

## GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



February 5<sup>th</sup> –February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Quote of the Week:** *“Nearly a billion people worldwide are suffering from hunger. Three and a half million children die every year because of under nutrition. A crisis of this magnitude will be solved only through an intensive global effort that brings together governments, the private sector, NGOs, scientists, and citizens, all united to forge a comprehensive, coordinated strategy. By investing in high impact interventions, you are at the cutting edge of progress. I urge you to use your time together to find ways for all of us to do even more, more to improve agricultural productivity, more to connect farmers to markets, more to increase access to nutritious crops and healthcare, and more to support the women who are growing food and caring for children around the world.”*– Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State, Remarks to the International Food Policy and Research Institute, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**For more information:**

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

**Egyptian Protests, Climate Change, and Global Food Prices**, *Public Radio International, February 8*

The throngs of protestors in the streets of Cairo this week have a host of grievances. There are the decades of authoritarian rule of course, and the lack of political expression or economic opportunity. But the uprising grew in part out of protests against high food prices. Food price inflation in Egypt was over 20 percent last year. In particular, there’s been a big squeeze from the rising global price of wheat. New York global

investment manager Vincent Truglia says depending on how you measure it, the price of wheat went up between 50 and 70 percent in 2010.

<http://www.pri.org/business/global-development/egyptian-protests-climate-change-and-global-food-prices2609.html>

**SEE ALSO: Protests and the Pump**, *Economist*, February 3

Events in Egypt may turn out to have a greater impact on other commodities, notably food. High food-price inflation has cut spending power across emerging economies (see article), where keeping bellies full accounts for a much larger share of income than in rich countries. The high cost of food is one reason that protesters took to the streets in Tunisia and Egypt. The price of bread has shot up since last summer when a drought in Russia, one of the world's largest wheat suppliers, hit harvests and prompted an export ban.

[http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=18070220&subjectID=381586&fsrc=nw](http://www.economist.com/research/articlesBySubject/displayStory.cfm?story_id=18070220&subjectID=381586&fsrc=nw)

**SEE ALSO: Egypt and Tunisia: Rocked by Global Food Prices**, *New Scientist*, February 8

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn20100-egypt-and-tunisia-rocked-by-the-global-food-crisis.html>

**Republican Budget Cuts: Savvy Savings or Political Compromise**, *ABC*, February 4

Republicans unveiled their 2011 budget spending cuts Thursday, which they say will save \$74 billion when compared with the budget President Obama plans to roll out Feb. 14, but passage could face a number of hurdles. The cuts mainly target federal agencies' budgets. House Republicans, led by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., suggested cutting agency budgets by nearly 20 percent, a move that the White House warned could result in the loss of a number of key federal jobs. The Food and Drug Administration and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce and Energy would see the biggest impact, while the congressional budget would remain virtually intact.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/republican-budget-cuts-savvy-savings-political-compromise/story?id=12842343>

**Special Series: Population, 7 Billion**, *National Geographic*, February 2011

There will soon be seven billion people on the planet. By 2045 global population is projected to reach nine billion. Can the planet take the strain?

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/7-billion>

**The 2013 Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy: What is at Stake for Developing Countries**,

*International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development*, February 11

The European Union (EU) is about to embark on a new round of reform [1] of its controversial Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to come into effect from 1 January 2014. The next CAP reform will be politically very contentious because it will affect the distribution of payments (both direct payments and rural development payments) between the member states. However, for the EU's trading partners this internal debate has very limited significance. The important issues for third countries are the proposed changes to market management instruments and the scale and design of direct payments, including rural development measures.

<http://ictsd.org/i/trade-and-sustainable-development-agenda/100775/>

**Businesses Look for Profit in US Development Aid**, *Voice of America*, February 10

Private businesses are being encouraged to assume a greater role in development efforts as part of the Obama administration's agricultural development initiative. Food prices are at record highs, and experts are sounding alarms about the potential for civil unrest. The Obama administration has made improving developing world food security an important foreign policy goal. But rather than relying solely on governments and civil society groups as in the past, the administration is highlighting the role the profit motive can play in economic development.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/southern/115721219.html>

**The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress: Implications for Global Agriculture and Feed the Future**, *Connie Veillette, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs* February 7

With the convening of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, many observers are contemplating the implications for particular issues and agendas. How the new Congress handles issues relating to global food security will depend on a number of factors, some not directly related to the Congress itself.

[http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Report/GADI%20Issue%20Brief%20112th%20Congress\\_FINAL%20DRAFT.pdf](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Report/GADI%20Issue%20Brief%20112th%20Congress_FINAL%20DRAFT.pdf)

**China in Africa at a Glance**, *Telegraph, February 11*

Trade between Africa and China was valued at almost \$115 billion (£71 billion) last year, and is growing at a rate of nearly 44 per cent a year, with bilateral trade deals now signed between China and 45 African countries.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/zimbabwe/8315107/China-in-Africa-at-a-glance.html>

**Why the U.S. Needs to Focus on Developing Agriculture in Africa**, *Opinion, Marshall Matz, Founding Chairman, World Food Program, Agri-Pulse, February 7*

The White House has signaled that President Obama will focus more on Africa this year, and the timing could not be better for both Africa and the United States. As the administration moves forward and works closer with Africa, agriculture development should be the highest priority. Most Africans are farmers, and most of the farmers are women struggling to provide sufficient food for their children. The African Union (AU) is calling for a major effort to boost farm production, reduce hunger, and build the economy. The AU has developed a plan called the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which asks all countries to devote at least 10% of their annual budgets to agriculture.

[http://agri-pulse.com/Opinion\\_Marshall-Matz-02-07-2011.asp](http://agri-pulse.com/Opinion_Marshall-Matz-02-07-2011.asp)

**Hunger on the Run**, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, February 11*

Joe Henry is raising the clamor step by step. This week he set out from the steps of the Capitol building in Washington D.C. on The Hunger 500, a determined, rather fast-paced run to bring attention to global hunger. His destination is the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, where the Universities Fighting World Hunger network, an alliance of more than 130 schools around the globe, will gather on Feb. 25 for its annual summit. He figures he will run about 33 miles a day, which is like running a marathon-plus-seven-miles for 17 straight days. (The distance he'll cover is a bit more than 500 miles, but The Hunger 500 has a sharper, Indy-sounding ring to it than the Hunger 528, or whatever the total will end up being.)

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/02/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-hunger-on-the-run.html>

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**\*\*\*SPECIAL COVERAGE: FOOD PRICES\*\*\***

**Outrages Fortunes of a Commodity Trader**, *Financial Times, February 11*

For trading houses – which make a profit on the thin price differences between the places or times that they originate and sell commodities – surging markets mean higher margin requirements on exchanges such as CME. In extreme cases, suppliers or customers could walk away from contracts signed in more normal times, a prospect keeping some traders up at night.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ebb5cbaa-35b7-11e0-b67c-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/2011211/nbe/USMorningHeadlines/product#axzz1DfK2mj00>

**Wheat Hoarding Likely to Be 'Widespread,' Prompting Price Gains, UN Says**, *Bloomberg, February 10*

Global wheat harvests may trail demand for a second year, spurring hoarding and further price gains, said the United Nations. "Whenever you get the market as tight as we are now, hoarding becomes widespread," Abdolreza Abbassian, a senior economist at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, said in an interview by phone from Rome.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-10/un-sees-risk-of-widespread-hoarding-as-wheat-prices-jump-on-china-drought.html>

**Africa, Caribbean Urged to Brace for Food Price Shocks**, *Reuters, February 10*

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund are warning poor regions that have so far not been hit by rising food prices, like sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, to get ready to face them. Food price volatility is here to stay, the World Bank cautioned, amid growing worries there could be another full-blown food crisis only three years after the last one.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/analysis-africa-caribbean-urged-to-brace-for-food-price-shocks/>

**Goldman Advises Keeping Soybean, Cotton, Corn Bets**, *Bloomberg, February 10*

Investors should maintain bets on higher prices for soybeans, cotton and corn, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said after the U.S. Department of Agriculture lowered stockpile estimates. The bank's crop outlook is unchanged after the USDA released new projections yesterday, analyst Damien Courvalin wrote in an e-mailed report. The USDA cut its forecasts for inventories before this year's harvests and said world supplies of crops including corn, wheat and soybeans will slump 2.2 percent.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-10/goldman-advises-keeping-soybean-cotton-corn-bets-update1-.html>

**Avoiding a Global Food Fight**, *Cary Fowler, Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, February 10*

We need not rely solely on statistical correlations in academic papers to demonstrate the link between food and political insecurity. Just look back at 2007-8, when the price of rice surged 200% and wheat and maize rose by more than 100%. Across the world, riots erupted and at least one government fell as a result. This year food prices have returned to record levels. The government of Tunisia has fallen, and Egypt is on the brink. In both cases, discontent over food issues has been part of the mix.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cary-fowler/avoiding-a-global-food-fi\\_b\\_820072.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cary-fowler/avoiding-a-global-food-fi_b_820072.html)

**African Agriculture Rediscovered Courtesy of the Food Crisis**, *World Bank, February 10*

High food prices caused by a combination of factors could threaten food security and fuel social discontent in Africa, the World Bank warned. Food costs have increased due to rising fuel prices, a lack of transparency about food stocks, an absence of a sufficient buffer, and increasing weather incidents.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22830744~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

**World Bank Flash: Food Prices: Ensuring Access to Nutritious Food**, *World Bank, February 10*

There are nearly one billion hungry people worldwide. More than 60 percent of the world's hungry are women. When faced with high food prices, poor households eat cheaper, less nutritious food and/or stop using health and education services. Farmers will grow food instead of higher-earning crops if they think they cannot afford to buy food. Malnutrition contributes to infant, child and maternal illness; decreased learning capacity; lower productivity and higher mortality. One third of all child deaths globally are attributed to under-nutrition.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22829545~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

**Zoellick Says Rising Food Prices Squeeze Neediest**, *Bloomberg, February 10*

World Bank President Robert Zoellick said today there is "no doubt" that food prices are rising in Egypt and elsewhere, increasing pressure on the world's neediest people. "There's no doubt that we're seeing rising food prices just as we saw a couple of years ago and it puts stress on the most vulnerable," Zoellick said in an interview with Bloomberg television. "People often in developing countries spend half or three quarters of their income in food, so they've got little margin."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-10/zoellick-says-rising-food-prices-squeeze-neediest.html>

**Syracuse University's Bertini on Food Insecurity**, *Catherine Bertini, Co-Chair, Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, February 9*

Catherine Bertini, a professor at Syracuse University, talks about food production and inflation and the security implications. She speaks with Mark Crumpton on Bloomberg Television's "Bottom Line."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/video/66595676/>

**SEE ALSO: Gottlieb Interview on Food Security, Bloomberg, February 9**

Gregory Gottlieb, senior deputy assistant administrator of the Bureau for Food Security, talks about U.S. efforts to aid those suffering from poverty and hunger. He speaks with Mark Crumpton on Bloomberg Television's "Bottom Line."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/video/66595520/>

**Nicolas Sarkozy has Food-and-Mouth Disease, Globe and Mail, February 9**

Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of France, is derailing his own worthwhile initiative by demagogic talk about speculators. He has proposed food security and commodity prices as a major theme of the current French chairmanship of the G20. But at the African Union's summit in Addis Ababa at the end of last month, he simply attributed rising food prices to a "veritable scandal," to financial speculation and "pillaging."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/editorials/nicolas-sarkozy-has-food-and-mouth-disease/article1901077/>

**Grain Prices Rally toward 2008 Records on Shrinking World Supply, Bloomberg, February 9**

Corn, wheat and soybean futures jumped to the highest since 2008 after a U.S. government report showed smaller crops and rising demand are eroding global inventories as food prices surge. The U.S. Department of Agriculture cut its forecasts for inventories held before this year's harvests and said world supplies of the crops will slump 2.2 percent. Droughts in Russia, Ukraine and other parts of Europe and adverse weather in the U.S., Canada and Australia slashed output as the world economy rebounded from the most-severe recession in 70 years.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-02-09/grain-prices-rally-toward-2008-records-on-shrinking-world-supply.html>

**WFP Warns of Rising Food Insecurity, UPI, February 7**

Turmoil across the Middle East in conjunction with a steady rise in food prices serves as a warning about food security, the World Food Program said. Political unrest has spilled across the Middle East, with the governments of Egypt, Yemen, Jordan and others facing pressure from opposition groups demanding democratic reform. Josette Sheeran, the executive director of the United Nations' WFP, said political unrest in the Middle East is a warning that food security plays an important role in allaying public anger.

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2011/02/07/WFP-warns-of-rising-food-insecurity/UPI-21701297087139/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2011/02/07/WFP-warns-of-rising-food-insecurity/UPI-21701297087139/)

**Skyrocketing Prices Point to Looming Global Food Crisis, NPR, February 7**

Global food prices hit a record high in January, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). They are expected to continue to rise in the months ahead. Surging prices in 2007 and 2008 lead to protests in scores of countries, and Algerians rioted over skyrocketing food costs again last month. FAO senior economist Abdolreza Abbassian and NPR Senior Business Editor Marilyn Geewax discuss the implications of the looming crisis globally and in the U.S.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/02/07/133565708/Skyrocketing-Prices-Point-To-Looming-Global-Food-Crisis>

**Lee Proposes Food-Crisis Task Force in Korea, Wall Street Journal, February 7**

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on Monday called for a task force to help secure a stable supply of food amid growing concerns about global shortages and rising prices. While Mr. Lee linked the need for action to possible food shortages triggered by climate change, his comments reflect concerns in South Korea over global food-price volatility, given that the country imports around 70% of its food.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704858404576129041128597776.html>

**France Makes High Food Prices Priority of G20, Forbes, February 4**

France is enlisting U.N. agencies, international financial institutions and key G20 members to back its efforts to better regulate agricultural markets and make them more transparent in a bid to ease price swings and prevent food crises. France's agriculture minister, Bruno Le Maire, met with the heads of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Program on Friday, a day after the U.N. reported that world food prices had reached a historic peak.

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/02/04/general-eu-un-food-prices\\_8292838.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/02/04/general-eu-un-food-prices_8292838.html)

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**\*\*\*SPECIAL COVERAGE: IFPRI'S "LEVERAGING AGRICULTURE FOR IMPROVING NUTRITION & HEALTH CONFERENCE"\*\*\***

**Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health: The Way Forward**, *IFPRI, February 2011*

The linkages between agriculture, nutrition, and health seem obvious: adequate levels and qualities of food produced and consumed promote good nutrition and robust health. The reality, however, is that patterns of food production and consumption vary widely around the world and the positive linkages between agriculture, nutrition, and health are not realized. Despite the large role that agriculture has played in the past, a number of pressing problems in the areas of agriculture, nutrition, and health are evident. Addressing these problems will require solutions to be developed at the intersection of the agriculture, health, and nutrition sectors. Much has been learned in recent years about how the three sectors are connected—with important implications for people's well-being and overall economic development. Nonetheless, significant information and knowledge gaps remain. Many policymakers and practitioners in the agriculture, nutrition, and health sectors continue to work in isolation despite the potentially strong synergies among initiatives to improve nutrition and health through agriculture.

[http://2020conference.ifpri.info/files/2011/02/2020anh\\_wayforward.pdf](http://2020conference.ifpri.info/files/2011/02/2020anh_wayforward.pdf)

**The Food System and its Interaction with Human Health and Nutrition**, *IFPRI, February 2011*

Health is now considered a primary goal and quantifiable endpoint of food systems. It is also an emerging force in agricultural policy, driven in part by the emergence of the "triple burden" of malnutrition—the coexistence of hunger, nutrient deficiencies, and excess intake of calories leading to overweight and obesity in many poor countries—that has resulted in part from a lack of harmony between food systems and the promotion of human health. An integrated approach to developing agriculture and food systems and improving health and nutrition would yield more effective and efficient solutions in all of these areas.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020anhconfbr13.pdf>

**Turning Economic Growth into Nutrition-Sensitive Growth**, *IFPRI, February 2011*

Many nutrition programs focus on quite specific interventions (food supplements, or nutrition training), but many "non-nutrition" factors—such as household income (poverty), food availability, female education and health outcomes—can potentially have profound influences on nutrition outcomes. If economic growth can improve these intermediate factors, then this "nutrition-sensitive" economic growth might be the most effective means of sustainably reducing childhood malnutrition. To explore this hypothesis more systematically, this paper employs a rich cross-country dataset containing information on malnutrition outcomes, economic growth, food consumption patterns, and other social-sector determinants of malnutrition. The paper first looks at the productive sectors— agriculture, nonagriculture—as important mediating channels between overall economic growth and nutrition, before examining social-sector channels such as health, education, and family-planning outcomes.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020anhconfpaper06.pdf>

**Responding to Health Risks along the Value Chain**, *IFPRI, February 2011*

As populations in developing countries become increasingly urbanized, a significant proportion of fresh produce consumed in the cities is grown in the urban and peri-urban areas. Many of these farms depend for irrigation on waste water or on water sources likely to be contaminated by municipal wastes containing pathogens and non-microbial contaminants (IMWI 2006). The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) estimates that 3 to 3.5 million hectares of agricultural land in developing countries are being irrigated with raw or diluted wastewater (Scott et al. 2004; Water Policy Briefing 2006). Increased global food production has largely been fueled by increased use of pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals. Demand for products with specific cosmetic attributes (such as spotlessness and lack of blemishes), particularly by the urban consumer, has further encouraged excessive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers (Okello et al. 2010). Such products may pose significant health risk to producers and workers if not used properly, and to consumers if applied in excess or at the wrong times.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020anhconfpaper05.pdf>

**Agriculture-Associated Diseases: Adapting Agriculture to Improve Human Health**, *IFPRI, February 2011*

Agriculture is critical for human welfare, providing food, employment, income, and assets. In the past, agricultural research and development largely focused on improving production, productivity, and profitability of agricultural enterprises. Nutrition and other benefits of agriculture were not always optimized, while the negative impacts on health, well-being, and the environment were often ignored. This was especially problematic for livestock systems, with especially complex negative and positive impacts on human health and well-being. A careful look at the epidemiology of diseases associated with agriculture, and past experience of control efforts, shows that successful management must be systems-based rather than sectorally designed.

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020anhconfbr18.pdf>

**Video Message for the International Food and Policy Research Institute, Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State, February 11**

The United States is committed to this fight by investing in drought-tolerant and vitamin-rich crops through our Feed the Future Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative and by providing micronutrients to pregnant women and children through our Global Health Initiative and also by helping nutrition champions implement country-led solutions through The 1,000 Days, a global movement to improve maternal and child nutrition. We are working closely with our partners, including other countries, multilateral organizations, NGOs, and research centers worldwide.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/02/155434.htm>

**Inaugural Session Panel Outlines Challenges, Charts Way Forward, IFPRI, February 10**

“We are standing face to face with some serious challenges: hunger, malnutrition, and poor health are denying billions of people the opportunity for a healthy, well-nourished, and productive life. Agriculture, which played a key role in feeding billions of poor in the world in the past, faces more volatile growing conditions due to changing climate and scarcer resources because of urbanization and population growth.” So began tonight’s opening remarks by Shenggen Fan, Director General of IFPRI.

<http://2020conference.ifpri.info/2011/02/10/inaugural-session-panel/>

**Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s Address, IFPRI, February 10**

Leveraging agriculture for improving nutrition and health, which is the central theme of this Conference, is particularly important in developing countries where agriculture is also the mainstay of a very large number of people. In India, about 52% of the labour force is dependent on agriculture for the bulk of their incomes. Studies in India show some correlation between agricultural performance of a State and the nutritional status of its people. States that have high agricultural productivity also have lower malnutrition rates for both adults and children.

<http://2020conference.ifpri.info/program/thursday-february-10/>

**The African Food System and Its Interaction with Human Health and Nutrition, Cornell University Press, February 10**

The book, to which several current and former IFPRI researchers contributed, concludes that a variety of health and nutrition issues interact with agriculture in two-way causal chains, the negative effects of which are coined “vicious circles.” Interdisciplinary research and interventions that simultaneously target multiple policy sectors can be an effective method for breaking these cycles.

<http://www.ifpri.org/blog/new-book-examines-food-systems-health-and-nutrition-africa>

**Remarks by Silvia Mathews Burwell, President, Global Development Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation February 2**

I am struck by what a wide range of dedicated professionals – from plant scientists to policymakers –we have assembled here. Such a diverse gathering is a reminder that improving the nutrition of world’s poor is a complex problem with no simple solution. Decisively combating undernutrition will require contributions from the fields of agriculture, health, water and sanitation, education, and social protection. It is my hope that this conference will foster greater collaboration between our areas of expertise and help us find solutions to the world’s nutrition challenges.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/speeches-commentary/Pages/sylvia-mathews-burwell-2011-ifpri.aspx>

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## RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Welcomes U.S. Farm Exports Record \$115.8 Billion**, *Agri-Pulse*, February 11

Data released Friday showing U.S. farm exports hit a record \$115.8 billion for 2010 brought this comment from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack: "U.S. farmers and ranchers had a record-breaking export year, surpassing the previous high of \$114.8 billion, set in calendar year 2008, by nearly \$1 billion. We saw a rise in both the value and volume of U.S. agricultural exports worldwide.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Vilsack\\_on\\_Record\\_Farm\\_Exports\\_20110211H.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Vilsack_on_Record_Farm_Exports_20110211H.asp)

### **Ag Committee Republicans Stress the Negative Impact of Federal Regs on Production Agricultural & Rural Economies**, *House Committee on Agriculture*, February 11

Today, Republican members of the Agriculture Committee, led by Chairman Frank Lucas, spoke on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in support of H. Res. 72, a resolution that instructs various committees to investigate existing, pending, and proposed regulations that hurt job creation and economic growth. Members of the committee addressed the many regulatory burdens farmers, ranchers, and small business owners are facing in rural America.

<http://agriculture.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1310>

### **GOP Appropriators Plan to Go Even Deeper with Budget Cuts**, *Agri-Pulse*, February 10

On Wednesday, House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky) announced a partial list of 70 spending cuts that will be included in an upcoming Continuing Resolution (CR) bill. But just a day later, he announced that, instead of outlining cuts of over \$74 billion, he will hit the \$100 billion target pledged by many Tea Party-backed lawmakers.

[http://www.agri-pulse.com/Rogers\\_GOP\\_leaders\\_plan\\_deeper\\_cuts.asp](http://www.agri-pulse.com/Rogers_GOP_leaders_plan_deeper_cuts.asp)

### **House Ag Considers Impact of Dodd-Frank Swaps and Derivatives Title**, *Hagstrom Report*, February 10

The Republican and Democratic lines of questioning couldn't have been more different Thursday when the House Agriculture Committee held a hearing to review the impact of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's implementation of the swaps and derivatives title of the Dodd-Frank financial services bill on farmers, co-ops, agribusinesses and other entities.

[www.hagstromreport.com](http://www.hagstromreport.com)

### **USDA Partially Deregulating Sugar Beets**, *Reuters*, February 4

U.S. agricultural regulators on Friday said despite a court ban, they would allow commercial planting of genetically modified sugar beets under closely controlled conditions while they complete a full environmental impact statement. The move marks the second-such boost by the United States for contested biotech crops in a week, and underscores U.S. determination to expand the use of GMO crops amid rising global fears over food security and surging prices.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/05/us-sugarbeet-usda-idUSTRE71369020110205>

### **'A Moment of Opportunity' in the Americas**, *Jose W. Fernandez, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State*, February 3

As I travel around the world and see children dart around the cars to beg for a scrap of food, or farmers who cannot till their fields, I say I've seen this for too long. While there is much to celebrate about the Latin America's economic development in recent years, these problems were there when I started working in the region 30 years ago. And too many of these problems are still here today.

<http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/rls/rm/2011/156287.htm>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Global Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*Date:* February 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International studies presents this professional skills course to provide analysts and practitioners involved in agriculture and food issues or policies an overview of the mix of considerations that will impact the agricultural sector in the future. It is specifically offered as an interdisciplinary class with a non-theoretical bias. For further details and to reserve a place, please contact [mleinz@jhu.edu](mailto:mleinz@jhu.edu)

### **Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health**

*Date:* February 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* New Delhi, India

Agriculture impacts poor people's nutrition and health, and people's nutrition and health in turn affects their productivity. As a supplier of food, a source of income, and an engine of growth, agriculture has the potential to significantly and sustainably improve poor people's nutrition and health. This conference will inform, influence, and catalyze action to better use investments in agriculture to achieve nutrition security and good health for the world's poor people.

<http://www.ifpri.org/2020-agriculture-nutrition-health>

### **USDA's 2011 Agricultural Outlook Forum: Today's Strategies & Tomorrow's Opportunities**

*Date:* February 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Arlington, VA

Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver the Forum's keynote address followed by a distinguished speaker. Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will deliver the Forum's welcome. Chief Economist Joseph Glauber will discuss the Domestic and Foreign Agricultural Economic Outlooks. Plenary and session speakers will be announced in the near future. Twenty-five breakout sessions will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to risk management, foreign trade and domestic markets, rural communities, conservation and the environment, renewable energy, broadband, nutrition and food safety, dietary guidelines, land tenure issues, and sustainability. The Forum also will feature traditional commodity and supply and demand outlook sessions.

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

### **Getting Down to Business: Building Partnerships to Expand African Agricultural Development**

*Date:* March 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa is pleased to announce the third annual US-Africa Forum.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/getting-down-business-building-partnerships-expand-african-agricultural-development>

### **7 Billion to Feed: Can We Do It?**

*Date:* March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

Women Thrive Worldwide presents their Third Annual International Women's Day Breakfast.

For more information, contact [aenglish@womenthrive.org](mailto:aenglish@womenthrive.org)

### **CARE's 2011 Conference & International Women's Day Celebration**

*Date:* March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

The CARE Conference & International Women's Day Celebration will unite hundreds of CARE supporters — individuals, partner organizations, major donors and corporate partners. Together, we'll come together as part of the movement that is bringing hope to millions of poor women, families and communities around the world. At CARE's conference, participants will learn why CARE places women and girls at the heart of our efforts to fight poverty. When equipped with the proper resources, women rise to overcome the great challenges they face. Every day women are leading the way for lasting change for all.

<http://www.careconference.org/>

### **COMESA Investment Forum 2011**

*Date:* March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The conference will provide an interactive platform to find out first-hand about the opportunities in the region, where investors and business leaders are putting their money, and how they are going about generating high long-term returns. The agenda will focus on 5 key sectors: Trade, Finance, Logistics, Agriculture/Agribusiness and Infrastructure.

<http://www.partnership-africa.org/content/comesa-investment-forum-2011>

### **Agriculture 2.0**

*Date:* April 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* San Francisco

This event will be the 5th installment in the conference series and for the first time we are adding several tracks to a multi-day format. This expansion will facilitate the creation of a commercial marketplace for the industry—a first of its kind, one-stop shop not only for venture capitalists and early stage companies, but also for senior decision makers in agribusiness and farmland funds, commodities experts, growth stage and institutional investors, key industry insiders, and policy makers. They all come together at Agriculture 2.0 with one intent – to catalyze and capitalize on this rapidly evolving industry.

[https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm\\_source=SilverpopMailing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520\(1\)&utm\\_content=&step=start](https://www.iirusa.com/agriculture20/register.xml?registration=&utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U2339%252520-%2525201%252520(1)&utm_content=&step=start)

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Food and Ag Policy Conference**

*Date:* April 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, D.C.

<http://www.informaecon.com/WashMarkCalendar2011.pdf>

### **CropLife America National Policy Conference: Lost in Translation? Deciphering the Discourse on Modern Agriculture**

*Date:* May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Washington, DC

The CropLife America National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts in the fields of agriculture, food safety and security, agricultural technology and policy to offer highly diverse perspectives and engage in frank discussions on all issues facing modern agriculture. Our Master of Ceremonies will again be Marc Gunther, contributing editor at FORTUNE magazine and a senior writer at Greenbiz.com who has appeared on NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/nationalpolicyconference>

### **Second World Conference of Humanitarian Studies**

*Date:* June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Tufts University, Medford, MA

Humanitarian crises and the responses they trigger are evolving rapidly. This conference looks at the opportunities and threats for addressing these crises, as well as at the strengths and weaknesses of the actual responses. The conference provides a unique forum for both scholars and practitioners to present research and debate these issues. In particular, the conference focuses on four broad themes: emerging from protracted crises; new directions in policy; innovations in humanitarian practice; and advances in public health and food security in crises.

<http://www.humanitarianstudies2011.org/>

### **Food Security, Health and Impact Conference**

*Date:* June 22<sup>nd</sup> – June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

*Location:* Leeds, United Kingdom

The Africa College, a research partnership between IITA, ICIPE and University of Leeds is holding an international conference to share lessons on translating research results into impact for food security, nutrition and human health. The conference includes knowledge brokering sessions and workshops and is asking two questions: How can the results of basic science and inter-disciplinary research lead to increased impact on food security and human health?; and, How can partnerships between research and development

organisations deliver innovation and impact? Sponsorship for African participants is available. For more details see: <http://www.africacollege.leeds.ac.uk/>

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## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Receipts of Food Aid (Cereals), *FAO, 2011***

Receipts of Food Aid is the amount of cereals designated as food aid and transferred to that country from all donors. Cereals include wheat, barley, maize, rye, oats, millet, sorghum, rice, buckwheat, alpiste/canary seed, fonio, quinoa, triticale, wheat flour, and the cereal component of blended foods. The figure represents cereal aid donated on a total-grant basis or on highly concessional terms. Data is compiled from information from donor countries and the World Food Programme (WFP).

<http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/api/receipts-food-aid-cereals>

#### **Responding to 'Land Grabbing' and Promoting Responsible Investment in Agriculture, *IFAD, 2011***

The current controversy about large-scale land acquisitions by foreign investors has put land rights issues and responsible agricultural investment more visibly back on the global development agenda.<sup>1</sup> It has also raised questions regarding the world's future development trajectory. In both respects, it has opened up important international space for discussion on how to improve land administration systems and investment in agriculture, so that the land rights and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, pastoralists and other vulnerable groups are strengthened.

[http://www.ifad.org/pub/op/2\\_e.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/pub/op/2_e.pdf)

### Media Articles:

#### **China: Agriculture 10-Point Plan Announced, *Stratfor, February 9***

China's State Council issued a 10-point plan to irrigate wheat fields at \$2 per hectare, plant wheat and corn sprouts, treat crop disease, as well as pledging \$180 million to buy equipment and \$1 billion for drought-alleviation works, The Wall Street Journal reported Feb. 10. China also said it would raise the minimum purchase price by almost 40 percent, educate farmers and launch a grain production campaign.

<http://www.stratfor.com/memberships/183924/sitrep/20110209-china-agriculture-10-point-plan-announced>

#### **Farmers Fostering Crop Rotation, *Farming First, February 9***

Encouraging more crop rotation and intercropping is one simple measure that is good for farming and good for diets. Crop rotation means farmers plant a crop such as cereals in their field and then plant a legume and then an oilseed or another crop. In intercropping, at least two different crops are grown simultaneously in a single field. Rotating crops has many benefits for farming. It replenishes soil nutrients, protects against crop diseases, and means more varied markets. It is also invaluable to the local community.

[http://www.farmingfirst.org/2011/02/farmers-fostering-crop-rotation/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29](http://www.farmingfirst.org/2011/02/farmers-fostering-crop-rotation/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29)

#### **Biotech Food? No Thanks, We're European, *Des Moines Register, February 9***

Don't look for Europeans to give much ground any time soon on their resistance to genetically engineered foods, products that are common in the United States. "We have our tradition for food and we have our appreciation for what it means for the quality of food," said the European Union's agriculture commissioner, Dacian Ciolos. Ciolos, a Romanian trained in agricultural engineering and economics, is in Washington this week for meetings with Obama administration officials and members of Congress. He said he was pressed on the biotech issue by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk. Europe's resistance to agricultural biotechnology has long been viewed as a major obstacle to winning acceptance for biotech crops in Africa.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/02/09/biotech-food-no-thanks-were-european/>

### **The Race for Rice**, *BBC, February 8*

In 40 years, the global population is expected to swell by 2 billion, so rice, today the fastest growing staple which feeds more than half the world's population, will become increasingly important to global food security. It is also a thinly traded commodity - less than 5% of the rice produced globally was available for export in 2009. Cornell University's Norman Uphoff, a scientist and strong advocate of the system of rice intensification, argues that simple methods - such as transplanting seedlings into moist rather than flooded soil, spacing them further apart and weeding manually - can boost yields by as much as 50% with no need for agrochemicals or risk to biodiversity.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-12277807>

### **How Can Agriculture Help Address Malnutrition Worldwide?**, *Farming First, February 8*

Food security is about not only the quantity of food that we consume; it is also about the quality and diversity of that food as well. Malnutrition, often called the "hidden hunger", can lead on to life-threatening illnesses. Agriculture can play an important role in addressing nutrition security, through the use of biofortified foods, micronutrient-enriched fertilizers and improved agronomic practices. These can help improve health, boost livelihoods, and address the impacts of climate change, especially in rural areas in developing countries.

[http://www.farmingfirst.org/2011/02/new-video-how-can-agriculture-help-address-malnutrition-worldwide/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29](http://www.farmingfirst.org/2011/02/new-video-how-can-agriculture-help-address-malnutrition-worldwide/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FarmingFirst+%28Farming+First%29)

### **India Resists Efforts to Ban Pesticide**, *Washington Post, February 7*

India is the world's largest producer, exporter and user of the low-cost pesticide, which farmers across the rest of the country continue to use on tea, cotton, rice and other crops. Officials say a ban would jeopardize the country's food security at a time of rising demand and leave millions of farmers without an affordable alternative.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/07/AR2011020702244.html>

### **Einstein was Right – Honey Bee Collapse Threatens Global Food Security**, *Telegraph, February 9*

The bee crisis has been treated as a niche concern until now, but as the UN's index of food prices hits an all time-high, it is becoming urgent to know whether the plight of the honey bee risks further exhausting our food security. Almost a third of global farm output depends on animal pollination, largely by honey bees. These foods provide 35pc of our calories, most of our minerals, vitamins, and anti-oxidants, and the foundations of gastronomy. Yet the bees are dying – or being killed – at a disturbing pace.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans\\_pritchard/8306970/Einstein-was-right-honey-bee-collapse-threatens-global-food-security.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans_pritchard/8306970/Einstein-was-right-honey-bee-collapse-threatens-global-food-security.html)

### **Hunger and Food Security: Is Africa Selling the Farm?**, *Christian Science Monitor, February 6*

Foreign investors see Africa as a breadbasket. Done well, investment could help with African hunger but create food security for the rest of the world. Africa is drawing dozens of corporate giants like Daewoo and even governments of such nations as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Japan, and even India (which is food self-sufficient) to grow the food and biofuel crops they need back home. The coup in Madagascar and food riots in Mozambique last August – which followed news of a similar food and biofuels deal with the European Union and Brazil – are a warning sign of the volatility of the global balance of wealth and poverty that foreign investors and African leaders face.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-Issues/2011/0206/Hunger-and-food-security-Is-Africa-selling-the-farm>

### **Citrus Growers Excited about New Seedless Mandarin**, *Bloomberg, February 4*

California orange growers plan to begin harvesting a new variety of seedless mandarin orange this month that they think will appeal to consumers and lower their expenses. The most popular varieties of mandarins, such as Satsuma, are self-pollinating and don't need help from bees to produce fruit.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9L5RQJ00.htm>

### **Candidates for the Post of Director-General Announced**, *FAO, February 1*

Six candidates have been presented by FAO Member Nations for the post of FAO Director-General to be elected in June 2011, the agency announced today. The election of a new Director-General will take place in a secret ballot to be held at the beginning of the 37th FAO Conference (Rome, 25 June to 2 July 2011) by the organization's 191 member nations. The deadline for nominations was yesterday, 31 January.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/50267/icode/>

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## FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

### Media Articles:

#### **New Website Gives Lowdown on Global Aid Flows**, *Reuters, February 10*

Data compiled by Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA), a group that monitors international aid flows, shows the United States gave \$4.4 billion in humanitarian aid in 2008, which worked out at \$14 per American, whereas the UAE (which also happens to be the world's number three oil exporter) gave \$111 million in humanitarian aid or \$23 per Emirati.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/blogs/alertnet-aidwatch/new-website-gives-lowdown-on-global-aid-flows/>

#### **Cost of Feeding World's Poor Leaps**, *Wall Street Journal, February 9*

The cost of feeding millions of starving people increased markedly in 2010 as rising grain prices pushed up the cost of staple foods, data from the World Food Program showed Tuesday. Figures seen ahead of the release of the WFP's annual report show that while the United Nations' food-relief agency bought 22% more food last year than in 2009, the amount it spent rose 30% to \$1.25 billion.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704364004576132044238148366.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704364004576132044238148366.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

#### **Food Security: Increased Spending Over Next Three Years**, *Telegraph, February 4*

Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Special Advisor on Development, Brendan Cox, informed Embroff July 7 that food security is a G8 priority for the Prime Minister and that the UK Government will be increasing its food security and agriculture assistance to USD 1.8 billion over the next three years.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/wikileaks-files/london-wikileaks/8305290/FOOD-SECURITY-INCREASED-SPENDING-OVER-NEXT-THREE-YEARS.html>

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## ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

### Reports:

#### **Taking Stock of Crop Models**, *IFPRI, February 9*

Crop systems models can help researchers estimate the future of food security under climate scenarios. Many crop models are known to exist around the world - for different crops with varying complexities, yet it is not easy to find the right model for the right problem. To better understand the global extent of crop model development and to identify gaps in capabilities, HarvestChoice participated in an initiative to conduct a rapid meta-analysis of crop models using on-line survey to the crop modeling community in the world.

<http://www.ifpri.org/blog/taking-stock-crop-models>

### Media Articles:

#### **U.N. Food Agency Issues Warning on China Drought**, *New York Times, February 8*

The United Nations' food agency issued an alert on Tuesday warning that a severe drought was threatening the wheat crop in China, the world's largest wheat producer, and resulting in shortages of drinking water for people and livestock. China has been essentially self-sufficient in grain for decades, for national security reasons. Any move by China to import large quantities of food in response to the drought could drive international prices even higher than the record levels recently reached.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/09/business/global/09food.html? r=1&src=mv>

**SEE ALSO: China, Largest Wheat Grower, Facing Threat of Drought**, *Bloomberg, February 8*

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-02-08/china-largest-wheat-grower-facing-threat-of-drought.html>

**SEE ALSO: China Wheat Drought May Last to Spring, Minister Says**, *Bloomberg*, February 10

China, the largest wheat consumer, says the drought in the country's main growing region may be prolonged, said Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu. Futures in Zhengzhou climbed to a record. About 115.95 million mu (7.73 million hectares) of wheat, or 42 percent of the total planted in the eight major producing provinces, has been hit by the dry spell that may last into spring, Han said in a statement yesterday.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-02-10/china-wheat-drought-may-last-to-spring-minister-says.html>

**SEE ALSO: China Seeks to Ease Food Fears**, *Wall Street Journal*, February 10

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao sought to calm global concerns about the impact of severe droughts on China's grain output and inflation, saying that the country's supply of grain is basically in balance with demand and reiterating the government's confidence that it can keep prices under control. Mr. Wen told a meeting Thursday of the State Council, China's highest administrative body, that stabilizing the production of grain and other crops is key to maintaining price stability and even social stability in China.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704132204576135994059303616.html>

**UN Warns Floods in Southern Africa Could Lead to Food Shortages**, *UN News Centre*, February 7

Heavy rainfall and flooding in of southern Africa have damaged large areas of farmland and crops, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said today, warning that communities in poorer parts of the region could experience food shortages in the coming months. "Food insecurity levels are already critical in the affected areas of some of these countries and floods will only further worsen the ability of poor farmers to cope and feed their families in the coming months," said the FAO Regional Emergency Coordinator for Southern Africa, Cindy Holleman.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?Cr1=&NewsID=37480&Cr=FAO>

**Droughts, Floods, and Food**, *Op-Ed*, *Paul Krugman*, *New York Times*, February 6

While several factors have contributed to soaring food prices, what really stands out is the extent to which severe weather events have disrupted agricultural production. And these severe weather events are exactly the kind of thing we'd expect to see as rising concentrations of greenhouse gases change our climate — which means that the current food price surge may be just the beginning.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/07/opinion/07krugman.html?\\_r=2&adxnnl=1&ref=opinion&adxnnlx=1297188273-aL6Vu4l119qJN3AwobdNgQ](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/07/opinion/07krugman.html?_r=2&adxnnl=1&ref=opinion&adxnnlx=1297188273-aL6Vu4l119qJN3AwobdNgQ)

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## WOMEN & GIRLS

### Media Articles:

**Microcredit Industry in India Facing Backlash**, *Washington Post*, February 10

Designed to give poor women easy access to small loans, India's microcredit industry is battling for survival amid a political backlash, dwindling cash flows and high default rates. The state, which has the highest number of microlending businesses in India, introduced a law banning aggressive collection practices and restricting the number of loans per borrower. The law also called for greater disclosures by the lending companies. But problems persist, and some women have stopped repaying their loans, said Jamuna Paruchuri, project manager for gender at Andhra Pradesh's Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/10/AR2011021005924.html>

**Egypt and the Universal Rights of Women**, *Huffington Post*, February 5

In March, 2010, Secretary of State Clinton was interviewed on MSNBC and asked what the Obama administration was doing for women's rights globally. She mentioned three fronts: health care, which affects the infant mortality rate; food security and climate change. While these certainly help all people, they do not

remotely rise to the level of a real response to the abuses women specifically face simply because they are female.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nina-burleigh/egypt-and-the-universal-r\\_b\\_819178.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nina-burleigh/egypt-and-the-universal-r_b_819178.html)

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## MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

### Reports:

#### **Global Commodities Supply and Demand Forecasts, USDA, February 2011**

The World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report provides monthly comprehensive forecasts of supply and demand for major U.S. and global crops, supplied by the USDA. Crops covered include wheat, coarse grains, rice, and oilseeds. This report can explain past and current global commodities trends, as well as predict trends for the coming year.

[http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/sites/default/files/WASDE\\_February2011.pdf](http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/sites/default/files/WASDE_February2011.pdf)

### Media Articles:

#### **EU Plans to Lift Import Curbs on Soaring Food Commodities, Financial Times, February 10**

Europe has moved to loosen import restrictions on important agricultural commodities in response to tightening domestic markets and skyrocketing prices. The European Commission's agriculture committee proposed suspending import duties on feed wheat and barley – as well as allowing additional sugar imports at lower tariffs than usual. The proposals are only in draft form and will need to be voted on at forthcoming committee meetings, which are held twice a month.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3e0122ae-3565-11e0-aa6c-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1DfK2mj00>

#### **GM Crops to be Allowed into Britain under Controversial EU Plans, Guardian, February 6**

Genetically modified crops will be allowed to enter the UK food chain without the need for regulatory clearance for the first time under controversial plans expected to be approved this week. The Observer understands that the UK intends to back EU plans permitting the importing of animal feed containing traces of unauthorised GM crops in a move that has alarmed environmental groups.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/feb/06/genetically-modified-crops-uk>

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## AGRIBUSINESS

### Media Articles:

#### **Pepsi Faces Steep Input Price Inflation, Financial Times, February 10**

PepsiCo faces the highest levels of input price inflation in many years, underlining the broad pressures confronting global food companies amid steep rises in the price of oil and agricultural commodities. The snacks and soft drinks company, whose food business includes Frito-Lay and Quaker, expected an additional \$1.4bn to \$1.6bn in extra input costs in its 2011 financial year, equivalent to cost inflation of 8 to 9.5 per cent.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bd3aa372-3517-11e0-9810-00144feabdc0.html?ftcamp=rss&ftcamp=crm/email/2011211/nbe/GlobalBusiness/product#axzz1DfK2mj00>

#### **DuPont Chair & CEO: Meeting World Food Needs Requires Science and Collaboration, Trading Markets, February 10**

Increasing agricultural productivity, improving food quality and achieving long-term food security will require science and collaboration to address dramatic global population challenges, DuPont Chair and CEO Ellen Kullman told members of the Chief Executives' Club of Boston. Kullman noted that the challenge for global food production is to feed the world's growing population currently standing at nearly 7 billion and expected to rise to 9 billion by 2050, as the world's supply of arable land per person is decreasing. Kullman

said that the scale and the scope of the food production challenge can only be tackled through science and collaboration.

[http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/dd\\_dupont-chair-amp-ceo-meeting-world-food-needs-requires-science-and-collaboration-1483888.html](http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/dd_dupont-chair-amp-ceo-meeting-world-food-needs-requires-science-and-collaboration-1483888.html)

**Farming on Food Prices**, *Wall Street Journal, February 9*

Syngenta, one of world's largest crop protection and seed companies, is bullish for the mid-term. For those who are betting on slowing food prices, this may be bad news. From a business point of view, Syngenta's world couldn't be in a better state. By 2050 the global population is set to grow to 9 billion people from about 7.5 billion today, while the size of arable land is expected to remain roughly at current levels. What looks like a horror vision, has prompted Syngenta to lift its outlook and predict that it will be able to broaden its current market share of some 15% by another 2% over the next few years.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/source/2011/02/09/farming-on-food-prices/>

**Onward Corporate Food Crusaders**, *Eric Gimenez, Executive Director, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, Huffington Post, February 7*

Last week at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the business leaders of the global corporate food regime announced a new Corporate Food Crusade. Seventeen agrifood monopolies (ADM, BASF, Bunge, Cargill, The Coca-Cola Company, DuPont, General Mills, Kraft Foods, Metro, Monsanto Company, Nestlé, PepsiCo, SABMiller, Syngenta, Unilever, Wal-Mart Stores and Yara International) rolled out a new report financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation entitled "Realizing a New Vision for Agriculture." The monopolies propose "mobilizing the private sector through market-based solutions... to empower farmers and entrepreneurs to reach their full potential."

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eric-holt-gimenez/onward-corporate-food-cru\\_b\\_817058.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/eric-holt-gimenez/onward-corporate-food-cru_b_817058.html)

**IFC Plans to Boost Africa Food Security**, *Business Daily, January 31*

The World Bank's private financing arm, IFC, has said it will double funding to agribusiness projects in Sub Saharan Africa to boost food security in the region. The International Financial Corporation (IFC) director of global manufacturing, agribusiness and Services, Atul Mehta, said on Friday the organisation will increase its budget for agriculture to \$250 million in the next two years from \$100 million last year.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/IFC%20plans%20to%20boost%20Africa%20food%20security/-/539552/1098636/-/134up9yz/-/>

*Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank*