

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



February 11th – February 17th, 2012

Quote of the Week: *“USAID is leading the whole of government for this country’s single biggest investment in development, Feed the Future, to fight hunger, build resiliency, improve food security... We have to make sure that each dollar we spend makes the biggest difference for the most people. So we put more emphasis on practicing high-impact development and catalyzing economic growth with an eye toward helping our partners build sustainable systems so they themselves can become more self-sufficient. Our goal is self-sufficiency - people being able to feed themselves and have governments that care enough about their people to provide healthcare and do all the work that we know makes for a better life.”* – Secretary Hillary Clinton, USAID Town Hall Meeting, February 15, 2012

For more information:

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

The FY 2013 Budget, The White House, February 13

Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2013 contains the Budget Message of the President,

information on the President's priorities, budget overviews organized by agency, and summary tables.
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Overview/>

SEE ALSO: The Budget Message of the President

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/message.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Department of Agriculture

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/agriculture.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Department of State and Other International Programs

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/state.pdf>

SEE ALSO: Executive Budget Summary – Function 150 and Other International Programs

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/183755.pdf>

SEE ALSO: FY 13 Department of State Operations Congressional Budget Justification

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/181061.pdf>

SEE ALSO: An Agency-by-Agency Guide to Obama's Proposed Budget for Fiscal 2013,
Washington Post, February 13

The administration seeks to slow future growth in the two programs by about \$360 billion over the next decade. It would do so by lowering payments to some health care providers and by requiring wealthier Medicare beneficiaries to pay higher monthly premiums, among other steps.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/an-agency-by-agency-guide-to-obamas-proposed-budget-for-fiscal-2013/2012/02/14/gIQA100kCR_story.html

Robert Zoellick to Leave World Bank, *Financial Times, February 15*

Robert Zoellick, president of the World Bank since 2007, announced he would step down when his current term ends on June 30. Mr. Zoellick, a Republican who was in effect appointed by the administration of George W. Bush, where he had previously served as US trade representative, became bank president after the forced departure of the previous incumbent, Paul Wolfowitz.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/95865bce-57ed-11e1-bf61-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1mU8nyIDP>

A Life Free From Hunger Report, *Save the Children, February 14*

Progress on reducing malnutrition has been pitifully slow for 20 years. But a combination of global trends – climate change, volatile food prices, economic uncertainty and demographic shifts – is putting future progress on tackling malnutrition at risk. Action must be taken now to prevent the crisis deteriorating and more children suffering the life-long consequences.

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/A%20Life%20Free%20From%20Hunger%20UK%20low%20res.pdf>

SEE ALSO: 500m Children 'at Risk of Effects of Malnutrition', *CNN, February 15*

Half a billion children could grow up physically and mentally stunted over the next 15 years because they do not have enough to eat, the charity Save the Children says in a new report. It says much more needs to be done to tackle malnutrition in the world's poorest countries. The charity found that many families could not afford meat, milk or vegetables.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-17034134>

SEE ALSO: Poor Diet Kills 2.6 Million Infants a Year, Says Survey by Save the Children, *Guardian, February 14*

Malnutrition is the root cause of the deaths of 2.6 million children each year, and the bodies and brains of 450 million more will fail to develop properly due to inadequate diet over the next 15 years unless immediate action is taken. In some developing countries the figure is one in three. In India 48% of children are stunted.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/feb/15/life-free-from-hunger-save-the-children>

Stronger China Relationship Means Jobs for Iowans, *Opinion, Tom Vilsack, Des Moines Register, February 10*

China is a top export market for Iowa's farmers and ranchers, purchasing \$375 million worth of "grown in Iowa" products last year. We want to continue these income opportunities by expanding mutually beneficial trade. Our two great nations, with great agricultural economies, have a tremendous capacity to build a better world. Both nations have the responsibility and opportunity to work together to address global hunger that

affected more than 925 million people in 2010.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120212/OPINION01/302120037/-1/BUSINESS04/Tom-Vilsack-Stronger-China-relationship-means-jobs-Iowans>

Mr. Xi Goes to Iowa, Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow, Global Agriculture and Food Policy Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, February 17

Xi knows farming – he had first come to Iowa as a Communist Party leader to study farming practices that could help his agriculture region back home. And he knows the importance of increasing food production for his country and for the entire world. This raises the tantalizing possibility of China becoming a top ally in the U.S. push to end hunger through agriculture development.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2012/02/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-mr-xi-goes-to-iowa.html>

Iowa and China Have Come Full Circle, Opinion, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, Des Moines Register, February 15

When I welcome Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping to the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates today, it will represent both the culmination of my personal connection to that country over the past five decades, as well as a capstone marking the transformation of China during that period. My first visit to China came in late 1979, when I accompanied Iowa Gov. Robert Ray on one of the first post-normalization of relations exchange visits arranged by the U.S.-based National Council for U.S.-China Relations.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120216/OPINION01/302160024/-1/OPED/Kenneth-Quinn-Iowa-China-come-full-circle>

Farmers Are Ready to do their Part on Climate Change, Opinion, Kanayo F. Kwanze, Huffington Post, February 15

We must all recognize that, farming is a business, even for the poorest farmers on the planet. Today's focus needs to show small farmers not only how to increase their yields through sustainable approaches, but also how to make money and improve their lives when they implement such approaches. In addition to this, we must rethink agriculture in the face of today's climate change and food security challenges.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kanayo-f-nwanze/farmers-are-ready-to-do-t_b_1280038.html

FY13 Budget: Making Smart Investments, Opinion, Rajiv Shah, February 16

\$1 billion of our FY 2013 request is devoted to Feed the Future, President Obama's landmark food security initiative. These investments will help countries develop their own agricultural economies and grow their way out of hunger and poverty, rather than relying on humanitarian food aid that costs us seven times as much to deliver. We've also designed a results framework so we can transparently measure and demonstrate the impact our investments have made in fighting poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

<http://blog.usaid.gov/2012/02/fy13-budget-making-smart-investments/>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Briefing on the 2013 State Department and USAID Budget, U.S. Department of State, February 13

FY 2013 budget for International Affairs programs, known as the Functional 150 account for all of you budget folks out there, totals \$56.4 billion. This includes State and USAID, but the 150 account includes the Treasury's international programs, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps, among others. So within the 150 account, you will find the State Department and USAID's requests, which totals \$51.6 billion. And that is what I'm going to focus on today, the \$51.6 billion.

<http://www.state.gov/s/dmr/remarks/2012/183842.htm>

SEE ALSO: State Department to See Modest Spending Increase, Washington Post, February 13

The State Department would receive a modest boost in revenue, in part to offset costs for increased responsibilities in Iraq and Afghanistan. The administration's plan calls for \$43.4 in funding for the department's so-called "core" budget, with an additional \$8.2 billion for "overseas contingency operations," which includes civilian-led missions in war zones. Total spending would rise by 1.6 percent over 2012 levels.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/44/post/state-department-to-see-modest-spending-increase/2012/02/13/gIQAddGIBR_blog.html

Secretary Vilsack's Remarks Before the Opening Session of US-China Agricultural Symposium, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 16

Our two great nations – and our great agricultural economies – have a tremendous capacity to build a better world. First, we have responsibility and opportunity to work together to address the causes of global hunger that affect more than 925 million people. We will also have opportunities to collaborate and partner on food safety: ensuring the health of our citizens through the implementation of best practices, advanced by laws and regulations based on science.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/02/0055.xml&>

SEE ALSO: U.S., China Sign Plan of Strategic Cooperation in Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 14

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and China's Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu signed an historic Plan of Strategic Cooperation that will guide the two countries' agricultural relationship for the next 5 years.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/02/0057.xml&>

Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State and Dr. Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, February 15

We're consolidating services to reduce overhead costs so we can devote every possible dollar to our programs. I think it makes not only good sense, but I think it's going to increasingly be seen as a budget necessity for us to work together to build a single platform. To eliminate duplication, we need efficiencies and economies of scale, and we are working together to find them.

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/speeches/2012/sp120215.html>

Secretary Clinton's Remarks at the Climate and Clean Air Coalition To Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Initiative, U.S. State Department, February 16

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition will spread practical ideas and practices regarding so-called short-lived pollutants. In the past few years, we've learned that this group contributes much more to climate change than we previously realized. More than one-third of current global warming is caused by short-lived pollutants. They also destroy millions of tons of crops every year and wreak havoc on people's health.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/02/184061.htm>

SEE ALSO: U.S. Will Lead New Effort to Cut Global Warming from Methane, Soot, Washington Post, February 15

If adopted globally, measures to reduce soot and methane emissions could slow global warming by about a half a degree Celsius by 2030, according to research published in January. They can have a quick effect on global warming because these gases do not last in the atmosphere as long as carbon dioxide does.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/us-will-lead-new-effort-to-cut-global-warming-from-methane-soot/2012/02/15/gIQAoYtUGR_story.html

SEE ALSO: U.S. Joins Effort to Fight Climate Change, Wall Street Journal, February 16

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which Ms. Clinton called a "new global effort to fight climate change," is being launched as the Obama administration moves forward with efforts to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants and other industrial facilities. The UNEP will oversee the day-to-day operations of the coalition.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204792404577227134018262436.html?>

Secretary Vilsack Testifies before the House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 17

To help sustain record farm income, we'll invest in research and development to improve agricultural productivity. The budget makes a 23% increase in funding for our premier competitive grants program to support the most worthy projects and continues support for in-house research and the land grant universities. Since fiscal year 2010, USDA has seen our operating budget cut by \$3 billion, or 12%. This came

on top of a \$4 billion contribution to help pay down the debt.

<http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/02/0059.xml>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sustainable Smallholder Agriculture: Feeding the World, Protecting the Planet

Date: February 23, 2012

Location: Rome, Italy

The Thirty-fifth Session of IFAD's Governing Council provides a forum for Member States, partners and the public to discuss and debate what needs to be done to enable smallholder farmers to contribute to raising food availability by 70 percent by 2050, which is what will be required to feed a growing, more urbanized population. Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will take center stage to share his perspective on the importance of agriculture and how sustainable productivity improvements can reduce poverty in developing countries.

<http://www.ifad.org/events/gc/35/index.htm>

USDA's 2012 Ag Outlook Forum

Date: February 23-24, 2012

Location: Arlington, VA

Twenty-five breakout sessions with more than 80 speakers will focus on a broad range of topical issues related to agriculture and global food security; foreign trade, financial markets, and economic development; conservation; energy; climate change; food safety; food hubs; and Cooperative Extension and beginning farmers.

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

Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies with the project chair, Catherine Bertini

Date: March 1, 2012

Location: The Church Center for the United Nations, New York, NY

Some of the most marginalized adolescent girls in the world live in rural areas. When an adolescent girl is educated, healthy, skilled, and empowered, she can reach incredible heights and become a pillar in her society. She is more likely to tap into her full potential and invest in her family, community, and beyond. This panel will explore how empowering rural adolescent girls spurs economic and social growth and how to best address the triple disadvantages of location, age, and gender unique to rural adolescent girls. Please direct all questions to: events@unfoundation.org

4th Annual International Women's Day Breakfast

Date: March 1, 2012

Location: Washington, D.C.

Women Thrive and Honorary Co-Chairs Senator John Kerry, Representative Ted Poe, and Representative Jan Schakowsky invite you to join us to celebrate International Women's Day. From One in Three to None in Three: Women and Girls Living Free of Violence.

<http://www.womenthrive.org/images//invite020112ngo.jpg>

Effective Solutions for Agricultural Development through Empowered African Women Scientist

Date: March 7, 2012

Location: London, U.K.

African women farmers and agricultural scientists make essential contributions to agriculture and can do so much more to help drive agricultural growth and tackle hunger in SSA - but they must be fully engaged. If women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 percent, raising agricultural output and reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 percent.

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/centres/africanagriculturaldevelopment/newssummary/news-2-2-2012-14-35-23>

World Biofuels Markets

Date: March 13th – 15th, 2012

Location: Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Over 250 biofuels thought leaders will share their experiences and expertise on all aspects of the biofuels value chain during three days of interactive conference sessions.

<http://www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com/>

Jobs, Food & Farming

Date: March 19-21, 2012

Location: Accra, Ghana

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: 1) Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agri-food sector in Africa; 2) The dynamics of change in different components of the agri-food sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; 3) The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agri-food sector.

<http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php>

CropLife America and RISE Spring Conference 2012

Date: April 5-6, 2012

Location: Washington, D.C.

Our 2012 conference will delve into key fields such as NPDES permitting, spray drift, the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program and pesticide registration, as well as broader issues such as the important role of precision agriculture.

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/CLA-RISE-Spring-Conference-2012>

Sustaining the L'Aquila Commitments

The 3rd Annual Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security

Date: April 26, 2012

Location: Washington, D.C.

The 2012 event will bring together leaders from the U.S. government, international organizations, private sector, academia, and civil society three weeks before the G8 Summit in Chicago, under the theme *Sustaining the L'Aquila Commitments*. The symposium will invite participants to push the needle on how the U.S. and international community can renew and broaden its commitment to alleviating poverty and hunger and advancing economic growth and stability through global agricultural development.

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/globalagdevelopment/gad/Events/gad/Events/2012/Annual_Symposium.aspx

2012 National Policy Conference

Date: May 16, 2012

Location: Washington, D.C.

CropLife America's 3rd Annual National Policy Conference will bring together leading experts, academics and politicians to engage in a debate on the development of 2012 Farm Bill. How does Congress design a Farm Bill that addresses human, social, economic, research and environmental needs while taking into account farmers, consumers and the natural systems that give us the food and fiber we need to live?

<http://www.croplifeamerica.org/National-Policy-Conference-2012>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Media Articles:

Towards a Pro-Poor Maize Policy in Kenya, IRIN, February 14

The poorest Kenyans now spend over a quarter of their income on the cereal. High and volatile prices are especially hard on the poor, including the 98 percent of farmers in Kenya who, buy more maize than they sell. Achieving lower and more stable prices, depends in large part on the government coming up with more

permanent trade and marketing policies and on the East African Community reviewing its practices.
<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=94863>

America's Economic Bright Spot: Farming, *New York Times, February 12*

The farm sector is one of the few bright spots in a rough U.S. economy. Mr. Vilsack, the popular former governor of Iowa, who has an appreciation of policy and politics, is one of the success stories of the Obama administration. Agricultural exports soared to \$136.3 billion last year, producing a net trade surplus of \$42 billion; this surplus was \$5 billion five years ago. The largest market is China.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/13/world/europe/13iht-letter13.html?>

China Faces Food Security Challenge Despite High Output, *China Daily, February 13*

With rapid industrialization and urbanization, which have improved people's living standards, the country's food consumption level and structure have changed, posing increasing pressures on grain production, said Li Jiayang, vice minister of agriculture. Globally, the grain output grew at a slower pace than that in population. The world's grain output rose at an annualized rate of 1.16 percent in the last 25 years, compared to 1.46 percent in population growth, Li said.
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2012-02/13/content_14593290.htm

Vilsack Makes U.S. Agriculture a High-Growth Area, *Opinion, Albert R. Hunt, Bloomberg, February 12*

The farm sector is one of the few bright spots in a rough U.S. economy. Vilsack, the popular former governor of Iowa, who has an appreciation of policy and politics, is one of the success stories of the Obama administration. Vilsack has been in office three years, and is emerging as one of the most effective and respected agriculture chiefs.
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-12/vilsack-makes-u-s-agriculture-a-high-growth-area.html>

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Reports:

East Africa Crisis Appeal Evaluations, *Disasters Emergency Committee, February 2012*

The consultants concluded that much of the success of the DEC member agencies came from building on their strong existing presence in the region. They said most work they reviewed rightly placed a significant emphasis on mitigating future disasters – measures such as improving traditional wells rather than just trucking in water.

<http://www.dec.org.uk/east-africa-crisis-appeal-evaluations>

SEE ALSO: East Africa crisis response was effective but not fast enough, *Guardian, February 16*

The response to the crisis in east Africa by members of the DEC was effective, but not quick enough to prevent the suffering of thousands of people. The report acknowledged that a shortage of outside funding and red tape, including restrictions caused by the centralized control of the aid effort by the Ethiopian government, had delayed members' response there.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/feb/16/east-africa-crisis-response-effective-not-fast>

Media Articles:

World Bank's Role, *Editorial, Financial Times, February 16*

Three-quarters of the world's poor live in middle-income countries. Aid will still be important to the poorest, but it is a far smaller financial challenge than before. This is a mark of success for the fight against poverty. Millions have been lifted out of destitution. But it also means that the World Bank's focus must shift. A more flexible, collaborative approach to the knowledge it gathers will give the World Bank more tools to deal with fragile and volatile countries, where the need to repair damaged states is greatest but the solutions are less obvious.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/48c08756-58a6-11e1-9f28-00144feabdc0.html>

Afghanistan to Seek Foreign Aid, *Washington Times*, February 16

Afghanistan's international partners will gather in July for a conference at which they are expected to pledge economic aid. The Afghan government is seeking international assistance. A recent estimate by the World Bank found that Afghanistan will face a shortfall of about \$7 billion a year from the end of 2014 until 2024. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/feb/16/afghanistan-seek-foreign-aid/>

Aid Groups Seek Flexible Food Assistance Program in Farm Bill, *Agri-Pulse*, February 15

Aid and international development groups said they'll push Congress to at least reauthorize a \$60 million program that allows for the purchase of food closer to the areas where it is needed and require U.S. food assistance shipments to be more nutritious. Currently, the US provides approximately 50% of food aid globally at an estimated annual cost to taxpayers of \$2 billion, roughly 80% of which is delivered by a half-dozen programs contained in the Trade Title of the 2008 Farm Bill. <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Aid-groups-seek-flexible-food-assistance-program-farm-bill-02152012.asp>

"A Catastrophic Year" as Hunger Crisis Looms over Sahel, *Inter-Press Service*, February 15

Seven out of the eight governments in the Sahel – the arid zone between the Sahara desert in North Africa and Sudan's Savannas in the south – have taken the unprecedented step of declaring emergencies as 12 million people in the region are threatened by hunger. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria have all called for international assistance to prevent yet another hunger crisis on the continent. <http://www.ips.org/africa/2012/02/a-catastrophic-year-as-hunger-crisis-looms-over-sahel/>

Congress Gives Some Love to the World Bank, *Foreign Policy*, February 14

With relatively little public attention, Congress approved all the funds the administration had asked for to boost the World Bank's lending power -- about \$800 million over five years -- and agreed to top up the Bank's fund for the poorest countries, the International Development Association. Congress threw in most of the requested funds for the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, and a climate and environmental fund administered by the World Bank. http://bosco.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/02/14/congress_loves_the_world_bank

Five Coming Battles Over the 2013 International Affairs Budget, *Josh Rogin*, *Foreign Policy*, February 13

International programs don't have strong constituencies on Capitol Hill to begin with, and Congress has its own ideas for how to spend foreign aid. The State Department knows all of this, of course, and has framed its fiscal 2013 budget request as a small portion of the federal budget that contributes directly to national security. State's \$51.6 billion request, however, faces a GOP-led House that is searching hard for discretionary budget items to cut and a foreign-policy-minded Senate that wants to use aid to press foreign governments to act more in line with U.S. priorities. http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/02/13/5_coming_battles_over_the_2013_international_affairs_budget

Why the World Needs America, *Opinion*, *Robert Kagan*, *Wall Street Journal*, February 11

International order is not an evolution; it is an imposition. It is the domination of one vision over others—in America's case, the domination of free-market and democratic principles, together with an international system that supports them. The present order will last only as long as those who favor it and benefit from it retain the will and capacity to defend it. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577213262856669448.html>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Reports:

UNEP Year Book 2012: Emerging Issues in our Global Environment, *UNEP 2012*

The UNEP Year Book 2012 shows that we have been experiencing an exceptional level of ecological extremes. However, scientists and policy makers have been making headway on addressing some of the most pressing

environmental issues.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/13/us-unep-soil-idUSTRE81C13J20120213>

SEE ALSO: Soil Erosion Increasing Global Warming Threat: UNEP, *Reuters, February 13*

Global warming will get worse as agricultural methods accelerate the rate of soil erosion, which depletes the amount of carbon the soil is able to store. Soil contains huge quantities of carbon in the form of organic matter, which provides nutrients for plant growth and improves soil fertility and water movement.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/13/us-unep-soil-idUSTRE81C13J20120213>

Media Articles:

How to Cut Climate Change in Half, *Opinion, Mario Molina and Durwood Zaelke, The Hill, February 14*

Reducing these non-CO2 warming agents is cost effective, even in the relatively near term, in part because of the strong collateral benefits for health and agriculture. The UNEP calculates that even without considering the climate benefits, most black carbon and ground-level ozone can be reduced with little or no net cost, as confirmed by long experience with clean air laws, and can save many of the millions of lives lost every year to lung and heart disease caused by these pollutants, while also significantly reducing crop damage.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/210599-how-to-cut-climate-change-in-half>

Aquaculture Priorities: Expansion in Africa and Standards for Global Sustainability, *Opinion, William Y. Brown, Brookings Institute, February 13*

Expanding aquaculture in Africa is not a new idea. The World Bank and national development agencies have studied its potential and generally been positive. Furthermore, although aquaculture is limited, small-scale inland wild-capture fisheries are well developed in Africa and employ over 4 million women and men whose expertise would contribute to aquaculture development.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2012/0213_aquaculture_africa_brown.aspx

WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

The Nutrition Puzzle, *The Economist, February 18*

Malnutrition is associated with over a third of children's deaths and is the single most important risk factor in many diseases. A third of all children in the world are underweight or stunted, the classic symptoms of malnourishment. The damage malnutrition does in the first 1,000 days of life is also irreversible. According to research published in *The Lancet*, a medical journal, malnourished children are less likely to go to school, less likely to stay there, and more likely to struggle academically. They earn less than their better-fed peers over their lifetimes, marry poorer spouses and die earlier.

<http://www.economist.com/node/21547771>

Gambia: Gender Equality, Empowerment Must Be Centre of Sustainable Agricultural Development, *AllAfrica, February 15*

The executive director of the Agency for the Development of Women and Children, Mam Samba Joof, said that without the participation of the rural poor female farmers in the agricultural development policy formulation and implementation, it is unlikely that significant progress would be made in increasing access by poor women farmers to productive resources.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201202161035.html>

Nutrition in a Bag, *Opinion, Pamela Philipose, The Hindu, February 14*

Rural women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan produce a nutritious food supplement as take home rations for pregnant mothers and underfed infants. The model is a useful one since it combines two potentially transformational interventions – a regular nutritional supplement for children aged between 6 to 36 months and pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as the generation of sustainable employment for rural women coming from poor households.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article2891736.ece>

The Word on Women - Africa's Latest Land Rush: The Effect Of Land Grabs On Women's Rights,
Trust.org, February 13

Many African women cultivate the land, plant, tend, harvest and prepare for consumption most of the food that comes from smallholdings. They grow food for household consumption as well as for local markets. The conversion of land to uses other than growing food for local consumption and trade threatens food security on a continent that is already food insecure. Women in Africa, particularly those in rural areas, have the burden of feeding their families and are key to ensuring food security and poverty reduction in Africa.

<http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/blogs/the-word-on-women/africas-latest-land-rush-the-effect-of-land-grabs-on-womens-rights>

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Media Articles:

U.S. Exporters Sell Record 2.9 Million Tons of Soy to China, *Business Week, February 17*

Soybean exporters in the U.S, the world's largest grower and shipper, sold 2.923 million metric tons of soybeans to China in the biggest one-deal day on record, The sale includes 2.75 million tons to be shipped in the year that begins Sept. 1, after this year's harvest, and another 173,000 tons before Aug. 31. China is the world's largest soybean importer and the biggest buyer of U.S. agricultural products.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-02-17/u-s-exporters-sell-record-2-9-million-tons-of-soy-to-china.html>

Vietnamese Farms: Boom at the Bottom, *Financial Times, February 17*

Vietnam is the world's biggest exporter of cashew nuts and black pepper, the second biggest exporter of rice and coffee and a major global supplier of farmed fish. Vietnam's millions of smallholding farmers have capitalized on the country's integration into global markets to become successful producers of high volume, low value agricultural commodities. Yet it will not be easy for Vietnam to move up to the next level, producing higher value processed foods and branded products.

<http://blogs.ft.com/beyond-brics/2012/02/17/vietnamese-agriculture-boom-at-the-bottom/>

Food Prices Rise by a Quarter During Recession, *The Telegraph, February 17*

DEFRA said that in the last five years food prices in the UK have increased "considerably more" than in the rest of the European Union. Significantly, DEFRA said that the UK now imports more food than it produces internally. The high cost associated with importing food is one of the reasons why prices have risen so much.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/9086973/Food-prices-rise-by-a-quarter-during-recession.html>

As Xi Charms Iowa, China Hedges Corn Ties With U.S., *Wall Street Journal, February 16*

It's in China's interests to diversify its suppliers. Unlike most other sectors, it's running a trade deficit in agricultural trade with the U.S., an issue that rankle some Chinese officials. As the world's biggest buyer of most commodities, China understands that a good bargain is better if there are more sellers. So even as Vice President Xi put a personal touch on China's growing relationship with the world's largest corn exporter, it's paving the way for deals with the world's second largest.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2012/02/16/as-xi-charms-iowa-china-hedges-corn-ties-with-u-s/>

U.S. Midwest Farmland Values See Biggest Rise in 35 Years, *Reuters, February 16*

The record rise in farmland prices for the U.S. Midwest Corn Belt slowed in the fourth quarter, tempering the biggest annual gain since 1976. Skyrocketing land values have caused worries among bankers about another potential ruinous farmland bubble like the one seen in the 1980s. But farmers are carrying much less debt now, thanks to record farm income.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/16/usa-farmland-midwest-idUSL2E8DGD4020120216>

Yunus Expands Joint Venture Companies, *Financial Times, February 16*

Muhammad Yunus, the pioneer of microlending for the poor, is rapidly expanding his joint venture companies with global brands designed to tackle social problems ranging from malnutrition to poor healthcare. The new ventures, which will be mainly based in Bangladesh and India, will have a similar ownership structure to Grameen Danone, a joint venture set up in 2006 between the French dairy company and a group of charitable foundations, which produce nutrient-rich yoghurt in Bangladesh.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/dcbe9400-56b4-11e1-a328-00144feabdc0.html>

EU Parliament Approves Agriculture Trade Deal with Morocco, *Guardian*, February 16

EU lawmakers approved a new trade deal with Morocco on Thursday that will significantly extend duty-free sales of agricultural, food and fisheries products between the North African kingdom and the 27-nation bloc. The EU's agriculture chief, Dacian Ciolos, described the deal as both economically and politically significant.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/10097210>

Agriculture Trade Important for Both Countries, *China Daily*, February 14

The agricultural ministries of China and the United States will further enhance agricultural exchanges and cooperation, deepening mutual understanding and trust, so as to achieve mutually beneficial development in the future, said Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu. Agriculture was one of the first areas in which China and the US began to cooperate, as the two are both large nations of agricultural production, trade and consumption and viewed agriculture as a strategic and basic industry, Han said.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012xivisit/2012-02/14/content_14607447.htm

China and America: A Profitable Partnership, *Opinion*, *Tung Chee Hwa*, *Wall Street Journal*, February 13

The U.S. and China share a symbiotic, mutually beneficial and inextricably linked economic relationship that both countries benefit from greatly. This relationship is not a zero-sum game. A vigorous America is good for China. A successful China is good for America. Let us hope that the vice president's visit to America will boost this important relationship to a new level of collaboration and partnership, so that the peoples of the two countries, and the world at large, can all share in the greater benefits of enhanced cooperation.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577215103793556274.html?>

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Media Articles:

Pioneer Will Establish Seed Research Center in Beijing, *Des Moines Register*, February 14

DuPont, the parent company of Pioneer Hi-Bred in Johnston, will build a seed technology hub in Beijing, China, the company announced today. The hub, which is slated to open later this year, will use molecular breeding to develop high-yield corn hybrids. China will account for 45 percent of the 2012-13 to 2021-22 growth in world corn trade, the USDA said in a report Monday.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2012/02/14/pioneer-will-establish-seed-research-center-in-beijing/>

The Next Generation of Cocoa Farmers, *Opinion*, *Barry Parkin*, *Huffington Post*, February 16

We believe that the path to a sustainable cocoa industry has three critical elements: break-through agricultural research focused on cocoa to discover new ways to make farms perform better; innovative technology transfer methods to allow farmers on the ground to benefit from these discoveries; and a comprehensive certification effort to reach as many farmers as possible as well as to set a high bar for what the industry considers "sustainable."

www.huffingtonpost.com/barry-parkin/post_3007_b_1281902.html?http://www.huffingtonpost.com/barry-parkin/post_3007_b_1281902.html

Swiss Food Giant Nestle Predicts Tough Year as It Posts Stronger than Expected 2011 Sales,

Washington Post, February 16

Nestle SA, the world's biggest food and drinks maker, managed to brush aside the impact of a soaring domestic currency to post a solid increase in profits in 2011 as sales rose strongly, particularly in developing

countries.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/swiss-food-giant-nestle-reports-full-year-net-profit-of-1035-billion-predicts-tough-2012/2012/02/16/gIQAVKI7GR_story.html

Kellogg to Buy Pringles for \$2.7B Offer After Diamond, P&G End Their Deal, *Washington Post*, February 15

Kellogg has popped up to buy the Pringles chip brand from Procter & Gamble for \$2.7 billion after a similar deal with Diamond Foods was derailed by accounting problems and an executive shakeup at Diamond. The addition will help Kellogg with its goal of becoming as big globally in snacks as it is in cereal.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/industries/diamond-foods-drops-bid-to-purchase-pringles-brand-kellogg-steps-in-with-27b-offer/2012/02/15/gIQAy6wPFR_story.html

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