

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



February 19<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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**Quote of the Week:** *"The Administration has also pledged to invest at least \$3.5 billion in food security over three years, and this year's request includes \$1.6 billion, of which \$1.2 billion is funded through the State Department. This funding will focus on countries that have developed effective, comprehensive strategies, where agriculture is central to prosperity and hunger remains widespread."* – U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Testimony before Senate Appropriations Committee, February 24, 2010.

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### KEY ARTICLES

**Stumbling in the Race to Feed Africa's Millions**, *New York Times*, February 21

During the 20th century, country after country adopted methods of industrial agriculture — use of fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation and high-productivity grain hybrids — that caused yields of corn, wheat, rice and other staples to soar. This "green revolution," as it became known, brought food self-sufficiency to nations like China and India, laying the groundwork for their emergence as economic powerhouses. Yet these revolutionary farming methods largely bypassed sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/22/business/energy-environment/22iht-green.html>

**Food and Agriculture Policies for a Sustainable Future**, *Opening Remarks by Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, OECD Agriculture Ministerial Meeting, February 25*

“All the forecasts suggest that climate change will hit hardest in areas where production conditions are already difficult and food security already precarious. Trade is obviously part of the solution but we must make sure that trade is a reliable source of supply. The best multilateral trading system is a strong, rules-based one with a diversity of buyers and sellers which will be much less vulnerable to supply or demand shocks. But more open markets alone are insufficient. Policies also need to ensure that farmers around the world have the means to improve their supply capacity in response to new market opportunities.”

[http://www.oecd.org/document/57/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34487\\_44685561\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/57/0,3343,en_2649_34487_44685561_1_1_1_1,00.html)

**See Also: All Press Releases, Statements and Contributions**, *OECD Agriculture Ministerial Meeting, February 25-26*

[http://www.oecd.org/document/10/0,3343,en\\_21571361\\_43893445\\_44666186\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/10/0,3343,en_21571361_43893445_44666186_1_1_1_1,00.html)

**Going Together**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture & Food Policy, Global Food for Thought Blog, February 25*

In the new initiative to end hunger through agriculture development, an old African proverb is lighting the way: If you want to go fast, go it alone. If you want to go far, go together. For the Obama administration, which is leading the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, this means taking a “whole of government” approach, bringing the focus and resources of many agencies to the same task. For Africa, it means looking beyond national borders and thinking regionally.

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

**See Also: ‘Hunger Can Be Conquered,’** *Christianity Today, February 24*

Rob Moll, an editor at large for Christianity Today, recently interviewed Roger Thurow, now a senior fellow with the Chicago Council of Global Affairs.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/february/27.40.html>

**Green Revolution in India Wilts as Subsidies Backfire**, *Wall Street Journal, February 22*

India’s Green Revolution is withering. In the 1970s, India dramatically increased food production, finally allowing this giant country to feed itself. But government efforts to continue that miracle by encouraging farmers to use fertilizers have backfired, forcing the country to expand its reliance on imported food.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703615904575052921612723844.html>

**See Also: Transcript: Pranab Mukherjee’s Budget Speech**, *Financial Times, February 26*

“A major concern during the second half of 2009-10 has been the emergence of double digit food inflation. There was a momentum in food prices since the flare-up of global commodity prices preceding the financial crisis in 2008, but it was expected that the agriculture season beginning June 2009 would help in moderating the food inflation. However, the erratic monsoons and drought like conditions in large parts of the country reinforced the supply side bottlenecks in some of the essential commodities.”

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b48f3102-22b7-11df-8942-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: India Budget Boosts Farm Spending**, *Wall Street Journal, February 26*

Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee proposed a new law to ensure food security in the country and announced the government would boost agriculture spending in addition to providing farmers more time to repay loans as the farm sector emerges from one of the worst monsoon seasons last year.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126717737727252153.html>

**See Also: Agriculture: The Key to Inclusive Growth**, *Op-Ed, Sameer Narang, Wall Street Journal, February 24*

Without higher agriculture growth, India’s 10% economic growth target will be impossible to achieve.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126698787056350691.html>

**See Also: India Advisor Targets Food Handouts**, *Wall Street Journal, February 24*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703795004575087333908374558.html>

**See Also: India Budget May Take Steps to Revive Farm Output**, *Wall Street Journal, February 22*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704454304575080913295718780.html>

**Quake Has Haiti Relying on Agricultural Roots**, *Wall Street Journal*, February 23

An agricultural program that helped inch people out of poverty and hunger in this village about 25 miles north of Port-au-Prince is racing to feed thousands who flocked here after the earthquake.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703494404575081744058479892.html>

**It's 2010! Ten Actionable Ideas (Realized and Yet-to-be-Realized) for a 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Global Development Agenda**, *Op-Ed*, Nancy Birdsall, *President for the Center for Global Development*, *Huffington Post*, February 25

Here are 10 actionable ideas for global prosperity, some that have been realized, then some currently on the table. Ask yourself where they came from, and what level of coordination they require. Less than I would have thought at first blush . . . but see what you think.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nancy-birdsall/its-2010-ten-actionable-i\\_b\\_476302.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nancy-birdsall/its-2010-ten-actionable-i_b_476302.html)

**New Directions in U.S.-India Relations**, , Robert O. Blake, Jr., *Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs*, *Remarks at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs* February 18

"We have a rich history of agricultural cooperation. Midwestern land grant colleges played a historic role in India's Green Revolution. We hope that those colleges will again play a critical role by partnering with Indian counterparts on research and training activities. The American private sector also is playing a significant and growing role in India's agricultural development and our overall economic relationship with India. **The Chicago Council's own Global Agricultural Development Initiative has had a significant impact on food security policy around the world by putting the spotlight on global food security issues.**"

<http://www.state.gov/p/sca/rls/rmks/2010/136973.htm>

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

**Testimony before Senate Appropriations Committee**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, February 24

"The Administration has also pledged to invest at least \$3.5 billion in food security over three years, and this year's request includes \$1.6 billion, of which \$1.2 billion is funded through the State Department. This funding will focus on countries that have developed effective, comprehensive strategies, where agriculture is central to prosperity and hunger remains widespread."

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/ht-state.cfm?method=hearings.download&id=f5d8d6b6-5606-44c6-8798-f63423391f07>

**See Also: FY2011 Budget for the Department of State**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, *Testimony Before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs*, February 25

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/02/137299.htm>

**See Also: Promoting Security Through Diplomacy and Development: The Fiscal Year 2011 International Affairs Budget**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, *Testimony Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee*, February 25

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/02/137280.htm>

**See Also: Foreign Policy Priorities in the FY2011 International Affairs Budget**, *Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*, *Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, February 24

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/02/137256.htm>

**Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives**, *Thomas Vilsack*, *U.S. Secretary of Agriculture*, February 24

"A productive agricultural sector is critical to increasing global food security. USDA plays a major role in helping American farmers and ranchers improve the efficiency of agricultural production, including the safe use of biotechnology and other emergent technologies. New technologies and production practices can enhance food security around the world by increasing the availability of food as well as providing developing

nations tools for increasing their self reliance and giving them greater control over their production decisions.”

[http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Vilsack\\_Opening\\_Statement-2-24-10.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Vilsack_Opening_Statement-2-24-10.pdf)

**India and China: Divergent Markets for U.S. Agricultural Exports**, *Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 24*

India and China share many similarities. The world’s only two population billionaires are both among the global leaders in GDP growth over the past decade and both face similar challenges of producing enough food to meet the demands of an increasingly affluent populace. However, when it comes to agricultural trade, China and India appear to have taken divergent paths.

[http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/china/India\\_Chinamarket022010.pdf](http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/china/India_Chinamarket022010.pdf)

**Afghan Women and Girls: Building the Future of Afghanistan**, *Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, Testimony Before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy and Global Women’s Issues of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, February 23*

“Jobs creation is among our most urgent goals, and agricultural development in Afghanistan is a top U.S. priority. The key to increasing agricultural productivity is to increase skilled human capital – and an efficient way to accomplish that is by training women.”

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/rem/2010/137222.htm>

**USAID Administrator Shah Attends EU Development Ministers Informal Meeting in Spain**, *United States Agency for International Development, February 19*

USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah met with European Union (EU) Development Ministers during the EU Development Ministers Informal Meeting in La Granja, Spain from February 17-18. Topics discussed included the Transatlantic Development Dialogue and Haiti. Specifically, Dr Shah highlighted the Administration’s new \$3.5 billion Food Security Initiative aimed at MDG 1 (poverty and hunger) as well as the just-announced \$63 billion Global Health Initiative aimed at MDGs 4, 5, and 6 (child mortality, maternal health, and HIV/AIDS and other diseases).

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2010/pr100219.html>

**Names: Sean Carroll as USAID Chief of Staff**, *Foreign Policy, February 22*

USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah will have a new chief of staff next week, when Sean Carroll takes up the post, leaving the Club of Madrid. Carroll has been the club’s program director since 2004. Before that he was senior fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue, a consultant to United Nations’ World Food Program, a Minority Staff director of a House International Relations subcommittee, and worked in various roles at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Carroll also coordinated Obama for America efforts in Spain.

[http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/02/22/names\\_sean\\_carroll\\_as\\_usaid\\_chief\\_of\\_staff](http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/02/22/names_sean_carroll_as_usaid_chief_of_staff)

**See Also: Program Director of the Club of Madrid to take post in the Obama Administration as USAID Chief of Staff**, *Club de Madrid, February 19*

[http://www.clubmadrid.org/en/noticia/program\\_director\\_of\\_the\\_club\\_of\\_madrid\\_to\\_take\\_post\\_in\\_the\\_obama\\_administration\\_as\\_usaid\\_chief\\_of\\_st](http://www.clubmadrid.org/en/noticia/program_director_of_the_club_of_madrid_to_take_post_in_the_obama_administration_as_usaid_chief_of_st)

**Haiti’s Agriculture Focus: Enhance Food Security, Generate Income, Create Jobs**, *Ertharin Cousin, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies in Rome, Dipnote, U.S. Department of State Official Blog, February 19*

On the one month anniversary of the tragic earthquake in Haiti, high-level representatives gathered in Rome to witness the unveiling of Haiti’s new agriculture plan. The plan was presented by Haiti’s Agriculture Minister, Joanas Gue, who noted at the outset of his presentation that Haiti’s planting season is set to begin next month, and thus urgent steps need to be taken now to ensure that Haitian farmers are prepared and receive the necessary support.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/haiti\\_agriculture](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/haiti_agriculture)

**USDA Working to Develop More Nutritious Humanitarian Food Aid Packages**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 25*

Roger Beachy, director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced a new grant program to develop healthier food products for humanitarian assistance programs.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/02/0084.xml>

**USDA's McGovern-Dole International Food Education Program Expected to Feed 5 Million Children This Year**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 26*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will donate more than 100,000 tons of U.S. agricultural commodities valued at nearly \$170 million (including freight costs and technical assistance) in fiscal year 2010 under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (McGovern-Dole) Program.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/02/0087.xml>

**International Food Aid Programs: Backgrounds and Issues**, *Congressional Research Service, February 3*

Issues for Congress related to food aid include improving aid effectiveness; developing "demand driven" strategies that take into account the recipient country's needs and strategic plans for food security; determining the best form for providing food aid and assistance, whether in the form of cash or commodities (e.g. deciding whether to allow the practice of monetization and determining how best to implement an effective local and regional procurement strategy); and determining the cost-effectiveness of U.S. cargo preferences for delivering U.S. food aid.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41072.pdf>

**Examining the U.S.-Nigeria Relationship in a Time of Transition**, *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, February 23*

<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/20100223/>

**See Also: Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs**, *Assistant Secretary Johnnie Carson, Bureau of African Affairs, February 23*

"Major infrastructure improvements are critical to developing manufacturing and other non-oil sector industries. This is a real challenge for Nigeria and absolutely essential for the progress and development of Nigeria and its people. The decline in the country's infrastructure – from poor roads to power shortages to reduced health and education spending – has led to a decline in social indices, reduced manufacturing and food insecurity."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/CarsonTestimony100223a.pdf>

**See Also: Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs**, *Nuhu Ribadu, Visiting Fellow at the Center for Global Development and Senior Fellow at St. Anthony's College at Oxford University, February 23*

"Attention should be given to other aspects of Nigeria's socio-economic equation to create jobs, spur small and medium sized business development and overall economic diversity. Nigeria's agriculture sector, long abandoned, has the potential to be West Africa's bread basket and reduce the impact of food insecurity."

<http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/RibaduTestimony100223a.pdf>

**Chairman Peterson Introduces Legislation to Expand Agriculture Exports to Cuba**, *U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture, February 23*

Today, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson of Minnesota introduced legislation to expand U.S. agriculture exports to Cuba.

[http://agriculture.house.gov/list/press/agriculture\\_dem/pr\\_022310\\_Cubabill.html](http://agriculture.house.gov/list/press/agriculture_dem/pr_022310_Cubabill.html)

**U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Charles Ray, on Agricultural Development in Zimbabwe**, *Nourishing the Planet Blog, February 23*

Last week, I had the privilege of meeting with the new U.S. ambassador to Zimbabwe, Charles Ray. Ambassador Ray was gracious enough to take the time to answer my questions about agricultural development in a country facing political turmoil, high unemployment, and high food prices.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/u-s-ambassador-to-zimbabwe-charles-ray-on-agricultural-development-in-zimbabwe/>

**Chairman Kerry Welcomes Increase in the FY 2011 International Affairs Budget to Combat Climate Change, Senator John Kerry, February 23**

"I am pleased to see that this budget includes a 38% increase in funding to address international climate change, especially in the wake of Copenhagen," said Chairman Kerry. "While much has been said about what wasn't accomplished at Copenhagen, far too little has been said about what was."

<http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=322490>

**See Also: Kerry Addresses Future of Climate Legislation, Senator John Kerry, February 23**

<http://kerry.senate.gov/cfm/record.cfm?id=322471>

**EPA Plans to Phase in Regulations of Emissions, New York Times, February 22**

Facing wide criticism over their recent finding that greenhouse gases endanger the public welfare, top Environmental Protection Agency officials said Monday that any regulation of such gases would be phased in gradually and would not impose expensive new rules on most American businesses.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/23/business/energy-environment/23epa.html>

**See Also: Energy Protection Agency Delays Greenhouse Curbs, Politico, February 22**

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0210/33328.html>

**See Also: EPA Delays Emissions Regulations, Wall Street Journal, February 23**

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704454304575082004106469086.html>

**MCC Signs \$3.55 Million Grant with the Philippines to Assist with Development of Poverty Reducing Compact, Millennium Challenge Corporation, February 24**

The grant awarded is one step in the compact development process. In early 2009, the Philippines submitted a number of proposals for MCC compact funding, including transport infrastructure to improve access to markets and services for farmers, fishers and small enterprises, and the expansion of a community based rural development program focusing on poor areas.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-022410-mccsignsmillion.shtml>

**USDA and Department of Justice Workshops to Explore Competition and Regulatory Issues in the Agriculture Industry to Begin March 12 in Iowa, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 23**

The Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the agenda and panelists for the first joint public workshop, which will be held on March 12, 2010, in Ankeny, Iowa, to explore competition and regulatory issues in the agriculture industry.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7 0 A/7 0 10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/02/0081.xml>

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**NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS**

**Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2009, International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, February 2010**

As a result of consistent and substantial, crop productivity, economic, environmental and welfare benefits, a record 14 million small and large farmers in 25 countries planted 134 million hectares (330 million acres) in 2009, an increase of 7 percent or 9 million hectares (22 million acres) over 2008; the corresponding increase in "trait or virtual hectares" was 8 percent or 14 million "trait hectares" for a total of 180 million "trait hectares" compared with 166 million "trait hectares" in 2008. The 80- fold increase in biotech crop hectares between 1996 and 2009, is unprecedented, and makes biotech crops the fastest adopted crop technology in the recent history of agriculture.

*Executive Summary:* <http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/41/executivesummary/default.asp>

Highlights: <http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/41/highlights/default.asp>

**See Also: Brazil, China Boost Biotech Plantings**, *Des Moines Register*, February 23

Biotech crops are hot in Brazil, but the real action in coming years could be in China, according to a group that tracks the technology.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100223/BUSINESS01/100223015/1029/BUSINESS/Brazil-China-boost-biotech-plantings>

**Agriculture Sector Strategy 2010-2014**, *African Development Bank Group*, February 2010

Agriculture is vital for the development goals of promoting growth and reducing poverty in Africa.

Agriculture supports the livelihoods of 80 percent of the African population, provides employment for about 60 percent of the economically active population, and for about 70 percent of the poorest people on the continent.

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/Agriculture%20Sector%20Strategy%2010-14.pdf>

**See Also: AfDB Board Approves Agriculture Sector Strategy**, *African Development Bank Group*, February 22

The strategy seeks to position the institution to effectively contribute to broader development of greater agricultural productivity, food security and poverty reduction while promoting the conservation of the natural resource base.

<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-events/article/afdb-board-approves-agriculture-sector-strategy-6345/>

**USDA Agricultural Projections to 2019**, *Interagency Agricultural Projections Committee*, February 2010

This report provides longrun (10-year) projections for the agricultural sector through 2019. Projections cover agricultural commodities, agricultural trade, and aggregate indicators of the sector, such as farm income and food prices.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/OCE101/OCE101.pdf>

**The Poverty Implications of Climate-Induced Crop Yield Changes by 2030**, *Thomas Hertel, Marshall Burke, David Lobell, GTAP*, February 2010

Accumulating evidence suggests that agricultural production could be greatly affected by climate change, but there remains little quantitative understanding of how these agricultural impacts would affect economic livelihoods in poor countries. Here the authors consider three scenarios of agricultural impacts of climate change by 2030 (impacts resulting in low, medium, or high productivity) and evaluate the resulting changes in global commodity prices, national economic welfare, and the incidence of poverty in a set of 15 developing countries.

[http://iis-db.stanford.edu/pubs/22837/GTAP\\_2\\_2010.pdf](http://iis-db.stanford.edu/pubs/22837/GTAP_2_2010.pdf)

**See Also: Robust Negative Impacts of Climate Change on African Agriculture**, *Wolfram Schlenker, David B. Lobell, Environmental Research Letters*, February 2010

There is widespread interest in the impacts of climate change on agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), and on the most effective investments to assist adaptation to these changes, yet the scientific basis for estimating production risks and prioritizing investments has been quite limited. Here the authors show that by combining historical crop production and weather data into a panel analysis, a robust model of yield response to climate change emerges for several key African crops.

[http://www.iop.org/EJ/article/1748-9326/5/1/014010/erl10\\_1\\_014010.html](http://www.iop.org/EJ/article/1748-9326/5/1/014010/erl10_1_014010.html)

**Promoting Economic Cooperation in South Asia**, *World Bank*, February 2010

The cost of weak regional cooperation tends to hurt the poor more than the other segment of the population. Two of the poorest South Asian countries are Afghanistan and Nepal; both are land locked. Several lagging regions in the larger South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are located in the border areas and suffer from lack of market integration. The report looks at the many policy and institutional constraints that contribute to the present state and have made South Asia one of the least integrated regions of the world.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/SOUTHASIAEXT/Resources/223546-1192413140459/4281804-1192413178157/4281806-1265938468438/BeyondSAFTAFeb2010FullText.pdf>

**Agriculture and Food Security in Africa's Drylands: Meeting the Realities of Small Scale Farmers**, *Both ENDS, January 2010*

This paper examines the existing divide between current development policies related to agriculture and those related to drylands (at the international level, as well as those of the Dutch government) and the reality of food production in these, often hostile (physical and economic) environments.

[http://www.bothends.org/uploaded\\_files/BriefingPaper\\_bw\\_2010\\_webversie.pdf](http://www.bothends.org/uploaded_files/BriefingPaper_bw_2010_webversie.pdf)

**Sierra Leone: Agricultural Growth, Poverty Reduction, and Food Security**, *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, February 2010*

This report looks at CAADP's aims to add value to Sierra Leone's efforts to ensure that its growth and poverty objectives are achieved.

<http://www.caadp.net/pdf/index1.pdf>

**Food Security and Agricultural Development in Times of High Commodity Prices**, *UN Conference on Trade and Development, November 2009*

Efforts to promote food security must distinguish between short-term and medium-term measures, but also between countries with agricultural potential and without such potential, argues this paper. Furthermore, while high international food prices provide appropriate incentives for agricultural development, it would be misguided to expect that they will automatically result in an increase of agricultural output.

[http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/osgdp20094\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/osgdp20094_en.pdf)

**The Social Costs and Benefits of Biofuels: The Intersection of Environmental, Energy and Agricultural Policy**, *Applied Economic Perspective and Policy, February 2010*

The efficacy of alternative biofuel policies in achieving energy, environmental and agricultural policy goals is assessed using economic cost-benefit analysis. Government mandates are superior to consumption subsidies, especially with suboptimal fuel taxes and the higher costs involved with raising tax revenues. But subsidies with mandates cause adverse interaction effects; oil consumption is subsidized instead. Ethanol policy can have a significant impact on corn prices; if not, inefficiency costs rise sharply. Ethanol policy can increase the inefficiency of farm subsidies and vice-versa.

<http://aepp.oxfordjournals.org/content/32/1/4.full.pdf+html>

**Development, Trade, and Carbon Reduction**, *Overseas Development Institute, February 2010*

The impact of climate change will impose new costs on developing country exporters, especially if markets do not work correctly and international agreements are not well designed. These papers explore three ways of helping developing countries and the international system deal with the new problems: aid to meet the additional costs, new markets in carbon reduction commitments, and reconciling the differences between the world trading system and the international conventions on climate change.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/download/4745.pdf>

**FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Guatemala**, *Relief Web, February 2010*

Agriculture is a major subsector in the Guatemalan economy because it generates some 14 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), employing between 40 and 50 percent of the workforce, and accounting for more than 50 percent of foreign exchange revenues from exports.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/KHII-82Y2MK/\\$File/full\\_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/KHII-82Y2MK/$File/full_report.pdf)

**Forty Years After NEPA's Enactment, it is Time for a Comprehensive Farm Bill Environmental Impact Statement**, *Harvard Law and Policy Review, February 2010*

There are winners and losers in the modern American farm economy. This article addresses these damages and the failure of federal agencies to observe a law that might provide some measure of transparency, level-headed comparative analysis, and perhaps even mitigation: the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

[http://hlpronline.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/laseur\\_nepa.pdf](http://hlpronline.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/laseur_nepa.pdf)

**Food and Beverage Industry Global Report**, *International Network of Mergers and Acquisitions Partners, February 2010*

The global food and beverage (F&B) sector, which comprises farming, food production, distribution, retail and catering, was valued at \$5.7 trillion USD in 2008. The industry is one of the major contributors to growth of all economies and has historically witnessed consistent growth. The industry is expected to increase at a compound annual growth rate of 3.5 percent to \$7 trillion USD by 2014. In terms of structure, the industry is highly fragmented and the top few players—Nestlé, Kraft Foods, Unilever and Cargill—account for less than 5 percent of the overall value.

[http://www.imap.com/imap/media/resources/IMAP\\_Food\\_Beverage\\_Report\\_2010\\_for\\_5154D9FBAEFE2.pdf](http://www.imap.com/imap/media/resources/IMAP_Food_Beverage_Report_2010_for_5154D9FBAEFE2.pdf)

#### **Land Use Futures, Foresight, February 2010**

Foresight undertook a major project on the future of land use in the UK. The project produced an evidence base which will help government and other policy makers understand whether existing land use patterns and practice are fit for the future.

[http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Land%20Use/luf\\_report/8510-BIS-Foresight%20SYSTEMS%20MAPS-WEB.pdf](http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Land%20Use/luf_report/8510-BIS-Foresight%20SYSTEMS%20MAPS-WEB.pdf)

**See Also: Call to Update Britain's Land Use Systems, Financial Times, February 26**

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c5c9f096-220e-11df-98dd-00144feab49a.html?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c5c9f096-220e-11df-98dd-00144feab49a.html?nclick_check=1)

#### **Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Aligning Public Spending with Strategic Priorities in the Forestry Sector, World Bank, February 2010**

Vietnam's forests remain dependent on public resources, including international development assistance, for the delivery of public and private services that include timber production, state forest management, forest protection and biodiversity conservation, and extension and research. Public subsidies are also provided to smallholder forest owners to stimulate investments into the sector. The study assesses resource adequacy and whether public spending is appropriately prioritized and aligned with sector objectives.

<http://www->

[wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/02/18/000333037\\_20100218232046/Rendered/PDF/531010ESW0P1011enditure0Review02116.pdf](http://wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/02/18/000333037_20100218232046/Rendered/PDF/531010ESW0P1011enditure0Review02116.pdf)

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **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>

### **Creating Shared Value: The New Concept of Corporate Social Responsibility**

*Date:* March 4, 2010

*Location:* International Food Policy Research Institute

This Policy Seminar proposes a new approach, which replaces the more traditional descriptions of "corporate social responsibility" with "Creating Shared Value" - a concept initially developed by Harvard's Professor Michael Porter and championed by Nestlé, a global leader in Nutrition, Health and Wellness Company. Using a range of examples from the Nestlé context, Nestlé Chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe will also examine the linkages between the role of business in society, and some of the broader issues surrounding Food Security.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/creating-shared-value-new-concept-corporate-social-responsibility>

### **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>

### **Building Food Security in the Face of Climate Change – CCFAS Launch Conference**

*Date:* May 4, 2010

*Location:* Nairobi, Kenya

The CCAFS Launch Conference is a one day event that will bring together the research and development community, policy makers, public and private research organizations, donors, and development agencies, both governmental and non-governmental.

<http://www.ccafs.cgiar.org/ccaafs-launch-conference.php>

### **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.

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

## **The International Rice Congress 2010**

Date: November 8<sup>th</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup>

Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

Hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

<http://www.ricecongress.com/cmsdetail.php?id=1>

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## **AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**

### **Attack of the Really Quite Likeable Tomatoes, *Economist, February 25***

In the 14 years since the first genetically modified crops were planted commercially, their descendants, relatives and remixes have gone forth and multiplied like profitable, high-tech pondweed. Three-quarters of the farmland used to grow soya is now sown with a genetically modified variant, and the figures for cotton are not that far behind, thanks to its success in India. China recently gave the safety go-ahead to its first GM rice variety and a new GM maize that should make better pig feed. Techniques for altering genomes are moving ahead almost as fast as the genomes themselves are stacking up, and new crops with more than one added trait are coming to market. Such stories of success will strike fear into some hearts, and not only in GM-averse Europe; a GM backlash is under way in India, focused on insect-resistant aubergines.

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15579956](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15579956)

#### **See Also: Taking Root, *Economist, February 25***

A decade ago, after European activists whipped up lots of negative coverage about the perils of toying with nature, the future of genetically modified (GM) crops seemed uncertain. The technology was adopted by farmers in the rich world outside Europe, but poor countries seemed likely to be left behind. However, according to a report released on February 23rd, the sector is blossoming, especially in the developing world, where poor and unproductive farmers have the most to gain from such advances.

[http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15580864](http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15580864)

### **South Africa to Revise Farm Sector Laws – Minister, *Reuters, February 25***

South Africa will revise several of its agriculture laws to make the sector more globally competitive amid falling agricultural commodity prices and high production costs, its agriculture minister said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/hotStocksNews/idUSWEB238220100225>

### **Yemen: Food Security Takes a Knock, *IRIN, February 25***

Cereal production in Yemen has declined for the second consecutive year due mainly to a lack of rainfall, according to Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Abdulmalik al-Thawr.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/ad391bf7a059767739f3627a259c34d8.htm>

### **China May Take Three Years to Allow Sales of Gene-Modified Corn, *Bloomberg, February 24***

China, the world's biggest grain producer, may take at least three years before gene-modified corn can be grown commercially, according to a state scientist who participated in the research.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a5rUvppNUhSg>

### **Time to Change the Menu, *Harvard Gazette, February 24***

With global population expected to increase by about 2.5 billion by 2050 even while climate change hits farmlands with shifting rainfall and temperatures, it may be time to rethink what we eat and how we produce food, according to a Harvard Medical School instructor and authority on environmental change and human health. Samuel Myers, instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS), laid out evidence that the global food supply system is already showing cracks. Add those people and throw in the effects of climate change and — although it's not time to panic — it may be time to be concerned, Myers said.

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2010/02/time-to-change-the-menu/>

### **Tories Pledge to Protect Farmland, *Financial Times, February 24***

High-quality farmland will no longer be available for putting up houses, and farm produce will be clearly labelled as British, if a Conservative government takes power, the party promised.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1b831608-2092-11df-bf2d-00144feab49a.html>

**Foreign Agro Firms Scoop Up Ethiopian Farmland**, *Voice of America, February 22*

The Green Revolution that ended food shortages in parts of the world decades ago may be coming to East Africa, bringing the promise of bountiful harvests in a region more often associated with drought and famine. But from the Oromia region of Ethiopia, critics see the project as a neo-colonial land grab.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/Foreign-Agro-Firms-Scoop-Up-Ethiopian-Farmland--84973402.html>

**Regulation Can't Keep Pace with Livestock**, *Voice of America, February 22*

Livestock production is growing faster than the capacity of nations to safely and responsibly manage it, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/science-technology/Regulation-Cant-Keep-Pace-with-Livestock--84954757.html>

**What is an Appropriate Technology?** *Sara Delaney, Nourishing the Planet Blog, Worldwatch Institute, February 22*

Many scientists and policymakers in developed countries also often hold on to the idea that you can't apply different types of technology to the same problem. In fact, this is often exactly what is needed. For example, in drought-prone areas, where farmers deal with persistent and increasing water shortages, they need "traditional" water conservation techniques and planting methods such as the *zai* system in West Africa, where farmers use small holes filled with manure and the extensive underground termite tunnels that result, to both capture water and recycle soil nutrients.

<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/nourishingtheplanet/what-is-an-appropriate-technology/>

**Venezuela's Ranchers Warn against Arming Peasants**, *Associated Press, February 21*

President Hugo Chavez's socialist government is creating peasant-based militias throughout Venezuela's rural, agricultural-rich regions, raising fears of confrontation among the country's cattle ranchers and landholders. The armed groups, organized by Venezuela's military, will be responsible for protecting poor farmers from vigilante groups allegedly organized and financed by cattlemen and wealthy landowners, Chavez wrote in a newspaper column published Sunday.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100221/ap\\_on\\_re\\_la\\_am\\_ca/lt\\_venezuela\\_peasant\\_militias](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100221/ap_on_re_la_am_ca/lt_venezuela_peasant_militias)

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

**In Niger, Opening Once-Taboo Topic of Hunger Crucial to Easing Impending Food Crisis**, *Associated Press, February 26*

For years, President Mamadou Tandja denied there was any food crisis in Niger, even when images were broadcast of skeletal children too weak to brush away flies. Now that the military has ousted Tandja, aid agencies are speaking out, with good reason: The country is facing its worst food shortage in years.

<http://www.fox40.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-af-niger-hunger-talking.0,1445698.story>

**U.N. Plans Asia's First Food Relief Hub for Disasters**, *Associated Press, February 25*

The U.N.'s World Food Program announced plans to set up its first Asian disaster response hub, highlighting the need for emergency supplies to save lives in a region increasingly afflicted by earthquakes, floods, typhoons and volcanic eruptions.

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/ap/20100225/tap-as-asia-disaster-response-510daa6.html>

**Gates and MasterCard Foundations Partner with Opportunity International to Provide Financial Access to 1.4 Million of the Rural Poor in Africa**, *Press Release, February 25*

Opportunity International has announced a \$16 million program co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The MasterCard Foundation to provide access to savings accounts and agricultural loans in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, where less than 10 percent of people have access to comprehensive financial services.

<http://www.pr-inside.com/gates-and-mastercard-foundations-partner-r1740880.htm>

**U.N. Says Millions of People in Niger Need Food Aid**, *Voice of America, February 23*

The World Health Organization reports millions of people in Niger are going hungry and tens of thousands are malnourished, many of them children.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/health/UN-says-Millions-of-People-in-Niger-Need-Food-Aid--85039972.html>

**Thousands of Sri-Lankan Farmers to Benefit from UN-Funded Anti-Poverty Scheme**, *UN News Centre, February 23*

Nearly 58,000 farming households in Sri Lanka are expected to benefit from a United Nations-funded programme designed to improve their livelihoods, boost their incomes and enhance their participation in the marketing and selling of their products.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33858&Cr=ifad&Cr1=>

**See Also: US \$25 million Loan from IFAD to Support Agribusiness Development in Sri Lanka**,

*International Fund for Agricultural Development, February 23*

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2010/17.htm>

**Afghan Official Who Will Govern Marja Pays First Visit, Makes Plea to Residents**, *Washington Post, February 23*

The principal cash crop in Marja is opium-producing poppy, and many farmers are wary that the establishment of local governance and a police force will put an end to what has been a lucrative way of life for them. The Afghan official responsible for governing Marja, Haji, urged the men to remember that U.S. engineers helped to design and build the canals that crisscross Marja, transforming barren desert into fertile farmland. "Who helped you 60 years ago?" he said. "They were Americans, and they are here to help you now."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/22/AR2010022201660.html>

**U.N. Special Envoy Clinton in Haiti**, *Voice of America, February 23*

One month after the disaster struck, about one fourth of those who lost their homes have been provided with shelter, and about two million have received food aid. Much more needs to be done, from better sanitation in refugee camps to building shelter for tens of thousands of people, to protecting food delivery convoys. Haitian farmers urgently need assistance in order to plant crops, which will help provide Haiti with food security in the longer term, as well as reduce the need for emergency food assistance.

<http://www1.voanews.com/policy/editorials/americas/UN-Special-Envoy-Clinton-In-Haiti-84742137.html>

**World Food Program Begins School Feeding Program in Haiti**, *Voice of America, February 22*

The World Food Program and other United Nations aid agencies are scaling up their humanitarian operations for millions of Haitians affected by the earthquake, which devastated their country in mid-January. The World Food Program reports it is beginning a program to provide cooked meals for thousands of school children in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince on Monday.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/education/WFP-Begins-School-Feeding-Program-Haiti--84960222.html>

**Homeless Haitians: Aid Halted to Force Them Out**, *Associated Press, February 22*

Homeless victims of Haiti's earthquake said that police are halting deliveries of food and water to try to force them to leave their camp on the grounds of the prime minister's office.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100222/ap\\_on\\_re\\_la\\_am\\_ca/cb\\_haiti\\_earthquake](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100222/ap_on_re_la_am_ca/cb_haiti_earthquake)

**Our Shaky Hand on African Aid**, *Op-Ed, Brett House and Désirée McGraw, Globe and Mail, February 22*

The timing of Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon's announcement that Canada won't commit to any more African aid until his government can take stock of how previously disbursed aid has been spent is curious.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/our-shaky-hand-on-african-aid/article1477458/>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

**The New Energy Order: Managing Insecurities in the Twenty-First Century**, *David G. Victor and Linda Yueh, Foreign Affairs, January/February 2010*

Growing demand for energy in developing countries and calls for greener energy worldwide are putting unprecedented pressure on the global energy system. Existing energy institutions are struggling to remain relevant. A new mechanism for cooperation is needed.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65897/david-g-victor-and-linda-yueh/the-new-energy-order>

**Push to Oversimplify at Climate Panel**, *Wall Street Journal, February 26*

In the next few days, the world's leading authority on global warming plans to roll out a strategy to tackle a tough problem: restoring its own bruised reputation.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704188104575083681319834978.html#mod=todays\\_us\\_page\\_one](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704188104575083681319834978.html#mod=todays_us_page_one)

**See Also: Climate Panel Vows New Review**, *Wall Street Journal, February 24*

The world's leading organization on climate change says it is working on a strategy to better police the experts who produce its high-profile reports, to try to ensure they adhere to rigorous scientific standards. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change needs to "leave no stone unturned to come up with a set of measures so this can be ensured," Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the United Nations-sponsored organization, said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703510204575086303055077096.html>

**See Also: Panel on Climate Faces Challenges**, *Wall Street Journal, February 23*

The Nobel-prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change faces new challenges following a call for an investigation of its conduct and for its chairman to resign amid continuing criticism of the scientific basis of its reports.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704197104575051620263103684.html?KEYWORDS=agriculture>

**Official: Climate Change Treaty Unlikely this Year**, *Washington Post, February 25*

Industrialized and developing countries are not likely to reach a treaty this year on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, which have sparked fears of weather-related disasters, the U.N. climate chief said. Yvo de Boer, who announced last week he would resign July 1, said there was not enough time to recover from the disappointing summit in December in Copenhagen, where world leaders failed to agree on a legally binding climate pact. Bickering between rich and poor countries over emissions cuts and financial assistance undermined the talks and forced them to settle on a voluntary plan.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/25/AR2010022501762\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/25/AR2010022501762_pf.html)

**Three Lessons from Copenhagen**, *Op-Ed, Brahma Chellaney, professor of strategic studies, Center for Policy Research, Japan Times, February 24*

Water shortages already are reaching critical proportions in several parts of the world. And this has a bearing on food security. This suggests that goals of food security increasingly will be difficult to achieve. The World Bank has projected the demand for food to rise 50 percent by 2030, even as the present global food system struggles to meet existing demand. Today, agriculture makes up more than two-thirds of all water withdrawals globally, while contributing 14 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions — about as much as running every car, ship and plane. To grow more food demands more water. But water availability already is coming under pressure in the most densely-populated parts of the world.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/ea20100224bc.html>

**How to Fix Climate Science Reporting**, *Council on Foreign Relations, February 24*

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which issued a series of reports on climate science meant to inform governments worldwide, shared the 2007 Nobel Peace prize for its work. But the panel came under fire in early 2010 over questionable findings--including the projection that Himalayan glaciers could disappear by 2035 instead of 2350--calling into question the quality and neutrality of the

IPCC's methods. In this CFR roundup, three experts examine the degree to which the IPCC needs to change its reporting process.

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/21515/fixing\\_the\\_global\\_climate\\_science\\_process.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/21515/fixing_the_global_climate_science_process.html)

**Reject Skeptics' Attempts to Derail Global Climate Deal, U.N. Chief Urges**, *Associated Press, February 24*

The UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, today urged environment ministers to reject attempts by sceptics to undermine efforts to forge a climate change deal, stressing that global warming poses "a clear and present danger."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/feb/24/ban-ki-moon-un-reject-sceptics>

**See Also: 100 Nations Sign Up for Copenhagen Climate Deal**, *Reuters, February 23*

The number of nations signed up for the Copenhagen Accord for fighting climate change has risen to 100 two months after it was agreed at a summit in December, documents showed.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE61M46020100223>

**A New Approach to Tracking Climate Change**, *Op-Ed, Jagdish Bhagwati, senior fellow in international economics, Council on Foreign Relations, Financial Times, February 23*

In determining these obligations for developing countries such as India, it is clear that cutting emissions can damage growth. New technologies can help, provided they can be accessed at negligible cost. However, no one will subsidise the sale of technologies to India and China. But, why not take a sizeable fraction of the tort funds in each country and use them to create the technologies by open tenders and make them freely accessible to India or China - just as we did when the US used its public funds to develop new seeds in the 1960s and made them freely accessible by India et al. Those seeds created the Green Revolution in agriculture. The same strategy could create a revolution in climate change.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8a147a62-201a-11df-81a2-00144feab49a.html>

**UN Climate Talks to Resume in April in Germany**, *Associated Press, February 23*

The United Nations says formal negotiations on an international treaty to control global warming will resume in Bonn in April, four months after the failed climate change summit in Copenhagen. U.N. climate chief Yvo de Boer said Tuesday the negotiating schedule is being intensified in order to secure a global climate deal at the end of the year. After the Bonn meeting April 9-11, more talks are scheduled there for May 31-June 11. The next world climate summit is to take place in Cancun, Mexico, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 10.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100223/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/eu\\_germany\\_climate\\_1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100223/ap_on_re_eu/eu_germany_climate_1)

**Beyond Copenhagen**, *Michael Levi, David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment, Council on Foreign Relations, February 22*

For many climate-change experts, the Copenhagen summit was something of a failure. In order to make real progress on pressing climate issues, policymakers must give up on a binding deal and begin to look outside the UN process.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65985/michael-levi/beyond-copenhagen>

**Climate Migration in Latin America: A Future 'Flood of Refugees' to the North?** *Council on Hemispheric Affairs, February 22*

Relegated to less productive lands, small farmers in Latin America face undeniable economic hardships as their produce customarily has to compete against strongly subsidized American and European agricultural goods. The migratory pressures already in place due to these hardships will most likely be cemented by climate change, and the inequality in land distribution only further underscores the disproportionate influence it is bound to have on the poorer sectors of Latin American society.

<http://www.coha.org/climate-migration-in-latin-america-part-1/>

**Climate Change**, *Editorial, New York Times, February 21*

Yvo de Boer's resignation on Thursday after nearly four tumultuous years as chief steward of the United Nations' climate change negotiations has deepened a sense of pessimism about whether the world can ever get its act together on global warming. Mr. de Boer was plainly exhausted by endless bickering among nations and frustrated by the failure of December's talks in Copenhagen to deliver the prize he had worked so hard for: a legally binding treaty committing nations to mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/22/opinion/22mon1.html>

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## WOMEN

### **What is a Girl Worth?** *Guardian, February 23*

Around the world, 41 million girls are missing out on school. Jessica Shepherd visits Ghana, where, despite relative prosperity, improvements come slowly to rural areas.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/feb/23/ghana-education-girls-attitudes-resources>

### **"Women's Decade": Greater Attention to Implementation,** *International Press Service, February 22*

Fears that the impact of the global economic meltdown would affect funding to various development areas have been rife. Already, several governments have cut their budgets for HIV and AIDS and bilateral and multilateral funding partners have done likewise. Gender, which already receives the lowest budget allocation in most African countries, will suffer more.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50419>

### **Entrepreneurial Spirit of Women Farmers Will Shape Rural Communities Tomorrow,** *International Fund for Agricultural Development, February 18*

In his message, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, reminded the Governing Council that in order for food security to be both comprehensive and sustained, it is necessary to "give pre-eminence to the interests of women, who juggle their time between food production, processing, marketing, childcare and balancing the household budget". Investment in women as a major driving force of economic growth and food security was brought up repeatedly in speeches, statements and discussions throughout the two-day meeting.

<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2010/15.htm>

### **Policy Memo to UNESCO from Center for Global Development,** *Policy Memo, Cynthia B. Lloyd, Ruth Levine, and Miriam Temin, February 17*

Strategic and targeted investments in the education of girls will expedite the achievement of all six Education For All (EFA) goals, as well as of all the MDGs (Goals 2 and 3 directly and all others indirectly). We therefore urge you to call forcefully for global and national action, with a focus on marginalized and vulnerable populations, to increase the commitment, funding, and evidence to support adolescent girls' chances of attending and completing school and converting their education into long-term economic betterment for themselves and their families.

[http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423858\\_file\\_Memo\\_Irina\\_Bokova\\_2\\_17\\_10\\_cgd.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/files/1423858_file_Memo_Irina_Bokova_2_17_10_cgd.pdf)

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### **US Rice Doesn't Help Struggling Haitian Farmers,** *New York Times, February 25*

Haiti's rice farmers are dismayed. It's nearly harvest time in this fertile valley where the bulk of Haiti's food is grown, and they're competing once again with cheap U.S. imported rice.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/02/26/world/AP-CB-Haiti-Earthquake.html>

### **Russia to Expand Wheat Trade Share as Exports Rise,** *Bloomberg, February 25*

Russia, the world's third-largest wheat exporter, plans to increase its share of global trade as the country's exports may advance by as much as 32 percent over the next five years, according to a grain industry official.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aHwLieQ0uD6k>

### **Russia-U.S. Poultry Talks Set for Next Week – USDA,** *Reuters, February 25*

Russian and U.S. officials are set to meet next week in Moscow to talk about how to resolve a trade spat that has shut U.S. poultry out of its top export market, the U.S. Agriculture Department said. Top USDA trade official Jim Miller and Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Jim Murphy will travel to Moscow next week to "work to reopen access for U.S. poultry," a USDA spokeswoman said.

<https://research.tdwaterhouse.ca/research/public/Markets/CommoditiesNews?documentKey=1314-N25141009-1>

**Brazilian Retaliation against U.S. Trade Violations: A Signal for Reform**, *Heritage Foundation, February 24*

On March 1, Brazil will announce a list of retaliatory tariffs against U.S. goods--a response to the American government's unwillingness to eliminate subsidies to domestic cotton producers. With the Administration's intent to bolster U.S. exports as a means for economic recovery, the trade-distorting programs and unfair trade practices that invite such retaliation must be eliminated--after all, tariffs against U.S. goods and services impugn their competitiveness in foreign markets. Moreover, America's refusal to comply with adverse WTO rulings erodes U.S. credibility and influence in the debate shaping globalization and undermines the multilateral trading system.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/tradeandeconomicfreedom/wm2815.cfm>

**Global Trade Slumped 12% Last Year**, *Guardian, February 24*

Pascal Lamy, head of World Trade Organisation, reveals fall in trade flows as he urges members to revive Doha trade talks.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/feb/24/global-trade-slumps>

**World Salmon Supply to Drop Most Since 1990 on Virus**, *Bloomberg, February 24*

Global supply of Atlantic salmon will decline the most in two decades this year after a virus decimated output in Chile, bolstering the steepest advance in Norwegian prices since at least 2000.

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

**India Seeks Lowest Potash Price in Four Years**, *Bloomberg, February 24*

India, the world's biggest potash importer, may offer the lowest price in four years in annual talks with suppliers after Chinese buyers secured reduced terms, said three industry officials with direct knowledge of the plan.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aLIFWAbT9jLE>

**India Work Scheme Puts Pressure on Food Prices**, *Financial Times, February 23*

In recent years, India has mobilised a virtual army of rural labourers to undertake such tasks as repairing village roads and footpaths, deepening community ponds and strengthening embankments, all under the auspices of New Delhi's rural employment guarantee scheme. The scheme – which ostensibly guarantees 100 days of paid labour to one member of every rural household – has been allocated more than \$8.4bn in the current financial year, an unprecedented infusion of liquidity into neglected rural areas – even if the funds are not fully dispersed, and do not always reach the intended recipients' hands. Yet even as New Delhi touts the benefits of its flagship social welfare scheme, officials admit it may have had an unintended consequence: pushing up prices of food, as India's millions of small farmers struggle to keep pace with rising rural demand.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/30ca4a94-2151-11df-a6b2-00144feab49a.html>

**See Also: India Seeks Subsidy Cuts to Curb Deficit**, *Financial Times, February 23*

Cutting India's costly subsidies on fuel, food and fertiliser is expected to be one of the big underlying goals of the national budget this week as the Congress party-led government seeks to recover from one of the largest fiscal deficits for 20 years.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/57b0178a-1eb1-11df-9584-00144feab49a.s01=1.html>

**Brazil May Create Company to Boost Fertilizer Output**, *Bloomberg, February 23*

Brazil may create a company to oversee boosting fertilizer production as it seeks to become self-sufficient in potash, phosphate and nitrogen-based raw materials by 2020, Agriculture Minister Reinhold Stephanes said.

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aB.rotOwPP\\_0](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aB.rotOwPP_0)

**USDA Weighs Requests for Sugar Imports – Miller**, *Reuters, February 22*

The U.S. Agriculture Department continues to review sugar supply and demand forecasts to evaluate food industry requests to boost sugar imports, a top official said Monday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2218069720100222>

**Too Soon for Ministers to Meet on Trade Deal: WTO**, *Reuters, February 22*

Too many gaps remain in long-running talks on a new global trade pact to bring ministers in to give a political push to the deal in the coming weeks, the head of the World Trade Organization said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE61L0IM20100222?>

**See Also: Lamy Calls for March Stocktaking to “Inject Political Energy and Momentum” in the Negotiations**, *World Trade Organization, February 23*

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his report on the state of play in the Doha Round to the General Council on 22 February 2010, said that “although some progress is taking place, gaps remain”. He suggested that the stocktaking at the end of March be undertaken by senior officials, adding that “the Geneva process remains ready to translate political movement into concrete and substantive progress”.

[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news10\\_e/tnc\\_chair\\_report\\_22feb10\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news10_e/tnc_chair_report_22feb10_e.htm)

**U.S. Law Assists Brazilian Ethanol Imports**, *Des Moines Register, February 21*

The law that guarantees Iowa's ethanol producers a growing demand for their product also is creating a market for a foreign rival: Brazilian companies that make the fuel from sugar cane. Brazilian ethanol already is coming into the United States. Like corn ethanol, the Brazilian product counts toward meeting the nation's annual mandates for conventional ethanol.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100221/BUSINESS01/2210322/1029/BUSINESS/U.S.-law-assists-Brazilian-ethanol-imports>

**Expect More U.S. – China Farm Trade Tension: Economist**, *Reuters, February 19*

Chinese farm exports are set to become a greater source of trade tension as China boosts its production and becomes a bigger player in world markets for labor-intensive crops, a U.S. agricultural economist said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61I5XS20100219>

**Japan Plans to Ignore Any U.N. Ban on Bluefin Tuna**, *New York Times, February 19*

Japan will opt out of any agreement to ban international trade in the Atlantic bluefin tuna under the United Nations treaty on endangered species, the country's top fisheries negotiator said this week.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/20/world/europe/20iht-tuna.html>

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**AGRIBUSINESS**

**Coca-Cola to Buy Bottling Unit**, *Financial Times, February 25*

Coca-Cola announced that it was buying the North American operations of its largest bottler, Coca-Cola Enterprises, in a reversal of a strategy the soft-drink maker had embraced for more than 20 years. Under the deal, CCE will also acquire Coke's company-owned bottling operations in Norway and Sweden and will have the right to buy its German bottling and distribution business.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1f7052ee-21b9-11df-acf4-00144feab49a.html>

**Kenya Agriculture Stocks Surge on Rains, Bond-Funding Plans**, *Business Week, February 25*

Kenyan agriculture stocks surged as rains soaked farming areas, bringing relief after drought, and the country completed the sale of an infrastructure bond whose proceeds will fund irrigation.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-25/kenya-agriculture-stocks-surge-on-rains-bond-funding-plans.html>

**Unilever Stops Buying Palm Oil from Indonesian Planter**, *Reuters, February 24*

Consumer goods giant Unilever has told dealers not to source palm oil from Indonesian planter Duta Palma on concerns over rainforest destruction, an Indonesian industry official said esday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61N1LE20100224>

**Viterra Targets Food Processor Acquisitions in Asia, Australia**, *Business Week, February 21*

Viterra Inc., Canada's largest grain handler, will seek food and grain processing acquisitions in Asia and Australia, after last year buying Australia's largest barley and malt exporter for A\$1.6 billion (\$1.4 billion).  
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-21/viterra-targets-food-processor-acquisitions-in-asia-australia.html>

**Cargill Sees Record Soybean Crop in Brazil, Argentina**, *Business Week*, February 19

Brazil and Argentina, the biggest soybean producers after the U.S., may harvest as much as a combined 120 million metric tons of the oilseed this year as rain boosts yields, Cargill Inc.'s Jose Luiz Glaser said. Brazil will produce a record 64 million to 67 million tons of soybeans, while Argentina will harvest a record 52 million to 53 million, said Glaser, head of Cargill's soybean business in Brazil. Brazil's output will increase from 57 million tons, and Argentina's will rise from 35 million last year, he said.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-19/cargill-sees-record-soybean-output-in-brazil-argentina-on-rain.html>

**A Growth Business**, *Economist*, February 18

For thousands of years farmers would try to ensure a decent harvest with exhortations to various deities. The weather may still be in the lap of the gods but the fecundity of the soil can now be improved by more down-to-earth means. The run-up in the price of fertiliser, which reached a peak along with most agricultural commodities in 2008, gave a taste of the money to be made by feeding the world. A recent flurry of takeovers suggests that fertiliser companies see the subsequent drop in prices as a buying opportunity before the next ascent begins.

[http://www.economist.com/business-finance/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15549105](http://www.economist.com/business-finance/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15549105)

**John Deere Profits Beat Forecast**, *Financial Times*, February 17

John Deere, the world's biggest maker of agricultural equipment, that North American farmers had started buying big machinery such as combine harvesters and large tractors in much greater numbers than it had previously anticipated.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/eaadc2e4-1bf5-11df-a5e1-00144feab49a.html>

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