lobbying effort pitting domestic producers against importers. At issue is how catfish will be regulated and whether Vietnamese imports pose a health risk to American consumers.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/15/AR2010021502998.html>

### **Australia Expects China Trade Talks to Resume**, *The Wall Street Journal, February 16*

Long-delayed talks over a free-trade agreement with China are set to resume with agricultural trade remaining a key sticking point, Australian Trade Minister Simon Crean said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704804204575068651098223546.html?KEYWORDS=agriculture>

**Senegal's Cattle Sidelined for Imported Powder Milk**, *Agence France-Presse, February 14*

Senegal has three million cattle, but it is imported European powdered milk that is found at the breakfast table, in coffee or local yoghurt as poor infrastructure keeps fresh milk from consumers.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h6aAYdAoSEIIA2XAB-YFY TRUrTA>

**EU Trade Chief: Doha Round Needs Action Not Words**, *Associated Press, February 12*

If heads of state really want to see the Doha trade liberalization round completed this year, they need to give their negotiators the authority to make key concessions to eliminate trade barriers in agriculture, manufacturing and services, said EU trade chief Karel De Gucht.

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/02/12/business-eu-wto-trade-talks\\_7352690.html?boxes=financechannelAP](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2010/02/12/business-eu-wto-trade-talks_7352690.html?boxes=financechannelAP)

**Italy and France Disagree over Tuna Proposals**, *Financial Times, February 12*

Italy and France, two of the largest Mediterranean fishing powers, have failed to reach a common agreement on the future of the bluefin tuna, complicating EU efforts to reach a common position ahead of a meeting next month in Doha where Monaco will propose an international trade ban.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c16a78f6-17f8-11df-91d2-00144feab49a.html>

**Food Costs are Stoking Asia Inflation**, *Wall Street Journal, February 11*

The rising cost of food is driving Asian inflation rates higher, increasing the stakes for a successful harvest this year in a region still bruised by the 2008 food crisis.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704140104575057203320128906.html>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

**DuPont Collaborates on Biotech Maize for Africa**, *Reuters, February 17*

DuPont said its agricultural unit had formed an alliance in sub-Saharan Africa to collaborate on development of higher-yielding maize varieties that need less fertilizer. DuPont's Pioneer Hi-Bred unit will contribute gene technology in work led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and funded with \$19.5 million in grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USN1713985520100217>

**Kellogg Says Kashi May Grow to \$1 Billion Brand in 5 Years**, *Bloomberg, February 17*

Kellogg Co.'s Kashi, the health-foods brand that makes Heart to Heart cereal, will increase sales by about two-thirds within five years, to more than \$1 billion, said David DeSouza, the unit's general manager.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aCkra8wAv6CQ>

**Defections Shake up Climate Coalition**, *Wall Street Journal, February 17*

Three big companies quit an influential lobbying group that had focused on shaping climate-change legislation, in the latest sign that support for an ambitious bill is melting away. Oil giants BP PLC and ConocoPhillips and heavy-equipment maker Caterpillar Inc. said they won't renew their membership in the three-year-old U.S. Climate Action Partnership, a broad business-environmental coalition that had been instrumental in building support in Washington for capping emissions of greenhouse gases.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704804204575069440096420212.html>

**Whole Foods Lifts Outlook**, *Financial Times, February 17*

Middle-class US shoppers are returning to the aisles of Whole Foods Market, the natural and organic US supermarket. It is a further sign middle-class US consumers have resumed at least some pre-crash spending habits.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f4e08532-1b62-11df-838f-00144feab49a.html>

**A Balance between the Factory and the Local Farm**, *New York Times*, February 13

Local food sourcing may be desirable, but as a practical matter it is hard for it to feed the whole country in a nation that enjoys diversity of food.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/14/business/14every.html>

**Daschle joins DuPont agriculture advisory panel**, *Boston Globe*, February 11

DuPont Co. said that former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle will head a newly formed advisory committee that will look for ways to meet growing demands for agricultural products.

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2010/02/11/daschle\\_joins\\_dupont\\_agriculture\\_advisory\\_panel/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2010/02/11/daschle_joins_dupont_agriculture_advisory_panel/)

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