

GLOBAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THE WEEKLY NEWS BRIEF OF THE GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



February 12th – 18th, 2011

Quote of the Week: *“With falling stockpiles of essential foodstuffs in nations around the world, including the United States, we are teetering on the edge of a potentially devastating global crisis. America cannot afford to stand idly by as this crisis escalates. With global demand for food expected to double by 2050, the problem of global food security and price volatility is only likely to get worse. Short-term fixes without structural change cannot begin to address the longer-term — and very real — prospect of global food demand that outstrips production capacity. Food system productivity will need to double. With limited land available for farm production, the solution lies in drastically increasing productivity in areas already in or available for crop production. Much of this potential rests in the underdeveloped countryside of the developing world.”* – Catherine Bertini and Dan Glickman, Co-Chairs of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, “Food Security is National Security”, February 15, 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.

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KEY ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Food Price Hike Drives 44 Million People into Poverty, World Bank, February 15

Rising food prices have driven an estimated 44 million people into poverty in developing countries since last June as food costs continue to rise to near 2008 levels, according to new World Bank Group numbers released ahead of the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Paris. According to the latest edition of *Food Price Watch*, the World Bank’s food price index rose by 15 percent between October 2010

and January 2011, is 29 percent above its level a year earlier, and is only 3 percent below its 2008 peak.
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0..contentMDK:22833439~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607.00.html>

SEE ALSO: Food prices push millions into poverty, *Washington Post*, February 15

Rising food prices pushed tens of millions of people into extreme poverty last year and are reaching "dangerous levels" in some countries, World Bank President Robert Zoellick said Tuesday as he released new data showing that the cost of grain and other staples is near a historic high.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/15/AR2011021505301.html>

SEE ALSO: Rising Food Prices Increase Poverty, *Reuters*, February 16

Catastrophic storms and droughts have hurt the world's leading agriculture-producing countries, including flooding and a massive cyclone in Australia, major winter storms in the United States, and fires last year in Russia. Crunching the numbers from 28 household surveys in poorer countries, the World Bank noted that in one-half of the samples it looked at, poverty increased by more than 0.5 percentage points due to rising food prices. In eight countries, poverty rose by more than 1 percentage point.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFIOE71E0I120110215>

SEE ALSO: Food Surge Is Exacerbating Poverty, *Bloomberg*, February 15

Across Asia and in some parts of Latin America and Eastern Europe countries, costlier food is pushing up inflation pressures, while good harvests of staple foods in Sub-Saharan Africa has so far spared that region from rising prices.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-15/food-price-jump-pushes-44-million-into-extreme-poverty-world-bank-says.html>

To End the Food Crisis, the G20 Must Keep a Promise, *Opinion*, Jeffrey Sachs, Director of Earth Institute at Columbia University, *Financial Times*, February 17

Soaring commodities prices once again haunt the world economy. The global recovery has seen prices surge. Many commodities are near or above their 2008 peaks. Maize is an astounding \$290 per tonne, and oil is back above \$100 a barrel. Soaring food and energy prices now pose severe economic, political, and social risks in developing countries. Finance ministers from the Group of 20 leading economies meet in Paris on Friday to discuss the food crisis against a backdrop of rising hunger and political instability in food-scarce countries in Africa, the Middle East and beyond. President Nicolas Sarkozy has put food security among the top objectives of France's G20 leadership, but the G20 has yet to adopt a convincing line of attack.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e5e854fe-3ad0-11e0-9c1a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1EHCf4Mjk>

UN Security Council Links Security to Development, *VOA News*, February 11

The United Nations Security Council on Friday unanimously issued a statement pointing out a close link between international security and economic development. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, speaking to the Council, said evidence abounds that peace, security and development are interdependent. "Nine of the 10 countries with the lowest Human Development Indicators have experienced conflict in the last 20 years. Countries facing stark inequality and weak institutions are at increased risk of conflict." Ban added that just as the lack of development can feed the flames of conflict, economic and social progress can help prevent it and secure peace.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/UN-Security-Council-Links-Security-to-Development-115979999.html>

Food Security is National Security, *Catherine Bertini and Dan Glickman, Co-Chairs of the Global Agricultural Development Initiative*, *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, *The Daily Caller*, February 15

In Tunisia, a president is toppled after 23 years in power. In Egypt, the 30-year reign of its president is abruptly ended. The swiftness and power of these popular uprisings have caught many Americans by surprise, leaving policymakers scrambling to grasp the consequences. While political corruption and soaring unemployment have grabbed the headlines as driving forces of these uprisings, the dangerously destabilizing force of rising food prices is also at work and looms as a further threat to the stability of governments, global economic growth, and U.S. national security. America cannot afford to stand idly by as this crisis escalates. With global demand for food expected to double by 2050, the problem of global food security and price volatility is only likely to get worse.

<http://dailycaller.com/2011/02/15/food-security-is-national-security/>

Africa Can Live Up to its Promise, *Opinion, Bill Gates, Huffington Post, February 10*

I believe that agriculture -- our foundation's second-biggest commitment -- offers one of the greatest opportunities in Africa. If African farmers can use improved seeds and better practices to grow more crops and get them to market, then millions of families can earn a better living and a better life. The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, led by Kofi Annan, is working to develop and distribute new seeds that have higher yields and stronger resistance to pests, drought and disease. If citizens and their governments ensure that African farmers can use these new seeds and have all the advantages of recent advances, the farmland of Africa can become the answer to hunger and poverty -- and a trigger for wide economic growth.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-gates/africa-can-live-up-to-its_b_821435.html

The Impact of Rising Food Prices on Arab Unrest, *NPR, February 18*

As governments across the Arab world look for ways to calm their angry populations, one challenge in particular stands out: how to address the spiraling cost of food. Coincidence or not, the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt came just as world food prices hit a record high. The World Bank reported this week that the cost of food is now at "dangerous" levels. High prices are far more burdensome for people in the developing world because they typically spend a much higher percentage of their income on food. Many also buy raw food commodities — grain rather than packaged bread, for example — and it is those commodity prices that have increased most dramatically.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/02/18/133852810/the-impact-of-rising-food-prices-on-arab-unrest>

SEE ALSO: West Africa Rising: Could rising food prices spark Egypt-style revolt in Africa?, *Christian Science Monitor, February 15*

Egypt's revolution was triggered by many sparks, one of which was bread; or rather wheat, a staple whose soaring price and insufficient supply could become the dry wood for political tumult across the African continent this year. Prices for that staple crop now sit at a 2 1/2-year high, and Egypt — currently the world's biggest exporter of televised scenes involving young men waving flags — just happens to be wheat's biggest importer. And while academics will have semesters ad infinitum to weigh the relative importance of Twitter vs. bread in the fall of ousted President Hosni Mubarak, the more immediate question could be what comes next across Egypt's backyard: sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/Africa-Monitor/2011/0215/West-Africa-Rising-Could-rising-food-prices-spark-Egypt-style-revolt-in-Africa>

Reality Check, *Roger Thurow, Senior Fellow on Global Agriculture and Food Policy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Global Food for Thought Blog, February 18*

As the budget battles intensify, a reality check is in order: Slashing foreign aid targeted for boosting development in poor countries will hardly make a dent in the deficit. The savings will be negligible, but the consequences would be huge. A perception exists, even among those who should know better, that foreign aid consumes a huge chunk of the U.S. budget. In a Chicago Council survey in 2008, respondents were asked: Just based on what you know, please tell me your hunch about what percentage of the federal budget goes to foreign aid. Hardly. The reality is that foreign assistance for international development is about 1% of the budget.

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2011/02/roger-thurow-outrage-and-inspire-reality-check-.html>

Thompson Selected for Distinguished Service Award, *American Farm Bureau, January 2011*

The American Farm Bureau Federation presented its highest honor, the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, to University of Illinois agriculture professor Robert Thompson, Ph.D. The award was announced during the 92nd AFBF annual meeting. AFBF established the Distinguished Service Award to honor individuals who have devoted their careers to serving farming and ranching.

<http://www.fb.org/index.php?fuseaction=newsroom.newsfocus&year=2011&file=nr0110i.html>

SEE ALSO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXrnGTjylNl>

*****SPECIAL COVERAGE: U.S. BUDGET AND SPENDING DEBATES*****

Official U.S. Government Proposals:

The Federal Budget Overview, Fiscal Year 2012, *White House, February 14*

The President's 2012 Budget is a responsible approach that puts the nation on a path to live within our means so we can invest in our future – by cutting wasteful spending and making tough choices on some things we cannot afford, while keeping the investments we need to grow the economy and create jobs. It targets scarce federal resources to the areas critical to winning the future: education, innovation, clean energy, and infrastructure. And it proposes to reform how Washington does business, putting more federal funding up for competition, cutting waste, and reorganizing government so that it better serves the American people.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/overview>

FY 2012 U.S. Department of State Budget Request, *U.S. Department of State, February 14*

The President's FY 2012 Budget for the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) furthers United States national security, advances America's economic interests, protects Americans at home and abroad, elevates America's global leadership through diplomacy and development, and reflects our values.

<http://www.state.gov/s/dmr/remarks/2011/156570.htm>

SEE ALSO: International Affairs Budget Summary, *U.S. Department of State, February 14*

<http://www.state.gov/s/d/rm/c6112.htm>

FY 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture Budget Request, *U.S. Department of Agriculture, February 14*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides leadership on issues related to food, agriculture, and natural resources, including energy, based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management. The Department also works to enhance food safety, protect and manage land, improve nutrition and health, and support international agricultural and economic development.

<http://www.obpa.usda.gov/budsum/FY12budsum.pdf>

Republican Study Committee Policy Briefs, *Republican Study Committee, February 15*

Yesterday, February 14, 2011, the President submitted his budget request for FY 2011-2021 which proposes: \$8.9 trillion of new deficit spending, a tripling of the public debt, and \$1.6 trillion worth of tax increases over the period covering the budget submission. The following is intended to put the deficit, debt, spending, and tax figures in perspective.

http://rsc.jordan.house.gov/UploadedFiles/PB_021511_FY12BudgetOverview.pdf

House Appropriations Committee Introduces Continuing Resolution Containing Largest Spending Cuts in History, *The House Committee on Appropriations, February 11*

The House Appropriations Committee today introduced a Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) to fund the federal government for the last seven months of the fiscal year while cutting spending by over \$100 billion from the President's fiscal year 2011 request. This CR legislation represents the largest single discretionary spending reduction in the history of Congress.

http://appropriations.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=261

SEE ALSO: Full Text of the H.R. 1 <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.1>:

SEE ALSO: Title XI – State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?c112:1:./temp/~c11263qUo0:e416936>:

Editorials/Commentary:

Slashing International Assistance Hurts Women and Girls, *Opinion, Ritu Sharma, President of Women Thrive Worldwide, The Hill, February 17*

It's budget season, and America is tightening its belt. Congress is doing its part by preparing to cut the international affairs budget by close to 20 percent, a move that could undermine national security, defy military leaders' advice and endanger U.S. interests and core values. Worst of all, these cuts would be disastrous for women and children—the majority of the world's poor. Girls' education, disaster relief, health

care and vaccinations for children, food aid, shelter for war zone refugees, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment get broad popular support in every survey. Yet these are exactly the areas hit hardest with the new cuts.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/144893-slashing-international-assistance-hurts-women-and-girls>

Invest in Nation's 'Smart Power', *Opinion, U.S. Representatives Gerald Connolly and Leonard Lance, Politico, February 17*

We must work together to ensure that our national security focuses on the three pillars — defense, diplomacy and development. Neglecting the second two pillars can be costly — in terms of unnecessary spending and, more important, American lives. National security experts repeatedly extol the virtues and importance of a strong international affairs budget to keep our nation safe and build our economy. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has highlighted the importance of diplomacy and development in U.S. foreign policy. “Without development,” Gates said, “we will not be successful in either Iraq or Afghanistan.” He asserted, “Economic development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers.”

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0211/49708.html#ixzz1EGq8BlMN>

Foreign aid cuts jeopardize U.S. national security, *U.S. Representative Steve Rothman, The Hill, February 16*

America's national deficit will burden future generations and hurt the long term well-being of our nation. That is why, as the stewards of our constituents' hard-earned taxpayer dollars, Congress must always ensure that every cent we spend is absolutely essential. But we can never forget that in meeting Congress' first priority – keeping America safe – there is no better value than the one percent of the U.S. budget that is spent on foreign aid and diplomacy.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/144501-foreign-aid-cuts-jeopardize-us-national-security>

Cuts in Food Aid Threaten Lives and National Security, *William Lambers, Examiner, February 16*

The budget cuts to international food aid, as proposed by the House of Representatives, will threaten millions of lives. These funding cuts, which total over \$800 million, will cause immense damage to our foreign policy. There is a hunger crisis afflicting nearly 1 billion people worldwide. This crisis is hardest on children who, trapped in war or disaster zones, or living in poverty, depend on access to proper foods for their survival and growth. How do we expect peace and stability to emerge in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan and other countries if the people are hungry and malnourished? We all saw in Egypt how high food prices and malnutrition caused massive discontent among the population. Food security is integral to any nation's well-being. The cost of food aid is a relatively small part of the budget. There is not much to be saved by cutting hunger-fighting programs. Clearly, there are programs far less important that can be cut instead. Look at some of the ongoing waste identified by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

<http://www.examiner.com/global-hunger-in-national/cuts-food-aid-threaten-lives-and-national-security>

Cut Foreign Assistance Now and We All Pay Later, *Opinion, Samuel A. Worthington, National Journal, February 12*

As the United States seeks to get its fiscal house in order, Congress must realize that cuts to foreign assistance now will only cost our country more later. Such a strategy would--in the most basic terms--be penny-wise and pound foolish. Foreign assistance is a down payment for U.S. national security in that it helps to create a more stable and secure world. Investing in societies now reaps rewards for years to come and helps avert future military conflicts, which cost much more in blood and national treasure. Development is a key component of foreign policy strategy and must not be an afterthought.

<http://nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/opinion-cut-foreign-assistance-now-and-we-all-pay-later-20110212>

Against Cutting Foreign Assistance, *Opinion, U.S. Representative Nita Lowey, Politico, February 9*

As the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs for 10 years, and chairwoman for the past four, I know we can come together because we have. And our cooperation must continue — even as major foreign assistance has been put on the chopping block — because our national security demands it. Foreign aid helps to prevent the Mexican drug war from spilling

across our border, arrest the proliferation of weapons-grade nuclear material and support our armed forces with the complementary civilian efforts vital to their success. Investments in health, education, humanitarian aid for refugees and disaster victims and micro-loans for entrepreneurs are critical to fostering stability around the world — a key element of our overall anti-terror strategy.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0211/49079.html>

Media Articles:

Food Security Advocates Fighting Aid Cutbacks in H.R. 1, *The Hagstrom Report*, February 17

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., has urged food aid advocates to insist that members of Congress not vote to cut international food aid, as the House Republican bill to finance the government through September 30 would do. McGovern is co-chair of both the Congressional Hunger Center and the House Hunger Caucus. "They need not to be a cheap date when they talk to their congressman," McGovern said in an interview Wednesday after a speech at a Meridian House International dinner on global food security. "[They've] got to be tough." McGovern was referring to a provision in House Resolution 1 that includes a 41 percent cut to P.L. 480 Title II (from \$1.69 billion to \$1.003 billion), a 52 percent cut to the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program (from \$209.5 million to \$100 million), and a 50 percent cut in International Disaster Assistance (from \$860.7 million to \$429.7 million), which provides cash to meet emergency food needs.

www.hagstromreport.com

House Budget Proposal's Deep Cuts in Humanitarian Aid Criticized, *Washington Post*, February 17

U.S. officials and nonprofit groups are expressing alarm about the deep reductions in humanitarian assistance in the House budget bill, warning that it could leave millions of poor people hungry and put refugees in jeopardy in places such as Iraq and Pakistan. The bill, which would mandate cuts in the fiscal 2011 discretionary budget, was drawn up by House Republicans and represents about a 6 percent cut in funding overall from 2010 federal budget levels. But money for international food aid programs would be reduced by up to 50 percent. The State Department's funding for refugees would shrink by more than 40 percent. The House bill would slash the budget for one of the main U.S. foreign food aid programs, Food for Peace, by 40 percent from 2010 levels. That would reduce or eliminate food for about 15 million people in places such as Ethiopia, Haiti and Sudan, U.S. officials say.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/16/AR2011021606393.html>

Farm Groups Say House Cuts Unfair, *Des Moines Register*, February 16

In a letter to lawmakers, the farm organizations said the \$5.2 billion reduction in spending for the USDA and the Food and Drug Administration represented 22 percent of their operating budgets, more than double what was being taken in other non-defense areas. "Given the importance that agriculture plays in America's food security and economic recovery, it is unclear how such disproportionate cuts are warranted or wise," the groups said.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/02/16/farm-groups-say-house-cuts-unfair/>

Remarks by Agriculture Secretary Vilsack on President's Proposed FY 2012 Budget, *USDA*, February 14

It is true that the overall discretionary budget for 2012 proposed by USDA provides for less discretionary spending than the 2011 proposed budget. On the outlay side, discretionary spending is \$4 billion less proposed in 2012 than in 2011. Total outlays are \$7 billion less. When we talk about steps that we have taken within this budget to address some of the need for budget reductions and deficit reduction, we start with the crop insurance savings that we realized last year and carry over into this year. Additional changes in catastrophic policies in terms of the premium assistance will net additional savings as a result.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMJ8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_1wkA5kFaGuQBxASbmnu4uBgbe5hB5AxzA0UDfzyM_N1W_IDS7zdFRUREAZXAypA!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfUDhNVIZMVDmXMEJUMTBJQ01IMURERDFDUDA!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2011%2F02%2F0069.xml

House Proposes \$5 Billion Cuts to Farm, Food Aid, *Des Moines Register*, February 13

House Republicans are making the first bid as battles over the federal budget deficit heat up this week.

President Barack Obama releases his 2012 budget on Monday. But Republicans have released plans to slash spending for the current spending year by \$61 billion below the 2010 spending level and \$100 billion below what the president had requested for fiscal 2011. Those cuts include \$5.2 billion in reductions from 2010 levels at the Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration. Some of the biggest cuts would be in domestic and international feeding programs. But the proposals also would also reduce spending for conservation, rural development and loans to farmers.

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/02/13/house-proposes-5-billion-cuts-to-farm-food-aid/>

RELEVANT U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Farm Economy is Sound, Vilsack Says, *Des Moines Register, February 18*

Most farmers are likely to reap strong profits this year and beyond as booming exports and a recovering global economy buoy demand for U.S. commodities, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says. The livestock and dairy sectors may be exceptions to the upswing in the farm economy, and they "bear watching" this year because they are being squeezed by soaring feed prices and rising energy costs, Vilsack told lawmakers Thursday.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110218/BUSINESS01/102180339/Farm-economy-is-sound-Vilsack-says?GETPUBLISHED03wp-content>

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Renewable Energy Program Changes to Promote Biofuel Production and Create Jobs, *USDA, February 11*

"These changes contribute to the Obama Administration's effort to revitalize our rural economy and meet our energy challenges," Vilsack said. "It's part of our effort to 'win the future.' USDA's renewable energy programs provide new sources of farm income, increase domestic energy production and develop a domestic renewable energy industry which will create jobs and reduce America's dependence on imported oil."

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMj8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_1wkA5kFaGuQBxeASbmnu4uBgbe5hB5AxzA0UdfzyM_N1W_IDS7zdFRUREAZXAypA!!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfUDhNVIZMVDmXMEJUMTBJQ01IMURERDFDUDA!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2011%2F02%2F0064.xml

Interview with Asia Plus, *Robert O. Blake, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, US Department of State, February 11*

We have made a quite significant effort to significantly improve the agricultural sector inside Afghanistan and to provide much greater opportunities for Afghan farmers and enable Afghanistan to become again the quite strong agricultural economy that it once was before all of the fighting started.

<http://www.state.gov/p/sca/rls/rmks/2011/156524.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Date: February 24th – 25th, 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 1st-2nd, 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 3rd, 2011

Location: Washington, D.C.

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

For more information, contact aenglish@womenthrive.org

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

Date: March 8th-10th, 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 23rd – 24th, 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 11th – 12th, 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)

19th Annual Food and Ag Policy Conference

Date: April 13th – 14th, 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 12th, 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 2nd – June 5th, 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/>

Cracking the Nut Conference: Overcoming Obstacles to Rural and Agricultural Finance

Date: June 21st – 22nd, 2011

Location: Washington, DC

Rural and Agricultural Finance have long been considered tough nuts to crack. The Cracking the Nut Conference will unite the world's leading rural and agricultural finance leaders in a collaborative pursuit of learning, leverage and large scale change. To share about your work and what you have been doing to crack these nuts, please [submit a proposal](#) to lead a session at the conference. The deadline for submitting a proposal is Monday, February 28, 2011. This conference is aimed at practitioners, private sector professionals, policymakers, funders, researchers, and other rural and agricultural finance professionals. For more information visit: www.crackingthenutconference.com or email Rashmi Ekka, rekka@azmj.org

Food Security, Health and Impact Conference

Date: June 22nd – June 24th, 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/>

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Reports:

Agricultural, Food, and Water Nanotechnologies for the Poor, IFPRI, February 2011

There are a number of potential opportunities associated with agricultural, food, and water nanotechnology for the poor, but to achieve such opportunities a number of challenges need to be overcome. This paper first provides a rapid assessment of key technologies that could have a large impact on the poor via increased agricultural productivity, improved food and water safety, and nutrition. Second, it reviews some of the main challenges to their deployment and adoption by the poor. It concludes with a discussion of the potential role of the CGIAR in facilitating the poor's access to beneficial nanotechnologies.

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/agricultural-food-and-water-nanotechnologies-poor>

Rising Global Interest in Farmland, World Bank, 2011

The World Bank recognizes that large-scale agricultural investment poses significant challenges that can be addressed successfully only if stakeholders collaborate effectively. Together with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and other partners, it has formulated seven principles that all involved should adhere to for investments to do no harm, be sustainable, and contribute to development. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/ESW_Sept7_final_final.pdf

Media Articles:

France Focuses on Food, *Wall Street Journal*, February 18

Long known as a country obsessed with culinary perfection, France is making food a top priority as President Nicolas Sarkozy takes the helm of the Group of 20 meeting this week. Key to the agenda in France, Western Europe's largest grains producer, is addressing rising world food prices by improving transparency in commodities markets. Proposals include limiting the size of positions dealers can take, regulating off-exchange trading and publishing data on the type of investors in the market.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703561604576150134062234582.html>

SEE ALSO: G-20 Ministers Meet Begins; to Focus on Food Prices, *IBN*, February 18

Finance ministers of 20 most influential countries will discuss ways to deal with rising energy cost and food prices moving to "dangerous levels", at their two-day meeting which began here today.

"International commodity prices are rising. Food situation is a major issue which is going to affect the international economy and trade.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/g20-ministers-meet-begins-to-focus-on-food-prices/582646.html>

World Feeding Itself Spurs Search for Answers, *Bloomberg*, February 17

At the most basic level, the crisis is a test of mankind's ability to feed itself. Industrial agricultural techniques have boosted crop yields and kept food prices low for decades, but the era of predictable abundance that fueled the world's population growth to almost 7 billion people may be over. Relief agencies, already lashed by hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and government budget cuts, are ill-equipped to handle severe food shortages. Yet rising global food prices have pushed 44 million more people into extreme poverty in developing countries since June, according to the World Bank.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-17/world-feeding-itself-spurs-search-for-answers-eric-poolley-and-phil-revzin.html>

Global On Hunger: Is Wall Street Fueling Global Unrest?, *Huffington Post*, February 17

There's no question that people in the Middle East and northern Africa are hungry for freedom. But people are also simply hungry. "We're in an era where the world and nations ignore the food issue at their peril," Josette Sheeran, the head of the World Food Program, told Bloomberg in a prescient January interview. The current crop of deposed heads of state may have Wall Street to thank for their forced retirement. While the causes of helter-skelter commodity prices are complex -- natural disasters such as floods and droughts can play a big role, as can interest-rate shifts engineered by central bankers around the globe -- rapid-fire trading and speculation on the Street can magnify the problem.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/15/gambling-on-hunger-food-crisis-regulators_n_823725.html

Guard Unit on a Mission to Help Afghan Farmers, *Online Athens*, February 16

Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Willis of the Georgia National Guard has a garden back home, but he is by no means a farmer. Willis is one of 25 members of the 201st Agribusiness Development Team, a group of volunteer guardsmen from units around Georgia, who gathered at the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences this week for a crash course in the basics of modern agriculture. They will be deploying to Southeastern Afghanistan in May to help villagers develop farming methods that will increase yields and marketing strategies that will help them turn toil into profit. The group is the first of three agribusiness development teams that the Georgia National Guard will be deploying over the next three years.

http://onlineathens.com/stories/021611/new_786329481.shtml

Food Security and Technological Developments – Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa, *Farming First*,

February 15

According to statistics from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), 95 % of food producers live in developing countries. Precisely the area that is worst hit by climate change. Droughts are becoming more severe, floods are devastating entire plantations and a lack in infrastructure and knowledge and access to technology means that between 20-40% of the crop yield is wasted at some point of the production process. Climate change has long been the centre of political, economical, ecological and social discussions. As global warming takes its toll, food security becomes the focus of attention. The United Nations predicts that food productions will have to rise by 70% by 2050 in order to feed the enlarging population of our planet.

<http://www.farmingfirst.org/2011/02/food-security-and-technological-developments-%E2%80%93-drought-tolerant-maize-for-africa/>

Agriculture Support Still Low in Africa, *AllAfrica.com, February 15*

Africa still possesses an abundance of one resource that is becoming ever more fiercely fought over: agricultural land. However, in a World Bank meeting last week, it was revealed that only one percent of commercial lending in Africa went to agriculture in 2010. This percentage, the World Bank, private sector and commercial banks say, is not enough to grow the sector by at least 5 per cent annually.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201102160203.html>

Food: Is it Easy to Grow What is Good For You? , *IRIN, February 14*

Agriculture is the primary source of calories and nutrients worldwide, and in developing countries is often the major source of personal income, as most people are either subsistence farmers or farm labourers. The links between nutrition and health are obvious. "Health status is... affected by the consumption of goods that directly improve or worsen health. Nutritional status affects health - for example, severe vitamin A deficiencies lead to blindness," wrote Hoddinott, who developed a framework conceptualizing the links.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=91907>

The Cost of Eating More Meat, *IRIN, February 14*

If people in rich countries, as well as in more developed emerging economies like China and Brazil, were to start eating less meat now, this could help ease pressure on the price of some staple grains in another 15 years, but would not enhance food security in most poor countries in the immediate future, a new study has found. Mark Rosegrant, a senior researcher at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and co-author of the study, said the impact of eating more meat was felt on the cost of maize, which was used as livestock feed, rather than on the prices of wheat and rice, the main staples in most developing countries.

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=91903>

Stop the Global Land Grab, *Guardian, February 12*

In a world where the commoditisation of resources has become the norm, it is not surprising that communities are losing their most precious assets to the highest bidder. The spectre of a hungry world is being used to push the agenda for industrial agriculture, but in reality, the majority of the land is used for producing animal feed and agrofuels, as well as land speculation, rather than food crops. A World Bank report on land acquisitions shows that only 37% of this land is used to grow food.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/12/global-land-grab-farmers>

Agriculture Experts Extol Nutrition as Goal in Farming, *Voice of America, February 11*

David Nabarro, the United Nations special representative on food security, says the massive food price hikes in 2008 focused attention on what he called "structural defects in world agriculture systems." "Food production and distribution does not really reflect what humans need to eat and instead tends to reflect more what farmers and larger food buying and selling organizations want to make money from," said Nabarro. The conference is calling on policy makers to incorporate nutrition in farming. Nabarro says increasing farm productivity alone will not address the problems of malnourishment as farmers tend to grow more crops like wheat and rice rather than fruits, vegetables or dairy products.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Agriculture-Experts-Extol-Nutrition-as-Goal-in-Farming-115897734.html>

Galloping Growth, and Hunger in India, *New York Times*, February 11

Four decades after the Green Revolution seemed to be solving India's food problems, nearly half of Indian children age 5 or younger are malnourished. And soaring food prices, a problem around the world, are especially acute in India. Globally, floods in Australia and drought in China have helped send food prices everywhere soaring — on fears the world will see a repeat of shortages in 2007 and 2008 that caused food riots in some poor countries, including Egypt. While India's agricultural problems are part of this bigger global puzzle, in many ways India's food challenges are more entrenched and systemic than those faced elsewhere.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/12/business/global/12food.html?hp>

ENVIRONMENT (WATER/CLIMATE)

Media Articles:

Flood of Money Needed to Fix China's Water Woes, *Reuters*, February 15

China is now the world's second largest economy, but hundreds of millions of its people still rely on fouled water that will cost billions of dollars to clean. Growing cities, overuse of fertilizers, and factories that heedlessly dump wastewater have degraded China's water supplies to the extent that half the nation's rivers and lakes are severely polluted. China needs to spend up to \$20 billion a year to bring its urban water supplies up to standard, according to the World Bank.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/16/us-china-water-idUSTRE71F0T720110216>

Climate Change May Cause 'Massive' Food Disruptions, *Bloomberg*, February 15

Global food supplies will face "massive disruptions" from climate change, Olam International Ltd. predicted, as Agrocrop International Pte. said corn will gain to a record, stoking food inflation and increasing hunger. "The fact is that climate around the world is changing and that will cause massive disruptions," Sunny Verghese, chief executive officer at Olam, among the world's three biggest suppliers of rice and cotton, said in a Bloomberg Television interview today. "We're friendly to wheat, corn and soybeans and bearish on rice."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-15/climate-change-may-cause-massive-food-disruptions-olam-s-verghese-says.html>

China Works to Stave Off Wheat Crisis, *New York Times*, February 13

It is weather with global breadbasket implications. Even as senior Chinese officials exhort local officials to do everything possible to cope with a severe drought in the country's wheat belt, the government is trying to reassure the public that food prices will not rise. Agricultural experts say it is too early to assess the damage to the wheat harvest.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/14/world/asia/14china.html>

SEE ALSO: Frequent Droughts Posing Potential Threat to Food Security in China, *Sify*, February 18

The increase in frequency and severity of droughts in China in recent times, has posed a potential threat to food security, causing heavy crop losses. "Catastrophic drought occurred once every five years in the 1950s and once every two years in the 1990s.

<http://www.sify.com/news/frequent-droughts-posing-potential-threat-to-food-security-in-china-news-international-lcsuakdjacg.html>

WOMEN & GIRLS

Media Articles:

A Plot of One's Own: The Value of Women's Right to Property, *Huffington Post*, February 16

They may till its soil for years, they may live on it for decades, they may build a home and feed their families and raise their children on it, but the vast majority of the world's women have no legal right to the land upon which they live and work. It would be hard to underestimate the transformation in women's lives when they gain the rights to a plot of land, as tenants or as owners.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alison-craiglow-hockenberry/a-plot-of-ones-own-the-va_b_823227.html

MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE ISSUES

Reports:

“Making Integrated Food-Energy Systems Work for People and Climate – An Overview”, *UN Food and Agriculture Organizations, February 17*

A report concludes producing food and energy crops side-by-side offer one of the best ways for boosting developing countries' food and energy security while reducing poverty. The FAO report also notes that integrating food and energy crop production can also be an effective approach to mitigating climate change, especially emissions stemming from land use change.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2044e/i2044e.pdf>

Media Articles:

G20 Paris; Mervyn King Warns the World is at Risk of Protectionism or another Financial Crisis, *Telegraph, February 18*

"Global imbalances contributed to the financial crisis and a rebalancing of global demand is the key to a sustainable recovery," Mr King said in a speech he is to deliver in Paris. Central bankers and finance ministers from the G20 are meeting in the French capital to hammer out common criteria for measuring global economic imbalances at a two-day session that host France hopes will lead to an overhaul of world finance. Mr King said that while financial regulation can help deal with global imbalances, it has limitations. He said there needed to be an agreement on spending and exchange rates.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financetopics/g20-summit/8333366/G20-Paris-Mervyn-King-warns-the-world-is-at-risk-of-protectionism-or-another-financial-crisis.html>

Glimmer of G20 Hope as China Adjustment Takes Shape, *Reuters, February 18*

It's too early to be sure, but signs that China's current account surplus will keep shrinking as a share of national output could draw some of the venom from the debate on global economic imbalances preoccupying the G20. Imbalances in general and China's exporting clout in particular remain controversial, even if a brightening global growth outlook has dampened excited talk of currency and trade wars.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/18/us-g20-china-imbalances-idUSTRE71H17620110218>

A Monetary Regime for a Multipolar World, *Financial Times, February 17*

New agreements may be in short supply when finance ministers of the Group of 20 leading economies meet this weekend in Paris. But their efforts to address the weaknesses of the international monetary system deserve close attention. The international economy is shifting to a new multipolarity. About half of global growth is now from developing economies and this will transform power relations. The US dollar will remain the predominant reserve currency, but over time the world economy will need to manage a system of multiple major currencies. We need to modernise multilateralism to steer towards a new monetary system.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a5ce4900-3ad0-11e0-9c1a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1EKFAJEh7>

SEE ALSO: G20 Divisions between Rich and Developing Countries Could Hamper Agreement, *Voice of America, February 17*

G20 Finance Ministers meet in France Friday and Saturday to seek agreement on a framework for stabilizing the global economy. But large divisions among rich and developing nations may make finding common ground difficult. The contrast between rapid growth in emerging economies versus sluggish recovery and high unemployment in many developed nations is expected to play a prominent role in discussions as economic ministers from the Group of 20 industrialized and developing nations gather in Paris.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/economy-and-business/G20-Divisions-Between-Rich-and-Developing-Countries-Could-Hamper-Agreement--116438884.html>

The G20 Needs to Facilitate Private Sector-Led Growth in Africa, *Tidjane Thiam, Chief Executive of*

Prudential plc, Guardian, February 16

Across the world, private sector engagement has become the main driver of economic and social progress. Africa is no exception here. Most of the continent's economies are still heavily agricultural, and the small African farmer is a private sector operator and an entrepreneur if there ever was one. So, too, are the various tradespeople and craftworkers in Africa's fast-growing towns and cities. It is businesses, not governments that provide the bulk of the investment, innovation, employment and income, which can bring about the growth and productivity increases that alone can lift millions of Africans out of poverty.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/feb/16/g20-private-sector-africa-poverty>

Regional Cooperation Needed to Manage Asia Food Supply Shocks, *Voice of America, February 16*

Food prices are rising in Asia, and governments are taking various measures to keep them under control - from price ceilings to export restrictions. But uncoordinated government responses could exacerbate the situation. Individual government responses could exacerbate the situation. In early 2008, rice prices more than doubled. Cambodia, Vietnam, India and China, worried about supplies, cut rice exports. At the same time, rice-importing governments ordered large stocks in the international market, driving prices even higher.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/Regional-Cooperation-Needed-to-Manage-Food-Supply-Shocks-in-Asia-116303494.html>

Fund Flows Hamper Asia Inflation Tussle, *Bloomberg, February 16*

Asian countries are taking steps to tame inflationary pressures from a spike in food costs but factors beyond their control such as huge capital inflows make it no easy task, a senior World Bank official said. While higher food prices will not significantly hurt economic growth in East Asia, inflationary pressure will be sustained due to growing food demand in emerging nations and volatile weather, said John Roome, the World Bank's director of sustainable development in the East Asia and Pacific region.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2011/02/16/idINIndia-54927620110216>

Key to Indian Food Security is Distribution Fix, *Reuters, February 14*

India will be self-sufficient in production of staple foods until 2025 and there are signs it could act as soon this month to improve distribution -- key to ensuring its half a billion poor have enough to eat, a food expert says. As Asian economies grapple with soaring inflation, driven by higher prices for food and fuel, governments are looking at levers such as export bans and lowering import duties to ensure their voters can afford to eat.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/key-to-indian-food-security-is-distribution-fix-expert/>

West African Experience with the World Rice Crisis, 2007-2008, *Center for Global Development, February 14*

Rice production in Africa has tended to be low-yielding, geographically dispersed, and uncompetitive against low-cost Asian imports, even when protected by high freight costs and substantial trade barriers. Skyrocketing prices in world markets in 2007-08 were a shock to African consumers, producers, and governments alike. When international rice prices were relatively low, rice imports did not pose economic or political problems for West African governments. Extremely expensive imports reverse that equation. This paper addresses the response to that reversal first by presenting a historical review of trends in the West African rice sector and, second, by assessing the effect of world rice prices on domestic prices, primarily at the consumer level.

http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424823/?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_02152011&

Roubini's Next Crisis is Scary Food for Thought, *Opinion, Bloomberg, February 13*

Forget Egypt for a moment. Skip the water crisis in China. Look past angst on the streets of Bangladesh. If you want to see how extreme the effects of surging food prices are becoming, look to wealthy Japan. So big are the increases that economists are buzzing about them pushing deflationary Japan toward inflation. Yes, rising costs for commodities such as wheat, corn and coffee might do what trillions of dollars of central-bank liquidity couldn't.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-13/roubini-s-next-crisis-makes-food-for-thought-commentary->

[by-william-pesek.html](#)

Another Food Price Spike: Weather Again to Blame for Wheat, Corn Pushed by (Even Worse) Ethanol Policies, *Center for Global Development, February 10*

The good news for billions of consumers in Asia is that panic has not (yet) hit rice markets. Stocks are higher than in 2008 and no government has restricted rice exports, so rice prices actually dipped a bit in January and are well below 2008 levels. The bad news for other poor consumers is that prices for other staple grains are rising sharply, echoing the 2008 spikes.

http://blogs.cgdev.org/globaldevelopment/2011/02/another-food-price-spike-weather-again-to-blame-for-wheat-corn-pushed-by-even-worse-ethanol-policies.php?utm_source=nl_weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_weekly_02152011

AGRIBUSINESS

Media Articles:

DuPont to Expand Agricultural Research Program, *Dupont News, February 18*

Yesterday, both DuPont and Delaware Governor Jack Markell announced that DuPont plans to invest more than \$50 million over five years to expand its biotech soybean research and development program in Delaware. The proposed investment supports DuPont's strategy to increase food productivity for a growing global population. The proposed investment will include expanding biotech research facilities at DuPont's global R&D headquarters, the Experimental Station, in Wilmington and at its Stine Haskell Research Center in Newark, Del.

http://www2.dupont.com/Media_Center/en_US/daily_news/february/article20110218.html

Pruning Farm Subsidies, *Opinion, Victor Davis Hanson, National Review, February 17*

In times of massive deficits, why are we borrowing millions to subsidize profitable agribusiness? Lots of presidents have asked that question. George H. W. Bush tried to cut farm subsidies. Bill Clinton did, too. George W. Bush wanted them ended as well. All failed. 2012 is finally the time to end the crop-subsidy business, with the annual budget deficit approaching \$1.5 trillion in 2011, farmers receiving record prices on the open market, and the new conservative House of Representatives having been elected on the promise of fiscal responsibility. We need a drastic reset of agricultural policy. The use of prime ag land to grow corn for ethanol biofuel makes no sense.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/259916/pruning-farm-subsidies-victor-davis-hanson>

Cargill's Agribusiness Empire Spreads Across the Globe, *Bellingham Herald, February 17*

For many companies, acquisitions and new plant investments are a matter of "if." For agribusiness giant Cargill Inc., it's a matter of where and when. Just over the past nine months, the company has unveiled more than \$1.5 billion worth of transactions, ranging from the \$800 million buyout of an Australian grain trading operation to a \$30 million investment in a new plant in Russia that will churn out Chicken McNuggets for McDonald's. This year, Cargill announced it would invest \$210 million in a new cornstarch and sweetener plant in Brazil. On another end of the food spectrum, late last year Cargill announced a \$350 million buyout of Unilever's Brazilian tomato sauces business.

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/02/17/1872607/cargills-agribusiness-empire-spreads.html>

Banner Photograph: © Ray Witlin / World Bank