

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



February 5th - 12th, 2010

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Quote of the Week: *"The African Growth and Opportunity Act seeks to increase two-way trade with poor nations in sub-Saharan Africa, help integrate these countries into the global economy, and do so in a way that improves their institutions and reduces poverty. As development in the poorest nations of the world is in our national interest strategically, economically, and morally, trade presents win-win opportunities to advance development."* Economic Report of the President, The White House, February 2010.

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Key Articles

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KEY ARTICLES

This is Africa: A Global Perspective, *Financial Times*

This is Africa, a new publication from the Financial Times Ltd, seeks to examine African business and politics in a global context and to make sense of the relationships that Africa is building with the rest of the world. It aims to challenge international preconceptions about the continent and to identify the opportunities and the risks in this dynamic business environment. They feature a section devoted to food and agricultural issues.

http://www.thisisafrikaonline.com/news/categoryfront.php/id/35/Food_Agriculture.html

See Also: Capturing Africa's Agricultural Potential, *This is Africa Magazine*, *Financial Times*, February 2010

[http://www.thisisafricaonline.com/news/printpage.php/aid/161/Capturing Africa 92s agricultural potential.html](http://www.thisisafricaonline.com/news/printpage.php/aid/161/Capturing_Africa_92s_agricultural_potential.html)

See Also: The 2010 Forecast, *This is Africa Magazine*, *Financial Times*, December 2009

[http://www.thisisafricaonline.com/news/printpage.php/aid/142/The 2010 forecast.html](http://www.thisisafricaonline.com/news/printpage.php/aid/142/The_2010_forecast.html)

See Also: Special Report: The African Development Bank Group, *This is Africa Magazine*, *Financial Times*, February 2010

<http://www.thisisafricaonline.com/cp/3/TIA%20AfDB%20English.pdf>

Special Online Collection: Food Security, *Science*, February 12

In the February 12, 2010 issue, *Science* examines the obstacles to achieving global food security and some promising solutions. *Science* is making access to this special section free (non-subscribers require a simple [registration](#)).

<http://www.sciencemag.org/special/foodsecurity/>

See Also: Radically Rethinking Agriculture for the 21st Century, *Nine Fedoroff et al*, *Science*, February 12

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/327/5967/833>

See Also: African Green Revolution Needn't Be a Mirage, *Gebisa Ejeta*, *Science*, February 12

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/327/5967/831>

See Also: Measuring Food Insecurity, *Christopher Barrett*, *Science*, February 12

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/327/5967/825>

See Also: Feeding the Future, *Caroline Ash et al*, *Science*, February 12

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/327/5967/797>

Unity of Purpose, *Outrage & Inspire*, *Roger Thurow*, *Senior Fellow for Global Agriculture and Food Policy*, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, *Global Food for Thought Blog*, February 11

Making agriculture development a top priority of governments around the world has become a moral imperative with more than one billion people now going to bed hungry every night. And it is a security imperative as population growth combined with rising prosperity and greater demand for food in countries once plagued by famine, like China and India, is driving projections that the world will need to double food production by 2050.

http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2010/02/roger-thurow-outrage-inspire_unityofpurpose.html

See Also: A "Unity of Purpose" to Fight Global Hunger, *ONE*, February 12

<http://www.one.org/blog/2010/02/12/a-unity-of-purpose-to-fight-global-hunger/>

The Best Way to Rebuild Haiti, *Op-Ed*, *Robert B. Zoellick*, *President of the World Bank Group*, *Japan Times*, February 11

Rebuilding Haiti better requires common sense and strategy. We can support the transition from humanitarian aid to reconstruction through food or cash-for-work programs, so Haitians can be paid for clearing and rebuilding infrastructure and planting trees. Community projects can improve conditions for small-scale farming, which over time can supply and then replace food assistance programs. With access to the U.S. market through the HOPE II Act, Haiti can create jobs in its apparel and agriculture sectors.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/print/eo20100211a2.html>

Continent Must Understand the Climate Debate and Ensure Girls Stay in School, *Op-Ed*, *Ban Ki-moon*, *Secretary General of the United Nations*, *AllAfrica.com*, February 5

We have made great strides toward the Millennium Development Goals. But there is not much time to the 2015 deadline, and still much distance to travel. The global recession, the energy crisis, food insecurity, climate change all have made development more difficult, yet more urgent.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201002081440.html>

We Need to Realise Africa's Potential on Agriculture, *Op-Ed*, *Sithembile Ndema*, *Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network*, *Guardian*, February 10

African farmers must be able to access the knowledge and tools they need to unleash agriculture's full potential for the continent.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/katine/katine-chronicles-blog/2010/feb/10/africa-agriculture-sithembile-ndema>

See Also: Fighting for Africa's Food Security, *Sithembile Ndema, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network, Al Jazeera, February 9*

For the past generation, agriculture has been neglected both by African leaders and by the international community as a development tool. It is only recently that global leaders, such as the G8 and the UN, have again begun to prioritise agriculture in the broader political agenda. Yet today, in 2010, the effects of climate change are exacerbating an already vulnerable food supply in Africa, leaving farmers less capable of providing for themselves, let alone their communities.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2010/02/201029113234906173.html>

U.N.: Agriculture Key to Haitian Recovery, *Voice of America, February 10*

The U.N.'s agricultural agency warns that if Haiti's crucial spring planting season is missed, the country will be dependent on international food aid for a much longer period of time. Seed, fertilizer and equipment are urgently needed before that window closes in April.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/americas/UN-Agriculture-Key-to-Haitian-Recovery-84032922.html>

See Also: Low donor support for Haiti farming alarms U.N. body, *Reuters, February 12*

Only 8 percent of a \$23 million appeal to help Haiti revive food production after a devastating earthquake has been funded, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-46128020100212>

World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 9*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/waob/wasde/2010s/2010/wasde-02-09-2010.pdf>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Economic Report of the President, *White House, February 2010*

The Economic Report of the President is an annual report written by the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. An important vehicle for presenting the Administration's domestic and international economic policies, it provides an overview of the nation's economic progress with text and extensive data appendices.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea/economic-report-of-the-President>

State Reviews Priorities and Policies, *Federal News Radio, February 4*

The State Department is gearing up to release a roadmap that will guide its future budgets and priorities.

Early this month, perhaps in the next several days, the federal government's diplomatic arm could release a report on its first [Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review](#) (QDDR).

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=110&sid=1881053>

Statement on the Election of Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of Malawi, as Chairperson of the AU, *U.S. Department of State, February 2*

The United States congratulates Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of Malawi, on his election by the African Union General Assembly to serve as Chairperson of the African Union (AU) and looks forward to continuing our partnership with the AU to promote peace, prosperity, and security for all Africans. We share Chairperson Mutharika's goals of ending child hunger and malnutrition and welcome his interest in promoting the critical goal of agricultural development and food security on the continent.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2010/02/136406.htm>

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal S. Wolin Remarks at the American University of Afghanistan, *U.S. Department of the Treasury, February 10*

"Finally, the Treasury Department and the United States Agency for International Development are working with Afghan partners to help bring mobile banking and payment card services to the Afghan people. While it

will take some time to develop, mobile banking in the long run has the potential to facilitate the distribution of micro-finance loans in agricultural sector, a powerful tool for economic development. And we are reinforcing that military surge with a civilian increase – civilian experts and professionals who are working with Afghan partners to transfer skills in areas ranging from agriculture to revenue collection. “

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg540.htm>

Ending Violence against Women Is a Foreign Policy Priority, *Ambassador Melanne Verwee, DipNote, U.S. Department of State Official Blog, February 8*

Violence can affect girls and women at every point in their lives, from sex-selective abortion and infanticide, to inadequate healthcare and nutrition given to girls, to genital mutilation, child marriage, rape as a weapon of war, trafficking, so-called “honor” killings, dowry-related murder, and the neglect and ostracism of widows -- and this is not an exhaustive list.

http://blogs.state.gov/sgwi/index.php/site/entry/ending_violence_against_women

The Right Resources for the Job, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, February 12*

President Obama’s fiscal year 2011 International Affairs budget includes a \$1.28 billion request for MCC. With so many important domestic and international priorities competing for limited resources during these challenging economic times, we all have to be prepared to make tough choices. Given limited resources, we will not be able to fund all the projects we would like to, but this is a solid request that allows MCC to continue to contribute to global poverty reduction in a meaningful way.

<http://www.mcc.gov/blog/ceo/2010/02/12/fy2011budget/>

USDA Scientists Sequence Genome of Biofuel Model Crop, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 10*

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists and their colleagues at the Department of Energy (DOE) Joint Genome Institute announced that they have completed sequencing the genome of a kind of wild grass that will enable researchers to shed light on the genetics behind hardier varieties of wheat and improved varieties of biofuel crops.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2010/100210.htm>

See Also: Genome Sequencing and Analysis of the Model Grass *Brachypodium distachyon*, *Nature, February 11*

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v463/n7282/pdf/nature08747.pdf>

Latest Plan to Cut Farm Subsidies Likely Dead, *Washington Post, February 10*

If history and the political lineup are any guides, President Barack Obama's latest effort to cut subsidies for wealthy farmers likely will fare no better than his first try - or his predecessor's attempt.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/10/AR2010021000180_pf.html

USAID’s New Strategy for Yemen, *U.S. Agency for International Development, February 5*

As a part of its new strategy in Yemen, USAID will focus on increasing youth employment and other economic opportunities; improving government service delivery in education and health care; supporting transparent, supporting decentralized governance; agricultural programs; and empowering youth, women and other marginalized groups.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/factsheets/2010/fs100205r.html>

Commerce Department Proposes Establishment of NOAA Climate Service, *U.S. Department of Commerce, February 8*

Individuals and decision-makers across widely diverse sectors—from agriculture to energy to transportation—increasingly are asking NOAA for information about climate change in order to make the best choices for their families, communities and businesses. To meet the rising tide of these requests, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced the intent to create a NOAA Climate Service line office dedicated to bringing together the agency’s strong climate science and service delivery capabilities.

http://www.commerce.gov/NewsRoom/PressReleases_FactSheets/PROD01_008902

James B. Greene Joins MCC as Deputy Vice President for Policy and International Relations, *Millennium Challenge Corporation, February 12*

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Chief Executive Officer Daniel W. Yohannes announced that James B. Greene has joined MCC as a Deputy Vice President for Policy and International Relations (PIR). As a Deputy Vice President for PIR, Mr. Greene will lead the PIR staff in managing MCC's annual selection process, ensuring effective donor relations, promoting private sector initiatives, coordinating technical economic analysis, developing and conducting independent evaluations of MCC programs, and overseeing MCC's threshold programs.

<http://www.mcc.gov/mcc/press/releases/release-021210jamesbgreene.shtml>

Marisa Lago Confirmed as Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development, U.S.

Department of the Treasury, February 11

Marisa Lago was confirmed today by the United States Senate to serve as the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development. She will direct Treasury's portfolio on international financial services regulation, trade, banking and securities, development, technical assistance and climate finance.

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg544.htm>

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](#)

NEW REPORTS/POLICY BRIEFS/BOOKS

Rethinking World Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010, United Nations, February 2010

Improvements in overall poverty levels have largely depended on growth. Countries or regions that have experienced strong growth during the last two decades have managed to reduce poverty levels, particularly in urban areas. It is the success of China and East Asia, and to some extent India, that has largely driven global poverty trends downward. However, not every region or country has recorded such remarkable progress. The absolute number of people living in poverty has gone up in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Northern Africa, as well as in Central Asia.

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/docs/2010/fullreport.pdf>

See Also: Halving World Poverty by 2015 Unlikely, AFP, February 11

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g7Z1itM_yLr6fPZ-Wr_PiYLQhaKg

Post-Crisis Growth in Developing Countries, World Bank, February 2010

In the 2008 financial crisis has raised a number of questions about the best strategy for achieving sustained growth and poverty reduction in developing countries, foremost among them whether the failure of the financial system also signifies the broader failure of market-oriented capitalist systems. The Growth Commission believes that the crisis was not a failure of market-oriented systems and that an outward-looking strategy, as suggested in the original Growth Report, remains broadly valid.

<http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821381656>

Deforestation Driven by Urban Population Growth and Agricultural Trade in the Twenty-First Century, Nature Geoscience, February 2010

Reducing atmospheric carbon emissions from tropical deforestation is at present considered a cost-effective option for mitigating climate change. However, the forces associated with tropical forest loss are uncertain.

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/pdf/ngeo756.pdf>

See Also: Big Cities and Global Farming Now Driving Deforestation, Study Finds, Guardian, February 11

The drivers of tropical deforestation have shifted in the early 21st century to hinge on growth of cities and the globalised agricultural trade, a new large-scale study concludes. The observations starkly reverse assumptions by some scientists that fast-growing urbanization and the efficiencies of global trade might eventually slow or reverse tropical deforestation.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/feb/11/cities-farming-deforestation/print>

Beyond the USDA: How Other Government Agencies Can Support a Healthier, More Sustainable Food System, *Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, February 2010*

This report attempts to summarize the roles that key federal departments and agencies, other than USDA, play in America's food system; it also lists relevant grant programs and resources they offer and, in some instances, provides ideas for changes that would support a more sustainable and just food and agriculture system. The report begins by looking at departments and agencies that have the most obvious and well-defined roles in regulating our food system, moves to those that have a less clear connection to food, and then looks at a few specific issue areas and the entities that influence them.

<http://www.iatp.org/iatp/publications.cfm?accountID=258&refID=107172>

Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security in Rural Nigeria: An Assessment of the Challenges, Information Needs, and Analytical Capacity, *International Food and Policy Research Institute, 2010*

Malnutrition is widespread in Nigeria, especially in rural areas. Nigerians are vulnerable to chronic food shortages, erratic supply, poor quality food, and fluctuating food prices. The huge investment in ensuring food and nutrition security for Nigerians has had limited success, and therefore, there is a need to review and learn from past interventions. This brief provides a glimpse at rural food and nutrition security in Nigeria and highlights gaps in existing knowledge and capacity to analyze Nigeria's food and nutrition security situation.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nssppb18.pdf>

See Also: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Profitability in Nigeria, *International Food and Policy Research Institute, 2010*

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nssppb19.pdf>

The Climate after Copenhagen: Oxfam America's Assessment of COP-15 and the Road Ahead, *Oxfam America, February 2010*

Copenhagen was an unprecedented moment in the history of climate change policy. Heads of State – more than 100 of them – participated in UN climate negotiations for the first time, adding a sense of political weight and import to the negotiations. And global attention was focused like never before on climate policy and negotiations. The writers try to capture here what happened at Copenhagen, as well as what is necessary to do in the coming year.

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/oa-post-copenhagen-analysis-final.pdf>

Food Hygiene, *World Health Organization and UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 2009*

The Codex basic texts on food hygiene promote understanding of how rules and regulations on food hygiene are developed and applied. The General Principles of food hygiene cover hygiene practices from primary production through to final consumption, highlighting the key hygiene controls at each stage. The texts will be of use to government authorities, food industries, food handlers and consumers, as well as teachers and students of food hygiene.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/a1552e/a1552e00.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

African Agriculture: Land Reform or Land Grab?

Date: Tuesday, February 16th, 2010

Location: London, England

After decades of neglect and declining support from both national governments and donors, African agriculture is attracting growing attention. But who will benefit from this increasing investment and political interest? Rules and institutions governing the distribution and security of land ownership will be one of the crucial factors determining whether this revival of interest in agriculture leads to broadly based long-term growth and poverty reduction - or whether the benefits accrue mainly to a new group of large-scale (and therefore less employment-generating) landowners, both domestic and foreign. Land reform is on the agenda in many African countries, but so is land grab.

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1431/>

From Summit Resolutions to Farmers' Field: Climate Change, Food Security and Smallholder Agriculture

Date: February 17th, 2010

Location: International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome

The panel will discuss with IFAD's 165 Member States gathered in Rome how to transform summit declarations into reality, by addressing the following challenges: how to create better market conditions to promote private investment in smallholder agriculture; how can governments create policies that support smallholder farmers; and how can smallholder farmers compete for scarce agricultural resources such as land and water.

<http://www.ifad.org/events/gc/33/index.htm>

Agricultural Outlook Forum 2010

Date: February 18th-19th, 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](#)

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

Date: February 25th - 26th, 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

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

Date: February 25th - 26th, 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>

5th Annual University Hunger Summit

Date: February 26th-28th, 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

FamilyFarmed EXPO

Date: March 11th - 13th, 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 17th, 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 29th – 31st, 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 28th - 31st, 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>

18th Annual Food and Agriculture Policy Conference

Date: April 21st – 22nd, 2010

Location: Washington, DC

Hosted by Informa Economics Inc.

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

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

Date: October 13th-15th, 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>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

A Voice for Agriculture in the International Year of Biodiversity, *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, February 2010*

Now that agriculture is regaining its rightful place on the international development agenda, it's time for agricultural biodiversity to become the center of attention as well, particularly in view of its vital importance for coping with the intricately linked issues of global food security and climate change. The United Nations has designated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. The CGIAR and agriculturalists worldwide now have an unprecedented opportunity to speak out on the urgent need to conserve, research and use the vast genetic diversity of crops and other species on which rural people depend.

<http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/february2010.html>

New Urban Coffee Culture a Boon for Kenya Producers, *Reuters, February 12*

Sitting on low benches on the humid streets of the coastal city of Mombasa, Kenyan men sip hot kahawa chungu, or bitter coffee in Swahili, from miniature ceramic cups.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE61B27F20100212>

Food Security Bill Back on Centre Table, *Economic Times of India, February 12*

The draft Food Security Bill, which has returned to the negotiating table of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) after a gap, is, among other things, expected to witness discussions on the number of people to be covered by the scheme across the country, whether the other vulnerable sections of the society are to be brought within its ambit, whether it should be confined to the distribution of either rice or wheat or cover other foodgrains, and the vexed issue of who should bear the burden of the overhead costs, such as transportation.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/5562977.cms?prtpage=1>

Sensible Rules for Ethanol, *Editorial, New York Times, February 10*

Despite pressure from farm state politicians, the Environmental Protection Agency has taken an important step to ensure that biofuels help rather than hurt the environment. Under new guidelines, biofuels produced at new facilities — including ethanol from corn, sugar, plants and other sources — must achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared with conventional gasoline.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/11/opinion/11thu3.html?pagewanted=print>

Efforts to Curb Afghan Opium Crop Fail This Year – UN, *Reuters, February 10*

Efforts to persuade Afghanistan's farmers to stop growing illegal opium have failed in the past year, the United Nations said on Wednesday, predicting as much land will be under poppy cultivation this year as in 2009

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USSGE6180G2.CH.2400>

North Korean Food Crisis to Worsen After Poor Harvest, *AFP, February 9*

North Korea's severe food shortages are expected to worsen this year after a poor grain harvest in 2009, South Korean officials said.

<http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100210/wl.asia.afp/nkoreafoodskorea/print>

Three Years on: FEEDing Globally...and Locally, *Ellen Gustafson, Executive Director of the FEED Foundation and the Co-Founder of FEED Projects, Huffington Post, February 9*

School feeding is a simple and effective way to ensure that children go to school, since food often draws them there, and can learn effectively, since nutrition feeds their minds as well as their bodies. It may seem far-fetched to draw the parallels of food insecurity from sub-Saharan Africa to Central America to the U.S., but the reality is that children around the world are suffering from malnutrition, despite there being enough food for everyone.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-gustafson/three-years-on-feeding-gl_b_455840.html

India Puts on Hold First GM Food Crop on Safety Grounds, *BBC News, February 9*

India has deferred the commercial cultivation of what would have been its first genetically modified (GM) vegetable crop due to safety concerns.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8506047.stm

See Also: India Rejects First GM Vegetable, Hampering Monsanto, *Business Week, February 9*

India's government rejected the nation's first genetically modified food after protests by farmers, hampering the expansion of seed makers including Monsanto Co. in the world's second-most populous nation.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-09/india-rejects-first-gm-vegetable-hampering-monsanto-expansion.html>

See Also: Q+A: GM Food Controversy in India, *Reuters, February 9*

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USSGE6180F6>

African Farmers Urged to Innovate to Offset Climate Change, *Bloomberg, February 9*

Africa's failure to embrace modern farming methods is a greater impediment to food production than global warming, according to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=a6nxdLHXTnw4>

Brazil Soybean Forecast Raised as Rains Aid Crops, *Bloomberg, February 9*

Brazil, the world's second-largest soybean grower, boosted its production estimate for the oilseed this year and said it may increase the forecast again as above average rainfall improves yields.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20670001&sid=aqsNKB3SIHRg>

Smarter Farming Key to Saving Amazon Rainforest, *Associated Press, February 7*

It's a simple system, long practiced in the U.S., of rotating crops and revitalizing pasture instead of simply chopping down forest and planting new grasslands. But here in the state of Mato Grosso ("thick forest"), where ranchers and farmers have destroyed more of the Amazon than anywhere else, it's a relatively new idea.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Smarter-farming-key-to-saving-apf-1351044891.html/print?x=0>

New UW-Madison Agronomist Leads International Corn-Breeding Project, *University of Wisconsin News, February 5*

When corn breeder Kevin Pixley arrived on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus in November, one of the first things he had to do was learn to use the word "corn." "I had to constantly remind myself to call it corn instead of maize, which was what I'd been calling it for 20 years," explains Pixley, who comes to the UW-Madison agronomy department from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in

Mexico, where the crop is widely known — as it is in most places around the globe — as maize. Pixley's arrival brings one of the world's preeminent corn experts to UW-Madison. As a new associate professor of agronomy, he will lead the university's small-grains breeding program while directing an international research project to improve the nutritional value of corn grown in developing nations.

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/17629>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Development's New Donors, *Op-Ed, Alexei Kudrin, Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Finance of Russia and Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank, Project Syndicate, February 12*

The rise of new development partners – emerging markets that are channeling billions of dollars to developing countries – opens possibilities for fresh ideas and resources to help overcome poverty, sustain inclusive economic growth (including through a dynamic private sector), and address global issues such as food security and climate change.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/kudrin1/English>

See Also: Helping Africa Grow, *Newsweek, February 5*

Since the financial crisis hit, the World Bank has provided a record \$89 billion to support development initiatives around the world. Much of this funding has gone to Africa, a special focus of president Robert B. Zoellick, a U.S. trade representative under George W. Bush. Zoellick recently sat down with *NEWSWEEK's* Jerry Guo in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, to talk about the continent's prospects for growth.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/233141>

Help Haiti Rethink and Reconfigure, *Luis Alberto Moreno, President, Inter-American Development Bank, Huffington Post, February 12*

A month after the earthquake, Haiti is a testament to human tenacity. In Port-au-Prince the other day, I saw people making bricks, cooking food on the street, retrieving usable planks from the rubble and using newly restored cell phone service to place calls to the outside world. In my talks with Haitian President René Préval, he has welcomed the international community's efforts to strengthen the government's ability to plan and lead the enormous task ahead. We can provide technical assistance and help Haiti harness the world's best talent in areas such as job creation, green energy and sustainable agriculture.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/luis-alberto-moreno/help-haiti-rethink-and-re_b_460714.html

See Also: What Haiti Needs Most, *Op-Ed, Richard L. Santos, President and CEO of IMA World Health, Baltimore Sun, February 11*

Haiti was self-sufficient in rice for 200 years. For many reasons, including U.S.-initiated changes in Haitian trade policy, this reversed in the 1990s. Haiti became a net rice importer. When rice-related jobs disappeared, thousands of Haitians moved to Port-au-Prince and other cities. Many of these are the unemployed people who lived in the poorly constructed shantytowns flattened by the quake. The earthquake is forcing many Haitians back to the countryside. It is essential that the international community help find ways to develop sustainable agriculture. As with those successful projects implemented after Indonesia's tsunami, the key is a workable plan to move agricultural production up the value chain. This means the transfer of processing, marketing and other skills that enable local people to build and develop comprehensive food-related industries.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bal-op.haiti11feb11.0.1297303.print.story>

US to Provide \$100 million for Agriculture Development in Pakistan and Afghanistan, *Associated Press of Pakistan, February 12*

A trilateral US-Pakistan-Afghanistan forum on agriculture has made a robust start in its first meeting held in Qatar with United States making initial commitment of \$100 million as first tranche out of a hefty fund it promised to bolster agriculture in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

http://www.app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96231&Itemid=1

See Also: Helmand Hath Less Fury?, *Economist, February 11*

On the one hand, USAID is promoting agricultural projects in Nawa that might wean farmers off poppy growing. Falling opium prices, due to a glut on the market, mean that wheat is now a viable

alternative. Schools and a clinic have been built in Garmser, and two miles of road have been paved. But such development seems sporadic, ad hoc and very much foreign-run.
http://www.economist.com/world/asia/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15497693

Survey Shows Fewer Somalis Need Humanitarian Aid, *Reuters, February 11*

The number of Somalis needing aid has fallen by more than half a million because of increased food production, mostly in the south of the Horn of Africa state, a survey showed on Thursday.
<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USLDE61A1UP>

UN Faces Race against Time and Weather to Obtain Hazard-Proof Shelter for Haiti, *UN News Centre, February 8*

The United Nations said today it is racing against time to bring in hazard-resistant tents for Haiti's earthquake victims before the rainy season starts, provide sufficient agricultural input to save the next planting season, and raise greatly increased funding to support the effort.
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33706&Cr=haiti&Cr1>

Disaster Relief: Why Corporations Need to Give More than Cash, *Ken Sternad, President of the UPS Foundation, Huffington Post, February 6*

The earthquake in Haiti has sparked a remarkable global outpouring of generosity. But the relief effort's success depends on more than donations of cash and goods; it hinges on the consistent and efficient distribution and management of food, medicine, shelter and other life-saving supplies. As the global community continues to respond to Haiti and prepare for potential future disasters, it's critical for the private sector to step up to the plate in ways that far exceed financial donations.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ken-sternad/disaster-relief-why-corporo_b_452148.html

U.S. Back Debt Relief for Haiti, *AFP, February 6*

The United States voiced support Friday for international debt relief for earthquake-hit Haiti. The Treasury Department said the United States would work with its partners around the world to relieve all debts owed by Haiti to international institutions.
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jmb4nZCj5KF8KowdIsZaB5ssQOCA>

A Comprehensive Plan to Rebuild Haiti, *Op-Ed, Figaro Joseph, Director of Partnership for a New Haiti; Sylvio Siffraïn, President of Partnership for a New Haiti; and Robert Jean, Communications Director of Partnership for a New Haiti, Denver Post, February 6*

Any rebuilding plan should include programs to invigorate the agricultural sector, which may include a re-examination of agricultural trade policies. As the agricultural sector is invigorated, more people will be incentivized to resettle to the countryside, which would help solve the issue of overcrowded cities. These efforts would begin to give the Haitians a workable self-control of this most important sector of Haiti's economy.
http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_14342733

Japan, IDB Provide Niger with Aid for Food Shortages, *Reuters, February 5*

Japan and the Islamic Development Bank have pledged millions in dollars of aid for Niger, the first contributions after reports warned that more than half the country's population would face shortages this year.
<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USLDE6141YM.CH.2400>

U.N. Cuts Food Rations in Yemen Due to Lack of Funds, *Reuters, February 5*

The United Nations food agency said a lack of funds had forced it to cut back rations for around one million people in Yemen, despite growing chronic hunger.
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE6140XT.CH.2420>

Support to Affordable Land Administration, *UN Food and Agriculture Organization, February 5*

Finland and FAO have agreed to assist countries to develop sustainable and affordable land administration systems to improve tenure security and land governance in both rural and urban areas. The \$2.4 million

project will help FAO member countries to test and adopt low-cost open source technology for the benefit of their land records maintenance. The project will be piloted in Ghana, Nepal and Samoa.
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/39792/icode/>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

African Farmers Can Overcome Warming Climate, Study Says, *Voice of America, February 12*

A new study on the effects of climate change on agriculture offers some rare hopeful news for African farmers. Researchers say that lowered crop production expected as a result of rising global temperatures can be overcome by adopting under-utilized farming techniques.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/africa/African-Farmers-Can-Overcome-Warming-Climate-Says-Study-84221622.html>

Controversy Mounts in EU Over Fall-Out From Biofuel, *Reuters, February 12*

Fresh controversy is mounting within the European Union over biofuels and their unintended impact on tropical forests and wetlands, documents show.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE61B2PG20100212>

See Also: Questions About Biofuels' Environmental Costs Could Alter Europe's Policies, *New York Times, February 12*

A top European farm official has suggested that yet-to-be-released studies by the European Commission could be used to "kill" heavily promoted and subsidized biofuels by focusing on their total environmental impact.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/12/business/energy-environment/12biofuel.html>

India, Pak Agree on Roadmap for Resolving Water Differences, *India Business Standard, February 11*

India and Pakistan have agreed on a roadmap for resolving differences over the sharing of river waters in the next six months, a senior official has said.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news//india-pak-agreeroadmap-for-resolving-water-differences//85558/on>

Water-Gulping Companies' Risk Disclosures Run Dry: Report, *Reuters, February 11*

Most publicly traded companies that depend on water do not adequately disclose their financial risks to droughts and future regulations, even as water scarcity problems mount, according to a report released on Thursday.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USTRE61A49620100211>

UN Climate Panel Reforms Urged to Boost Trust, *Reuters, February 10*

A leading U.N. climate panel should be split up or even turned into an online encyclopedia to help restore trust after mistakes like an erroneous forecast on the melting of Himalayan glaciers, experts said.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE6192FS.htm>

Chinese Farms Cause ore Pollution Than Factories, Says Official Survey, *Guardian, February 9*

Farmers' fields are a far bigger source of water contamination in China than factory effluent, the Chinese government revealed today in its first census on pollution.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/feb/09/china-farms-pollution>

See Also: China's Water Pollution Level Higher than Estimated in 2007, *Washington Post, February 10*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/09/AR2010020903572.html>

See Also: China Report Shows More Pollution in Waterways, *New York Times, February 9*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/10/world/asia/10pollute.html?sq=agriculture&st=cse&scp=4&pagewanted=print>

Zimbabwe Faces Corn, Wheat Shortage after Dry Weather, *Business Week, February 9*

Zimbabwe is facing corn and wheat shortages after a prolonged period of dry weather, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service said in a report. The corn crop probably won't exceed 600,000 metric tons, while the wheat crop won't be more than 18,000 tons, the USDA said. Zimbabwe has an annual corn requirement of 1.2 million metric tons, according to the report.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-09/zimbabwe-faces-corn-wheat-shortage-after-dry-weather-update1-.html>

Crisis, Conflict, and Opportunity in the Nile Basin, *World Defense Review*, February 9

Next week representatives of nine African states are scheduled to convene at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in an effort which may well decide whether long-simmering tensions between their countries can be defused through cooperation or simply be allowed to go unattended until they escalate into a full-blown conflict. While the waters of the Nile Basin must currently serve slightly more than 400 million people—a number expected to nearly double by 2025—not all are equally dependent. Agricultural usage accounts for most of the consumption, with Egypt thought to spend 86 percent of its freshwater and Sudan 99 percent of its supply in this manner.

<http://worlddefensereview.com/pham020910.shtml>

Panel on Climate Faces Challenges, *Wall Street Journal*, February 8

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?mod=googlenews_wsj#printMode

See Also: Climate Group Admits Mistake, *Wall Street Journal*, February 10

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704182004575055703697897576.html>

See Also: Skeptics Find Fault with UN Climate Panel, *New York Times*, February 9

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/09/science/earth/09climate.html?pagewanted=print>

See Also: India Supports a Toothless IPCC, *Op-Ed*, Barun Mitra, Director of the Liberty Institute, *Wall Street Journal*, February 8

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703427704575051130546785628.html>

Shifts in Commodity Prices as El Niño Fades, *Financial Times*, February 8

El Niño, the weather-altering Pacific warming which has hit the price of commodities from sugar to natural gas, is starting to fade and could end by June. The effect could be to cut the costs of agricultural commodities as regular rain patterns returned and to raise the price of natural gas and oil because of the higher likelihood of an active hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico, analysts said.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/47c3b7a2-14e6-11df-8f1d-00144feab49a.html>

Increasing Food Security in Dry Areas of the Middle East, *Voice of America*, February 7

Agricultural experts have launched a land and water management project in the Middle East. The project seeks to increase food security in dry areas. Researchers say the water availability in some of the areas has dropped well below the internationally recognized standard. Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, Syria and Yemen are all taking part in the project. It is part of a larger ten-year effort called the Water and Livelihoods Initiative. The project is also expected to increase household income for farmers in the areas.

<http://www.voanews.com/specialenglish/2010-02-07-voa1.cfm>

Water at Core of Climate Change Impacts, *Reuters*, February 7

The main impact of climate change will be on water supplies and the world needs to learn from past cooperation such as over the Indus or Mekong Rivers to help avert future conflicts, experts said on Sunday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61615G20100207?feedType=RSS&feedName=everything&virtualBrandChannel=11563>

Bridging the Gender Divide: How Technology Can Advance Women Globally, *International Center for Research on Women, February 2010*

A successful technology introduction project in rural Uganda initiated by a national private sector company, Fruits of the Nile, promoted solar dryers among women farmers for processing their harvested agricultural produce. One of the intervention's objectives was to connect women's food processing activities to a new economic opportunity and a growing international niche market for value-added dried fruit products.

<http://www.icrw.org/docs/2010/Bridging-the-Gender-Divide-How-Technology-Can-Advance-Women-Economically.pdf>

See Also: Job Posting: President, International Center for Research on Women, *Devex, February 10*

Founded in 1976, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) has earned a reputation as the leading non-partisan international institution on gender and development. ICRW tackles the complexities of the world's most pressing problems — poverty, hunger and disease — by demonstrating that a focus on women and gender is necessary for lasting social and economic change. ICRW is now seeking a new President to provide both the strategic and operational leadership to the organization and create a platform for growth and increased impact.

<http://www.devex.com/jobs/feb2010-international-center-for-research-on-women-president>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Brazil Formalizes Retaliation Guidelines Against US Cotton, *Wall Street Journal, February 12*

Brazil's government formalized guidelines for an \$830 million retaliation against U.S. cotton subsidies granted by a World Trade Organization ruling last year.

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100212-706017.html?mod=WSJ_World_MIDDLEHeadlinesAmericas&mg=com-wsj#printMode

India to Launch Trade Talks with Israel, *Financial Times, February 11*

India is to launch negotiations to strike a bilateral trade agreement with Israel in what is one of the most tangible symbols of the fast-warming relations between the two countries. Among other areas, Israel has agricultural technology that would assist Indian farmers in boosting their productivity.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/9df7546a-16d2-11df-afcf-00144feab49a,dwp_uuid=6e3d374e-0496-11dd-a2f0-00007b07658,print=yes.html

Cuba Sharply Reduces US Food Imports amid Hardship, *Associated Press, February 10*

Cuba has slashed food and agriculture imports from the United States — its largest food supplier despite decades of sour relations — as the communist government tightens its belt in the face of a crippling economic malaise.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=9800293>

WTO's Lamy Says Doha Deal Still Possible in 2010, *Reuters, February 9*

A successful conclusion to the Doha round of global trade talks is still possible in 2010, but would need an injection of political energy, World Trade Organisation (WTO) head Pascal Lamy said. A summit of leaders from the Group of 20 major economies in Canada in June would be a key test of political will for the Doha round of negotiations, he said. Lamy said Obama's State of the Union address in January, in which the President launched a drive to double exports, gave cause of optimism.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSSGE61800A20100209>

Europe: A Field to Level, *Financial Times, February 9*

For many continental farmers, the most threatening occurrence last year was not drought, frost or depressed prices but a draft proposal for the future of the European Union budget leaked in late October. What the document revealed was that the European Commission was considering something once unthinkable: making deep cuts to the world's most generous system of agriculture subsidies in order to fund other priorities.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/27d94bb0-15b7-11df-ad7e-00144feab49a.html>

Malaysia May Not Have to Import Rice by 2015, *The Star, February 8*

Malaysia's aim of not having to import rice by 2015 may be realised when two major rice-growing areas of the Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) and Kemubu Agriculture Development Authority (Kada) can raise production by between 5% and 10%.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/2/8/nation/20100208151933&sec=nation>

AGRIBUSINESS

DuPont, Daschle Start Food Production Initiative, *Reuters, February 11*

DuPont on Thursday said it would set up an advisory committee to study public policy and other agriculture and food production issues as the global conglomerate positions its crop and chemicals businesses to address a rapidly growing world population. Former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle will chair the committee on "Agricultural Innovation & Productivity for the 21st Century," which, among other initiatives, is to examine public-policy mechanisms to help increase agricultural production as global population soars toward an expected 9 billion people by 2050.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USN1121230220100211>

See Also: DuPont Advisory Committee on 21st Century Ag Innovation, *DuPont News, February 12*

DuPont recently announced the creation of an advisory committee on Agricultural Innovation & Productivity for the 21st Century, chaired by former U.S. Senator Thomas A. Daschle, as part of the company's focus to meet the world's increasing demands for food, feed, fiber and fuel.

http://www2.dupont.com/Media_Center/en_US/daily_news/february/article20100212b.html

Agricultural Bank of China Says No Specific IPO Plan, *Wall Street Journal, February 11*

Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. said it has no specific plan for an initial public offering, indicating the country's biggest rural lender may postpone its listing amid broad stock market weakness and a possible disagreement over its future role.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100211-719683.html#printMode>

DuPont Sees Agricultural Sales, Margins Up in 2010, *Reuters, February 10*

DuPont Co said it expects sales by its agriculture and nutrition segment to grow by 10 percent this year and pre-tax operating income margins to increase across the business.

<http://www.reuters.com/assets/print?aid=USN1018757520100210>

Sabco Remains on Expansion Course, *Financial Times, February 8*

It is an ill wind that blows no good. While petrochemical rivals such as BASF and Dow Chemical had to grapple with rising raw material costs last year, subsidised feedstock meant higher profits and increased market share for Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, the Gulf's largest listed company.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/1da1b06e-14cd-11df-8f1d-00144feab49a.html>

Brazil Enters Fray for African Resources, *Financial Times, February 8*

Brazil's mining company, Vale, is preparing to start operations in Mozambique as South America's largest economy steps up its involvement in the scramble for Africa's resources. Vale's involvement provides the most striking evidence of Brazil's growing interest in Africa. Chinese and Indian commercial ties with the continent are more developed and have attracted greater attention. Because warmer weather could reduce the amount of cultivable land at home, food and ethanol producers could become more interested in expanding into Africa, especially countries such as Angola where land is plentiful. "Brazil is positioning itself to be Africa's prime partner in its vital quest for greater energy and food security," says Jeremy Stevens, joint author of a recent research report.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bb7fb012-14da-11df-8f1d-00144feab49a.html>

Jury: Bayer Must Pay \$1.5M to AK, MS Rice Farmers, *Associated Press, February 6*

A federal court jury has ordered the German conglomerate Bayer CropScience to pay \$1.5 million to farmers in Arkansas and Mississippi whose rice seed was contaminated with a genetically altered strain.

<http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=9767916>

Cindy Sweeting on Global Exposure to Emerging Markets, *Financial Times*, February 2

Agriculture in Asia should be a strong investible theme given it is still highly fragmented, and there's a structural demand story from increased calorie intake and changing diets as incomes rise. Long-term self-sufficiency in food is a main goal for Beijing, which should result in more investment in agriculture and new technologies. Realistically however, investment opportunities are thin: India caps most of its food prices. Agricultural land ownership is strictly controlled in China. Potential investment opportunities could lie in water, fertilizer, agricultural equipment and the like, but current valuations reflect much of the growth potential and we are not finding any real bargains at the moment.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cce56e30-0fff-11df-b278-00144feab49a.html>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank